



Administration Department
13211 Henry Ave. Box 159
Summerland, BC V0H 1Z0
Phone 250 494-6451 Fax 250 494-1415
www.summerland.ca

Media Release

For Immediate Release
DATE January 30th, 2020

Summerland to Receive Funding for a local Organics Processing Facility at the Summerland Sanitary Landfill

Project approved under Organics Infrastructure Program

The District of Summerland is excited to announce they will receive grant funding for improvements to the Summerland Sanitary Landfill composting operations, from the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Organics Infrastructure Program.

The Organics Infrastructure Program funding will help Summerland:

- Reduce community greenhouse gas emissions;
- Expand its processing capacity for handling local municipal and agricultural organic wastes;
- Increase diversion of residential organic wastes currently buried for use in producing additional high-quality compost products;
- Work towards the Province's Municipal solid waste reduction target of 350 kg/person/year;
- Increase exposure and awareness of food waste prevention; and
- Prolong the life of the Summerland Sanitary Landfill.

The District of Summerland submitted an expression of interest on November 30, 2018, followed by a full grant application on May 22, 2019, for a local Organics Processing Facility which would increase the types of organic materials that could be processed for composting at the landfill. The Summerland Sanitary Landfill services Summerland and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Electoral Area 'F' (Faulder/West Bench/Meadow Valley). The new facility will provide these service area users with a way to divert organic material they generate out of their garbage and out of the landfill.

The facility will relocate the current composting operations to a new site within the landfill boundary. Technology and infrastructure will be upgraded to improve operations, provide more robust environmental protection and greatly reduce the possible occurrence of odours. Upon completion the community will have access to a new Class 'A' compost product that has been created by diverting their agricultural and residential food scraps, currently collected under the curbside program or hauled to the landfill, from the District's waste stream. The new compost product will be in addition to the current high-quality Class 'A' biosolids compost produced and sold at the landfill.

"A local Organics Processing Facility at our landfill is good news for Summerland," said Mayor Toni Boot. "The production of a soil amendment that does not contain biosolids will certainly be a benefit to the area's agricultural producers, but the diversion of agricultural and residential food waste from the landfill makes financial sense for the entire community. Doing so will extend the life of the Summerland Landfill, giving us more time to build the Reserve account for what will, inevitably, be

a significant replacement cost. We are delighted that our application has been selected to receive Provincial and Federal dollars for this important project.”

The Summerland Organics Processing Facility project announced today is among 12 projects recently finalized in British Columbia—with additional projects expected in the coming months—that will benefit from the \$30-million Organics Infrastructure Program partnerships between the Province, Federal and local governments. District staff will now begin working through the initial stages of the project, with design and construction expected to be completed by the end of 2021 and full operations to be implemented January 2022. Community involvement will be a key factor in the project’s success. The District will provide public engagement opportunities as it progresses, and has created a dedicated webpage at www.summerland.ca/organics for easy access to information and responses to questions the community may have regarding the Summerland Organics Processing Facility Project.

Quick Facts

- The Government of Canada will provide up to \$790,500 and the Province of British Columbia will provide up to \$790,500 for the project through the Organics Infrastructure Program of the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund-Funding Agreement Fund.
- The District of Summerland will be responsible for all remaining costs of the project.
- The total estimated cost for this project is \$2,371,500.

Associated Links

More information on the Organics Infrastructure Program is available at:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/food-and-organic-waste/organic-waste-diversion/organics-infrastructure-program>

To learn more about the Summerland Organics Processing Facility Project, please visit:
<https://www.summerland.ca/organics>

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Contacts

Anthony Haddad
CAO – District of Summerland
Phone: 250-404-4043
Email: ahaddad@summerland.ca
For more information: www.summerland.ca/organics