

Disposal Ban on Organics

There are two types of disposal bans that can be used by municipalities to prevent identified material from ending up at the landfill – landfill bans and prohibitive (city-wide) bans. Landfill bans are defined as a range of measures to prevent or restrict the disposal of waste to landfills. A prohibitive ban aims to restrict material from entering the community to begin with.

Disposal bans are often implemented at the provincial or regional level. Bans implemented at the municipal level are challenging to enforce as there is a high potential for the material to be taken to other regional landfills not under the direct control of the City.

Successful disposal bans for organics are in place in Metro Vancouver and Nova Scotia. Ontario and Quebec are also planning organic bans in the near future.

At the municipal level, the City of Calgary plans to ban food and yard waste from City landfills by 2019 in conjunction with its new city-wide Green Cart Program; this plan has required a high level of collaboration between the City and the private waste management industry who also offer landfill services in the region.

There are administrative, enforcement, and communications implications to be considered when designing a disposal ban.

Bans are not typically implemented as a first step in diversion of any material, including organics. Administration reported on best practice approaches to landfill bans in a May 25, 2015 report to City Council entitled Implications of Landfill Bans. As identified in this report, convenient options for diverting the banned materials should be well-established in a community to enable citizens to comply with the ban.

To institute a ban, municipalities may employ the following strategy:

1. Develop Organics Processing Capacity – Processing food, yard and other organic waste material at a large scale requires a processing facility that incorporates technology appropriate to the volume of material available in the community.
2. Develop City-Wide Organics Collection Program(s) – As illustrated in Attachment 2, most large Canadian cities offer convenient curbside collection services for the diversion of food and/or yard waste to an organics processing facility. Collection services for other sectors of the community are often offered by the private sector. NOTE: Multi-unit residential properties may be considered along with curbside residential properties or may be exempted and considered with the Industrial-Commercial-Institutional (ICI) sector.
3. Require Businesses to Divert Organics – Adopt a bylaw (disposal ban) requiring the ICI sector (including hospitals, schools, offices, shopping centres, restaurants, hotels, manufacturers, warehouses and other businesses) to divert

their organic waste to a processing facility. Some businesses may also apply for permission to digest or manage their organics on-site.

4. Introduce Fees, Fines, or Outright Prohibition of Loads Delivered to Landfill Containing Organics – Some municipalities use load inspections at the landfill as a way to enforce organics diversion within the community. NOTE: The new scale constructed at Recovery Park will enable load inspections in the future.
5. Curbside Confirmation of Diversion – Some municipalities conduct curbside inspections prior to collecting residential garbage. Incidents where residents have placed organics in the garbage rather than the composting stream trigger some type of enforcement action ranging from an education notice, to non-collection, to fines. NOTE: Current recycling education campaigns in Saskatoon include inspection blitzes by Loraas to provide feedback to residents about use of recycling carts.