“We tested the Green Bin Program, proved it worked and was broadly supported,” said RDN Board Chair Joe Stanhope.

“Households more than doubled the amount of waste they divert from the landfill. When green bin collection goes region-wide, we will be on track to achieving our 75 per cent waste diversion goal and leading the way in BC and Canada.”

The Green Bin Program is an investment in sustainable waste management. Diverting food waste from our garbage will extend the life of the region’s only landfill and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Best of all, a local company will convert food waste into a soil amendment and renewable fuels, creating jobs and building an emerging green economy.

Watch for more information
Curbside food waste collection will be launched in mid-October. Starting in mid-September, households will receive a green bin, kitchen catcher, a new collection schedule and an instruction package. Watch your local newspapers and check www.beyondcomposting.ca for more details and updates on program implementation.
PILOT PROJECT DEMONSTRATED FOOD WASTE COLLECTION BENEFITS

A one-year pilot project from October 2007 to October 2008 evaluated the effectiveness and acceptance of residential food waste collection. The pilot conducted by the RDN, in partnership with the City of Nanaimo and Town of Qualicum Beach, involved 2,000 households on urban and rural routes.

Surveys showed that more than 97 per cent of respondents supported a region-wide Green Bin Program.

Here are some of their comments:

“I thought I wouldn’t use it very much. We use it all the time because it is very convenient” - Nanaimo resident

“Best idea in years. Please expand to include entire area.” - Qualicum Beach resident

“Of course it takes a little care… (but) great benefits for very little additional time” - Cedar resident

Most importantly, the pilot project demonstrated that food waste collection service works in both urban and rural households. Fig. 2 shows that a rural route in Cedar, with a high rate of home composting, diverted an average of 2 kgs of food waste per household per week.

GETTING READY TO START YOUR GREEN BIN

Who will be getting a green bin and when will the program begin?

RDN Garbage & Recycling Customers: Starting in mid-September, 26,000 single family homes will receive a wheeled green bin, a kitchen container, detailed instructions and a new garbage, recycling and food waste collection schedule. Green bin collection is anticipated to start on routes in mid-October.

City of Nanaimo Garbage & Recycling Customers: The City will be phasing in food waste collection. In mid-September, the City’s “E” and “F” collection routes will receive a wheeled green bin, a kitchen catcher, detailed instructions and a new 15-month collection schedule. Green bin collection on these routes is expected to start in October after Thanksgiving. The City will distribute green bins to remaining routes and begin curbside service in 2011 when more new collection vehicles are delivered.

Will I be charged for a green bin and kitchen catcher?

Households will not be charged for their first green bin and kitchen catcher. Because the Green Bin Program conserves landfill capacity, the cost of purchasing green bins and kitchen catchers is being funded through the RDN Solid Waste Reserve Fund.

Food leftovers, plate scrapings
Meat, fish, poultry and bones
Fruit and vegetable scraps
Dairy products, butter, mayonnaise
Egg shells
Bread, cereal, grains
Pasta, pizza
Baked goods, candies
Soiled paper towels and tissues
Soiled paper food packaging
Used paper cups and plates
Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
Ice cream and milk & cream cartons
Baking ingredients, herbs, spices
Houseplants, cut and dried flowers
Nuts and shells

Fig. 2- Average weekly food waste weights collected on Pilot Project routes

Nanaimo 2.5 kg Qualicum Beach 2.4 kg Cedar 2.0 kg

What goes in the Green Bin?
Materials accepted in the green bin
More than 20 types of organic materials are accepted in the green bin, including many items unsuitable for home composting. If you already compost, you will find the green bin works to further reduce your household waste.

Household glass to be removed from RDN Blue Box Program
When the Green Bin Program is introduced, glass food and beverage containers will no longer be accepted in the RDN curbside recycling program. This change is necessary to prevent contamination when recyclables are collected. Options for drop-off of non-deposit glass containers are being reviewed and will be available by October.

HOW THE GREEN BIN PROGRAM WORKS
Households will separate their materials into food waste, recyclables, and garbage. By actively using your green bin and curbside recycling program you will generate much less garbage!

Food waste will be collected weekly from your green bin. Mainly dry garbage will remain and one container of garbage will be collected every two weeks.

Tags to put out additional containers of garbage are available for $2 each. A maximum of two additional garbage containers may be set out on your regularly scheduled collection day.

One collection vehicle does it all!
New "split-packer" collection vehicles will collect garbage and food waste or recyclables and food waste in a single truck.

The new trucks will have two compartments to ensure the separation of materials. Using one truck on collection routes means less vehicle emissions and no additional labour requirements for the Green Bin Program.

...and what does not.

- Plastic bags & wrap, Styrofoam
- Plastic containers and cutlery
- Yard and garden waste
- Foil wrap, pouches and pie plates
- Metal cans or glass jars
- Cereal and cracker box liners
- Chip and cookie bags
- Pet food bags and other lined bags
- Drink boxes, juice and soy milk cartons
- Make-up remover pads, cotton swabs and balls
- Butter wrappers (foil)
- Dental floss, rubber bands
- Soiled diapers, baby wipes
- Dryer sheets and lint
- Cigarettes and butts
- Vacuum contents and bags
- Pet feces or litter
THE FOOD WASTE
CHAIN OF EVENTS
The food and kitchen waste you put in your green bin will be sent to a licensed composting plant for processing into soil amendments and renewable fuels. Here is what happens after your green bin is collected:

RDN Northern Communities – Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Electoral Areas E, F, G, & H.

Food waste is mixed with ground-up yard waste at the ICC Group's composting facility. These materials are first composted using an in-vessel process that generates sufficient heat to eliminate pathogens, and then are cured and screened. The finished products include compost and fertilizers, all of which meet international standards.

ICC has received $4 million in funding through BC's Innovative Clean Energy Fund and the BC Bioenergy Network to develop and produce renewable fuels from food and yard waste. The two-year project using gasification technology is expected to begin production in 2011.

Bulk compost and fertilizer produced from food waste is available for purchase at ICC Group, 981 Maughan Road, Nanaimo, First Choice Landscaping in Parksville and Green Thumb Nursery in Nanaimo.

CONTACT INFORMATION
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www.beyondcomposting.ca

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City of Nanaimo Garbage & Recycling Program
Public Works Ph. (250) 758-5222
www.nanaimo.ca