



NEWS RELEASE

December 3, 2021

RDN Receives Grant to Support Increased Organics Waste Diversion

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has been approved for a grant of \$3,000,000 from CleanBC - Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program from the Province of British Columbia to upgrade an existing composting facility. The facility upgrade will help the RDN reach its Solid Waste Management Plan goal of 90 per cent diversion of waste from the landfill by 2030 by increasing organic waste processing capacity in the region.

The estimated \$13.56 million project will improve the facility's process control as well as increase the capacity from 20,000 tonnes to 58,000 tonnes received per year from all contributing sources including from the RDN. Through a 20 year contract with Convertus Group North America, which owns and operates the facility, the RDN is guaranteed processing for organic waste collected in our region. This organic waste will include food and yard waste from the City of Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, G, H, and Snaw-Naw-As First Nation.

The RDN has one of the highest waste diversion rates in the world and the rate will increase further once the RDN's Mandatory Waste Source Separation and Waste Hauler Licensing bylaws are in place. The Mandatory Waste Source Separation bylaw will require a three-stream system of recyclables, organics and garbage for all businesses and multi-family dwellings. The Waste Hauler Licensing bylaw will incentivize RDN licensed haulers through lower tipping fees and other mechanisms to divert as much recyclable and compostable material from the landfill as possible. To assure there is local capacity for managing this increase in organic waste diversion, the expansion and upgrade to the Convertus compost facility is necessary.

In addition to increased organic waste diversion, other benefits that will be realized through this upgrade project include:

- Improved odour control through a fully contained organics processing system.
- More efficient compost processing resulting from technology upgrades.
- Higher quality of compost for end use such as application on farmland.
- Reduced greenhouse gases due to more organics being properly composted.
- Prolonged life of the regional landfill.

These upgrades are currently underway and are scheduled to be completed by spring 2022. Once complete, the upgrade combined with the long-term partnership with Convertus provides the RDN with guaranteed access to a state-of-the-art composting facility that is economically viable for both the RDN and the owner/operator.

Get Involved RDN!

To learn more about the Mandatory Waste Source Separation and Waste Hauler Licensing bylaws, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/solid-waste-bylaws. To learn more about solid waste and recycling in the RDN, visit rdn.bc.ca/solid-waste-and-recycling.

Quotes

"We are grateful to receive the generous grant from the Province of British Columbia for the facility upgrade. The project is a great example of government working with the private sector to create opportunities for investment in much needed regional infrastructure."

Tyler Brown, Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo

"Supporting communities to develop or expand their ability to divert organic waste from landfills is part of our commitment to reduce B.C.'s carbon footprint. Our government is pleased to support the Regional District of Nanaimo's continued efforts and investment so that residents will benefit from healthier communities and enhanced food security."

George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

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