

FACT SHEET

Multi-Unit Organics Program



Food and yard waste collected from households can be processed into a valuable product such as compost or energy.

What are organic materials?

Organic refers to any material that can eventually, and under the right circumstances, decompose. Municipal organics programs usually include:



food scraps such as fruit, vegetables, grains, oils, meat and bones



yard waste such as leaves, grass, garden waste and small branches



soiled paper such as paper towels, cardboard and tissues

How will this work?

Usually in multi-unit programs, residents will place organic materials into a separate container in their unit and dispose of them in a shared bin. Options we're considering:

- If the program includes food and/or yard waste
- If the City provides the service or has a bylaw in place requiring all buildings to contract the service
- What the program will require, such as collection containers and how often they should be collected



WHY DO WE NEED THIS?

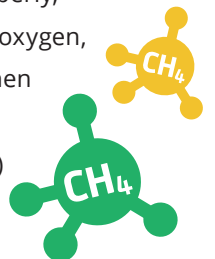
40% of what is thrown out could be composted

3,700 tonnes of food and yard waste is collected from multi-unit buildings every year and our landfill is filling up. At our current rate, it will need to be replaced in the coming years at a cost of at least \$125 million.



Organics don't decompose properly in the landfill and take up space

Organic materials need air to decompose properly, so when buried in a landfill where there is no oxygen, it can take a very long time to decompose. When they do eventually break down they release powerful greenhouse gas emissions (methane) and liquid runoff (leachate).



Composting or digesting leads to a valuable product

If managed properly through composting or anaerobic digestion, organic material can be turned into valuable products like compost and energy.

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We want your help designing a multi-unit organics program that will work for you, your neighbours and Saskatoon.

We know you are excited

Our last waste survey found that 81% of multi-unit residents support a city-wide food and yard waste collection program.

We know you have some concerns



We've heard from curbside residents that there can be a lot of questions about how a new organics program could work. We're interested in hearing what is important to you – whether it is convenience, cleanliness, cost, or something else.

But there are solutions

Cities including Calgary, Halifax, Toronto, Ottawa and Metro Vancouver all have successful multi-unit organics programs. We can learn from them as well as hear your ideas so that we can design a program that is right for Saskatoon.

We want to hear about:



How we can help you **separate organics in your unit**, such as providing a small kitchen catcher



How you want to **learn** about the new program



How to make waste collection areas **clean, safe and accessible**



How to **reduce potential issues**, such as collecting organics bins frequently

We need your input!



Take the online survey before June 22
saskatoon.ca/yxetalkstrash