

# Town of Oliver Organic Waste Collection Program

Frequently Asked Questions – Edition 1  
Updated March 2024



The Town of Oliver is implementing an organic waste collection program in April 2025. This launch date is subject to change. This Frequently Asked Questions document provides some additional information about the program to households that receive solid waste collection services from the Town. Please take a moment to review this important document.

## **A: Why is the Town implementing an organic waste collection program?**

There are several reasons the Town is implementing the program:

- In 2021, the Town made the decision to implement the program based on several regional studies and plans. With the Organics Compost Facility now constructed at the Oliver landfill, the Town can begin to implement curbside organic waste collection.
- On average in Canada, 42% of residential garbage is compostable. According to a recent District of Summerland report, approximately 3.7 million British Columbians have a municipal organic waste collection program – the Town of Oliver is modernizing its waste collection services.

## **B: What is organic waste? What can I put in my green cart as of April 2025?**

For Oliver's program, it is currently anticipated that the organic waste program will collect food waste, household plants and some yard waste (these will go in your green cart starting April 2025). Food waste includes cooked food, grains, dairy, produce, meat, bones and shells. The Oliver landfill continues to finalize the list of items it will accept when the program starts, and households will be provided with a flyer of exactly what will be and what will not be accepted before the launch of the program.

## **C: When will the Town begin to collect organic waste?**

The Town plans to start organic waste collection in early April 2025. This provides the Town a year to engage the community and for education leading up to the roll out. An exact date will be provided as soon as possible.

## **D: What is changing and when will organic waste be collected?**

The changes happening to solid waste weekly collection starting April 2025 will be:

- Black cart / garbage: Every **second** week (alternating with blue carts)
- Blue cart / recycling: Every **second** week (alternating with black carts)
- Green cart / organics and yard waste: **Every week**

Collection days will remain Monday and Friday. A new schedule will be available in early 2025 for April 2025 to March 2026 to align with the new organic waste collection service starting. The exact start date in April 2025 will be determined in early 2025 and will be shared with waste collection customers.

## **E: Can I opt out of the organic waste collection program?**

If the Town provides your solid waste collection services and you choose not to participate, there is no refund or discount on the relevant fees.



**F: How do I get a green cart or upgrade the size of my current one?**

If you already have a green cart, you use the existing green cart (you will not get a new one). If your residential property does not have a green cart or if you wish to upgrade from the standard 240L to 360L, there is no change to the Town's process to request a new or larger cart. Please complete the appropriate form available at [www.oliver.ca/solidwaste](http://www.oliver.ca/solidwaste), or stop by Town Hall or the Municipal Finance Office (address is below). Please note that it may take several months to receive your new cart – if you place your order before January 31, 2025 you will receive it prior to the start of the new organic waste collection program in April 2025. The Town cannot guarantee delivery if the request is received after this date.

**G: I live in an apartment building or strata – what is changing?**

The Town's organic waste collection program is only for existing curbside solid waste collection customers. If you live in an apartment building or strata, generally, your strata has their own contract for garbage, recycling, and other waste collection. Please connect with your strata.

**H: How are the costs associated with implementation of the program being covered?**

The Town received a grant from the Province to cover some of the costs of implementing the program (e.g., communication, education, engagement, staff time). Based on discussions with other municipalities that have implemented similar programs, the Town does not anticipate a significant cost to implement the program, but any additional costs above the Provincial grant will be brought to Council for a decision.

**I: What can I expect from the Town in the coming months to help me? How will the survey be used?**

The Town has a survey open to the end of May 2024 to collect input from the community about the changes. We encourage all residents to complete the survey online ([www.oliver.ca/solidwaste](http://www.oliver.ca/solidwaste)). Results will be publicly shared. The Town will take feedback from the survey and use the results to inform the final design of the Oliver organic waste collection program. Once the final details of the new program are determined, the Town will send updated educational materials, a precise start date, and details on an organic household starter package to each household that receives a quarterly utility bill from the Town. Continue to monitor local media, [www.oliver.ca/solidwaste](http://www.oliver.ca/solidwaste), and the Town's newsletter and social media for updates on the program!

**J: Who can I speak with to get additional information, share my ideas or concerns?**

Town staff are available to answer your questions about the new organic waste collection program. You may contact the Town's waste collection team by:

- Calling: 250-485-6253
- Emailing: [waste@oliver.ca](mailto:waste@oliver.ca)
- Stopping by the Finance Office located across the alley from the Municipal Town Hall from Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm (closed holidays)
- Pop up events: The Town is organizing pop engagement events in April and May 2024 – feel free to stop by and connect with a Town staff member as these are announced

