



Less is  
**more**➤

**Reducing  
Organic  
Waste**



## Notice of Regulatory Changes to IC&I Sector: Organic Waste Disposal

Important changes to our regional waste bylaw will likely affect your operations in the coming year.

Between now and October 2026, the RDCK will be working to implement new Organic Waste Disposal Regulations targeting the **Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (IC&I) sector**.

Our enforcement of the bylaw will initially be **focused on larger generators** and operations, such as **big grocery stores, busy restaurants, and major institutions**, but we want to make sure everyone is aware of the changes and encourage participation early.

These changes will impact those operating in and around the communities of **Creston, Castlegar, Nelson, and Salmo**, at facility locations that accept and/or process organic waste. If your IC&I waste is hauled to Grohman Narrows or Central Transfer Stations, or Ootischenia or Creston Landfills, these changes will apply.

Most IC&I operations that generate compostable organic waste in and around these communities will be required to separate this material from their garbage to avoid expensive tipping fees. If your garbage is estimated to contain greater than 10% compostable organic waste, then enforcement of the bylaw can be expected in the future, once the initial enforcement period for larger generators is completed.

### What's Changing?

#### New Bylaw Definitions & Fee Structures

Compostable organics are now classified as a recyclable material in the 2026 Resource Recovery Facilities Regulatory Bylaw, and a pilot-based fee of \$55 per tonne has been set for commercial organics. The **10-month "phase-in"** period, where the bylaw is not enforced, will end in October 2026.

#### Waste Audits

In September 2026, the RDCK will begin auditing garbage loads from large IC&I facilities where organics disposal exists. Up to four warnings will be provided per commercial customer or hauler if their garbage contains more than 10% organics, based on a visual estimate.

#### Infraction Fees

After the warnings, customers disposing of loads of garbage with more than 10% organics will be charged a Variable Tipping Fee of double the mixed waste rate (about \$350/tonne).

#### Subsidized Organics Disposal Rates

The IC&I sector is being subsidized by the RDCK for this initiative. It is now 68% cheaper to dispose of separated organic waste than mixed waste: \$55/tonne vs. \$177.25/tonne.

When Variable Tipping Fees are applied, it will be 6x more expensive to put organic waste in the garbage: \$55/tonne vs. \$354.50/tonne

Commercial haulers can access this reduced rate. If you are a business who self-hauls their waste, you can access this rate but will need to set up a commercial account with us ahead of time.



## Existing Services & Incentives

### Organic waste can be disposed of at:

- Ootischenia Landfill
- Grohman Narrows Transfer Station
- Central (Salmo) Transfer Station
- Creston Landfill.

### Rebates Available

A **\$400 rebate** for the purchase of bins and supplies is available for businesses in the Nelson area (expanding to Castlegar, Salmo, and Creston in early 2026). To learn more visit [rdck.ca/ici-organics](http://rdck.ca/ici-organics). Limited availability; first come, first served.

### Contact Your Commercial Haulers

Commercial haulers are available now to provide separate organic waste collection. Contact local haulers or your service provider for pricing and options.

### Class A Compost for our Community

Organic waste is turned into Class A Compost for farms, parks, and residents at RDCK's commercial composting facilities in Salmo and Creston. Compost is available for purchase seasonally at select sites.

## Support Available

### RDCK staff can help with:

- Waste sorting signage and implementation guidance
- Support with collection setup and connecting to hauler contacts
- Rebate applications
- Opportunities for improvement in organics diversion for customers that receive warnings

## What is Organic Waste?

Compostable organic waste includes:

- Food waste, spoiled foods, and food-soiled paper/cardboard
- **CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE** packaging, utensils, and bin liners
- Both plant and animal products (including meat, bones, dairy, and cooked food). Visit [rdck.ca/organics](http://rdck.ca/organics) for a complete list of accepted and prohibited materials.



## Why This Matters

In the RDCK, the IC&I sector sends about 3,900 tonnes of compostable material to landfill each year—roughly 35% of all commercial garbage.

These changes to commercial regulation start to align us with much of the rest of the province, as 67% of BC's population already has organics disposal regulation for residential and commercial sectors in place.

Diverting this waste from landfill is important because:



Our landfills have limited lifespans. Diversion extends the operating timelines for these costly sites. New landfills are impossibly expensive, and difficult to site and permit.



It reduces harmful environmental impacts. Landfilling organic waste is pollution. It creates potent greenhouse gases and toxic runoff (leachate) that must be managed.



It can save you money in the long term and improve your business's sustainability profile.



Reach out for more info  
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