

## METRO VANCOUVER BYLAW 288: TIPS FOR ORGANICS SEPARATION

There has been considerable media and social media coverage on Metro Vancouver's Bylaw 288 – the ban on organics from the waste stream. The Waste Management Association of BC has prepared a backgrounder to help companies in the commercial and industrial sector better understand the bylaw, what is expected of them as well as some tips for implementing an organics diversion program.

### WHAT IS BYLAW 288?

- ❖ Disposal ban of food scraps/organic waste from commercial, industrial and institutional generators that must be diverted from solid waste disposal
- ❖ Ban came into effect January 1, 2015.
- ❖ Metro Vancouver has provided a grace period for generators of food scraps until **July 1, 2015**
- ❖ Enforcement will be phased in thereafter

### HELPFUL TIPS:

- ❖ Visual Aids - images or actual objects are more effective than simple text signage
- ❖ Direct Traffic Flow - Use a combination of arrows, images and signage to direct people to appropriate waste streams
- ❖ Signage Placement - Proximity is essential, place all signage as close to waste stream disposal site as possible
- ❖ Colour Signage - Pair color coded bins or lids to waste streams and be consistent throughout your establishment
- ❖ Check for common contaminants - Plastic shrink-wrap, lids & other containers must be kept out of the organic stream and recycled when possible.
- ❖ Watch out for small items, like twist ties, rubber bands and creamers. These items are so small; they are easily and inadvertently thrown into the organics bin and negatively impact the quality of the recovered products.
- ❖ Don't forget to communicate! Communication between staff, customers and your waste service provider is crucial.
- ❖ When in doubt, throw it out. Improperly separated organics/recyclables do more harm than good
- ❖ Watch your customers, colleagues and residents. Keep tailoring your system until you get it all sorted

### GETTING STARTED:

- ❖ Know what you have. Assess your waste to see how much organics you have. If you are not sure, talk with your Service Provider about conducting a waste audit. Most Service Providers offer this service.
- ❖ Review with your Service Provider what type of service would work best for your volume & location.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

#### Why are some materials okay, while others are not?

The answer lies in the organics cycle. That apple core, pizza crust or moldy roll is destined to become compost and energy, then soil nutrients for the food we eat or the flowers we grow. If it once grew in the soil, it can go back to the soil. Otherwise, it doesn't belong.

#### What about recyclables?

Just because it's not organics doesn't mean it can't be recycled! Many types of packaging, like plastic containers, glass bottles, and clean paper wrapping can be recycled.

#### How can I boost organics diversion rate?

By focusing on common contaminants like straws, creamer cups, service and prep gloves, metal and plastic utensils and plastic bags.

#### Where does organic waste go?

Organic material is taken to facilities that process this material to produce compost and soil products as well as renewable energy across the Lower Mainland.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Bryan at the Waste Management Association of BC at [info@wmabc.ca](mailto:info@wmabc.ca)