



Composting Facility | Frequently Asked Questions

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is entering the next phase of public engagement on construction of a composting facility at 1313 Greyback Mountain Road, adjacent to the Campbell Mountain Landfill (CMLF) in Penticton. The RDOS is seeking to rezone the property in order to permit the construction of a composting facility at the site.

A previous public engagement initiative was conducted to review the possibility of excluding portions of 1313 Greyback Mountain Road from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Residents of the current Campbell Mountain Service Area (includes all or parts of Electoral Areas "B", "D", "E", "F", "G", and "I", City of Penticton and Village of Keremeos) are being informed and are encouraged to attend all public meetings and visit the [Organics Composting Facility](#) project page on RDOS Regional Connections at rdosregionalconnections.ca/compost

RDOS Regional Connections is an online engagement platform for residents and property owners to learn more about the proposed composting facility, ask questions, and provide feedback.

An electronic public information meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9th, 2023, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via [Webex](#).

Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: <https://rdos.webex.com> / 1-833-311-4101 (by phone)

Webex Meeting #: 2771 667 2746

Webex Password: RD@S (7317 by phone)

Why is the creation of a composting facility important to the region?

Composting is a lower cost alternative to landfilling that will significantly reduce the regional greenhouse gas (GHG) foot print. It's estimated that the carbon footprint can be reduced by 14% by taking food waste out of the landfill. Together, with a food collection program, the facility will divert between 26% and 40% of all waste entering the landfill. This will increase the life of the landfill and decrease the long-term costs for waste management systems in the region.

Composting is an important resource for farmers as crops infested with pests or blight cannot be buried at the landfill, and processing the compost at high temperatures is required to sterilize this waste. This also has the benefit of destroying most noxious weed seeds that would otherwise be spread in other soil additives such as manure. Food and yard waste composting will create an organic-quality soil additive that can be used on farms and landscaping and is an alternative to chemical fertilizers that can create GHGs and adversely affect streams and lakes. Compost acts as a

sponge, trapping moisture and improving water conservation for landscaping and farms. It is also an important alternative to burning and improves air quality.

The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) rejected the RDOS application to exclude portions of 1313 Greyback Mountain Road. What is the RDOS building?

The ALC rejected the RDOS exclusion application, which impacts where the facility can be located. As a result, the new facility will be limited to food, yard, and agricultural waste composting on the portions of the property that are not within the ALR or phase 1. The RDOS intends to apply to the ALC for a non-farm use on the remaining portions of the property in order to replace the City of Penticton's existing biosolids composting facility. This will be a future phase of the project should the ALC permit the same in phase 2.

Why does the City of Penticton and the RDOS want to build the proposed composting facility on agricultural land?

The property located at 1313 Greyback Mountain Road is the most fiscally responsible option for constructing the facility. Operating the food organics and wastewater solids composting sites in close proximity to the current landfill operations is anticipated to save capital and operational costs.

Will the new composting facility increase traffic?

No. Trucks that would typically travel to the landfill will be diverted to the new composting facility. This is expected to reduce wait times at the landfill and reduce the potential for lineups that can extend onto Reservoir Road.

Will the new composting facility pollute groundwater?

No. The Province of B.C. strictly forbids composting sites from polluting groundwater. The proposed composting facility must have liners and impermeable surfaces to trap any possible leachate. Liquids will be recirculated onsite which will also reduce water consumption. Monitoring wells are required to ensure the integrity of any liners and surfaces.

Will there be any increased noise or odours?

Even with more materials being composted, odours will be reduced by approximately 70% over the current City of Penticton compost site once phase 2 is completed. Mixing and primary composting will take place inside buildings designed for odour control. Both phases of construction will have strict odour control. Any equipment operating outside would be done in the daytime, during regular business hours.

Are you mixing food waste and wastewater solids?

No. There will be separate areas for food waste compost and wastewater treatment composting. Wastewater compost will be used to create a landscaping product, while food and yard waste can be used for agricultural compost without the use of wastewater solids. The City of Penticton is looking to upgrade the existing wastewater solids treatment facility at Campbell Mountain Landfill. The two facilities will be able to share equipment, employees and infrastructure which will save millions of dollars in construction, land and operating costs. It makes good fiscal sense for the City of Penticton and the RDOS to be working together on this project.

Does the new facility inhibit or reduce hiking or biking trails on Campbell Mountain?

The ownership of 1313 Greyback Mountain Road by the RDOS actually secures access for the public. Should ownership of 1313 Greyback Mountain Road become private, public access would not be secure.

How does the proposed compost facility help support local agriculture?

Currently local agriculture industries are limited to burn piles, composting on site, or chipping piles to eliminate prunings and other organic brown waste. During burning bans, burning these materials is not permitted. Chipping programs and on-site composting may not be possible if these materials have pests or blight. The province does not currently allow the RDOS to bury these wastes at its landfills. The proposed composting facility would provide an alternative that currently does not exist. The final compost product will meet an organic food standard that can be reused on local crops as a method of water and nutrient conservation. Chemical additives such as Nitrogen are being discouraged as they can create Nitrous Oxide, which is a potent greenhouse gas. These chemicals can also enter aquifers and streams and cause health and environmental issues.

What does a compost facility mean for curbside pickup?

The RDOS and the City of Penticton are currently working on a new curbside collection contract that will include food waste collection as a new service. The new food waste composting facility will be necessary in order to support this new service.

Does the proposed facility cause significant harm to wildlife or wildlife corridors?

The RDOS consulted with a wildlife expert (Makonis Consulting Ltd) to review the potential for harm and found the proposed rezoning and future construction of the Food Waste Composting Facility will have insignificant impacts at the proposed location. Additional studies may be forthcoming, depending on what the province requires.

For further information, including details on how you can participate in the electronic town hall, please visit the RDOS Regional Connections website: <https://rdosregionalconnections.ca/compost> or contact the RDOS Solid Waste Department:

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