



Frequently Asked Questions – Green Bin Program

1. Who will participate in the food waste curbside collection program?

As of October 6, 2020 all residences within the SCRD service area in Electoral Areas B, D, E and F receiving garbage collection are a part of the curbside food waste collection program.

2. Is participation in the food waste curbside collection program mandatory?

Yes. Under the SCRD's refuse collection bylaw the separation of food waste from garbage is required by all residences in the service area.

3. What does the Green Bin Program cost?

The 2020 SCRD Utility Bill amount for garbage and food waste was \$175.85 (as per Bylaw 431.) Detailed information about program costs can be viewed in the staff report on page 74 of the January 30, 2020 Infrastructure Services Committee Meeting Agenda - <https://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2020/2020-JAN-30%20ISC%20Agenda%20Package.pdf>

4. What does the annual user fee (utility bill) fund?

The annual fee funds the contractor costs of collection of garbage and food waste and funds the disposal costs of the garbage at the Sechelt Landfill and the processing costs of food waste. As well, the annual fee funds associated overhead costs such as SCRD staffing and advertising/outreach.

5. Why has the SCRD introduced the food waste curbside collection program?

The food waste curbside collection program is an important part of the region's [Organic Waste Diversion Strategy](#), adopted in 2018, and a key step in achieving the overall goal of diverting 65%-69% per cent of the region's waste from the landfill. The food and food soiled paper are processed by Salish Soils (our local composting facility) into compost.

6. What if I backyard compost?

Please continue to use your home composter! If you have food items or food soiled papers that you are not currently backyard composting, then place these in your green bin.

7. What can I use to collect food waste in my kitchen?

Any container will do! Collect food waste and food soiled paper waste in a container of your choice before emptying it into your Green Bin. "Kitchen catchers" are available at many local retailers and online. Find one that suits your fancy!

8. Where can I get a new or replacement Green Bin?

If you are new to the area and need a Green Bin, or if your bin has become damaged and unusable, please contact the SCRD at infrastructure@scrd.ca or 604-885-6806.

9. What materials are accepted in the food waste curbside collection (Green Bin) program?

Materials accepted in the Green Bin include plate scrapings, meat, fish and poultry, bones, dairy products, tea leaves, coffee grinds and filters, and soiled paper products such as paper towels, paper napkins and tissues. For a more detailed list, visit www.scrd.ca/curbside-food.

10. Why can't I use compostable or biodegradable plastic bags?

These bags do not compost quickly enough for the local composting facility, and cannot be accepted in the SCRD's Green Bin program. If you'd like to use a bag, use paper bags designed for food waste, or wrap your food scraps in newspaper. Find out more about [lining your kitchen container here](#).

11. How can I keep my Green Bin clean and free of odours?

Here are some tips:

- Line the bottom with newspaper
- Sprinkle with baking soda
- Store it indoors, in a shady location
- Place it outside every week for collection, even if it isn't full
- Wash it regularly
- Keep the lid closed at all times

12. What about wildlife?

Just like your garbage can, clean your Green Bin regularly and keep indoors until the morning of your collection day and take it indoors after pick up as soon as possible. For other tips, visit <https://www.scrd.ca/curbside-food> and www.wildsafefbc.com/live.

13. Is the SCRD providing a new garbage can or do I use my existing can?

Please use your existing garbage can.

14. What if I have more than one can of garbage?

Extra garbage cans are permitted if tagged with a garbage sticker. For details and where to purchase stickers, visit www.scrd.ca/curbside-garbage.

15. What if I already have 2 bins for garbage because of a secondary dwelling or suite on my property?

You will receive 2 Green Bins for the new food waste service and your current 2 garbage bins will be collected every other week.

16. How often is my food waste and garbage collected?

Food waste in the Green Bin is collected every week, garbage is picked up every other week.

17. What are my Green Bin and garbage collection days?

Visit <https://www.scrd.ca/curbside-schedule> for your collection schedule based on where you live.

18. What happens to my collection day if it lands on a holiday?

Garbage and food waste is collected on all statutory holidays except Christmas Day, December 25. If your garbage collection day falls on Christmas Day, then your garbage or food waste will be collected on another day that week. Sign up for service notifications through the SCR D's app at www.scrd.ca/curbside-schedule.

19. What happens if it snows and the collection truck can't get down my road?

Severe winter weather, such as snowy and icy conditions or roads blocked by downed trees or power lines, may cause the contractor to temporarily cancel food waste and/or garbage collection. If your bin(s) were not collected on your designated day due to extreme weather events, an attempt will be made to reschedule pick-up later that week. Sign up for service notifications through the SCR D's app at www.scrd.ca/curbside-schedule.

20. Are paper muffin liners or coffee filters accepted in the Green Bin?

What if the muffin liners are 100% recycled paper, with no wax?

Wax or plastic coated food soiled paper products are not accepted in the Green Bin. This includes most muffin or cupcake liners/wrappers. If the liners don't have a wax coating, they are accepted in the Green Bin. A good test to see if liner has a wax or plastic coating is to run the liner under water. If it holds water, the liner is coated with wax or plastic and should be placed in the garbage.

21. Can we put dryer lint or vacuum contents in the Green Bin?

How about hair (human and/or pet)? How about pet waste?

The Green Bin program does not accept lint, vacuum contents, hair or pet waste, please place these items in the garbage.

22. What about tea bags?

Paper tea bags (with staples and tag removed) are accepted in the Green Bin. Do the tear test: when your tea bag is wet (and not hot), if it tears easily, it's likely made of paper and can go in the Green Bin. If it doesn't rip easily, it's probably made of plastic and should go in the garbage. But, you can cut the bag open and empty the tea leaves into the Green Bin, then discard the bag. It is also recommended that you put the paper tag in the recycling as the glue that might attach it isn't helpful in the composting process.

23. What are the common contaminations in the Green Bin that I should be aware of?

Residents might not know, but the following should be removed before going into the Green Bin as they are hard to screen out of the composting process.

- Elastics or wires – it helps to remove these right away when you get home as they can't be composted and are not easily screened out.
- Staples in tea bags – remove these as they can't be composted and these are so tiny they are not easily screened out.

- Stickers that come on fruit and vegetables – remove these as they can't be composted and are not easily screened out.
- Plastics – even if it says compostable or biodegradable, it is not compatible with the local composting facility.
- Wipes – baby or make-up wipes, even if made of cotton tend to have chemicals that are not compatible with the composting process.

24. What about “compostable” coffee pods (e.g. k-cups)?

Coffee pods that are made of compostable plastic or paper that are lined with plastic are not accepted in the Green Bin. Residents are able to compost the contents of a coffee pod and are advised to be careful when opening and emptying their coffee pods from any brand to remove the coffee grounds.

25. Where can I buy the paper bags that I received with my Green Bin?

The 10-pack paper bags provided were generously donated by Bag to Earth. You can purchase them on the Sunshine Coast at the following locations:

As of September 28, 2020			
Pender Harbour	IGA Market Place	12887 Madeira Park Road	604-883-9100
	Rona	12390 Sunshine Coast Highway	604-883-9551
District of Sechelt	Canadian Tire	4380 Sunshine Coast Highway	604-885-6611
	Claytons Heritage Market	1-5755 Cowrie Street	604-885-2025
	IGA	4330 Sunshine Coast Highway	604-885-6331
	Home Hardware	5484 Trail Avenue	604-885-9828
	Rona	5644 Wharf Avenue	604-885-5818
	YIG - Heather's	5530 Sunshine Coast Highway	604-885-6723
Town of Gibsons	Home Hardware	921 Gibsons Way	604-886-2442
	IGA	1100 Gibsons Way	604-886-3487
	London Drugs	1-900 Gibsons Way	604-886-8720
	SuperValu	900 Gibsons Way	604-886-2424

26. Is waxed paper, butcher paper or food soiled parchment paper accepted?

Waxed paper – no
 Butcher paper – no
 Parchment paper – no

27. Can wood ashes from my fireplace be added to my Green Bin?

No. But this is because of safety, not because it isn't good for soil. Unfortunately, the risk of having a hot ember in a truck is too high to accept in the Green Bin and within the solid waste industry, there have been truck fires from hot embers.

Updated: October 16, 2020

28. Are pits from avocados or hard shells from pistachios or hazelnuts accepted?

Avocado pits – no, these are too hard to breakdown

Shells from nuts – yes

28. Are tissues (Kleenex) accepted?

At this time, due to the current pandemic, no they are not accepted in the Green Bin.

Please securely contain in your garbage.