



# Press Release

## **PORT COQUITLAM LEADS THE WAY IN COMPOSTING KITCHEN GREEN WASTE**

**Port Coquitlam, B.C. – June 25, 2009...** As municipalities across Metro Vancouver begin to step up their composting efforts, Port Coquitlam has already diverted almost 500 tonnes of waste from the landfill since starting its Kitchen Green Waste Collection Program a year ago.

In July 2008, Port Coquitlam became the first city in Metro Vancouver to offer curbside pickup of kitchen green waste such as vegetable and fruit scraps and coffee grounds. More cities may soon follow suit following Metro Vancouver's announcement today of a new regional composting facility contracted with Fraser Richmond Soil & Fiber Ltd., the same company used by Port Coquitlam.

"Port Coquitlam offers a good example for the rest of Metro Vancouver about the benefits of composting kitchen waste," noted Mayor Greg Moore. "After only the first year of our Kitchen Green Waste Collection Program, we've reduced the amount of garbage we send to the landfill by seven per cent."

At the moment, Port Coquitlam residents already divert about 55% of their household waste from the landfill through recycling, yard waste and kitchen waste collection.

That figure could increase after this fall, when the City will pilot a program that collects all types of kitchen waste, including breads, cereal, dairy, meat, fish (including bones), leftovers and table scraps.

At the moment, the Kitchen Green Waste Collection Program allows all residents with green waste collection to include vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, cut flowers and other compostables in their cart. Because the same green waste cart is used for both yard and kitchen waste, the City moved to year-round green waste pickup when it introduced kitchen waste collection a year ago.

The slogan "one cart – two uses" has been coined to encourage even more local residents to join in the program. At the very least, the City's aims to increase its diversion of kitchen waste to 16.5%, the percentage of kitchen waste in our garbage, based on a Metro Vancouver study.

To take part in the program, residents simply collect their kitchen green waste in a lidded pail in their kitchen and then empty it out into their green waste carts. More information is available at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/greenwaste](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/greenwaste).

"It's great to see the Fraser Richmond facility expanded so that more municipalities can start their own kitchen waste programs," Mayor Moore said. "And while we continue to work to improve our diversion rate in our City, I think everyone in Port Coquitlam can be proud of the steps our City has taken to better manage our waste."

Other City waste management efforts include consideration of reducing the frequency of garbage pickup while either maintaining or increasing recycling and green waste pickup. A survey following a pilot study this spring indicated that 71% of respondents supported less frequent garbage pickup. The matter is still under discussion.

For more about Port Coquitlam's efforts to go green, visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/green](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/green).

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