



ORGANICS COLLECTION GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 2024

The City of Fernie is expanding its curbside garbage and recycling program to include organic waste.

All residents who currently receive curbside collection will also receive weekly pickup of organic waste beginning September 23rd for Area 2 and September 24th for Area 1.

On collection day, simply put your new (City-supplied) organics cart out for pickup. Until December, your curbside garbage collection service will remain the same. Once you've gotten comfortable using your organics cart, garbage collection will change to every other week, just like recycling.

Use this guide to learn:

- When you'll receive your cart and your collection schedule,
- What can and cannot go into your new cart,
- How to keep your cart safe from wildlife, and
- Why this change is happening.

Apartments & Condos

This new service is the first step towards the City's goal of redirecting all organics from the landfill. Organics collection for apartments and condos will be added in the coming years.

fernies.ca/organics



PROGRAM TIMELINE

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2024

Public campaign to inform and prepare residents for the upcoming changes.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Residents will receive a delivery of their new curbside organics cart, kitchen catcher bin, collection schedule, and information package.

First Curbside Organics Collections

Area 2: September 23rd

Area 1: September 24th

Changes to Collection Area Boundaries

The Alpine Trails and Parkland Terrace neighbourhoods will be part of Area 1 starting with the first organics collection on September 23rd.

DECEMBER 2024

Garbage Collection Changing to Bi-Weekly

Garbage collection will move to every other week, starting December 5th for Area 1. Area 2 will have their first bi-weekly collection on December 12th.



COLLECTION SCHEDULE

To accommodate our growing population, **the boundaries of Area 1 and 2 have shifted slightly**. The Alpine Trails and Parkland Terrace neighbourhoods will change to Area 1, effective September 23rd, 2024.

Please check the map below to determine your Collection Area and reference the schedule to confirm your area's collection days.

-  **AREA 1 WASTE**
-  **AREA 1 RECYCLING**
-  **AREA 1 ORGANICS**
-  **AREA 2 WASTE**
-  **AREA 2 RECYCLING**
-  **AREA 2 ORGANICS**
-  **BOTH AREAS COLLECTED**
-  **STAT HOLIDAY NO PICKUP**



AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

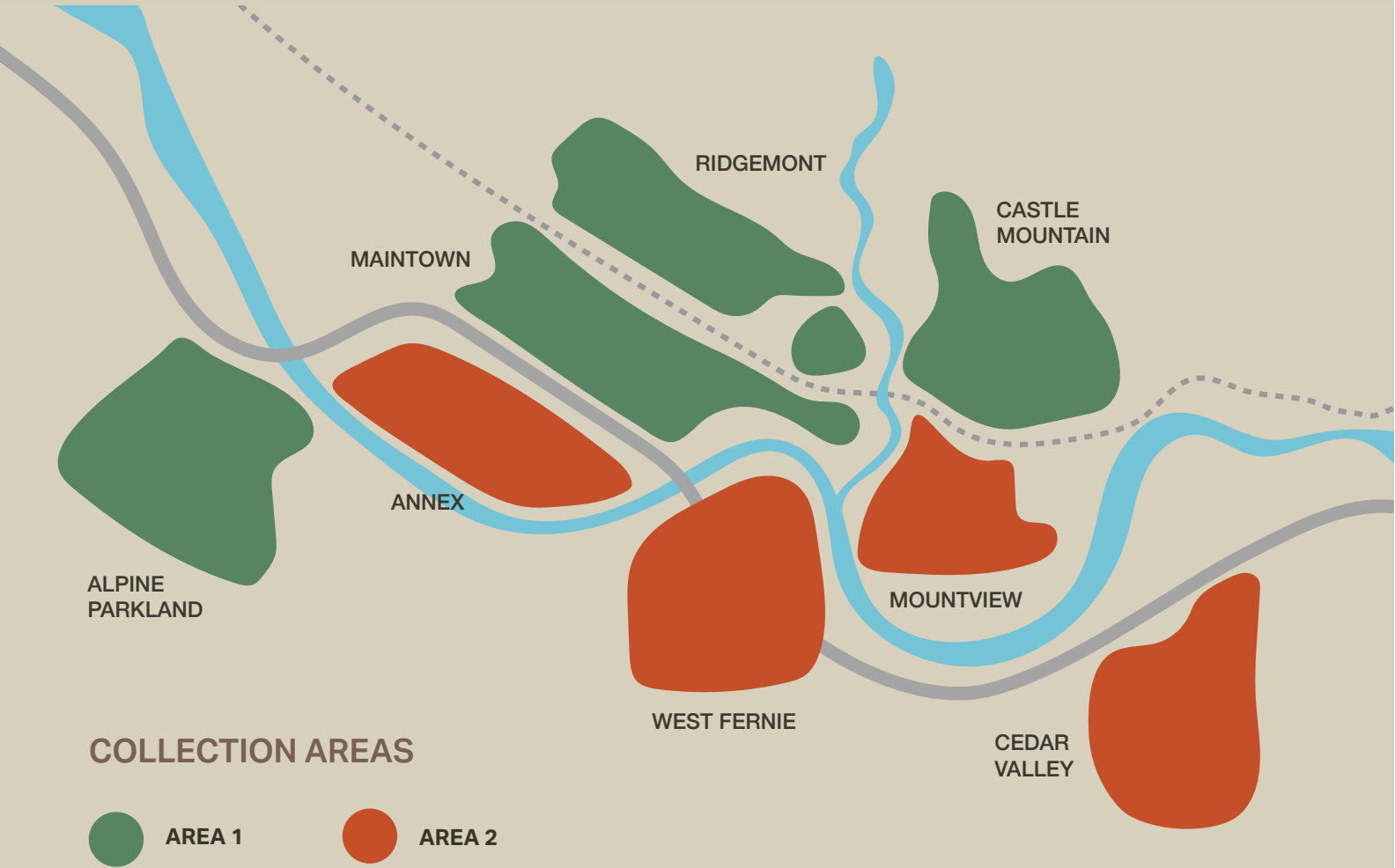
SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



How will it work?

You'll be able to put a range of items in your organics bin, from yard waste and food scraps to pizza boxes, kitty litter, and chopsticks! Organic waste will be converted into Class B compost soil that will stay in the Elk Valley and be used for City/municipal landscaping projects. To ensure the quality of the soil produced, only put things in your organics bin that are on the list of acceptable items.

**MAKE
DIRT NOT
TRASH!**

Compostable Items



FOOD WASTE

Cooking oils, fats and grease can be soaked in a paper towel or chilled to harden before going in the bin



Food scraps (peels, shells, meat, fats, leftovers)



Bones



Sauces, spreads, condiments



Dairy products



Tea bags, coffee grounds & filters

YARD WASTE



Twigs, sticks & small branches
(Maximum 1" diameter, 2 ft long)



Grass clippings & leaves



Flowers, bulbs, seeds, weeds



Cones, berries, fruit



Hay, straw, coconut planter liners

PET PRODUCTS



Kitty Litter



Animal bedding



Pet fur, hair, feathers



Pet food and treats

FOOD-SOILED PAPER PRODUCTS



Paper bags, napkins & towels



Pizza boxes



Newspapers, flyers, paper packets

OTHER



Wood shavings



Wood/Bamboo utensils, sticks and dishes, toothpicks

Prohibited Items



Ashes



Pet waste
(other than kitty litter)



Fruit & vegetable stickers, plastic bin liners, rubber bands, twist ties

MEET YOUR NEW CONTAINERS

Prior to the first curbside organics collection, homes will receive two new containers: a small kitchen bin, and a 120-litre, bear-resistant curbside cart.



Kitchen Catcher



Curbside Cart

Size

7-litre

120-litre

Use

Collect food scraps in your kitchen and transfer to the curbside cart when full

Place the cart out every collection day, even if it isn't full.
Ensure the lid is always properly latched.
Do not overfill/overflow.

Features

Lid to eliminate odour
Dishwasher safe

Bear-resistant: certified to withstand a bear for one hour

Storage

Keep under or near your sink

Store in a location that is inaccessible to wildlife such as a garage or sturdy shed.

Cleaning

Wash regularly with hot water and soap, bleach, or put in your dishwasher

Rinse regularly with a hose and occasionally wash it with soap, bleach, or baking soda and vinegar.

Tips

For ease of emptying, line with newspaper, a paper bag, or shredded paper
To reduce odours during hot weather, freeze kitchen scraps until collection day

To keep waste from sticking to the inside of your cart and reduce odours, place a piece of cardboard at the bottom of your cart, put organic waste in paper bags or wrap in newspaper, and layer food waste with yard/garden waste.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

We appreciate that people want to do their best to keep compostable materials out of our landfill, however, contamination is difficult to separate and leads to clean, compostable material being sent to the landfill.

If you can't determine if an item is compostable, you can do any of the following:

1. Review acceptable items at fernien.ca/organics,
2. Email operations@fernien.ca for clarification,
3. Put it in your garbage bin.

BYE BYE ODOURS

In addition to regular cleaning, sprinkling a small amount of baking soda, garden lime, or vinegar in your curbside bin and kitchen catcher will help to reduce odours. Commercial bin cleaning services are also available in the valley.

What about wildlife?

PREVENTING WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Wildlife will be attracted to accessible carts no matter their type, bear-resistant or not. Sadly, bears that are drawn to human-inhabited areas and have become habituated to attractants are a hazard and are often destroyed.

Things you can do to prevent temptations for bears and other wildlife:

- Between collection days, store all of your curbside bins in a secure location that is inaccessible to wildlife such as a sturdy shed or garage.
- Do not bring your carts to the curb until 5 AM on collection days.
- Pick ripe fruit and collect any fallen fruit around your property—this can go in your organics bin!
- Manage attractants such as barbeques, pet food, bird feeders by keeping them clean or out of reach.

Fernie is Wildlife Country. It is everyone's responsibility to make sure that wildlife and people stay at a safe distance from each other. One person's bad habits can create problems for a whole neighborhood.

REPORT WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

If you see a bear or other dangerous wildlife in your neighbourhood, please call the Conservation Officer Service Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) 24-hour hotline at 1-877-952-7277.

Reporting allows officers to identify current "hot spot" locations and work to encourage use of natural habitats and food sources before wildlife becomes habituated and/or a safety concern.

BEAR-RESISTANT VS. BEAR-PROOF

The new organics curbside carts are certified bear-resistant, not bear-proof. **Bear-resistant carts are only certified to withstand a bear for one hour.** The single best way to help keep humans and wildlife safe is to ensure attractants, such as garbage, organic waste, pet food and birdseed, are securely stored.



WASTE REGULATION BYLAW & FINES

The City of Fernie's Waste Regulation Bylaw No. 1845, requires that all wildlife attractants such as garbage, organic waste, and carts be safely stored so it is not accessible by wildlife. Carts should be brought to the curb only on the morning of your designated pickup day and no earlier than 5:00 am. Carts must be out by 7:00 am to ensure collection. Visit fernie.ca/organics to read the full Bylaw.

If a cart is damaged either willfully or accidentally by the actions of a homeowner, such as leaving a garbage cart in an accessible location and it being damaged by a bear, homeowners are responsible for the cost to repair or replace the cart. A ticket may also be levied against the homeowner for having wildlife attractants accessible. The first offense ticket is \$250, and a second or subsequent offense per year is \$500.

Why is this needed?

BENEFITS:

Reduced Volume of Landfill Waste

30% of Fernie's overall waste is compostable organics¹. Diverting this material to a composting facility will reduce the amount of waste heading to the regional landfill.

Extended Lifespan of Our Landfill

Diverting organic waste from our landfill will extend its lifespan and reduce the volume of landfill leachate, the liquid formed when rain filters through a landfill. When water mixes with waste, it leaches out chemicals and becomes a pollutant that must be managed.

Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Methane

When organic material decomposes in a landfill, it generates a significant amount of methane (which is 28 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide²). Diverting organics to a composting facility is the single most effective action to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses generated by landfilling organic materials.

Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Carbon Dioxide (Transportation)

Organic waste will be shipped a shorter distance, further reducing greenhouse gas emissions because, unlike the landfill, the composting facility is in the valley.

Reduced Need to Import Topsoil

Compost is in high demand in the valley. The finished product will reduce the need for the Regional District of East Kootenay and the City of Fernie to bring in topsoil from elsewhere.

1. According to a 2018 Regional District waste composition study

2. Source: <https://www.epa.gov/gmi/importance-methane>

CITY GOALS

The new program supports Fernie evolving into a community with:

- a low level of waste production,
- a high level of waste diverted from landfills, and
- reduced climate change impact through the limiting of greenhouse gas emissions.

This brings us closer to meeting the goals of several key City plans:

- City of Fernie Official Community Plan,
- City of Fernie Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Plan, and
- Forever Fernie – The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.



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BRITISH COLUMBIA