

Implementing organic waste collection at BC Cancer – Kelowna Landmark 2



BACKGROUND

Organic waste currently represents 40% of the material sent to landfills in BC and generates a significant amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) as it decomposes ⁽¹⁾. Diverting and composting organic waste is one strategy that can help reduce GHG emissions, preserve capacity and reduce associated landfill management cost, and contribute to healthy soil for agricultural purposes ⁽¹⁾.

AIM: Implement organic waste bin and collection process at the BC Cancer – Kelowna Landmark 2 administrative offices and increase organic waste collection to 75% of bin capacity by August 30th, 2024.



APPROACH

Bins placed in all Landmark 2 kitchen areas and bathrooms with signage indicating compostable items.

Landmark 2 staff and housekeeping engaged and educated about the program and site collection process.

Weekly PDSA cycles for real-time quality improvement.



RESULTS

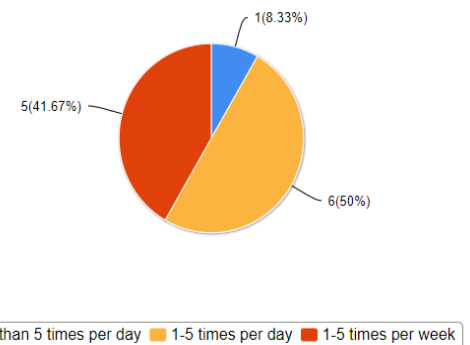
Staff at Landmark 2 were surveyed after the one-month trial period for feedback on their experience with the waste collection program:

- 100% of respondents indicated they used the bins at least once per week, with 58% using the bins 1 or more times daily (Figure 1).
- 58% were satisfied with the organic waste collection with 33% indicating they were unsure.

Additional feedback/suggestions:

1. A flip top or foot pedal style bin is preferred for ease of use, infection control and general sanitation.
2. Larger bins for bathroom paper towels.
3. Deskside organic waste collection bins would increase convenience.

Figure 1: Frequency of bin use



IMPACT

Overall staff who responded to the survey are satisfied with the new organic waste collection program, with some even expressing they would like to have their own bin at their desk.

Organic waste collected to date is equivalent to 0.2 tCO₂e ⁽²⁾ annually, or two round trips from Kelowna to Vancouver in a gas-powered vehicle!



Weekly Organic Waste Collection Bin Capacity Utilization

Kitchen Bins



50-75% full

Bathroom Bins



100% full

Average



75% full

NEXT STEPS

Explore upgrading bins to foot pedal style and expanding organic waste collection program to other BC Cancer Kelowna locations.

1. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (2023). Best Management Practice for Curbside Collection of Residential Waste. Retrieved from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/organic-waste/org-infrastructure-program/best_management_practices_organic_waste_curbside_collection.pdf
 2. Government of British Columbia (2022). B.C. Biogas and Composting Facility Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Tool Version 2.2. Retrieved from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/organic-waste/org-infrastructure-program/ghg_tool_v_2_2.xlsx