

Pre-Treated Organics Program

Program Guide



[NELSON.CA/ORGANICS](https://nelson.ca/organics)

Did you know **77%** of **Nelson residents** responded in support of implementing an Organics Diversion Program as a priority action to ensure our community is prepared for the future?



Thank You For Joining The City of Nelson's Pre-treated Organics Program!

This program provides you with a handy kitchen appliance called the FoodCycler™, which helps you pre-treat your household food waste. In this guide, you will find instructions on how to use and take care of the appliance, as well as how to manage the end product.

In 2020, the City of Nelson ran a successful pilot program to learn more about the benefits of a pre-treated organics diversion program and is now implementing a larger pilot to see if the outstanding results can be replicated at a larger scale.

An external consultant will compare this program to a traditional weekly curbside collection program to better understand the differences between the two models and make sure we have the best possible information ahead of a City-wide Rollout.

Nelson is the first community in Canada to test pre-treating household food waste at a community level. We value your feedback and we look forward to learning alongside you.

This Program has been developed in partnership with Food Cycle Science Corporation (FCS), which developed the food waste countertop recycler, the FoodCycler™.

Contents

- Program Overview 2
- Why Should We Divert Food Waste? 4
- Meet the FoodCycler™ 5
- Managing your Soil Amendment..... 6
 - Storing your Soil Amendment..... 6
 - Keeping Wildlife Safe..... 7
- Soil Amendment: Drop-Off Locations..... 8
- Soil Amendment: Use it At Home..... 10
- Caring for your FoodCycler™ 12
 - Refilling Your Carbon Filters 12
 - Repairs..... 13
 - End of Life..... 13
 - Additional Support 13
- Reducing Your Food Waste 14
- Program InformationInsert
- What Can I Put in My FoodCycler™Insert

Your Foodcycler™ is the Property of the City of Nelson

The appliance you received through this program belongs to the City and is registered to your civic address. This means that if you plan to move, it’s your responsibility to inform us and leave the appliance at the property for the next occupant unless other arrangements have been approved. Misusing or failing to leave the appliance when you move may result in replacement costs, as stated in the Waste Management and Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 3198 (2011).

What Should I Do If I’m Moving?

If you’re moving in or out, you must let us know by filling out a Move In/Move Out Form on the Resources Page at nelson.ca/OrganicsResources. Alternatively, you can contact us at organics@nelson.ca or 250-352-TALK (8255). For more information, visit our program page at nelson.ca/organics.

Why Should We Divert Food Waste?

Organic waste diversion refers to separating organic waste, such as food waste, yard waste, and even some food soiled paper products from your garbage to make sure they don't go to the landfill.

When food waste ends up in the landfill, it decomposes and creates harmful pollutants. By diverting food waste, we can increase the lifespan of our landfills, lower the cost of our waste, and help keep our water and environment safe for future generations.

We think this program is a great fit for Nelson as we prepare for the future. Pre-treating smelly food waste helps to reduce animal attractants and keep wildlife safe. Reducing the transportation and noise associated with waste collection are also benefits of this new and innovative program.

With the help of the FoodCycler™ food waste can also be transformed into a valuable, nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used in your yard or garden or be collected to be turned into compost. This helps return nutrients to the soil, providing benefits to the environment and promoting healthy green spaces.



Meet the FoodCycler™

The FoodCycler™ is a household appliance that's easy to use, convenient, and energy-efficient. By grinding and dehydrating the material, the FoodCycler™ reduces the volume and weight of food waste by up to 90%. After using the device, you'll be left with a dry, low-odour, and easy-to-store soil amendment. The product manual that comes with the appliance will be helpful as you use the device.

The FoodCycler™ process at a glance:



To learn more about what can go in your FoodCycler™ and for detailed instructions on how to use your appliance effectively and safely, see page 6 in the FoodCycler™ User Manual.

Cost Savings and Sustainability

The City is powered by clean, hydro-electric power generated from Nelson Hydro's Bonnington Dam power plant. The FoodCycler™ uses less than 1.5-kilowatt hours per cycle, which will cost approximately \$2/month to run the appliance. You will likely recover these costs by needing fewer garbage tags.



Managing Your Soil Amendment

Storing the Soil Amendment Produced By the FoodCycler™ is Simple!

The best place to store it is in a sealed container inside your home, like an enclosed garage, closet, cupboard or basement. Keeping it dry will reduce odour and allow for extended storage. It's not recommended to store it outside as it may be an animal attractant, and this would also be in violation of both the City Bylaws and the Wildlife Act.

You're responsible for finding a container or bucket to store and transport your soil amendment.

Check out the following pages to learn how to use your soil amendment at home or deliver it to a designated Drop-Off Location. From there, it will be collected and transported to the regional compost facility to create Class A compost.



QUICK TIP

To store your soil amendment daily, use a small bucket with an air-tight lid and place it under your sink. When the bucket is full, empty it into a larger storage bin. You can then transport the soil amendment to a Drop-Off Location or use it on-site.

Keeping Wildlife Safe

Pre-treating our food waste is a helpful step in making it less attractive to animals, but it's also crucial to ensure that we store and manage our soil amendment correctly, as outlined in this guide.

No one wants to see wildlife such as bears become a risk to public safety. By making sure we keep our soil amendment dry and indoors, we can do our part to keep wildlife away from our garbage. Bears that linger in our community because of food waste stored outside may be euthanized. We all need to do our part to keep wildlife safe.

It's important to keep in mind that animals may still be interested in the soil amendment until it's fully composted, so we must remain vigilant in how we handle and store it. Please follow the instructions on how to add the soil amendment to your garden to avoid attracting animals.

This program will help you manage your food waste; however, other animal attractants (such as fruit trees, bird feeders and BBQs) need to be carefully managed to reduce wildlife conflict in our community.



For tips on how to best manage your attractants, visit wildsafebc.com.

Glossary

Pre-treatment is when household food waste is processed in an appliance that grinds and dehydrates it, reducing its weight and volume by up to 90%.

Soil Amendment is the final product of the pre-treatment process, which comes out of the FoodCycler™. This nutrient-rich substance can be used in home gardens or dropped off for collection.

FoodCycler™ is the appliance designed to process your household food waste.

Food Cycle Science (FCS) is a Canadian clean technology company that created the FoodCycler™ household food waste appliance.

Soil Amendment: Drop It Off

If you are not using your soil amendment on-site you can bring it to a designated Drop-Off Location. You can access the Drop-Off bins year-round, 24/7 with the lock combination. For the pilot phase, the following Drop-Off locations have been set up.



Nelson Drop-Off Locations



For Early Adopters

(outside of the Fairview neighborhood):

**Nelson Public Works Complex
80 Lakeside Drive**
(before the RDCK Recycling depot)



For all Fairview Residents

(including Early Adopters residing in Fairview):

1st & Behnsen Street
(behind Safeway)

Please visit nelson.ca/organics for updates.

Only pre-treated organics (soil amendment) will be collected at the Drop-Off Locations. To avoid contaminating the soil amendment, all other items should be disposed of properly.

If you are at one of our Drop-Off Locations and all bins are full, there is an issue with the lock, or you have questions regarding collections call 250-352-TALK (8255) or email organics@nelson.ca

If you see someone vandalizing or contaminating the Drop-Off bins, please contact Nelson Police at 250-354-3919.

NOTE: *This Pre-treated Organics Program will **not affect your bi-weekly garbage collection**; regular garbage and recycling collection will continue as scheduled. Visit nelson.ca/waste for details on collection.*

What About Other Organic Waste?

The Regional District of Central Kootenay will accept most organic waste, including regular food waste, food soiled paper, yard and garden waste. Visit rdck.ca/organics for a list of accepted materials, drop-off locations, and the cost for disposal.



QUICK TIP

A 5-gallon bucket is ideal, and you can re-use something you already have at home. Alternatively, you can purchase one at a hardware store. This size can store about three months' worth of household pre-treated food waste, based on a two-person household.

Soil Amendment: Use It At Home

One of the many benefits of this program is the access it gives residents to a nutrient-rich soil amendment. It is important to note that although the soil amendment is in the early stages of decomposition, it still needs to mature and it does not have the same characteristics as finished compost. You can either add it directly to your soil before planting or further process it in a home composter. Here are some tips to use your soil amendment at home.

Fertilize Your Garden Soil

Food Cycle Science (FCS) recommends that the soil amendment is mixed into the soil in your garden or potted plants like a fertilizer.



How much soil amendment should I mix into my garden soil?

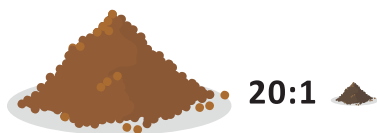
To ensure optimal results, mix the soil amendment with soil at a minimum ratio of 10:1 (10 parts soil to 1 part soil amendment). If your soil amendment contains a significant amount of meat or dairy products, it is advisable to increase the ratio to 20:1 (20 parts soil to 1 part soil amendment) to avoid any potential issues.

Mainly Plant Based Food Waste



10:1

Food Waste with More Meat and Dairy



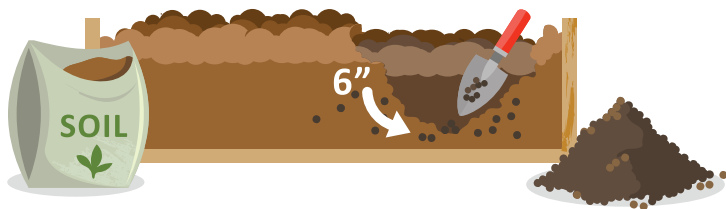
20:1



To keep wildlife and pets out of your garden, always mix your amendment well into your existing soil. To mix properly, dig into the soil deeply and turn thoroughly so that you get an even and well-distributed blend.

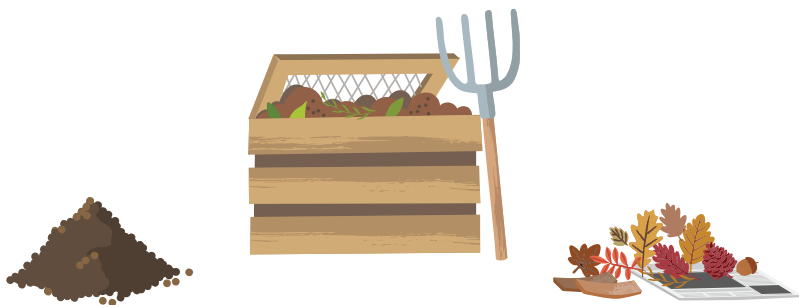
When should I add the soil amendment into my garden?

For best results, mix the soil amendment in with your garden soil approximately six weeks prior to planting seeds or transplanting plants in the spring or wait until fall to mix it in as you put your garden away for the season. This will allow the pre-treated material to further break down, mature and properly nourish the soil. You may also wish to add your amendment before or after bear season.



Add It To Your Composter: Here's How

You can mix the soil amendment into your existing backyard composter. For best results always mix your soil amendment equally with brown materials, and mix regularly.



The soil amendment should be considered a **“green”** (nitrogen-rich) compost material.



Your **“brown”** or carbon compost material can include items such as paper products or dead leaves.

Please note that using the Drop-Off Location and using your soil amendment in your garden are the best method to deal with your soil amendment.



The composting process can attract animals even with pre-treated organics. One of the best ways to keep animals out of your compost bin is to actively manage it by mixing regularly and blending your “greens” and “browns” properly.

Caring for your FoodCycler™

Proper Maintenance and Placement of Your FoodCycler™

The location of your FoodCycler™ appliance is crucial for maintaining its energy efficiency and avoiding warranty and wildlife issues.

To ensure your FoodCycler™ continues to work as it should, you must keep it indoors at a temperature above 0 degrees Celsius. While the appliance is primarily designed for countertops, other suitable options are available if you don't have enough counter space. Here are some examples:

- Heated garage
- Basement
- Laundry room
- Storage area



QUICK TIP

Ensure good air circulation around your appliance to protect your cabinets from any steam that comes out of the filtration system.

What Maintenance is Needed?

The FoodCycler™ is relatively maintenance free! Replacing the carbon in your filter is the only regular maintenance required. Pay attention to how your appliance is processing your food waste, and if there are concerns refer to the troubleshooting section of the User Manual. The User Manual is also available at nelson.ca/organics

Refilling Your Carbon Filters

The FoodCycler™ uses refillable carbon filters to neutralize odours while processing food waste. If your appliance notifies you that a filter change is needed or if you begin to notice odour, follow the instructions on page 8 in the FoodCycler™ Manual or watch the Program Tutorial to learn more.

- Carbon pellets are available, free of charge, for residents of Nelson at Safeway, 211 Anderson St. Nelson.
- At the refill station, take only what you need. Carbon pellets must be used in your FoodCycler™ immediately to work effectively.
- **Used pellets** - at this time, this cannot not be added to the soil amendment and must be discarded into the garbage. We hope to find a biodegradable solution shortly. Please check nelson.ca/organics for updates.



Repairs

The new FoodCycler™ unit has a modular design which means that most repairs can be done locally.

If you find an issue with your appliance, here's what to do:

1. Refer to page 16 in your FoodCycler™ Manual or foodcycler.com for troubleshooting information. These resources can help you diagnose and potentially resolve the issue on your own;
2. If you cannot solve the issue using the manual or the FoodCycler™ website, submit a Troubleshooting and Repair request through the Form at nelson.ca/OrganicsResources or contact the Pre-treated Organics Team at organics@nelson.ca to notify us about your concern;
3. If your appliance needs a repair an appointment will be booked and staff will contact you to coordinate a drop off. Upon availability, you may be issued a replacement unit while your appliance is being repaired;
4. Your appliance will be repaired and you will be contacted when it is ready to be picked up.

End of Life

The FoodCycler™ has a long-expected lifespan. If you suspect that your appliance has reached the end of its life, please get in touch with the Program Coordinator at organics@nelson.ca. An assessment of the appliance will be conducted and may result in maintenance or a replacement. If a replacement is required, the expired unit is fully recyclable and will be brought to a recycling facility.

Additional Program Support

Check out our Resident Resource Page at nelson.ca/OrganicsResources for more information such as our Video Tutorial, Move In/Move Out Forms, Troubleshooting and Repair Forms and other materials.

For community support on the use of your appliance check the 'FoodCycler™ Pilot-Program Champions' Group on Facebook or contact an Early Adopter in your friend group, workplace or neighbourhood.



Scan this QR code to go directly to our [Resident Resource Page](https://nelson.ca/OrganicsResources).

Go to foodcycler.com for more about the appliance, troubleshooting information and more.





Reducing Your Food Waste

Some food waste is unavoidable – this is the food that can't generally be used or eaten, such as bones, vegetable peelings, egg shells, tea bags, and coffee grounds. But did you know that 63% of food waste is avoidable? Avoidable food waste is the edible food that ends up in the compost or in the garbage, like leftovers or spoiled food.

Unfortunately, we often waste good food because we buy too much, cook too much, or don't store it correctly. We encourage you to follow the tips below to help prevent avoidable food loss, and then to use the pre-treatment device to manage your unavoidable food waste. ***This may also help you reduce your food costs.***

This Program will help you produce less waste (and the unpleasant odours associated with it) and make it easier to store and handle your waste. Some pilot participants have reported a reduction in food costs as they become more aware of their food waste habits through the use of the appliance.



Keep It Fresh

- Organize your fridge – store produce items in a visible part of the fridge so they aren't forgotten about and put leftovers to one side and within sight so you can use them first;
- Use your freezer—it's the easiest way to preserve fresh food and leftovers;
- Empty the fridge before your next trip to the grocery store;
- Know the shelf life of the products you purchase - plenty of food can be kept safely past the best-before date!

Plan It Out

- Plan your meals in advance (preferably a week at a time);
- Make a shopping list - check your fridge and cupboards beforehand to see what you have;
- Only buy what you need each week, buying fresh items in bulk can lead to more waste;
- Don't make too much food - only make what you know you will eat or can manage as leftovers during the week.

Use It Up

- Dedicate one day a week to making meals from leftovers and older produce;
- Get and use quality storage containers for portion-ready lunches;
- Try reworking leftovers into another recipe before FoodCycling.

For more tips on preventing food waste, including creative recipes and food storage guides, visit LoveFoodHateWaste.ca

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hate waste

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