

Victoria County is Considering the Switch to Clear Bags for Garbage



Moving from black and green coloured garbage bags to clear, translucent garbage bags is the new standard for managing solid waste in Nova Scotia. The province has implemented a seven year target to reduce the amount of waste produced by residents in Nova Scotia to 300kg/person/year. Victoria County needs to do its' part to reach this target and one step to achieve this goal that is being considered is the move from black or green garbage bags to clear, translucent ones.

Municipalities across Nova Scotia that have already made the change to clear garbage bags have noticed a decrease in the amount of recyclables and organics going into the landfill. Currently, Victoria County ships waste to Guysborough at a cost of \$69.07 per tonne plus transportation costs. Through the use of clear bags, we expect to divert additional materials from the waste stream, thus, reducing the amount of waste being shipped to Guysborough, which will be beneficial to the environment and the County.



New Public Works Administration Building

The Municipality of the County of Victoria has recently opened a new Public Works administration building at the Baddeck Waste Management Facility. The office will manage the County's Public Works services.

The implementation of a clear bag program would be transitional. The County recognizes that residents need time to adjust to changes. The introduction of clear bags would not impact the way Victoria County currently sorts and separates waste. Three waste streams will still exist, recyclables to be placed in blue bags, organics to be placed in green, translucent bags and garbage to be placed in clear, translucent bags. The only thing changing is the colour of the bag. Victoria County looks to be an active participant in Nova Scotia's seven year target.

► **Let's do our part!**



The Baddeck Enviro–Depot and Dingwall Transfer Station now accept electronics through the ACES program.

Q: What is ACES?

A: ACES stands for the Atlantic Canada Stewardship Program and is a non-profit, industry-led electronics recycling program approved by the Province of Nova Scotia. ACES is available to all consumers and businesses in Nova Scotia.

Q: Do I have to pay to drop off my unwanted electronics?

A: No, unwanted electronic products can be dropped off FREE OF CHARGE at any ACES Drop-off Centre.

Q: What electronics are currently accepted?

A: Desktop computers, including CPU's, mice, keyboard, cables and other components within the computer.

- Monitors
- Notebook computers
- Desktop printers
- Televisions
- Personal or portable audio/video systems
- Aftermarket vehicle audio/video systems.
- Home theatre in a box
- Home audio/video systems
- Non-cellular telephones/answering machines

For more information about the ACES program, please drop by our facility for an ACES brochure.

► Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program

Residents of Victoria County can return leftover paint at no charge to their local Enviro-Depots in Baddeck and New Haven.

The Enviro-Depot accepts the following:

- Interior/exterior latex, alkyd, enamel and oil-based paints
- Porch, floor and deck paints
- Interior/exterior varnishes and urethanes
- Primers, undercoats and sealers
- Marine enamels (must not contain pesticides)
- Wood finishing oils and stains
- Rust paint, decorative metal paints
- Fence and barn paints
- Aluminium paints
- Accepted paint aerosols include latex, alkyds and varathanes.

► Contact Us!

To ensure that your questions and concerns are addressed we have set up three lines of communication to provide you with information. You can:

- 1) Visit our website: www.victoriacounty.com and follow the waste management link (currently under construction).
- 2) Email: info@mcov.ns.ca
- 3) Call the Public Works Information Line: 1-877-510-5999



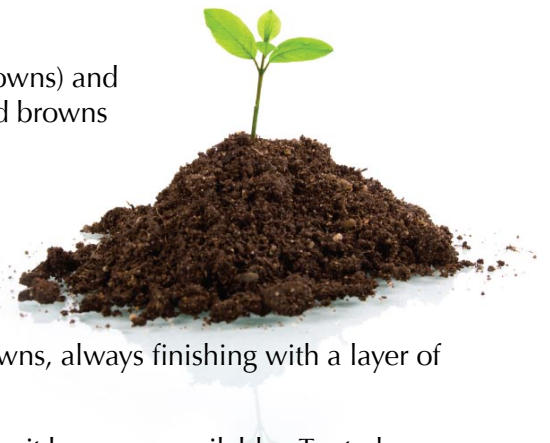
Composting

Composting is simply allowing Nature to take its course by returning organic material to where it came from, the soil. Any material from a living source - plant or animal - is called "organic". For the purpose of backyard composting, however, we deal almost exclusively with plant material.

Victoria County residents have options when it comes to managing organic waste. Residents can continue to participate in our curbside organics program by placing organic material in a green, translucent bag to be picked up during weekly collection, or become a backyard composter.

► STEPS TO BECOMING A BACKYARD COMPOSTER:

- 1) Decide which (if any) compost container to use. The container must be large enough to handle your yard and kitchen waste, have adequate ventilation, is easily put together and removed and offers you easy access to the material so it can be turned without difficulty.
- 2) Gather materials to start your compost pile. Greens (wet and soft) and browns (dry and woody) will be part of your compost mixture. Greens are materials such as kitchen waste, coffee grounds, filters, grass and weeds. Browns are materials such as leaves, straw, hay, woody material, ash and paper (including egg cartons, toilet paper rolls and cereal boxes).
- 3) In order for composting to work properly, you must have both carbon (browns) and nitrogen (greens) in reasonable quantities, so you must mix the greens and browns together. To start your compost bin, layer materials in the following way:
 - Begin with a layer of browns, which will help air circulation.
 - Next, add a layer of greens.
 - Finish by covering with a layer of browns.
 - As you add to your pile, continue alternating layers of greens and browns, always finishing with a layer of browns on top.
- 4) Now that your compost pile is started, you will continue to add material as it becomes available. Try to keep green materials buried inside the compost pile where they will break down faster. Remember, that each time you add greens, cover them with a layer of browns. The easiest way to do this is to keep a bag of leaves or shredded paper near your composter and then add a few handfuls each time to cover your greens.
- 5) Maintain your pile. You will want to ensure that your compost pile is healthy and active. Make sure your pile is damp, if you find it's too dry, add water and if you find it too dry, add some browns. To add air to your pile, simply turn the material with a shovel or pitchfork. Maintenance of your compost will ensure the micro-organisms, insects and earthworms are able to do their part and turn your kitchen and backyard waste into a valuable resource that you can use in the garden or in the yard.



The composting process can take as little as 3 months or as long as 2 years, depending on how you maintain your compost pile. If you use roughly equal amounts of greens and browns, keep the pile moist and turn the mixture regularly, you can have compost in a few months. Use this information to help you become a successful backyard composter.



Victoria County's Waste Separation Guide

BLUE BAG # 1

Containers

- Juice cartons*
- Beer/Wine & Liquor bottles
- Pop, Juice & Water bottles*
- Glass bottles and jars
- Aluminum/tin/steel cans
- Aluminum pie plates & Trays
- Milk (cartons, jugs & bags)
- All Plastic Containers & Packaging**
- Cookie and sweet trays
- Plastic bottles, jars and containers
- Shampoo & Conditioner bottles
- Cleaning supply bottles
- Laundry detergent containers (no boxes)
- Empty plastic bags (bread, grocery & shopping)
- Stretch wrap

***All plastic containers and packaging must be clean, dry.**

BLUE BAG # 2

Paper Products

- Newsprint
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper (including shredded paper)
- Boxboard (cereal & tissue boxes)
- Pizza boxes (clean)
- Envelopes (including plastic windows)
- File folders
- Flyers (paper and glossy), magazines & catalogues
- Cigarette packages (without the foil)
- Soft cover books
- Hard cover books with the covers removed
- Paper towel and toilet paper cores
- Paper carry out trays
- Paper bags
- Corrugated cardboard (flattened and bundled in a manageable size and placed beside your blue bags)

ORGANICS GREEN BAG

All Food Waste

- Meat, fish, poultry, shell fish, eggs, bones & table scraps
- Nuts and nut shells
- Mayonnaise, salad dressings, jams, sauces and peanut butter
- All** dairy products
- Vegetables and fruit*
- Bread and baked goods*
- Grains, pasta & rice*
- Lards and fat
- Coffee grinds, filters, tea leaves and tea bags*
- Soiled and Non-Recyclable Paper***
- Grass, leaves and twigs*
- House and garden plants*
- Wood shavings and saw dust*
- Dryer lint*

***These items may also be placed in your backyard composter.**

GARBAGE

- All** Styrofoam products
- Disposable coffee cups and lids
- Hot & cold drink cups
- Chip and cookie bags
- Plastic candy wrappers
- Disposable diapers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Bathroom tissue
- Toothpaste tubes
- Tooth, hair & lint brushes
- Clothing and textiles
- Ribbons and bows
- All** gift wrap
- Waxed paper/cardboard
- Laundry detergent boxes
- Broken jewellery
- Photographs
- Light bulbs
- Oil & anti-freeze containers
- Broken glass (please box or place in a secure container and label)

Empty, dried paint cans can be put in the metal pile of the diversion yard