



# **RAVEN RECYCLING**

*Our Commitment is the Environment*

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## **COMPOST!**

The City of Whitehorse landfill accepts compostable material free of charge.

Let's repeat that.

There is no charge for dropping off items that can be composted at the landfill!

Items that are compostable are incredibly varied.

Vegetable and fruit scraps are what people typically consider compostable.

But the City compost operation can accept many more items.

Large bags of yard waste, paper products such as waxed paper and even meat products can also be composted.

This is because the compost windrows at the landfill can reach consistently high temperatures for long periods of time.

That's 70 degrees Celsius for at least two weeks.

This ensures all the pathogens in items like meat are destroyed.

Home composters cannot always get this hot for that long.

They're fine for veggie and fruit scraps, but not for meat.

Besides, the landfill has an electric fence to keep bears away from the compost.

Most home composters don't.

An electric fence can ensure scavengers such as dogs, cats and even bears don't mess with the compostable material.

Take meat items either to the landfill or put them out for the City's compost pickup.

Remember to place all compostable material in Bio-Solo bags.

These bags biodegrade along with all the compostable material inside them.



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This is the ultimate Zero Waste concept. Even the packaging becomes part of the useful product.

As part of the upcoming Waste Reduction Week the City will be handing out free Bio-Solo bags.

They'll be available at City Hall from October 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. Due to the anticipated high demand there will only be one per household.

Waste Reduction Week is a Canada wide effort aimed at informing and engaging Canadians through the theme "Too Good To Waste".

It's organized by a coalition of non-government, not for profit environment groups from each of the thirteen participating provincial and territorial jurisdictions from across Canada.

Part of the weeks focus is to concentrate on composting. Everyone in Whitehorse should be able to compost.

For those who do not have City pickup of compost, and have small amounts of compost, the Raven Recycling Society has some drop-off bins available at its recycling centre.

It must be emphasised that these bins are for small amounts of compost, such as would be generated by an apartment dweller.

In Whitehorse, most apartments are on commercial waste pickup programs. There is no option for compost pickups at the moment.

So if an apartment dweller has small amounts of compost, one option is to drop it off at Raven.

It would be better if it went straight to the landfill.

If an apartment dweller is coming to Raven to recycle, and they don't regularly go pass the landfill, Raven does offer this service.

Note that the Raven bins cannot accept yard waste.

Please take these large bags of compostable material straight to the composting facility at the landfill.

Compostable material at the landfill takes about a year to break down into compost.

It must be emphasised that compost is not black dirt. It is a soil enhancer.

The amount of compost needed depends on the quality of existing soil and the type of plants being grown.



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One part compost to four or five parts soil usually provides an adequate mix.

The finished compost has been screened up at the landfill, and is available for sale.

At the moment, only bulk sales are available.

That's \$50 per small pickup truck or \$70 per big pickup truck. The customer provides the pickup, but Raven staff can provide the front-end loader to load the truck.

Call 668-1621 to see what day and time the loader is available

Compost bags are on order for the spring.

Compost in the bags will go for \$4 per 20 lb bag or \$7 per 50 lb bag.

The bags are reusable, so please save them for the next time compost is purchased.

For more information about the City of Whitehorse compost pickup program, including the schedule, check out [www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca](http://www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca).

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