

Kick compost to the curb - coalition; Most Montrealers want green-waste pickup, poll shows

Author: Anonymous.

Publication info: The Gazette ; Montreal, Que. [Montreal, Que]21 Oct 2008: A.6.

[ProQuest document link](#)

Full text:

Montrealers are ready for an organic household waste collection program and the city should be starting one now, not waiting 10 years to divert food and other green waste from landfills, a coalition of environmental groups said yesterday.

The vast majority of Montrealers want to take part in organic waste collection, said Andre Porlier of the Conseil regional de l'environnement, which represents more than 130 environmental, municipal and other groups on the island.

A poll conducted for his organization in the past month found that 93 per cent of people would participate in a curbside compost collection program.

The survey - of 380 island residents - also found that 57 per cent of respondents were dissatisfied with Montreal's efforts so far on green-waste collection.

"The elected officials are ready to do this, the boroughs are ready, and the citizens are ready," Porlier said yesterday.

"What's missing is the support of the central city - Montreal."

Montreal can already afford to compost - thanks to money the provincial government is giving all municipalities to help with waste management, Porlier said. That's what the city of Cote St. Luc used to launch its curbside composting program, which was expanded yesterday to all single-family homes and duplexes.

But Alan DeSousa, the city's executive committee member for sustainable development, said Montreal does support composting - that's why it spent \$6 million of the provincial waste-management money to begin a green yard-waste collection program this fall that 17 of Montreal's 19 boroughs are participating in.

The yard waste program is part of a waste-management plan for Montreal that promises to divert 40 per cent of compostable waste from landfills by 2012, and 60 per cent by 2018.

"The first step is to get the green waste well anchored in the community," DeSousa said.

"It's a bit like how things worked with recycling."

DeSousa said Montreal is trying to build the capacity to treat compostable waste so that boroughs and cities that want to begin kitchen-waste composting programs will have somewhere to send it.

The Montreal Metropolitan Community has already asked Quebec for money to build composting infrastructure on the island.

Cote St. Luc is diverting half its green waste from landfills, city councillor Steven Erdelyi said. Westmount also has a curbside composting program, and the Plateau Mont Royal borough is beginning a pilot project this fall.

Montreal lags far behind other North American cities when it comes to collecting organic waste, Porlier said.

Only about seven per cent of Montreal's compostable waste is diverted from landfills, compared with 67 per cent in San Francisco, 52 per cent in Vancouver and 42 per cent in Toronto.

Tonight the environment commission of Montreal's agglomeration council is to make public a report on waste-management plans for the island.

People who want to learn more about household composting can get some tips at a workshop tonight in Verdun. It will be held at the Verdun mayor's office at 4555 Verdun St. at 7 p.m.

To register and for more information, call 514-765-8378.

Credit: The Gazette

Contact ProQuest

Copyright © 2017 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved. - **Terms and Conditions**