5.10 Special Programs

5.10.1 Backyard Compost Bins

An Overview

Domestic composting is an effective and economical means of producing valuable soil amendments. Composting helps reduce organic wastes going to disposal.

Potential Environmental Impacts

- Vector control problems associated with inappropriately managed organic waste.

Things to Consider If You Write Your Own Specifications

This is an opportunity to add clauses in composter specifications to address desirability of:

- Preference for products that carry the EcoLogo otherwise
- Preference for products that adhere to the policies and targets as stated in the National Packaging Protocol
- Preference for products that adhere to particular specifications as outlined in Section 4.1 of ECP-15 (recommended to use exact wording).

Specifications from Other Agencies and Seals of Approval

Environmental Choice program guideline ECP-15
(details at www.environmentalchoice.com/guidelines/pdfs/ecp-15.pdf)

Case Study: Plan for Sustainable Community in Vancouver

The City of Vancouver's plan to develop a 36-hectare parcel of former industrial land in Southeast False Creek is already drawing international attention. The City intends to build a sustainable community of 2,000 - 2,500 housing units where people can shop, play, live and work without having to commute by car. Wastewater may be treated on site and Vancouver will partner with BC Hydro to explore renewable-energy technology. In March 2000 City councillors gave approval to begin work on the Official Development Plan for the area.

Source: Vancouver Sun, March 16, 2000.