



Frequently Asked Questions Peachland Yard Waste

What is the status of the Peachland compost site?

The site is closed in compliance with our current operational certificate issued by the Ministry of Environment. Allowing the transfer of yard waste to the site, or waste disposal of any kind, is not currently approved.

Can commercial landscaping businesses use the compost site? No. The site is closed to all transfer of yard waste by anyone (including District of Peachland yard waste).

Can the operational certificate be amended?

The Operational Certificate the District of Peachland currently has for the facility can be amended. The Ministry of Environment has suggested the best approach for the District is to amend the Closure Report, which, once approved, would form part of the Operational Certificate. This Closure Report was submitted to the Ministry of Environment in March 2015, however it has yet to be reviewed. The process of amending the Closure Report consists of a comprehensive report completed by a qualified professional.

Once submitted, the Closure Report would enter the Ministry of Environment queue for approvals with an unknown timeline for a response.

Can Peachland find a site to run its own transfer or composting site?

It would be possible to complete a siting assessment within Peachland for a composting or transfer facility. The value of completing a site assessment will depend on confirmation that such a site is economically viable, has significant benefits to the community, and its cost recovery model is supported by the community.

Note that costs of operating a facility have been identified in Technical Memo – Compost Site Management July 7, 2015. The cost to operate a site as a transfer facility could be \$350,000 per year, while the cost to operate a composting facility could be between \$250,000 and \$300,000 per year.

Siting will need to be in compliance with the Organics Recycling Regulation of BC and Compost Facility Requirements Guideline in addition to any siting restrictions in the Landfill Closure Report.

What do other small communities in the Okanagan Valley do with their compost?

Municipally operated compost facilities in the Central and South Okanagan are tied with local landfill facilities. The primary purpose of the compost facilities is to save landfill space by diverting green waste. As a result, the costs of compost facilities at those locations are providing value to the waste management system as a whole and are funded as such. The incremental costs to provide composting at those facilities is also lower than a stand-alone site since the existing landfill sites already account for the fixed capital and operating costs associated with securing the site, servicing the site, grinding material, equipment and monitoring costs.

The operating costs of compost facilities in the region range from around \$220,000 to \$280,000. These costs do not include such overheads as scale and facility costs (washrooms/scale house etc.).

Why are costs so high (\$250-\$300,000) to run a composting site?

The Peachland site is unique to other compost sites in the region as it is standalone -- not affiliated with a landfill facility. As a result, Peachland would incur additional security, monitoring and equipment costs.

Annual operating costs of other composting operations in the region range between \$220,000 and \$282,000. As outlined above, these facilities are tied with local landfill facilities and do not include overhead items such as the scale and facility costs (washroom, scale house etc.)

Peachland waste volumes are reported to be similar to these other facilities within the region however, due to the additional fixed costs of required monitoring, it is estimated that the composting site cost for Peachland would be within the \$250,000 and \$300,000 range. Based on 3,600 tonnes of waste accepted annually, this would result in a cost of between \$69 and \$83 per tonne.

Since the purpose of a standalone compost site would be to provide a higher level of service, a cost recovery mechanism would need to be in place either borne by Peachland taxpayers or by the users. These costs would be over and above the existing cost paid by Peachland taxpayers for waste management.

Any user-pay option would likely result in residents choosing the existing no-cost options first to meet their needs prior to considering an additional user pay option. (Currently residents can drop loads of residential yard waste up to 250 kg for free at the Westside Transfer Station.) Consequently, Peachland would likely see lower waste volumes than have historically been received at the site, resulting in higher costs for the user. While it was only a short trial period, this outcome has already been experienced since Peachland enacted the user-pay system with the local landscape contractors.

Now that the site is closed where can yard waste be disposed?

All residents of Peachland participate in the regional yard waste curbside collection program, which runs from March to November. Green bin acceptable items include grass clippings, leaves and branches up to 5 cm (2 in) in diameter and less than 1 metre (3 ft) long. Residents can choose to add a larger green bin for \$10/year or a second green bin for \$30/year with a change fee of \$55.

Larger loads of residential yard waste up to 250 kg can be dropped off for free at the Westside Transfer Station on Asquith Road in West Kelowna. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Peachland is a funding partner in this service.

The drop off location in West Kelowna is 14 km from Peachland.

Where can commercial and landscape companies take their yard waste?

Commercial businesses transporting wood debris from Peachland properties are required to use the Glenmore Landfill in Kelowna.

The Glenmore Landfill located at 1595 Glenmore Road North is open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

What other steps can residents take to reduce yard waste? One third to one half of household waste is compostable. Add a backyard composter—twigs, grass and leaves can be combined with food waste to create rich compost. A guide to backyard composting is available from the District of Peachland's website.

If you recycle and compost you could be putting as little as one or two grocery bags worth of garbage out for collection per week. By adding compost to your garden or lawn, your soil comes alive and you'll have greener grass, healthier flowers, and better fruit and vegetables.

