

District Compost & Recycling Alignment Program



NANAIMO LADYSMITH

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Background

- Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) initially contacted our District in May 2005.
 - memo notified the District that they would be considering a Bylaw that would “prohibit food and organic waste from commercial and institutional sources at RDN disposal facilities”.
- RDN Bylaw 1531 was implemented in November 2007.
 - Bylaw does not allow our commercial pre-consumer food waste in our landfill. (ie. foods program waste)
- The RDN issued a follow up letter in September 2011 to the District to request our progress in achieving bylaw compliance.



Background

- **In response to the bylaw: -**
- Operations Department has been supporting Schools since 2005, gradually bringing sites into our District Recycling & Compost Program.
 - Started in the 6 High Schools with foods programs with RDN guidance.
 - Have assisted 16 Elementary Schools that are currently on the program.
 - Funding for current sites as been absorbed through Operations Supply budget.
- Only 12 Elementary Schools remain to be brought in to compliance.

A background illustration showing several stylized figures in a meeting. On the left, a person is gesturing with their hand. In the center, a man in a purple sweater is looking towards the right. On the right, a woman in a yellow top and purple pants is holding a tablet. The background is light green and white.

Requests to the Board of Trustees by the Energy Ambassadors

- **June.24, 2015 - Board Motion**

- The Board has requested staff to explore the possibility of a district-wide separation policy for all schools to include: plastics, metal, paper towel and compost as well as \$1,700 to support three Green Network meetings per year: transportation plus one annual project.

- **May.25, 2016 - Second Request**

- 1. A district leadership position for sustainability**

- a. Create and implement a district-wide waste management plan



AP 516 – Environmental Initiatives

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Purpose

The Board recognizes the requirement to protect our environment, to be an environmentally responsible partner in our community, and the need to educate students regarding environmental issues.

The Board supports the concept of reduction, reuse and recycling of resources in order to protect our environment.

The Board endorses the formation of a district-wide Environmental Initiatives Committee. This committee shall provide recommendations to the Board regarding environmental issues, concerns and procedures.

Procedure

The district shall conduct a district wide recycling program in which all schools and departments are required to participate.

The school district shall include environmental benefits in the evaluation for procurement of all goods and services.

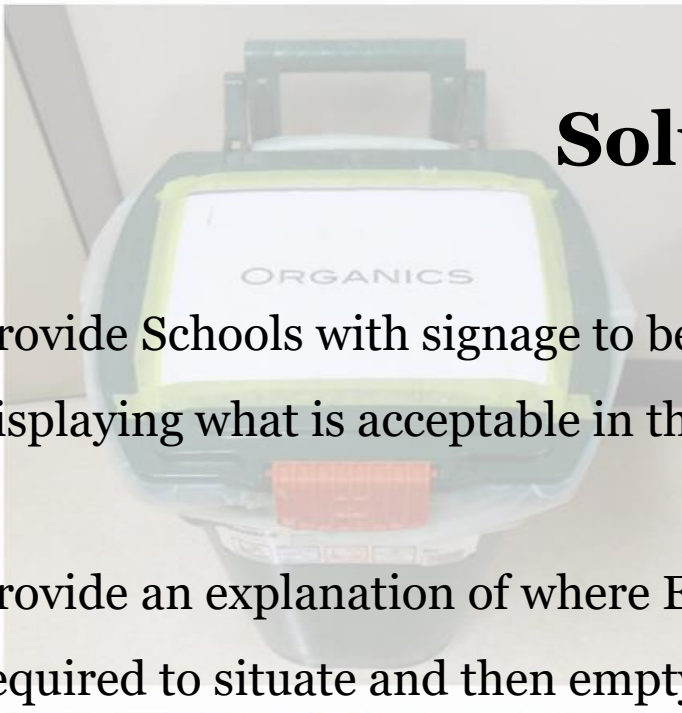
Management responsibility for environmental initiatives shall reside with the Director of Business/Office Manager.

Why Align the Program within the District?

- Students and Staff change locations and we require a clear standard to be used at all sites for consistency.
- Effects of not having a clear standard.
 - Recyclables sent to landfill
 - Hefty additional fees for contaminated recycling items by our carrier
- RDN will enforce all Facilities to comply with RDN Bylaw 1531.
 - Better we comply on our own terms
 - Plan an proactive implementation vs. reactive forced implementation

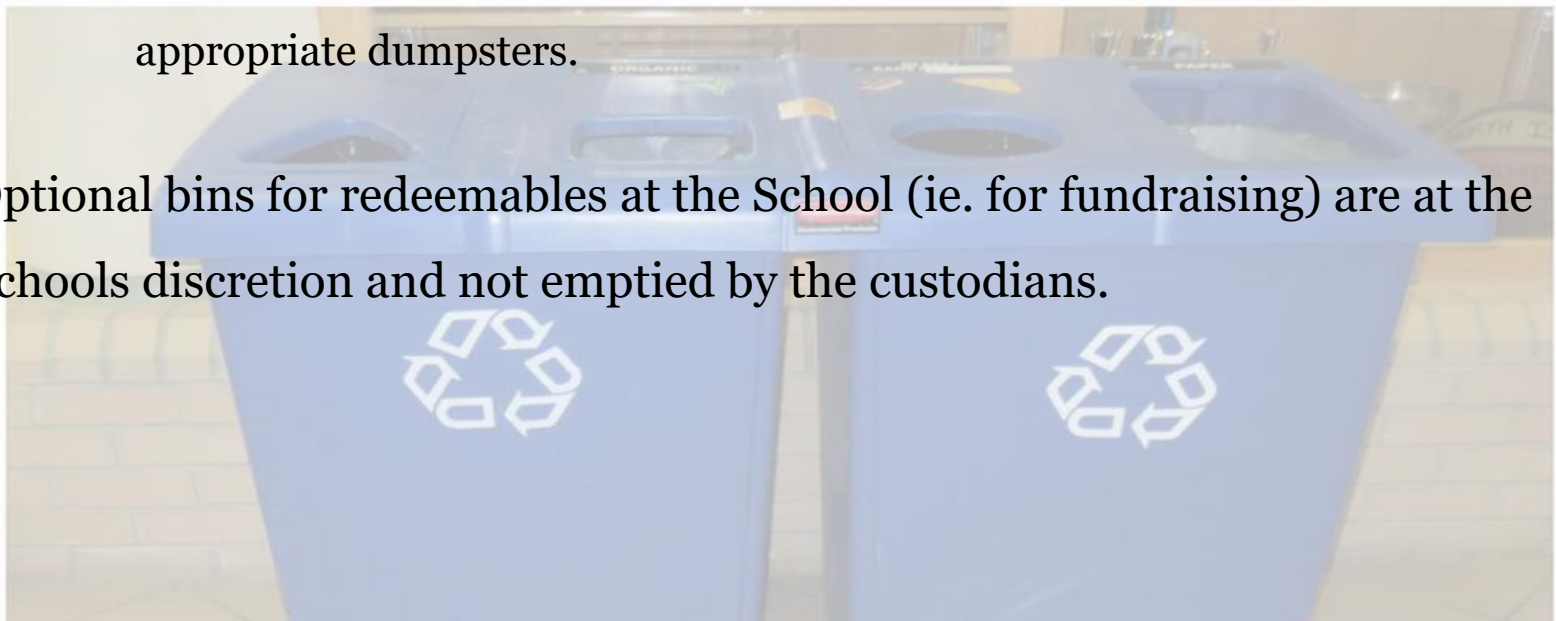
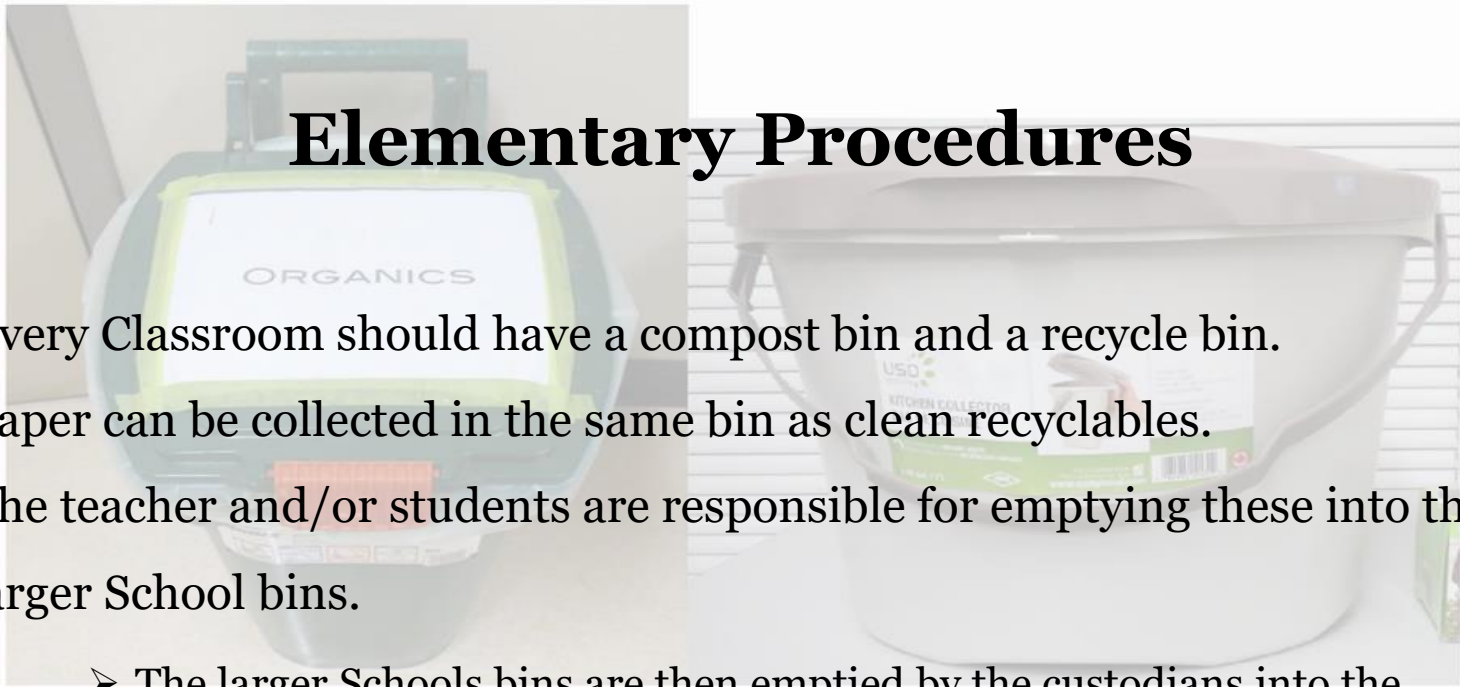
Solutions

- Provide Schools with signage to be placed at all recycling and compost bins, displaying what is acceptable in the bins.
- Provide an explanation of where Elementary & Secondary Schools will be required to situate and then empty the bins, so custodians can efficiently assist with the program.
- RDN has indicated they could offer some assistance if we commit to completing our Districts compliance.



Elementary Procedures

- Every Classroom should have a compost bin and a recycle bin.
- Paper can be collected in the same bin as clean recyclables.
- The teacher and/or students are responsible for emptying these into the larger School bins.
 - The larger Schools bins are then emptied by the custodians into the appropriate dumpsters.
- Optional bins for redeemables at the School (ie. for fundraising) are at the Schools discretion and not emptied by the custodians.



Secondary Procedures

- Most classrooms have recycle bins, but not composting bins since students do not eat meals in them.
 - Recycling & composting stations are situated in common areas (ie. hallways) and are emptied by the custodians.
- Cooking classes are to have both compost and recycle bins which are to be emptied by teachers and/or students into their larger classroom bins.
 - These larger bins are then emptied by the custodians into the appropriate dumpsters.
- Paper can be collected in the same bin as clean recyclables.
- Optional bins for redeemables at the School (ie. for fundraising) are at the Schools discretion and not emptied by the custodians.



Recommended Budget

- **Implementation Budget**

- **\$43,000** – Signage, Bins, Compostable Bags, pick-ups, etc.

- **Yearly Operating Increase**

- **\$36,000** Compostable Bags, pick-ups, etc.
- Brings our District into compliance with the Bylaw
- Positive perception that we are doing our environmental due diligence
- Provides the remaining Schools with the educational opportunity that other Schools have received.

Why Move Forward Unless We are Mandated?

- Considered Socially responsible
 - Other Districts have moved ahead for this reason
- SD63 (Saanich) Embedded in their **Districts Strategic Plan**
Technology, Facilities and Environmental Sustainability –
 - Our Vision for 2016

Students are focused on climate change, conservation and the protection of the natural environment. Sustainability issues are woven into the fabric of all curricula with increased urgency. Learning to care for the environment, to change wasteful habits and to act responsibly are now essential skills.

Questions?

