# **Operational Overview and Updates**

Community Liaision Committee Meeting, December 8, 2016

#### What We Do

We help the region achieve its sustainability goals by recycling organic materials such as food scraps and yard trimmings into clean energy and nutrient-rich compost.

#### Actions We Have Taken in the Last 60 Days to Further Address Odour Issues

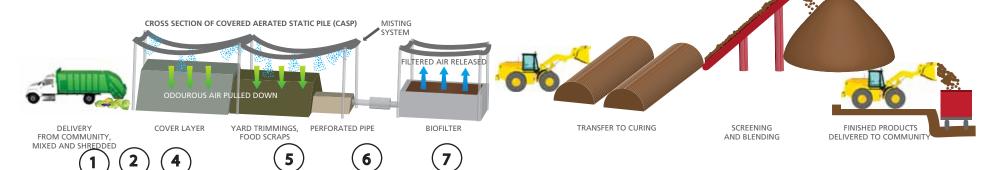
We have taken many actions at our composting and bioenergy facility in Richmond to address odours. We will go into more detail during the presentation.



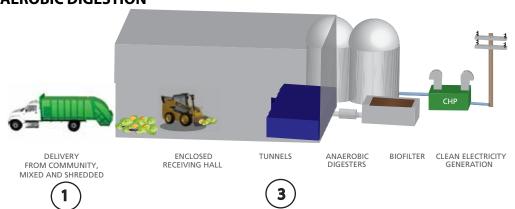
Each year we serve the region by...



#### **COMPOSTING**



#### **ANAEROBIC DIGESTION**



#### **KEY ACTIONS TAKEN**

- 1. We have stopped accepting the most odourous materials coming into our facility.
- 2. We have reduced the overall volume of materials arriving at our facility.
- 3. We have voluntarily curtailed operation of our anaerobic digestion facility.
- 4. We have eliminated the backlog of material that required processing.
- 5. We have brought in additional experts.
- 6. We have refurbished the CASP system.
- 7. We have replaced our biofilter media.

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

# 1. What materials do you compost at Harvest's facility in Richmond?

We take in green waste (lawn trimmings, brush, clean wood) and organics (food scraps). We do not take in human or animal waste.

#### 2. What can cause odours during the compost process?

Certain organic materials can be more odourous than others. Also, insufficient oxygen in the compost piles can result in the production of odours.

#### 3. What have you done to address odours?

The actions taken include:

- Eliminating the most odourous materials coming to our facility;
- Reducing the overall volume of materials we take in;
- Replacing the biofilter media, which treat and filter out odours;
- Voluntarily curtailing operation of our Energy Garden, which uses some of the most odourous materials;
- Consulting with outside experts to improve the effectiveness of our aeration and biofilter systems; and
- Adding staff and equipment resources to focus on better Quality Assurance and Quality Control and eliminate backlogs.

## 4. Why are there still odours?

We have made our most significant changes over the past several months, but it can take up to 120 days to have the benefits work their way completely through our site. The results should continue to improve in coming weeks.

### 5. When will the odours be dealt with for good?

After the current operational changes have worked their way through the entire system, we believe there will be far fewer odour issues. Once our infrastructure upgrades are completed, we believe significant odour concerns will be eliminated.

### 6. What are the health impacts of the odours?

Vancouver Coastal Health recently responded to this question by saying that "while Harvest Power is generating extremely unpleasant odorous compounds, the air emissions from the operation are unlikely to cause health effects in addition to ones triggered by the offensive smell."

#### 7. What happened with the fires at the site?

Hot spots developed in some of our storage piles of compost by-products (principally woody material that did not decompose). The fires are now out and we have put in place actions to help ensure they don't re-occur.

- **8.** Is Harvest meeting the terms of its new air emissions permit? Yes, we are now in compliance with our new permit.
- 9. Why did Harvest decide to appeal the so called "sniff test" in the air permit? And how does that affect your proposed upgrades? Harvest chose to appeal the "sniff test" because it does not use sound science and an objective methodology. We support measurement, but it should be science-based.

Our appeal has no impact on the operational and capital program we are implementing to address odours at the facility.

#### 10. Where can I find more information?

We regularly update www.richmondairpermit.ca