



THE CORPORATION OF DELTA  
*Office of The Mayor, Lois E. Jackson*



March 20, 2018

Dear Delta Resident,

**Re: Enviro-Smart Organics Composting Facility**

This letter is an update on Delta's actions relating to odour concerns from the Enviro-Smart Organics composting facility on 72<sup>nd</sup> Street. We appreciate the impact that offensive odours can have on the quality of life for local residents and we are pursuing all options available to the City to ensure this situation is permanently resolved. Our recent efforts include:

1. A recent letter of information, distributed to you and your neighbours on January 30, 2018, outlining the background, oversight and structure of the facility.
2. Request Metro Vancouver to Expedite the Air Quality Management Permit Process

Air quality is regulated by Metro Vancouver and Delta staff is working to ensure that Metro Vancouver's Air Quality Management Permit includes short and long term improvements to the facility. In the short term, staff is working with both Metro Vancouver and the owner of Enviro-Smart Organics, Green for Life Environmental (GFL) to ensure additional measures are implemented to mitigate odour impacts this spring and summer. Additionally, options are being reviewed that are aimed at achieving a fully enclosed facility where all composting processes are contained within a controlled environment with odour filtration.

3. The Question of Enviro-Smart receiving Kitchen Waste from Victoria

As far as we are aware, Enviro-Smart does not have a contract specifically with Victoria. However, they have accepted waste from the Capital Regional District (CRD) for some time. Enviro-Smart is governed by an overall annual capacity of 150,000 tonnes. City of Delta and Metro Vancouver staff does not have a veto or control over specific contracts within that annual capacity. Therefore, it is not an issue of them being allowed to accept this waste, but an issue of them adhering to their annual permitted capacity of 150,000 tonnes. Among other operational improvements, Enviro-Smart has actually made a conscious decision to significantly reduce the amount of commercial waste contracts that they have historically processed and moved more towards municipal green waste, as it is significantly lower in food waste and less odourous by nature. Municipal curbside green waste is less than 10% food waste and in many cases quite a bit lower.

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4. Peer Review of Annual Agrologist Report

Delta has sought a peer review of the annual report submitted by Enviro-Smart Organics. Delta will also follow up with the Agricultural Land Commission to review compliance with the *Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision And Procedure Regulation* based on the peer review. Delta has also requested that Metro Vancouver audit the facility with respect to compliance with the Metro Vancouver Composting Facility Site Licence.

Unfortunately, Delta has very little direct control over regulating this business and the odours that are generated. Given that the compost operation supports a recognized farming activity, the operation is exempt from Delta's nuisance bylaws under the provincial *Farm Practices Protection (Right To Farm) Act*. However, any changes to the volume of waste received by Enviro-Smart Organics require an amended site licence from Metro Vancouver, which would need Delta's agreement. Also, any future amendments to the regional Composting Facility Site Licence would require Delta's approval. The site licence is the best way for us to seek to impose improvements at the facility.

Delta will continue to lobby the appropriate authorities to take whatever actions they can to improve the situation for local residents. We will also work with GFL to ensure facility improvements are implemented as soon as possible. Updates will continue to be provided as additional actions are undertaken.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue.

Yours truly



Lois E. Jackson  
Mayor

cc: Delta Council  
Ken Kuntz, Acting City Manager  
Sean McGill, Director of Corporate Services  
Steven Lan, Director of Engineering  
Mike Brotherston, Manager of Climate Action and Environment