



# Media Release

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For immediate release

## RDCK Launches Rural Organic Waste Management Rebate and Incentive Program

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is launching a new program to help rural residents reduce organic waste and support regional climate resilience. The *Rural Organic Waste Diversion and Climate Resilient Communities* project, funded by Columbia Basin Trust, provides financial and practical support for residents living outside the RDCK's larger municipalities to better manage food and organic waste at home.

Through this initiative, eligible households can receive a **rebate of up to \$175** toward the purchase of approved organic waste management systems. Options include backyard composters, food waste digesters, tumbler composters, vermicomposting systems, Bokashi kits, and electric food recyclers.

"The RDCK is committed to helping residents reduce what goes to landfill while building solutions that work in rural settings," said Alayne Hamilton, RDCK Acting Resource Recovery Manager – Projects & Programs. "This program makes it easier for households to take action, whether they're new to composting or looking to improve their current approach."

### Program Highlights

Residents in RDCK electoral areas and eligible municipalities can access:

- **\$175 rebate per household** toward the purchase of an eligible organic waste management system, such as a backyard composter or electric food recycler.
- **Free organic waste collection containers** for residents who self-haul organic waste to RDCK disposal facilities.
- **Tipping fee vouchers** that allow for free disposal of containers of food waste, along with clear guidance on accepted and prohibited materials.

### Who Is Eligible

The program is open to residents living in RDCK electoral areas (outside municipal boundaries), as well as residents within the incorporated municipalities of Salmo, Slocan, New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp, and Kaslo. Residents of Nelson, Castlegar, and Creston are not eligible due to access to municipal organic waste diversion services. Rebates will be available from program launch through **August 2027**, with funding and resources distributed on a **first-come, first-served basis**.

To participate, residents must complete a short survey to confirm eligibility and receive guidance on the best organic waste management options for their needs. Supporting factsheets are available to help residents understand system costs, effort required, and considerations such as wildlife safety.

### **Supporting Waste Reduction and Climate Action**

Organic waste diversion plays a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and extending landfill life. By supporting rural households with practical tools and funding, the RDCK aims to increase participation in waste reduction efforts and improve local self-reliance, wildlife safety, the circular economy, and environmental outcomes.

“This project recognizes that rural residents face unique challenges,” added Hamilton. “By providing flexible options and practical support, we’re making it easier, safer, and more affordable for everyone to participate in organic waste diversion.”

The Columbia Basin Trust is the sole funder of this initiative, and the RDCK gratefully acknowledges their valuable contribution to local climate resilience and regional sustainability.

### **Learn More and Apply**

Residents can learn more, review eligible systems, and apply for the rebate by visiting: [engage.rdck.ca/projects/ruralorganics](https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/ruralorganics).

*Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 180 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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