

January 30, 2017

**Re: MMSB 2017 Backyard Composting Program**

The Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB) is researching the feasibility of once again procuring a bulk order of compost bins on behalf of communities in the province and would like to invite your town to participate. If sufficient demand is received, this program will involve the sale of subsidized compost bins directly to communities partnered with an education program for residents.

*One third of the waste your residents place at the curbside is organic. Promoting backyard composting of organic waste over landfilling will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create healthy soil and save landfill space – all while saving your community money.*

This year, MMSB is exploring the feasibility of procuring **two different types of composters**. There are dozens of different models of backyard composters, but the main two types are **bins** (those that sit on the ground) and **tumblers** (those that are raised above ground). Understanding the features and benefits of these two types will make it easier to choose the right composter for your community's needs. More information on the two types of composters is included in this package.

As part of this offering, MMSB has designed a composting training program for participating communities to deliver to residents. MMSB will train a designated official from each community to deliver this program. Once a community official is chosen and prepared, your community will then be responsible for advertising and delivering a training session to make it easy for residents to participate.

Attached you will find a pre-order form. If your community is interested in participating in this program please complete this form and submit it to MMSB by **Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. If sufficient demand is received, MMSB will proceed to issue a tender for a bulk order for each type of composter. Once we determine the feasibility of proceeding we will notify you on the status of your order.

If you have any questions on this offer please contact Ashley Burke at 753-0958 or [aburke@mmsb.nl.ca](mailto:aburke@mmsb.nl.ca).

Sincerely,



Ashley Burke  
Business Development Officer, MMSB

*Have questions about the backyard composting program? Wondering how to partner with another community to place an order? Let's chat.  
[aburke@mmsb.nl.ca](mailto:aburke@mmsb.nl.ca) or 753-0958*

## Composter Options

### Option 1: Compost Bin



Regardless of the tender price, this program will involve the sale of subsidized bins to communities at a rate of **\$21.99 per bin** plus HST (inclusive of shipping and handling). In order to participate, there will be a minimum order size of 40 units (orders will be accepted in increments of 40). The average compost bin retails for \$70 dollars, meaning a 40 bin order would normally cost \$2,800 plus HST. With this offer, your community can receive the same order for only \$880. If your municipality sells all composters to residents for the unit price of \$21.99, this program will cost very little to implement.

### Option 2: Compost Tumbler



Regardless of the tender price, this program will involve the sale of subsidized tumblers to communities at a rate of **\$34.99 per bin** plus HST (inclusive of shipping and handling). In order to participate, there will be a minimum order size of 40 units (orders will be accepted in increments of 40). The average compost tumbler retails for over \$100 dollars, meaning a 40 bin order would normally cost over \$4,000 plus HST. With this offer, your community can receive the same order for only \$1,400. If your municipality sells all composters to residents for the unit price of \$34.99, this program will cost very little to implement.

Both composters take up the same footprint (4-6 square feet) and should be placed in direct sunlight. The following are some important considerations when choosing the right bin for your community.

#### Compost Bin:

- lower cost
- minimal assembly
- larger capacity – bins can handle 2-3 times the volume of a tumbler (important for large family sizes or if residents want to compost large quantities of leaves)
- aerated using a pitch fork or shovel
- bins drain excess moisture more readily
- harvesting finished compost with a shovel can be a slower process

#### Compost Tumbler:

- higher cost
- assembly required (approximately one hour)
- smaller capacity
- sealed drum speeds up composting process
- aerated by spinning
- easy to access finished compost by inverting the drum over a wheelbarrow or garden cart
- dual compartment models keep newly added organics separate from finishing compost
- can be difficult to spin when over 2/3 full
- no accessibility for wildlife
- can be difficult to slide the lid open below 0°