



## Rethinking Lacombe's Waste Management Practices

Composting is a natural process that breaks down organic materials like vegetable peelings, grass and leaves into a dark, earthy, soil-like material called compost. Compost is an excellent soil conditioner for plants, gardens and lawns. By composting your organic household and yard waste, you can prevent more garbage from being trucked to the landfill in Camrose.

Currently, the City of Lacombe operates two separate composting programs to service the needs of the residents of Lacombe:

### 1. Residential Compost Units

Residents are encouraged to compost things like organic waste, and some yard waste with these small residential composters. The City has partnered with AFSC to subsidize the cost of the composters down to \$50. If you would like to purchase one of these composters, please call 403-782-1261 or visit the Infrastructure Services Yard (5444 56 Avenue, Lacombe AB).

### 2. Municipal Composting System

The large green dumpsters found in most back alleys throughout Lacombe are intended to accept leaves, garden waste, and grass clippings. This material is collected by the City's garbage trucks each week and taken out to a piece of land near the City's sewage lagoons to be composted. However, we are facing some challenges in managing this process, since the land is too small to accommodate future years of organic waste.

The City of Lacombe currently hauls its waste to the Prentiss Landfill. Prentiss acts as a transfer station, where the garbage is re-loaded onto trucks and hauled to Camrose to be disposed of at their landfill. **The contract that Lacombe has with Camrose does not allow for compostable or recyclable materials to be dealt with separately; it is all treated and dumped as waste.** This is not a sustainable way to deal with our City's garbage.

As our city grows, we need to look to the next 25 to 50 years to ensure the methods we use to store and process our organic waste are sustainable and efficient. We need to examine our methods of dealing with organic waste NOW, or we will soon be faced with substantial increases to our utility rates in order to deal with our garbage.

**We need your input to help us decide on how to proceed with composting.**

**Please give us your feedback on the following options:**

- purchasing more land to continue current practices
- trucking the waste to other landfill locations (such as Camrose)
- using third party contractors to deal with the organic waste (like door to door pick-up of organic waste)
- looking to other municipalities and the technologies they are using (such as the Hot Rot Composter), and
- if the selected method of disposal can accommodate, should the City expand the types of materials collected to include kitchen waste and other biodegradables?



**Let us know your thoughts**

Fill out the survey at [www.lacombe.ca](http://www.lacombe.ca)

Email us at [garbage@lacombe.ca](mailto:garbage@lacombe.ca)

Call the 'Garbage Hotline' at 403-782-6666.