



**THE IMPORTANCE OF USING  
BPI APPROVED  
COMPOSTABLE  
BAGS**

*for source separated organics collection  
of kitchen waste across North America.*

Prepared for The SWANA Northern Lights AGM  
May 30th 2011, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Presented by Dave Douglas

# ***TODAYS OBJECTIVES***

***Answer 6 key questions for you.***

1. Why should I focus on the diversion of food waste?
2. What is the critical difference between food diversion and my curbside recycling and yard waste programs?
3. Why should my SSO (food) program accept compostable polymer bags?
4. Why are certified compostable liner bags so important?
5. Why is my local retailer so important?
6. Are there other important considerations?

# ***QUESTION # 1***

***Why should I focus on the diversion of food as part of my city waste diversion strategy?***



**FOOD WASTE = INCREASED DIVERSION  
(approximately 20% of residential solid waste)**

## ***QUESTION # 2***

***What is the critical difference between a food diversion program and my curbside recycling and yard waste collection program?***

# ***THE “YUCK” FACTOR***



IF YOU UNDER ESTIMATE THIS,  
***YOUR PROGRAM WILL MOST LIKELY FAIL***  
TO REACH ITS POTENTIAL.

# ***THE UNDERGROUND APPROACH***

*to addressing the Yuck Factor in the kitchen.*



**Start with clean container**



**Place raw organics directly into container**



**Dump contents into curbside container.**



**Convince spouse to rinse out residue (daily)**

# ***THE UNDERGROUND APPROACH***

***in Dealing with the Yuck Factor in the kitchen.***



***Find self sleeping in  
basement due to upset  
spouse.***

# ***THE ROMANTIC APPROACH***

*to addressing the Yuck Factor in the kitchen.*



**Start with clean container**



**Line container with customized compostable bag**



**Place contents in kitchen container**



**When container full remove bag**



**Finish with clean container**

# ***THE ROMANTIC APPROACH***

*to addressing the Yuck Factor in the kitchen.*



***Take spouse for lovely  
sunset walk...***



***THE YUCK FACTOR  
PART II***

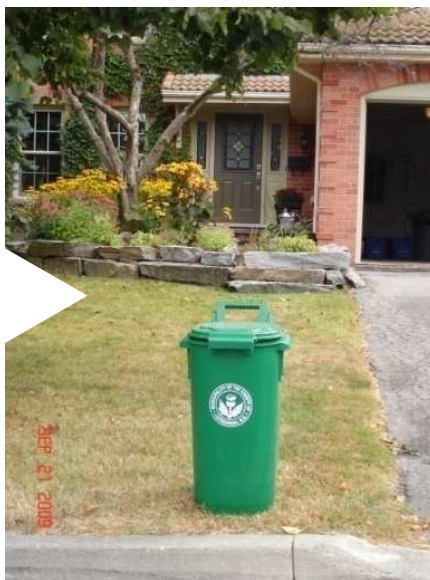
***Getting organics  
from the kitchen ... to the curb.***

# ***THE CURB STEW APPROACH***

*in Dealing with the Yuck Factor at the curb.*



Add 12 gallons of organic waste in curbside bin, let sit: 1-2 weeks



Place full bin at curb for pick-up: 8 hours



After pick-up view remaining residue in bin: quick glance (don't sniff)

# ***THE CURB STEW APPROACH***

*in Dealing with the Yuck Factor at the curb.*



**Convince spouse to add  
water: Up to 1 gallon  
(avoid splash back)**



**Swish contents**



**Dump residue.**

# ***THE CLEAN APPROACH***

*to addressing the Yuck Factor at the curb.*



**Start with clean curbside container**



**Add contents from kitchen bin to curbside bin in compostable bag**



**Place contents in curbside container**



**Place bin at curbside for collection**



**Remove clean bin from curb**

## ***QUESTION # 3***

***Why should my food organic collection program accept compostable polymer bags?***

# ***THE DOLLAR FACTOR***

***People will vote with their wallet.***



***If source separated organics collection programs require residents to make costly purchases, many will simply not participate to the fullest extent possible.***

# THE HALF PRICE ALTERNATIVE

**Certified Compostable bags offer a cost competitive alternative to “kraft” paper liner bags.**



10 bags @ \$5.29 = \$0.53/ bag  
\$83 per year (3 per week)



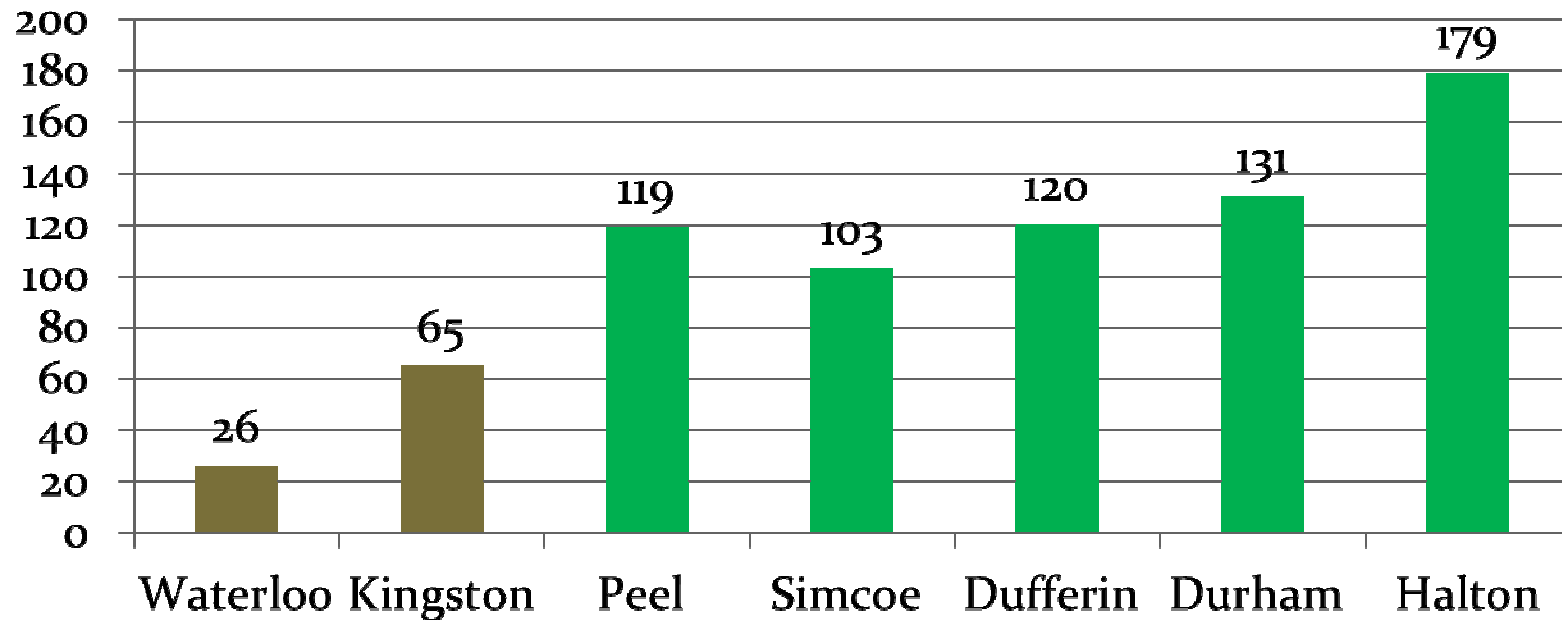
20 bags @ 4.99 = \$0.25 / bag  
\$39 per year (3 per week)



Source: Canadian retail outlet.

# **MUNICIPAL SSO (FOOD) PROGRAM**

## **Capture Rate Comparison**

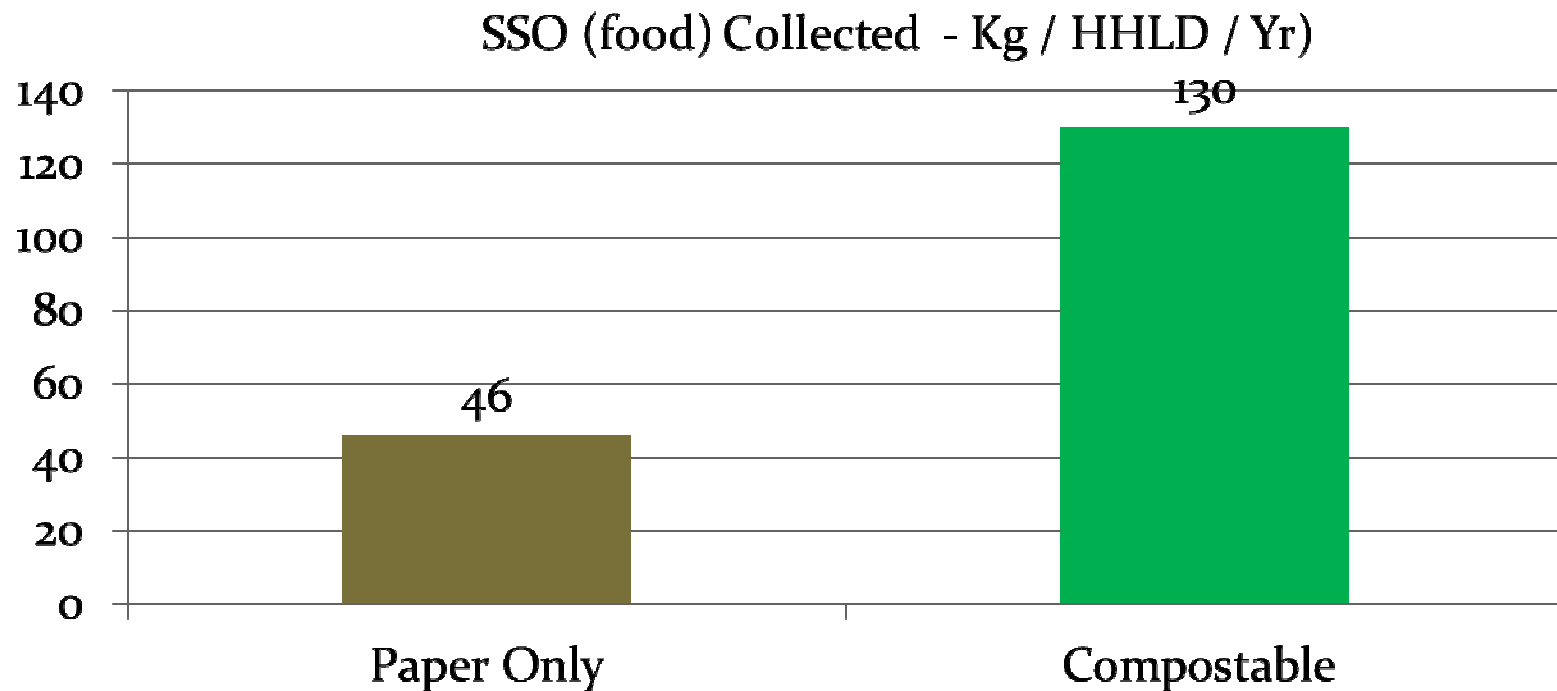
SSO (food) Collected - HHL / Yr (kg's)



-  Paper Bag Liners only
-  Compostable Polymer or Paper Liner Bag

# **MUNICIPAL SSO (FOOD) PROGRAM**

## **Capture Rate Comparison Averages**

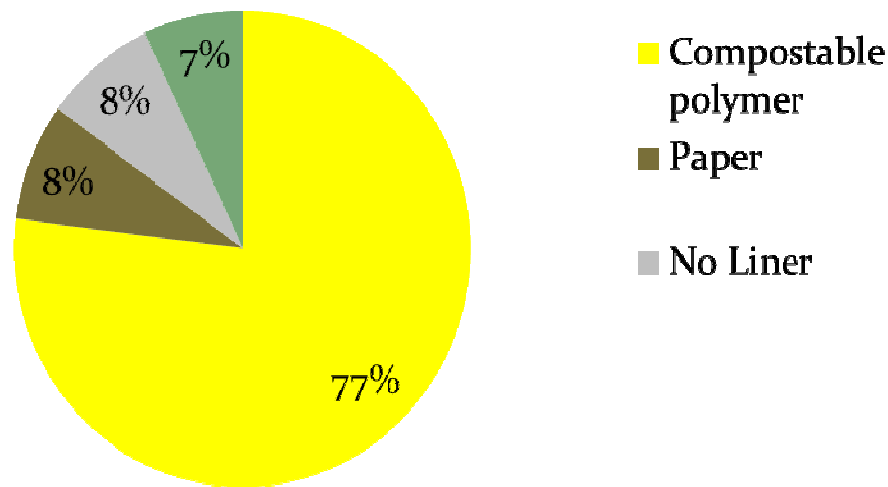


Allowance for use of compostable polymer bags can increase capture by almost three times over programs that only allow for the use of paper bags.

# 72% PARTICIPATION RATE

*at the curb.*

## Organic Material Set-out method (inside curbside bin) %



***One month after the Region transitioned from paper only to accept certified compostable polymer bags as well, 77% of residents choose to use certified compostable polymer liner bags.***

## ***QUESTION # 4***

***Why are certified compostable liner bags so important?***

# COMPOSTABLE BAG

## Certifications



***The advancement of standards and a certification process has come a long way in assisting municipalities and processors to identify appropriate “compostable” bags that ensure to meet centralized processing requirements.***

# **STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION**

- **American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has developed “Standard Specifications for Compostable Plastics” > ASTM D6400**
- **Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) has launched a “Compostable Logo” program for products that conform to the ASTM D6400 standard**
- **To comply, products must:**
  - Biodegrade to carbon dioxide at a rate comparable to yard trimmings, food scraps and other compostable material
  - Disintegrate into small enough particles so no remnants remain that could clog screening equipment
  - Safely biodegrade leaving no visible or toxic residues so that the compost is able to support plant growth

# MUNICIPAL CONTROL

over the use of “compostable” bags



**Key message to residents –  
LOOK FOR THE LOGO**

Both outer retail package and compostable liner bags must have the BPI logo on them to assist at both the retail (purchase) location to assist residents as well as the curbside collector to identify appropriate products.



## ***QUESTION # 5***

***Why is my local retailer  
so important?***

# EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY

*The Right Product in The Right Place at The Right Time.*

## Organics recycling

February 2008

Subject: Joint Municipal Initiative for Compostable Liner Bags - Organics Recycling Programs

Dear Retailer:

The Regions of Durham, Halton, Niagara and Peel, and the City of Hamilton, which represent over three million residents in Ontario, have formed a joint initiative on compostable bags for organics recycling containers.

These five municipalities have or are in the process of introducing organics recycling programs in their regions. Organics collection programs enable residents to recycle their food waste and soiled paper products for centralized composting.

Household organic material can be wet and odorous. To encourage participation, residents are permitted to use paper and certified compostable liner bags to line their kitchen containers and/or green bins.

Residents in these municipalities are not permitted to line their organics containers with non-compostable plastic bags, such as shopping/grocery carry-out sacks or special purpose plastic liner bags. Non-compostable plastic bags do not break down and contaminate the finished compost.

**We are asking you to stock certified compostable liner bags, and paper liner bags specifically designed for municipal organics programs in your stores.**

To assist you in listing the acceptable products, certified compostable liner bags are identified by the following logo from the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI):



The Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) is in the process of developing a Canadian logo which will also be acceptable in our programs. We will notify you once the logo is issued. Compostable liner bags with the BPI or BNQ logos conform to industry acceptable standards for 100 per cent compostable products.

**Only certified compostable plastic liner bags carrying these logos are accepted in the Joint Initiative municipalities' organics programs. Please note, paper liner bags are accepted in our programs but do not carry these logos.**



# **EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY**

***Retail In-Store Promotional Support.***



**Save \$1.50**

on any ONE (1)  
Glad® Compostable Bags

**COMPOSTABLE**  
BPI

Please look for this logo when  
purchasing Glad® compostable bags.

See reverse for details.

**The right product must be in the right place  
at the right time – for all the right reasons**

# ***EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY***

***Product Compatibility.***



# EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY

*Customization.*

**NEW!**  
**GLAD** 100% COMPOSTABLE/  
BIODEGRADABLE BAGS  
For Kitchen Organics

Now accepted in  
Niagara Region

- see over for details -

**4 FREE SMALL KITCHEN  
SAMPLES INSIDE!**

**NEW!**  
**GLAD** 100% COMPOSTABLE/  
BIODEGRADABLE BAGS  
For Kitchen Organics

Accepted in  
Halton Region

- see over for details -

905-825-6000  
1-866-442-5805  
www.halton.ca

COMPOSTABLE

**ACCEPTED IN PEEL REGION**

**GLAD** 100% COMPOSTABLE/  
BIODEGRADABLE BAGS  
For Kitchen Organics

COMPOSTABLE

Region of Peel  
Pest Control

Tall Kitchen bags are for  
large Green Bins and tall  
kitchen containers.

Small Kitchen bags are for under  
the counter orange containers  
(Beige Kitchen Catchers)

© The GLAD Products Company, The Clorox Company of Canada.

Customized residential sample packages as part of program launch or refresh package.



## ***QUESTION # 6***

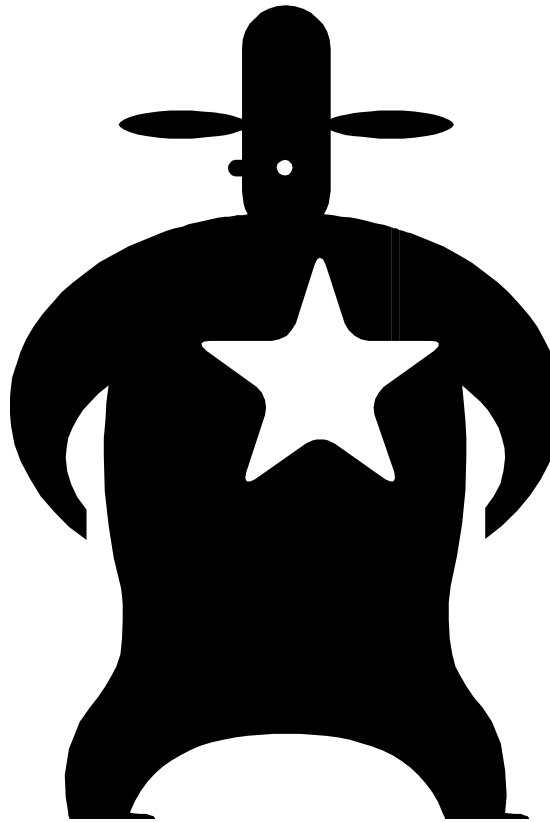
***Other important considerations?***

# ***EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY***

***Processor Engagement.***

# ***EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY***

***Enforcement of the rules.***



# **EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY**

***Municipal Website Messaging.***



## **COMPOSTABLE LINER BAGS ONLY**

Residents who choose to use liner bags should only use 100 per cent compostable liner bags.

**Please use bags that have one of the following symbols on them.**



# **EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY**

**Outdoor Media - Billboards.**



**York Region, Ontario  
SSO Program**

# 6

# ***SECRETS***

***for success.***

1. Food Waste = Increased Diversion;
2. Address the Yuck Factor;
3. The Dollar Factor – Low Cost Approach.
4. BPI certification to address processor needs;
5. The right product at the right place at the right time;
6. Public Engagement.



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR TIME**

*Please give us a call or email.*

**Dave Douglas**

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