

## **It's A Fact**

**Q.** If Ottawa's new Green Bin program operates as planned, how much garbage will be diverted from city landfills?

**A.** The Separated Source Organics (SSO) program is intended to divert 400 tonnes of waste per day, or 80,000 tonnes per year from city landfills, says City of Ottawa spokesman Matt Kavanagh.

Each green bin holds 80 litres of waste products; if each bin were full at the time of pickup, waste from 1,250 homes would be needed to fill a city garbage truck to its capacity of 10 tonnes.

If trucks filled with a year's worth of organics were lined up one after the other, they would form a bumper-to-bumper line 72 kilometres long, which is the distance between Ottawa and Perth.

The bins will be collected bi-weekly in the winter and every week from spring to fall. The city plans to extend the programs from urban houses to include high rises in 2011 and rural properties in 2012.

The waste is being processed at the Orgaworld facility in Gloucester and will eventually become nutrient-rich compost. The company retains 90 per cent of the material, which will likely be sold to the local Ottawa farming community; the City plans to use its 10 per cent for internal greening efforts and community-based tree planting and garden projects.

*Information on the Green Bin program can be found at [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca).*

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