

EXCHANGE DISTRICT CAMPUS COMPOSTING PROGRAM



WORTH FROM WASTE



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AGENDA

Welcome

Hannah Ramsey

Sustainability Specialist, RRC Polytech

Stephanie Fulford

Corporate Communications Director, The Forks

Larissa Peck

Question Period

Larissa Peck & Stephanie Fulford

Individual Media Interviews

RRC Polytech's PR Officers



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RRC Polytech campuses are located on the lands of Anishinaabe, Ininiwak, Anishininew, Dakota, and Dené, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We recognize and honour Treaty 3 Territory Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, the source of Winnipeg's clean drinking water. In addition, we acknowledge Treaty Territories which provide us with access to electricity we use in both our personal and professional lives.

FRC POLYTECH

NEWS RELEASE

EXCHANGE DISTRICT CAMPUS ANNOUNCES COMPOSTING PROGRAM

Partnering with The Forks to expand their target-zero sustainability initiative

Winnipeg, Manitoba – November 19, 2024 – RRC Polytech is partnering with The Forks to begin a composting program at the College. Starting January 6, 2025, The Roblin Centre will provide compost bins, which will be used to collect and transport the compost to The Forks.

The compost will be picked up every two weeks and brought to The Forks, where it will be turned into rich soil by their BIOvatorTM. The soil will then be transported back to campus and mixed into the flower beds, creating a healthier environment at RRC Polytech.

The sustainability team at RRC Polytech proposed this initiative and follows the same approach as The Forks Target Zero plan, which aims to have "zero garbage, zero water waste, and zero carbon emissions."

Composting can make a significant impact because it reduces waste, contributes to healthier soil, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

"This composting program does not just reduce our waste and carbon footprint, but it builds and fosters a strong sense of community with our students, faculty, and The Forks," said RRC Polytech's Sustainability Specialist, Stephanie Fulford.

Through this collaboration, we can set the standard for other institutions in the future. RRC Polytech innovates in sustainability practices and is always looking for new ways to create healthier student environments.

While acknowledging and respecting the Indigenous peoples who came before us, we value every opportunity to contribute to the land. For more information on RRC's sustainability goals, please visit our website or contact us.

RRC Polytech is Manitoba's premier polytechnic institution, offering diverse, career-focused education that prepares students for dynamic industries. With strong ties to industry and a commitment to sustainability and innovation, RRC Polytech leads the way in developing initiatives that have a meaningful impact on both the campus community and beyond.

Public Relations Officer

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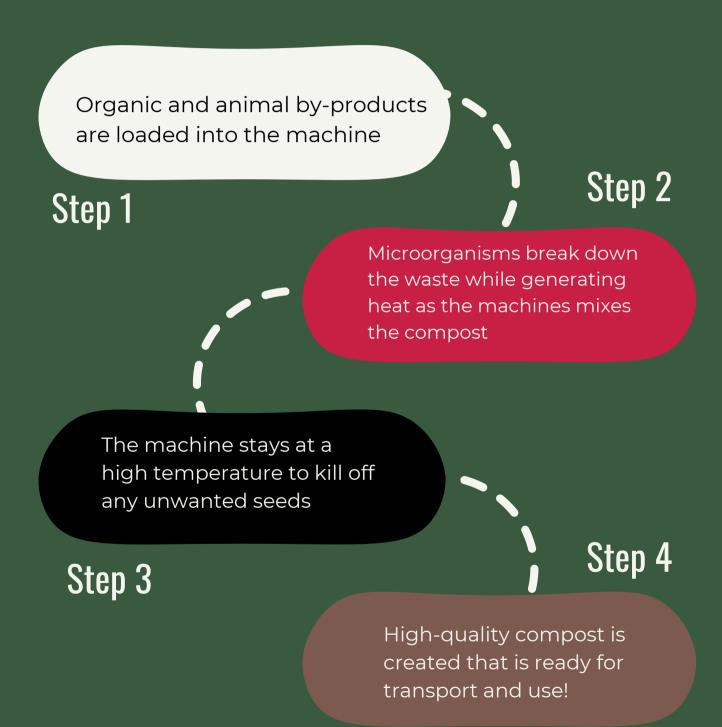
Mackenzie Oliver 431-338-8347 moliver3@rrc.ca







How does the BlOvator™ Work?





RRC Polytech Speech - Stephanie Fulford

Written by: Zoé Buissé and Riley Ray

It's been nearly one year since Red River College Polytechnic signed onto the Sustainable Development Goals Accord, a global pledge by post-secondary schools to support the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These goals focus on some of the world's biggest challenges, including quality education, gender equality, reducing waste and taking climate action. By joining this effort, RRC Polytech has committed to making our campuses a more sustainable and responsible place to learn, teach, and work.

Today, we are proud to announce our partnership with The Forks to launch our new composting program at the Exchange District Campus. Starting January 6, 2025, compost bins will be set up alongside the usual garbage and recycling bins in The Roblin Centre. Students can toss in their food waste, including meat, bones, and solid dairy, and the lovely team at The Forks will handle the rest.

Twice a week, they'll collect the compost and bring it to their composting centre, where it will be loaded into their BlOvator™ and transformed into rich, healthy soil. By spring, this nutrient-rich soil will be used in the flower beds and planters across the campus, helping our plants thrive and making the campus look fantastic.

This new composting program is in direct alignment with the sustainability priorities of our students. In our 2022 sustainability survey, students expressed a strong dedication to a greener future, with waste reduction and diversion programs as top priorities. By creating a composting program, we're providing an easy but effective way for our students to reduce waste and take action on climate change.

Composting is a real tangible step to reducing greenhouse emissions. When food waste ends up in landfills, it creates methane—a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. As you can see here, composting significantly reduces the amount of waste we send to the landfill, which helps us cut down on methane emissions.

Plus, composting improves the soil's ability to retain water, which means less watering is needed. This saves water and lowers costs, making it a smart way to reuse resources and support the environment.

At RRC Polytech, sustainability is at the core of our operations. From the solar panels on the roof of this building to the environmentally responsible paper this speech is printed on, we focus on practices that help protect the environment. This partnership reflects our continued commitment to environmental protection and sustainability, and we're proud to lead the way.

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Now it's your turn. Composting is an easy way to make a huge difference on our campus and in our community. By working together, we can reduce waste, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and build a more sustainable campus—one compost bin at a time.



The Forks Speech - Larissa Peck

Written by: Jackson Bachewich and Grace Willmer

Thanks so much, Hannah. At The Forks we have an ambitious vision: Target Zero – zero waste and zero emissions.

Each Canadian produces 36.1 metric tonnes of waste per year, equivalent to filling 10 hot tubs. Over 10 years into our Target Zero commitment, we are fostering a healthier community and creating new opportunities for our planet, our employees, our neighbours, and now, students. Manitoba ranked 5th in Canada for waste production in 2018, generating nearly one million metric tonnes.

One million metric tonnes is a massive amount. To put it into context, imagine a line of 100,000 regular-sized shipping containers, each filled to the brim with trash, headed for the landfill. These are big numbers, but they highlight the impact we can have through programs like Target Zero.

Through annual waste audits, we know that over 80 per cent of our waste from food producers, restaurants, and other businesses on our 54-acre site is compostable and knew there was an opportunity there. Since then, there has been a 48 per cent increase in the amount of diverted waste in Canada, which shows commitment from us Canadians to compost more.

We knew we could create a positive change on the site, so we started a compost program at The Forks using an in-vessel composter called the BIOvatorTM. The BIOvatorTM can break down organic waste within days and creates a nutrient-rich compost that can be used for our gardens, reducing our carbon footprint. By repurposing food waste, we can proactively protect our environment and help empower others to make eco-friendly choices.

By educating visitors and tenants about our composting program, among other intentional waste diversion tactics – like implementing a staffed waste sorting station and encouraging dine-in at The Forks Market by supplying all restaurant tenants with dishware, utensils and centralized dishwashing service – the amount of organic waste hitting the trash on-site has decreased by 40 per cent.

The Forks composts 510 metric tonnes of organic waste per year. That is like filling 17 full sized dump trucks. By composting this waste, we've avoided releasing 970 metric tonnes of greenhouse gasses, equivalent to taking 210 cars off the road for a year. So far, we've saved \$53,000 in waste hauling fees by processing organic waste on site, rather than paying to send it to the dump. To secure a sustainable future, we need to keep momentum going to inspire others to take environmental action.

The Forks takes other steps to create a greener tomorrow, like using a geothermal heat pump system to heat and cool our 100-year-old market building, biofuel for our site vehicles, cultivating an on-site orchard, and nurturing a thriving bee population. These may seem like small steps, but they truly make a world of difference. Because Target Zero is ongoing, we're always looking for ways to change our impact on the environment.

This composting partnership between the Exchange District Campus at Red River College Polytechnic and Target Zero at The Forks is a significant step towards sustainable waste management. This will not only reduce environmental harm but also spread the word to others about how to care for our planet. This will overall divert organic waste from landfills and create even more nutrient rich soil to be put to use.

Through this collaboration, we can set an example for other institutions to follow and inspire a new era of sustainability and social responsibility. Target Zero is our pledge to a sustainable future because environmental protection is not a fad, but a necessity. This partnership will allow us to create ecological responsibility, reduce waste pile-up in landfills, and preserve our planet for future generations. Red River Polytechnic is now a part of this vision.

So next time you eat your lunch, think about where your food scraps end up. It's up to you to take part in a greener future and inspire others to join this movement.

Let's reduce, reuse, compost, and recycle to create a legacy of environmental stewardship.



MEDIA

Scan the QR code below for supporting video, audio, and photos:





MEDIA CONTACT

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SPEAKER INFORMATION

Stephanie Fulford

Sustainability Specialist, RRC Polytech

Larissa Peck

Corporate Communications Director, The Forks

Dave Pancoe

Placemaking and Sustainability Manager, The Forks (Featured in supplied video/photo/audio)



POST-CONFERENCE MEDIA INTERVIEWS

After the conference there will be a 15-minute Q&A, followed by the individual interviews.

The PR representative in line with your name is who you will be interviewing.

Please note there are more journalists than there are PR spokespeople today, some will wait and interview the first PR representative available.

Thank you for attending our event.



Public Relations Interviewee	J/MP Interviewer
Zova Andrusco (she/her) mandrusco@academic.rrc.ca	Nick Kuhlman
Jackson Bachewich (he/him) jbachewich@academic.rrc.ca	Ben Little
Katelyn Bastos (she/her) kbastos@academic.rrc.ca	Alexandre Lambert
Zoe Buisse (she/her) zbuisse@academic.rrc.ca	Skye Anderson
Cassidy Burak (she/her) cburak2@academic.rrc.ca	Jamin Bains
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Megan Fitzmaurice (she/her) mfitzmaurice@academic.rrc.ca	Noah Van Den Berg
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First available	Liam Nikkel, Georgia Dyck, Kaden Hart, Sofia Peralta- Baron