



Newsletter

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What We've been Up To....



Cleanit Greenit Composting System Inc.

The new millennium marks the first year that Cleanit Greenit Composting System Inc. has finished compost to market. Introduced under the product label "Organic Soil", we have proudly developed two new compost based products.



The first is our *Compost Soil Amendment*, a mixture of Cleanit Greenit compost, a woody compost and a manure based compost. Virtually weed-free, nutrient rich, and of excellent texture, the *Compost Soil Amendment* is a rich, earthy-smelling, humus-like material with many beneficial properties when applied to soil. This product may be incorporated into soil to rejuvenate a garden or establish a new lawn, used as a topdressing to existing lawns, added to planting holes for trees or shrubs, used for bank stabilization, or for making a compost tea to water plants and give them a nutrient boost.

The second *Organic Soil* product is our *Compost Based Garden Mix*. This unique blend combines our *Compost Soil Amendment* with topsoil and garden sand to form a ready-to-use medium for vigorous plant growth. The nutritional benefits of the compost make our *Compost Based Garden Mix* superior to peat-based garden mixes by reducing the amount of chemical fertilizing required in your lawn or garden and providing slow release nutrients to plants in future years as well.

We are always amazed with the ideas people have for the compost. Interesting uses include the Edmonton Art Gallery bought some to use in art, TransAlta bought some to put into their biofilter, an opera student used compost to demonstrate growth and decomposition.

Benefits of Compost and Compost Products

- Provides slow release nutrients
- Improves soil texture and structure for better root penetration
- Increases organic matter content
- Promotes aeration
- Reduces need for chemical fertilizers
- Provides erosion control
- Discourages disease proliferation
- Prevents nutrient leaching
- Performs similar functions to peat without the destruction of dwindling peatlands
- Reduces greenhouse gases

Cleanit Greenit Composting System's Cash & Carry Sale

KC Environmental Group Ltd's Cleanit Greenit Composting System held its first Cash & Carry Compost Sale on May 21 and 28, 2000. The goal of the event was to promote awareness about composting and its benefits as well as to raise funds for the Big Lake Environment Support Society (BLESS).

Cleanit Greenit's two new products, the *compost soil amendment* and *compost based garden mix*, were available for the sale. Staff and volunteers were on hand to perform a number of functions, including providing information about the compost, directing traffic, conducting customer surveys and organizing prize give-aways.

Thanks to our sponsors who donated some great prizes! Our sponsors included: the Town of Devon, Revy, the City of Edmonton, Lee Valley Tools, Edmonton Oilers, Side Track Café, TerraChoice Environmental, the Composting Council of Canada and KC Environmental Group Ltd. Items such as t-shirts, mugs, autographed Oilers photos, a CD, a cooler, a stainless steel compost bucket and numerous posters and bedding plants were given away as well as a large flower basket each day to the Grand Prize winner.

We hope to make our sale an annual event. This year was a great start with good turnouts both days. Considerable interest was also expressed in our products and in composting in general.

A Note from the Principal

At KC it's been a hectic year but we reduced waste and made a premium compost product. A special thanks to all past and present staff members who helped move us smoothly through the changes, and as well to clients and associates who continue to support us in our innovative projects. I hope you are all well and enjoying your present challenges.

Again KC continues to change. We continue to offer our traditional services in environmental assessments, integrated waste management and eco-certification, in addition to the Cleanit Greenit Composting System. CG site one is on target and one year into our three-year scale-up plan. We are currently busy looking for business building opportunities both financial (partners) and advisory (mentors) to meet our CG objective of five sites in Alberta in five years. We have all come to realise what a terrific opportunity organic waste is. We are preparing for a bright future with the increasing interest in quality waste management and in gardening/landscaping. Our team is sincerely committed to quality product and service in all our business areas will provide a net benefit to the environment. We look forward to serving you and building win-win solutions for our environment and us all.

BLESS plans to devote funds raised to trail improvement and the construction of bird blinds.





Cleanit Greenit Cart Program

We are pleased to announce that over the past year we have introduced our Cleanit Greenit organic cart system for commercial industrial clientele, the first of its kind in Alberta. For one price we provide carts, transport, cleaning, and, of course, composting. Call Tom at 488-7926 for more information. Current cart users include restaurants, a brewery, an egg producer, hospitals, food processors and fast food chains. Carts will also be at the Edmonton Folk Festival. See you there!!

There is yet another advantage to composting that deserves more attention – its potential to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Release of three potent GHG's, methane, nitrogen dioxide and carbon dioxide may be reduced through composting and compost application to soils. This process diverts organic wastes that would normally be sent to landfills where anaerobic decomposition would lead to GHG releases mainly in the form of methane. The compost product, which may be applied to soils to boost their nutrient profile, is also an excellent alternative to inorganic fertilizers, which release nitrogen dioxide into the air. Furthermore, increasing soil moisture retention and reducing the amount of energy needed for irrigation lowers carbon dioxide emissions.

One of CG's project objectives is to measure actual emission reductions through a large-scale industrial compost facility. To date, no verified measures of GHG reductions through composting are available. Once a standard measurement for GHG reduction is established, other composters will be encouraged to claim GHG emission reductions. Communities and companies will then demand emission reductions that are verified and made available through composting. In this way further support will build for composting beyond its primary function of waste diversion.

Actual testing of GHG emissions at the CG site is slated to begin this year.

Integrated Waste Management

We've been in the garbage again! KC recently performed a waste sort for three Telus office towers located in Edmonton. The sort involved determining the composition and waste generation rates of the waste and

- recyclable streams, assessing the success of
- various waste minimization programs and
- identifying other waste reduction ideas.

KC also completed a major Integrated Waste Management System Review for Strathcona County in 1999-2000. The strategy was based on a review of existing systems, interviews, a benchmark of other community's waste systems, a public survey and applying full cost accounting techniques. The plan will move forward to implementation and was approved by council. Waste diversion is growing in Strathcona County and will include more depots and organic reductions in the future.

Environmental Management Systems and ISO 14000

As a follow up to our previous newsletter, Culter Hammer, working with KC Environmental Group Ltd., successfully achieved their ISO 14000 registration.

We've been busy with environmental compliance audits because clients want to make sure they are diligent. For example, we conducted a compliance audit for the Belvedere Golf & Country Club.

Environmental Assessments

Whew! We're pooped! With our busy economy lots of buying and selling of property has occurred recently, bringing KC all around Alberta doing Phase I, II and III Environmental Site Assessments in Hinton, Viking, Ponoka, Entwistle, Fox Creek, Beaver Crossing and, of course, Edmonton. Thanks for your business.

Courses and Presentations

-Just to name a few!

- Tom Rogers completed the City of Edmonton Master Composter course in May 2000.
- Angella Vertzaya took the ISO 14000 course with ESAA Enviro-Business sessions.
- Kirstin Castro-Wunsch attended the CETAC business building session in Banff in October 1999. She will also be giving a presentation on Compost Markets: CG's Early Experience at the Recycling Council of Alberta conference at Lake Louise on Oct. 18-20.
- Several staff are working on courses through the U of A's Environmental Management Program.

Welcome to our New Staff!!

Sarah Clement is working at KC Environmental for an eight-month stint as part of the Co-op program in Environmental Engineering at the U of A. Her work involves coordinating the acquisition, mixing and screening of our compost product components and developing the sales plan. She is also involved in material sampling and testing, marketing, and performing various site tasks (including driving the loader).

Steve Grice began in May 2000 as the Cleanit Greenit Site Operator. After 22 years working for Safeway, he recently graduated from NAIT with a diploma in Biological Sciences Environmental. Steve is eagerly applying his knowledge and skills to composting and bringing Site one up to capacity.

David Ip comes to KC Environmental with an outstanding seven-year sales record from Bata shoes. In April 2000 he graduated from NAIT with a Marketing diploma and in May joined KC as our Sales and Marketing Representative for Organic Soil.

Karen Castro – Karen first got involved with KC Environmental by carrying out plant growth trials with various compost blends using finished compost from the Cleanit Greenit site. Previously, she received a M.Sc. in Conservation Biology from the U of A and afterward worked for a year as a seed analyst. She is working at the Cleanit Greenit site for a few months this summer and will be returning to university in a Ph.D. program in the fall. She will continue to advise us in plant growth issues.

Tom Rogers is currently managing and operating our cart system. With over 20 years waste experience in Alberta, Tom is thoroughly enjoying our challenge and is a welcome addition to our team.

P.S. If you are interested in working with our growing team please call or drop us a resume.



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ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS**