

New ideas for sustainable property management

Bentall Kennedy, a Sun Life Investment Management company, is one of the largest global real estate investment advisors and one of North America's foremost providers of real estate services. The company is a recognised Responsible Property Investing leader and continues to invest in new ideas and technologies that align with its sustainable property management strategy. Anna Murray, vice president of Sustainability at Bentall Kennedy, highlights an innovative technology partnership with Hop Compost and Waste Solutions Canada, which should result in the diversion of almost 1,000,000 pounds of food waste from landfills by 2020. The new technology converts food waste into soil to be re-purposed for landscaping at participating properties.

As a market leader in sustainable property management, Bentall Kennedy is always on the lookout for new ideas and technologies that will break the “business as usual” approach to sustainable property management, and that will allow them to reduce the environmental footprint of their buildings. “Traditionally, we have collaborated with our service providers to ensure that we are at the forefront of sustainable waste solutions,” says Ms. Murray. “We entered into a new partnership with Waste Solutions Canada

this year to further this objective, while ensuring cost-effective, high-impact solutions are adopted at our properties across Canada.”

Bentall Kennedy has already implemented organics collection programs at many of its buildings. These programs have relied on traditional composting and anaerobic digestion to process discarded organic waste. While both are worthwhile solutions, they also both have their weaknesses, inspiring Bentall Kennedy to team up with Waste

Solutions Canada. “They recommended Hop Compost, a solution that perfectly embodies the concept of a circular economy, as the organic material disposed of at our buildings will be returned as nutrient-rich compost that can be used to nurture green spaces at our properties,” says Ms. Murray. “It offers an innovative, clean tech solution in close proximity to our buildings, meaning that the carbon footprint of hauling the materials will also be significantly reduced.”

Bentall Kennedy's intention is to make the recycling programs easier to understand and follow. “Not being able to put paper or biodegradable materials into a compost bin is a bit counter-intuitive, and so a lot of contamination entered the organics stream when we were sending it to anaerobic digestion,” Ms. Murray points out. “Hopefully, processing the materials using a method where these items are accepted will increase the amount of organic material that is recovered from our facilities. An additional benefit that we hope our tenants will realise will be the result of the composted material returned to our facilities, as it will help us provide green spaces to improve the health and well-being of tenants – access to green spaces and nature has been proven to increase health and wellness.”



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