

BACKGROUND:

Office Green Bin Food Waste Recycled into Worm Poop for Daily Bread Food Bank

Who

GreenSaver: Ontario's oldest environmental energy-efficiency organization and non-profit has 60 employees working out of their Etobicoke office. More information at www.greensaver.org.

Daily Bread Food Bank: Toronto's largest food bank distribution centre has a volunteer-run production garden that last year produced 1260 lbs of fresh, organic produce for the City's hungry. More information at www.dailybread.ca

Wastenot Worm Farms: This Grey County vermiculture farm (i.e. raising worms as livestock) produces high-protein animal feed and worm poop as natural fertilizer, and operates Green Bins Growing. More information at www.wastenotwormfarms.com.

What

Green Bins Growing, is a food waste recycling service for small and medium sized offices in the Greater Toronto Area. The collected organic material is fed to worms at the Wastenot farm and a portion of the worm manure (known as castings) produced is returned to service clients. Weekly service costs start at \$35/week for an office of 50 people.

GreenSaver employees chose to donate the worm poop made from their recycled office organics to help the fruit trees at Daily Bread production garden.

Worms will eat any decomposing matter that was once living, plant or animal, and they love coffee grounds because the coarse texture helps grind up food in their gut.

Worm castings (i.e. manure) are a natural fertilizer in high demand because they are approved for use on organically-grown crops. Castings are twice as high in organic matter than material not passed through a worm, creating an electrical charge that holds nutrients in a format ready for immediate uptake by plants. Castings carry beneficial soil bacteria and mucus that increases water retention. Castings are scientifically proven to increase crop disease resistance and improve fruit yield.

When

Friday, Oct.24

Where

Daily Bread production garden is located at Lakeshore and Islington, while GreenSaver's office is up the street near Islington and Bloor. Wastenot Worm Farms is located near Collingwood, 150km north of the City.

Why

Reconnecting the nutrient loop between big cities and the farms that feed them is necessary to becoming a food-secure community.

"Out of sight, out of mind" is no longer a viable option for managing garbage. Green Bins Growing office food waste recycling combats this mentality by returning to clients a highly valuable recycled product for their community to use.

Green Bins Growing is a win-win-win: GreenSaver enjoys a clean and convenient way to keep food waste out of landfill, Wastenot gets a diverse source of feedstock for the worm hatchery, and Daily Bread's fruit trees receive natural fertilizer to improve next year's crop.