

Northern Fish Composting Stations

Location **Pine Dock** and **Dawson Bay** are both located in Northern Manitoba and have a population under 100. They are both members of the Northern Association of Community Councils and they identify as fishing communities.

Objective To provide community infrastructure to turn a waste product into valuable fertilizer that is not readily or economically available in participating communities, for use in community gardens, home gardens and around fruit trees.

NACC planned to provide support to three communities, Pine Dock, Matheson Island and Dawson Bay, to create plans for fish composting and determine the best sites and material needed. Intending to work with the community council, contractors and Environment Canada, training and education would be provided to community members to learn how to properly manage fish waste and compost sites.

Successes

- Fish Composting Station Plans were created based on consultations with specialists.
- Composting recipes and training material for composting were developed.
- Manitoba Composting Association helped identify the need for in-vessel composting.
- Innovat, a Manitoba company, designed and manufactured the compost drums for fish composting stations.

Challenges

- Matheson Island Council decided to drop out of the program, which affected the site planning for Pine Dock.
- Process for site approval for the composting machine was difficult to navigate due to provincial regulations and requirement of a map of the site, coordinates, proximity to other infrastructure and past history.

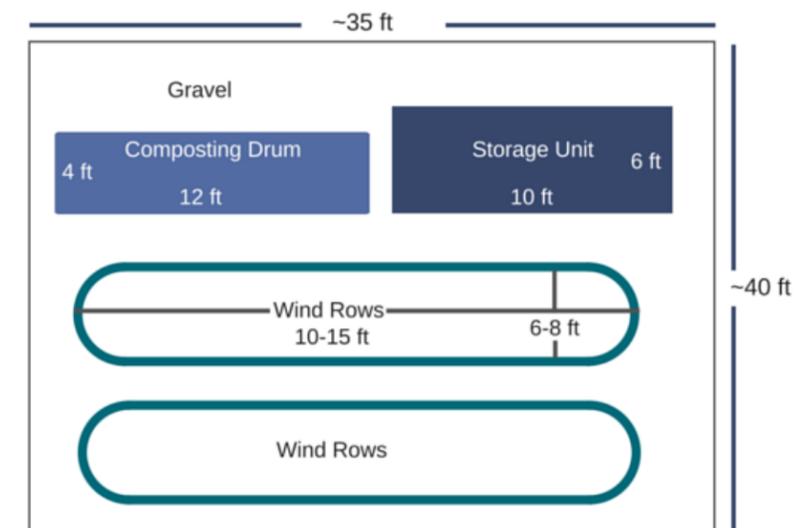
“ The project will provide a use for all the fish refuse that is the by-product of fishing.



Next Steps

- Hold a training session to prepare community members to use the composter.
- Activate the compost stations. Use local fishermen’s raw fish waste in composters to provide a local supply of fertilizer and compost materials for the community to use for gardens and fruit trees.
- Expand compost production to service nearby communities.
- Eventually create jobs for community members to manage and maintain the machine.
- Produce enough compost to sell, increasing local income.
- Create a website for information exchange to support fish composting stations.
- Engage with community members to increase enthusiasm for project.

“ Our community will be able to utilize the local fishermen’s raw fish waste that is generally dumped out on the lake, or filling our local waste disposal site, and hopefully create some jobs to stimulate the economy in our community.



Dawson Bay Fish Composting Site Plan