ORGANICS RECYCLING



Organics are any item that came from a plant or animal that will turn into a soil-like material called compost. Organic materials are the largest proportion of Hennepin County residents' trash – making up about 25% of the trash stream.



of global greenhouse gas emissions come from food waste. To compare, nearly 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from cattle.

Typically organic matter is broken down by microorganisms that require oxygen when it decomposes. When compostable waste goes to a landfill it is cut off from the oxygen the decomposers need. The waste is instead broken down by organisms that can live without free-flowing oxygen. Biogas that is roughly 50% methane and 50% percent carbon dioxide is created as a by-product. Methane traps 28x more heat than carbon dioxide. Landfills are the third-largest source of humangenerated methane emissions in the US.

Composting is one solution. Composting is the process of recycling items that came from a plant or animal into compost. Composting speeds up the process of decomposition by providing an ideal environment for bacteria, fungi, worms, and other decomposing organisms to do their work. Compost is used for gardening, agriculture, landscaping, and road construction projects.

How organics recycling works:

The organics collected in curbside or drop-off programs are taken to a local commercial compost facility and recycled into compost. At the compost site, the organics are:



- mixed with yard waste to get the correct ratio of carbon and nitrogen and the right moisture levels

- laid out in piles 🖂
- aerated to introduce oxygen





- left to compost and cure for 6 or so months while bacteria works to heat the pile and break down materials.

More materials can be composted with organics recycling than in a backyard compost bin. The large-scale commercial composting facilities have higher temperatures than backyard compost bins. These temperatures kill bacteria and break down meat, bones, dairy products and compostable plastics. Composters are expected to process at least 85% of all incoming material.





- rich in nutrients which can improve the soil and plant growth
- reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides that contain harmful chemicals
- increases the water retention of soils, which reduces runoff and erosion that can pollute our water and helps to conserve water. Each 1 percent increase in organic matter in soil helps it to hold 20,000 gallons more water per acre.

benefits of organics recycling:

- By starting an organics collection in your home you produce less trash. You might be able to downsize your garbage cart which can save you money.
- Minnesota's composting industry supports about 700 jobs and produces \$148 million in gross economic activity per year.

What can you put in your organics?

tissues, paper towels, napkins, cotton balls, all food, bones, pizza boxes, paper egg cartons, coffee grounds, flowers, tea bags, and wooden items like popsicle sticks. Drain excess liquids before placing food scraps in your organics container. Certified compostable products are also accepted. Visit products.bpiworld.org to check if your Plates, Cups, Bowls, Takeout containers, or Utensils are compostable. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out.

Organics recycling by city

Minneapolis



up page

If you have city service, organics are collected in a separate green cart for free. You can also sign up to drop off your organics at a Minneapolis dropoff site instead.

Bloomington & Richfield

residents can sign up to use one of the 2 organics drop-off sites for free.

Scan to learn more:



Edina

Residents can contact their waste hauler to get curbside organics pick-up. The monthly price per household is \$5.50. Or they can use the South Hennepin drop-off center.

Dakota county

Free drop-off sites. After signing up online, calling, or emailing residents receive a welcome kit with a free container label, compostable bags and details on how to drop-off their organics.

Locations include:

- Burnsville Civic Center Park,
- Eagan Holland Lake Trailhead, Lebanon Hills Regional Park
- Lakeville Water Treatment Facility
- Mendota Heights Mendakota Park
- Rosemount The Mulch Store
- West St. Paul Dakota Lodge, Thompson County Park
- On an in a Cart 10. Example star Cantual Mainter and a English 10/50

Opening Sept. 10: Farmington Central Maintenance Facility, 19650 Municipal Drive

Saint Paul



residents can take their organics to a drop-off site

Scan for locations:

Champlin

residents can drop off organics at the Hennepin County Recycling Center in Brooklyn Park.



Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Crystal, Eden Prairie, Golden Valley, Plymouth, Richfield, and Robbinsdale are required to make organics recycling service available to all households with curbside recycling service by January 1, 2022 Make sure to check your city or waste haulers website for the most accurate information on organics recycling service availability, a list of drop-off sites, how to get set up, rules, and materials accepted and not accepted.

Composting at home

Hot composting is the fastest at-home composting method. With this method, you can have finished compost in 1-12 months. If managed correctly, the high temperature of the pile will destroy most weeds, plant diseases, pesticides, herbicides, and any bug larvae or eggs.

How to do it:



Get a bin. The best size is a 3 ft cube.



- #2 Pick a dry and shady spot for your bin.
- #3 Lay down 4-6 inches of twigs on the bottom of the pile for good air circulation.
- #4 Alternate layers of greens (grass clippings, food scraps, and coffee grounds) and browns (dead leaves, branches, and twigs). Browns provide the carbon needed for your compost and greens provide the nitrogen. Put in 2 to 4 parts browns for every 1 part greens. Most materials will decompose faster if they are broken or chopped into smaller pieces. Make layers about 4 to 6 inches thick. Bury kitchen scraps at least 8 inches deep in the compost pile to discourage critters.

#5

#1

Add water as needed. Your compost pile should be moist, like a wrung-out sponge. If you are including food waste in your pile, it will likely be wet enough. Your pile will get water from rain, as well as the moisture in the greens. Water allows the microbes to grow and travel around in the pile to decompose materials.

#6 Turn your pile each week with a spade or pitchfork to provide air to aid decomposition and control odors.

#7 Bacteria, fungi, worms, and insects will help break down the materials in your compost bin.



As the organic materials decompose and your compost pile is big enough to hold the heat, your pile will get hot on the inside and you might see some steam.

What can you put in?

anything that comes from the ground

What can't you put in?

Meat, dairy, or oils Pet feces Diseased plants Weeds gone to seed Ash from charcoal or coal