



# Residential Food Scrap Composting

A GUIDE FOR ILLINOIS MUNICIPALITIES

Developed by Seven Generations Ahead





# Illinois Residential Food Scrap Composting

A Guide for Local Officials and Community Leaders



In this guide you'll find:

- Answers to key questions about food scrap composting
- Descriptions of the types of residential composting programs
- Resources: local, regional and national
- Case studies from Illinois



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Food:Land:Opportunity  
Localizing the Chicago Foodshed

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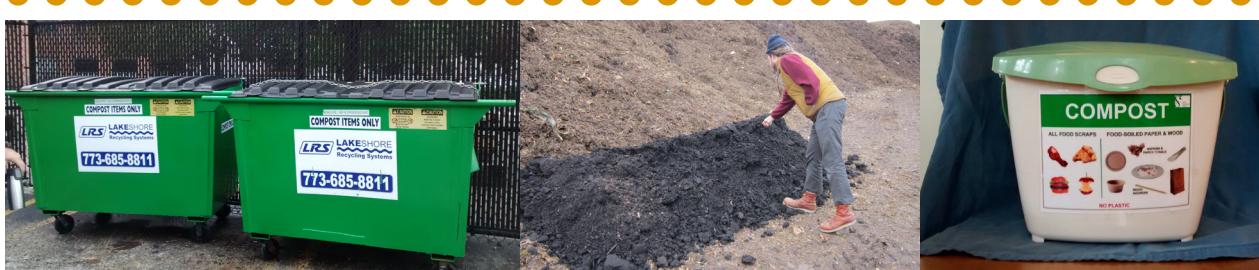


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# Dig In: An Introduction to Municipal Food Scrap Composting



## IN THIS SECTION

1. Who Should Use this Guide and Why?
2. Residential Programs and Cost
3. Is Your Municipality Ready?

## 1. Who Should Use this Guide and Why?

Municipalities and local leaders make decisions and set the tone for how wasted food is addressed in their community. This may mean finding ways to reduce wasted food, support food donation to feed hungry community members, or support and offer services for food scrap composting. This guide is designed to help answer questions and provide resources related to municipal residential composting programs. It provides the critical elements to consider in establishing a program, aspects of program design that enhance participation, as well as common obstacles and how to overcome them.

Have you been asked to start a program in your community? Here are factors to consider:

### ECONOMIC

- Costs and savings for municipality and/or residents
- Paying for compost collection (cost offsets) and options for residents (billing structure)
- Hauler contract structure - what to ask from the hauler

### ENVIRONMENTAL

- Waste diversion: data tracking of program participation and impact
- Soil quality: tracking community projects using compost
- Tracking community projects using compost to address flooding and water retention

### SOCIAL

- Resident education and engagement about food waste and composting
- Communication to educate and engage residents
- Challenges and solutions

## OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPACT

Every year, roughly one-third of all food produced for human consumption is wasted. This amounts to approximately 1.3 billion tons of food and \$680 billion wasted annually in the United States<sup>1</sup>. Food waste has far-reaching impacts on food security, resource conservation, and climate change:

- Wholesome food that can feed families in need is sent to landfills, contributing to food insecurity
- Resources used in producing, transporting, and disposing of discarded food are wasted and generate harmful impacts for the environment that contribute to climate change
- Disposing of food into landfills increases greenhouse gas emissions, reduces their capacity and longevity, and requires new landfills to be built



Photo: World Wild Life Fund



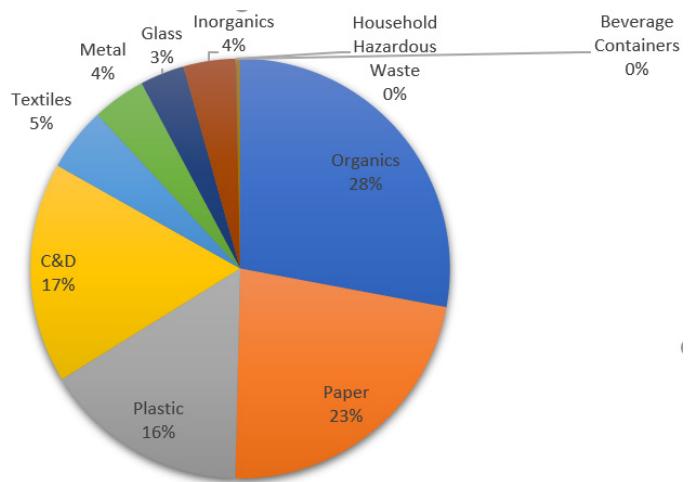
Photo: NBC News

## Why Compost Food Scraps?

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is the process that converts organic material, including food scraps and yard waste, into nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used to grow more food and plants. By composting our wasted food, we transform these scraps from waste into a vital resource.

Composting is vital to implement because it provides many benefits to people, the environment and the economy. Across the nation, composting is developing as a viable, locally-based industry that achieves multiple objectives related to economic development, job creation, cost savings, and environmental sustainability. For more information, see **Appendix B: Why and What of Composting**.

Many Illinois municipalities provide compost hauling services to residents as a result of yard waste being banned from landfills in Illinois since 1990. Almost 30 percent of our garbage is organics (yard waste and food scraps). The existing yard waste composting infrastructure provides significant



2015 Illinois Commodity/ Waste Generation and Characterization Study Update

<sup>1</sup> "Key Facts on Food Loss and Waste You Should Know." <http://www.fao.org/save-food/resources/keyfindings/en/>. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

## COMPOSTING BENEFITS

WATER

Fertilizer runoff is creating "dead zones" in our bodies of water while storm water runoff is causing flooding. Compost reduces the need for fertilizers and increases filtration and permeability of heavy soils, mitigating erosion and runoff.

ECOSYSTEMS

Urban development is hurting our ecosystems and natural resources. Composting combats this by improving soil texture and its ability to retain nutrients, air and water.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Municipalities are increasing their carbon footprints due to methane produced by landfills. The type of decomposition found in compost produces significantly less methane than that occurring in landfills.

ENERGY

There is still a lack of a robust market in renewable energy. Diverting organics from landfills supplies anaerobic digestion operations with materials for renewable energy sources.

ECONOMY

Recent studies found that on a per-ton basis, composting sustains two to four times as many jobs as landfill or incinerators. Composting is a local, place-based industry that creates more jobs and has great potential for local economies.

WASTE

Organic material is wasted when disposed of in landfills and decreases the life expectancy and capacity of landfills by taking up space. Composting diverts 20% of materials, recovers valuable nutrients, and increases the capacity and longevity of landfills.

opportunity to compost food scraps. In many cases, this will make a significant difference in waste diversion while not adding any additional hauling cost for either the municipality or the residents.

*Demand for green programs is growing, so improving municipal sustainability and cost savings may also build residents' support for current governance and attract prospective residents to the area.*

## 2. Residential Programs and Costs

A municipal residential composting program allows residents to divert food scraps and yard waste from their landfill bins to separate containers or bags that they either drop off at a local site or haulers pick up at their curb. Haulers then transport the material to compost facilities which decompose the organic waste. Food scrap composting can be an added service with a fee, or it can be built into existing hauling service for yard waste and, in some cases, incur no additional charge for the community or residents.

There are five common types of residential commercial composting programs:

1. Seasonal Residential Ride-Along With Yard Waste
2. Residential Year-Round Compost (Third Bin)
3. Bucket Exchange
4. Municipal Drop-Off
5. Drop-Off Events

See the **Municipal Composting Program Comparison** table on page 5 for descriptions of food scrap composting programs and the pros and cons of each type of program. **Appendix A: Illinois Municipal Composting Programs** provides an overview of programs in Illinois municipalities. Municipalities work with their hauler and nearby compost processors to find the best strategy for implementing food scrap composting in their area. This includes identifying

what can be composted by the processor, determining the frequency of collection and variety of bins offered to residents, and determining the cost impact on both the new service and reduced need for trash service.

Successful curbside composting collection programs often begin as pilot projects. By piloting the composting initiative, it allows time to understand best practices and adjust what works for the municipality. Pilot programs demonstrate the viability of the program and allow municipalities to test the effectiveness and acceptance of the program in their community.<sup>2</sup>

GENERALLY ACCEPTED ITEMS	OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY BE ACCEPTED (must confirm prior)
Fruit, vegetable scraps	Meat, fish scraps
Coffee grounds, filters	Bone
Tea leaves, paper tea bags	Dairy products
Bread, grains	Fats, grease, oil, oily foods
Eggshells	Coal, charcoal ashes (cold)
Nutshells	Blue masking tape
Corncobs	Nail clippings, fur/hair
Food-soiled paper towels, napkins	Dryer lint
Shredded newspaper	Biodegradable/compostable plastics
Sawdust, wood shavings (from untreated wood)	Houseplants, potting soil, feathers
Beans, flour, spices	
Cut or dried flowers	



Photo: Seven Generations Ahead

**Village of Oak Park:** The program started when Oak Park negotiated a new hauling contract through Waste Management. The company wanted to understand how it could enhance its service to the community. Karen Rozmus, Oak Park's Director of Environmental Services, recalls saying: "I see the future, and the future is composting food scraps."

-Eng, Monica. "Fighting for Scraps: What it Would Take for Chicago to Get Citywide Composting." WGLT.org, October 23, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Layzer, Judith A. and Schulman, Alexis. 2014. "Municipal Curbside Compostables Collection: What Works and Why?" Work product of the Urban Sustainability Assessment (USA) Project, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

# Municipal Composting Program Comparison

Program	Description	Pros	Cons
Seasonal Residential Ride-Along with Yard Waste	Residents include food scraps and food soiled paper in their existing yard waste container	No added cost for municipality or residents No added bins No route changes for haulers	Seasonal (service usually April-November) Low participation without education and engagement of residents Increased contamination Critters and odors
Residential Year-Round Compost (Third Bin)	Yard waste and food scraps are collected in a third bin, similar to recycling and landfill waste	Year-round service Consistent program allows for better resident education and decreased contamination OPTION to reduce frequency of landfill pickup to balance costs	May be additional cost Low participation without education and engagement Critters and odors Greater hauler management of truck routes to acceptable compost processing facility
Bucket Exchange (supplement to seasonal program)	At-the-door pickup of food scraps through subscription program  Can be a supplemental service during the period composting is not available with yard waste	Residents are able to compost year-round  Bucket exchanged for a clean one each pickup  No critters and smells  OPTION for multi-unit buildings and businesses	Additional cost to resident  Low participation without education and engagement  Increased contamination
Municipal Drop-Off	Municipality provides a drop-off site where residents bring their food scraps	Low or no added cost Year-round service Decreased contamination if drop-off is supervised Effective in communities with recycling drop-off	Less convenient for residents Low participation rate
Drop-Off Events	Municipality provides a drop-off site where residents bring their food scraps at a specific date/time	Low cost Address seasonal scraps (pumpkins, Christmas trees) Decreased contamination if drop-off is supervised Resident engagement and education	Does not allow for all food scraps to be composted  May require additional communication with hauler for pickup outside of normal service route/schedule

# Seasonal Residential Ride-Along with Yard Waste

Adding wasted food to an existing yard waste program may be the quickest, easiest, and least expensive way to implement a new program. Because landscape waste is banned from Illinois landfills, haulers collect yard waste between April and November. Ride-along collection programs allow residents to include food scraps in their yard waste containers. Municipalities and haulers may allow residents to use biodegradable yard waste bags already being used or provide separate bins. Ride-along programs are popular because haulers can pick up the compostable material without needing to make changes to their existing residential routes. Because yard waste is not collected in the winter months, however, this type of food scrap collection cannot be offered year-round. For an add-on option, residents may be able to compost year-round by subscribing to a Bucket Exchange program during the months their hauler does not provide service.

Many Illinois communities offer seasonal residential ride-along to residents at no additional charge. While this may be an affordable option for the community, it will require collaboration with your hauler to determine what materials will be accepted and how to get residents to participate. Without a financial incentive for participation, this program will require greater education and engagement of residents. See **Appendix A: Illinois Municipal Composting Programs** for a list of all Illinois municipalities with food scrap composting services.

A number of Illinois municipalities offer seasonal ride-along programs as this can often be added as an option with no additional cost to municipality or residents.



Image: Mount Prospect Organics Recycling Guide

## Residential Year-Round Compost (Third Bin)

Municipalities may contract with haulers to provide residents with a compost bin year-round. Compost bins are usually slightly smaller than landfill and recycling bins due to the weight and composition of the compost. Municipalities will have to collaborate closely with haulers to establish a compost pick-up schedule that complements existing collection schedules. These programs may be more difficult to establish since it requires more of the hauler in organizing their trucks, pick-up schedules, and compost facility drop-offs.



Photo: Village of Oak Park

In 2017, residents in Highwood and Lake Bluff became the first residents in the state with year-round organics collection in a third cart as part of the base service. This is not an opt-in program; all residents are charged for the service and were provided a container to participate in Highwood.

- Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

## Bucket Exchange

There are a number of Illinois businesses that provide door-to-door pickup of food scraps and other compostable matter. Many offer a 5-gallon bucket to households and then weekly or biweekly pick up the food scraps to be taken to a commercial compost site. A clean bucket is left for the next pickup. Visit the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition website [illinoiscomposts.org/haulers-processors](http://illinoiscomposts.org/haulers-processors) for a list of service providers.

Collective Resource is the official compost partner of the City of Evanston. Through a program approved by the City, all of Evanston can take advantage of special low rates. Residents can keep composting all winter long. The Winter Gap Program covers the months that Evanston's Yard Cart service is suspended.

- Collective Resource



Photo: Collective Resource, Inc.

## Municipal Drop-Off

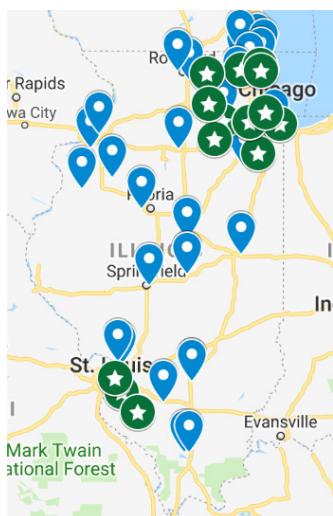


Image: IFSC

Food scrap drop-off sites provide residents with a place to bring their food scraps to be composted while providing an opportunity for education about the importance of food scrap composting, landfill diversion, and avoiding issues with compost contamination (plastic, glass, etc.).

Significant progress has been made in Illinois to facilitate collections of food scraps for composting. Illinois House Bill 437 – EPA Compost Drop Off was signed into law by Governor Rauner in July 2015 allowing temporary and permanent sites to collect organics for composting.

A number of municipalities now offer a food scraps drop-off location for their residents. This collection program requires the greatest degree of effort on behalf of residents because it requires them to collect and carry their compost to established drop-off locations. Residents collect food scraps in large yogurt containers or other covered plastic containers, paper bags, milk cartons or in commercially-available compost pails. They are responsible for ensuring only compostable materials are in their container

and need to wash and reuse the container as plastic cannot be added to the compost drop-off. Waste management companies, community gardens, farms, and farmers markets often accept food scrap drop-offs for compost. As a municipality, you can host a drop-off site or you can support your local markets and gardens in accepting food scrap drop-offs for compost.



Photo: Village of Grayslake

Starting May 1, 2016, the Village of Grayslake's Public Drop-Off Recycling Center began accepting food scraps, the first such year-round drop-off in the State. This is a FREE service to residents of Lake County.

- Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

For municipalities, however, organizing a drop-off location may be easier and more cost effective to coordinate with local haulers. The challenge for the municipality is to educate residents about why and how to compost successfully to gain participation and avoid contamination. Winter drop-off locations complement yard waste ride-along programs that do not pick up winter waste, allowing composting all year-round.

A map of Illinois EPA permitted composting facilities can be viewed on the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition website [illinoiscomposts.org/haulers-processors](http://illinoiscomposts.org/haulers-processors) and may be useful in locating the nearest existing compost drop off site. Always call ahead to coordinate a drop-off of organics with any facility or site.

## Drop-Off Events

Hosting a drop-off event has an environmentally positive impact on the local area and also serves as an opportunity for community engagement and education. Take the time to have conversations with neighbors on the

### 2018 Pumpkin Smash Impact

- 38 locations
- 90+ tons of pumpkins diverted from landfill
- 19,400+ gallons of freshwater rescue
- 65+ metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided

Last year's total pumpkins composted was exceeded in only an hour at Naperville's 2018 Pumpkin Smash at Ron Ory Community Garden Plots. For this second annual Pumpkin Smash, the Naperville Park District partnered with [SCARCE](#) (School & Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting) to give community members an opportunity to compost their Halloween pumpkins rather than send them to the landfill. Residents choosing to participate in the pumpkin smash helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create nutrient rich fertilizer for the Community Gardens.

- "Smashing Success at Naperville Pumpkin Collection Event." Daily Herald, Nov. 3, 2018.



Photo: Village of Bartlett Pumpkin Smash, SCARCE



Photo: Mount Prospect Pumpkin Smash, SCARCE

benefits of composting and other potential areas for getting involved in sustainability in the community.

In 2018, the fifth annual Pumpkin Smash offered residents 38 locations across Illinois where they could "green their Halloween" by composting pumpkins. Although this type of event does not require a permit, it does require approval from the city (or county if unincorporated).

For more information on pumpkin composting, check out the guide and tools that have been developed by SCARCE and can be adapted for specific locations ([SCARCE 2018 How to Host a Pumpkin Collection guide](#).)

# How Much Will Food Scrap Composting Cost?

In Illinois, costs or savings for hauling and tipping organic waste with food scraps will vary depending on the infrastructure in and near your community as well as the type of program you put in place. Most haulers in Illinois are moving slowly into food scrap collection but will respond if that is what their clients want. The type of compost program you implement impacts the cost as well.

Food scrap composting can be an added service with a fee, or it can be built into your existing hauling service for yard waste and, in some cases, incur no additional charge for the community or residents. Composting can range from a free ride-along with yard waste program that establishes composting in your community, to a program with a third bin and incentives for residents to participate and divert waste. No matter which program is selected, your municipality will need to ensure that these services are affordable both for the community and for the residents.

*The ride-along program is the easiest program to implement and "sell" to the village board/city council due to its very low to no cost. This can be a first step towards a year-round program.*

Food scrap separation for composting reduces the weight and volume of trash, and municipalities should receive a commensurate reduction in the cost of trash service. Waste haulers' services and how they charge a municipality tend to be volume-oriented, such as number of households, container size and the frequency of service. However, the fees a hauler pays to the landfill are calculated by weight. Food scraps are a heavy, but not bulky, portion of municipal waste. Separating food scraps will reduce the overall weight of waste but only have a small impact on the volume. Therefore, composting food scraps can decrease the landfill tipping fees your hauler pays but may require a contract amendment to change the volume-based trash services for your residents, or what you are charged for those services. In order to make sure that the cost savings from implementing a food scrap composting program are being passed on to your municipality, you need to have an informed negotiation of your waste hauling contract.

The following options can reduce landfill costs and help to offset the cost of the new compost service:

## OFFSETTING COST TO MUNICIPALITY

- **Decrease the frequency of landfill collection:** Some communities have implemented programs with weekly composting collection while at the same time reducing landfill collection to every other week. The saved cost on landfill service is used to offset the compost service. This is also intended to create an incentive for households to ensure food scraps get composted rather than landfilled. See [Portland, OR](#) as an example.
- **Hauler landfill savings offset compost service:** Determine the cost benefit to the hauler for reduced weight of landfill tipping and negotiate that those savings be used to offset compost costs.
- **Property taxes:** Use revenue collected through property taxes to offset the additional cost of compost service.
- **Fixed fees from households:** Residents are charged a fixed fee for landfill, recycling and compost service as a bundle. This fixed fee covers the municipal cost for hauling, regardless of participation.

## OFFSETTING COST TO RESIDENTS

- **Switch to smaller landfill containers:** Creates an incentive for residents to compost by providing a smaller landfill waste container. A smaller container will save hauling costs for residents due to less waste being picked up weekly.
- **Landfill savings:** Pass on savings from decreased landfill service to residents to offset the cost of compost service.
- **Pay-as-you-throw (PAYT):** Several municipalities have implemented programs to incentivize residents to throw away less by requiring them to pay based on the volume of landfill waste disposed. Pay-as-you-throw programs allow residents to save money by keeping organics out of the trash.

# What Can be Composted?

While some yard waste and food scraps can be recycled at home, either through backyard composting or animal feeding systems, home composting is not suitable for meat, dairy and oils. A much greater quantity of food scraps and food soiled paper can be composted with a municipal residential program. What can be composted depends on where the food scraps are being hauled. Some processing sites only accept pre-consumer fruit and vegetable scraps while others will accept meat, oil, dairy, and compostable products like paper or plant-based items. For more information on which food scraps can be composted, please see **Appendix B: Why and What of Food Scrap Composting**.

## 3. Is Your Municipality Ready?

Before a municipality launches into a composting program, it must analyze the current environment, paying close attention to resident and hauler willingness, landfill and organics tipping costs, and compost facility proximity and capacity.

Composting programs vary by community and are impacted by the available infrastructure. Urban areas allow access to a large volume of food scraps, which is good for haulers and processors. However, space may be limited, meaning food scraps need to be hauled a greater distance to a compost processor which adds to the cost. Rural areas offer space for compost processors but may not have enough participants in close proximity to establish a hauler route.

Following are a few key questions to determine if your municipality is ready for a composting program.

### What is the composition of your waste stream?

Estimate the expected volume and tonnage of compostable material as well as diversion rates from landfill. This data will help identify what changes need to be made to your hauler services. Get hauler data on the monthly weight of material being tipped at the landfill for your municipality. There are standards for the percent of municipal solid waste that is compostable and this can be used to determine what your opportunity will be to divert from landfill. See **Appendix C: Hauler Contracts** for information on how to assess your waste stream.

### Where is the nearest food scrap compost processing facility?

A nearby food scrap composting facility enhances a municipality's ability to implement a program by reducing potential transportation and communication barriers. Does the facility have the capacity to handle your municipality's waste? What materials are accepted by the facility? What rate of contamination is acceptable? Do these requirements align with the expectations for your municipality?

Composting for rural, small, and tribal communities provides challenges both in terms of infrastructure and economics. In some areas, program costs can be lowered through regional planning and collaboration between rural/small communities with regional entities like counties or solid waste districts. This might include regionally shared processing equipment or leases. Regional cooperation also provides the opportunity for collaboration with private industry to identify sites for the collection and/or processing of organics.

Visit the [Illinois Food Scrap Coalition website](#) for a list and map of Illinois EPA permitted composting facilities.

The economies of scale offered by regional collaboration can make siting a compost operation more attractive. Hauler incentives, such as a reduction in contract or franchise fees, revenue sharing opportunities, or an extended contract can help to promote hauler support of organics collection. These incentives are based on "performance metrics" such as the number of households signed-up for organics collection, tonnage diverted, etc.

-Bradley, Athena Lee. "Organic Materials Management & Composting for Rural, Small and Tribal Communities." Northeast Recycling Council, Inc, September 2014.

## Are neighboring municipalities composting food scraps?

Understanding what kinds of programs are supported nearby, if any, will help municipalities understand the scope and capacity of a program in their specific geographic area. Meeting with nearby municipal officials involved in a composting program can help identify potential opportunities and challenges.

## Does your municipality have a framework or strategy for sustainability and waste diversion?

A food scrap composting program can be a significant step toward achieving existing sustainability goals while engaging the community. If your municipality does not have a plan with waste disposal efficiency and sustainability goals, establishing these goals will help municipalities understand why they should start a composting program and what they hope to achieve with one.

It can also help to communicate with and engage residents. If residents support waste reduction/sustainability/conservation goals, and see how food scrap composting can be a piece of the solution, they are more likely to participate.

## What are your current and expected costs for hauling trash, recycling, and organics?

Perhaps one of the most important questions to ask is how much will food scrap composting cost your municipality and your residents. The answer to this lies in looking at your current cost for hauling trash to the landfill and recycling, as well as what composting options and infrastructure are available nearby. What are your landfill costs per ton? How do these costs compare to neighboring municipalities? Are they rising or likely to rise? What might costs be for hauling organics be? How do they compare to landfill costs?

### GETTING STARTED

1. Identifying short and long term goals for your program related to waste diversion, cost effectiveness, and participation goals (number or percentage of participating households).
2. Determining what metrics the hauler can provide on landfill, recycling and yard waste collection.
3. Instituting sustainability and landfill diversion goals in a long-term strategic plan, which may borrow from or support language in county-level strategic plans.



Photo: SWALCO

# Grow a Program: Planning and Engagement



## IN THIS SECTION

1. Partners
2. Educate & Engage
3. Using Compost
4. Challenges & Solutions

## 1. Partners

For many Illinois municipalities, there are already partners in place to make food scrap composting an easy addition to existing waste, recycling and yard waste/organsics programs. In others, these relationships need to be established. Many programs have been successful when partnering with local nonprofits or pursuing state and county grants. These partnerships launch pilot programs, increase composting participation throughout the community, incentivize involvement, and educate the public via campaigns.

Illinois law has banned yard waste from landfills since 1990, and this has led to the development of infrastructure for both composting and hauling organics. Until recently, these facilities only processed yard waste. Many have now expanded to accept and process food scraps as well. This section will look at some of the key partners for a municipality exploring food scrap composting.

## Compost Processor

In many parts of the country, composting facilities are permitted to receive yard waste but not food scraps or other compostables. Illinois has state policy allowing permitted compost processors to add food scraps to yard waste within certain limits. These limits were reduced in 2009, allowing permitted composting facilities to add up to 10 percent food scraps to the yard trimmings they process without needing additional permitting. As of 2019, the majority of the 50 IEPA permitted compost processors only accept yard waste, but a growing number are allowing food scraps as well (fewer than 15).<sup>3</sup>

Work with your hauler to identify a compost processor that:

- is permitted to handle yard waste and accepts food scraps,
- has the capacity to accept what is generated by your community, and
- is located relatively close to avoid increased costs of hauling a greater distance.



Photo: Compost Supply

Banner photos: Seven Generations Ahead

<sup>3</sup> "Compost Facilities." <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/permitted-facilities/Pages/compost-facilities.aspx>. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.



Many city officials cite the availability of a facility as the single most important factor in determining the feasibility of a composting program.<sup>4</sup>

Local government can facilitate the growth of a composting program by streamlining the permitting and siting procedures for processing facilities.

Photo: The Daily Herald

## Hauler

The cooperation of haulers is vital to a successful curbside collection program. In order to get your hauler on board, it is important to communicate the efficiency of collection routes. Although tonnage collected may increase, distance traveled will likely decrease.<sup>5</sup> Communities already offering the collection of yard waste may only need their hauler to make minor modifications to their routes, trucks, and bins to add food scraps to their organic waste stream.



When can you talk to your hauler about composting? Any time!

- When your contract comes up for renewal
- In the middle of your contract
- When going out to bid

Reach out to your hauler to discuss the possibility of implementing a composting program. Does this fall in your existing contract? Do they offer the service?

Photo: St. Louis Composting

Extending hauler contracts is a powerful tool communities can use to get composting implemented in their area. Contractors are more willing to provide alternative diversion services that extend contracts because they do not want to waste time and resources participating in competitive procurement and risk losing the contract all together. On average, the proposal process can cost a hauler \$50,000-100,000 and cost local governments between \$100,000-200,000.<sup>6</sup>



Photo: Chicago Tribune (Oak Park composting program)

## 2. Educate and Engage

Attracting and engaging residents is an important step to ensuring that municipal programs are effective and valued

<sup>4</sup> Layzer, Judith A. and Schulman, Alexis. 2014. "Municipal Curbside Compostables Collection: What Works and Why?" Work product of the Urban Sustainability Assessment (USA) Project, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

<sup>5</sup> ibid.

<sup>6</sup> "Contracting and Best Practices: Incentives and Penalties." <https://www.epa.gov/transforming-waste-tool/contracting-best-practices-incentives-and-penalties>. Environmental Protection Agency.

Requesting a quote well in advance is a good first step toward collaboration on a new program. Establishing the feasibility and potential costs of the program should include discussing nearby facilities, incremental costs the hauler might incur, routes and route density, timeframes, and communication strategies.

- Though discussion with the hauler may involve several rounds of offers and counteroffers, it is essential that municipalities match expected municipal program costs with any incremental costs the hauler expects to incur using provided data and calculations. Municipalities should ask: "If a program is expected to cost more, by how much and why?"
- Working directly with nearby compost facilities in addition to the hauler is important in ensuring acceptable material, capacity, and pricing schemes align with municipal expectations.
- Municipalities must also prepare to weigh their relationship with the hauler if negotiations begin to collapse. For example: Are all parties involved content if a 20-year partnership is discontinued? Is the hauler prepared to lose a large client due to a request to pick up organic material?

If your current hauler does not demonstrate a willingness to implement the program, another option is to request bids from other haulers. When drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP), municipalities should include language that establishes a need for both landscape and food scrap composting. Add the specific food scrap options you want into the RFP, and get quotes on several programs to provide options to your board. Best practice encourages holding pre-bid meetings so all parties best understand the RFP, municipal expectations, and competition level. After a hauler has been selected, make sure to write options/costs into the contract, even if food scrap composting will not be implemented until later during the contract term. For more information on hauler RFP language, contract pricing, negotiation and contract language, please see **Appendix C: Hauler Contracts**.

The municipal decision to re-negotiate an extension or go out to bid provides key leverage to add food scrap programming. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO UPGRADE THE SERVICES. Each Lake County food scrap program has been the result of an extension or RFP.

- Walter Willis, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

## Partner Agency or Organization

Working with a partner agency or organization can provide key support in negotiating and implementing a residential composting program. A valuable partner or contact may be someone who regularly works closely with waste disposal, city services contracts, haulers, or compost facilities. Examples might include a county sustainability or waste services official, city sustainability or waste services official, solid waste agency official, or a local nonprofit. The first place to look for potential local partners is the [Illinois Food Scrap Coalition](#) website that includes member lists, maps and more.



in the community. Ongoing outreach will increase the likelihood that residents are aware of the program, willing to participate, and minimize compost contamination. Education should focus on engaging participation AND making sure that the separated food scraps are free of trash and contaminants.

According to the Institute for Local Self Reliance's 30 years of studying model programs, conditions that generate the most successful programs are:

- Ensure participant convenience by providing bins and frequent collection.
- Education and outreach for participants to teach the benefits, acceptable items, and proper sorting.
- Allowing a broad range of materials to be collection such as year-round yard waste, all types of food scraps, and food-soiled paper.
- Eliminating contamination by banning polystyrene from food services and requiring reusable, recyclable or compostable items.
- Implement pay-as-you-throw fees so there is an economic incentive to decrease waste and participate in recycling and composting programs.<sup>7</sup>

Whether food scraps are dropped off or picked up, residents need education on how to source separate as well as how to store organics until collection. The proper separation of organics is crucial to prevent contaminating the entire bin of material. And storage and handling of food scraps can present a challenge if residents don't know some of the ways to avoid common problems (see The "Yuck Factor" on page 20). This can happen using handouts, workshops, one-on-one education, listservs, or signs.



Photo: Seven Generations Ahead

## Outreach Strategies

Community education and engagement strategies involve a variety of platforms across a timeline from program planning and engagement to implementation to sustaining a program. Please see **Appendix D: Resident Education Materials** for samples from Illinois municipalities.

### ENGAGING PARTICIPANTS

- Composting one-pager or sign up flyer
- Brochures, flyers, posters, pamphlets, door tags, bin tags, newsletters, or municipal bill inserts
- Online and in-person form for signing up for composting
- A school or district hosted contest for program graphics, logos, or messages
- Volunteers share door-to-door information (eg., block captains)

### EDUCATION MATERIALS

- Composting 101 one-pager
- Links to food scrap composting guides
- Videos detailing program information, standards, and other resources

<sup>7</sup> Platt, Brenda, Goldstein, Nora, Coker, Craig. "State of Composting in the U.S.: What, Where, Why and How". Institute for Local Self-Reliance, July 2014.

## PROGRAM LAUNCH COMMUNICATION

- Press statement
- Municipal website post and blog: highlight the program on main or front webpages
- Social media platforms
- Local radio shows or television
- Local newspapers for coverage in an article, letters to the editor, or print ads
- Banners on or near busy streets and intersections, local government buildings, or public transit

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

- Community meetings
- Schools educate students through “Zero Waste Day” or “Composting Day” events in which students and parents can learn about the program through presentations, activities, and flyers
- Local organizations (scouts, nonprofits, faith-based institutions, etc)
- Share information through farmers markets and community gardens
- Zero Waste Events provide an opportunity to educate residents on how to successfully sort materials for composting and recycling and can make residents aware that food scrap composting is available

Running a successful zero waste event takes careful planning to ensure you have clear and simple sorting stations and signage, trained volunteers, and a plan in place both for the event and for event clean-up and hauling.

There are a number of Illinois organizations that support zero waste events, whether you need guidance from nonprofits (SGA, SCARCE, ISTC) or you want on-the-ground support from a business like Bright Beat. You can find these organizations and more, through the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition’s website.



Photo: Seven Generations Ahead

## ONGOING ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- Monthly newsletter for program participants
- Number to call for questions or problems
- Email listserv for program participants
- Include highlights in municipal newsletter to encourage participation

Regardless of the outreach strategy, municipalities should establish long-term communication plans to improve awareness of and participation in the program, especially as residents move in and out of the area from year to year. Regularly communicating the benefits and impacts of the food scrap composting program to residents and decision-makers will help your program succeed and continue.

## CALCULATE YOUR SUCCESS

Important indicators that municipalities may want to track include: resident participation, landfill diversion weight and/or volume, contamination types and rates, municipal and resident costs and savings, job and market growth, environmental benefits (GHE, etc), and use of finished compost in your community. Highlighting successes can help gain support for future changes.

# Universal Messaging

All messaging should be consistent, encouraging, informative and concise.

## Naming Your Program

Brand the program with a slogan or tagline that residents will remember and will improve awareness and ease of communication. Some existing taglines include:

- ["Our home. Our city. Our planet"](#), San Francisco, CA
- ["There's a New Bin in Town!"](#), Cambridge, MA
- ["Charleston County Compost"](#), Charleston, SC
- ["Recycle Something"](#), Fayetteville, AR
- ["Project Oscar"](#), Boston, MA



Working with your haulers and compost processors to create materials with input and logos from these partners will best ensure accuracy and consistency.



Photo: Seven Generations Ahead

## Color-Coding

Choose a consistent and logical color scheme that residents will associate with sustainability. One common color scheme is to associate composting with green, recycling with blue, and landfill with black or gray. Color coding should be consistent on all education materials, signs, etc.

Haulers may have their own bin colors, so it's important to work with them in choosing a marketing color scheme. You may not be able to pick the color of the bin, but may be able to pick the color of the lid.

## Accessibility

Create bilingual or multilingual variations of material to accommodate language barriers and ensure that messages are communicated clearly to residents of diverse backgrounds. Use both print and online mediums to reach residents with varying access to the internet.

## Graphics

Promotional material should rely heavily on simple graphics that can explain a concept without requiring residents to read lengthy text. For families that speak multiple languages, graphics are especially important for easily communicating the program.

## Wording

Be intentional about the words used in promotional material.

Encourage residents to think about what is being discarded and where that material ends up. Consider using "wasted food" or "food scraps" instead of "food waste", as well as "landfill" instead of "trash" or "garbage".



Photos: SWALCO

Messages should also target common misconceptions or perceived challenges to composting to ease residents' concerns like the "yuck" factor or costs.

See **Appendix D: Resident Education Materials** for more sample material.

## 3. Using Compost

State and local government agencies can play a vital role in increasing demand for finished compost and mulch.

### Compost Specifications

It is important to inquire with local suppliers before you write up compost specifications for purchases. Then, based on the information they provide, you may adjust your specification to tailor your needs. When considering the physical or chemical properties to include in your specification, you must have your end use in mind. These properties will depend on the compost end use. It is vital to keep things simple and only specify a characteristic if it impacts your intended use. Some suppliers will provide recommended end-use rates and information, based on essential characteristics, to add to your specification and aid in the right end use decisions.

#### TYPICAL USES FOR COMPOST

Slow release fertilizer

Turf grass top dressing

Landscape mulch

Soil amendment (to build organic matter)

Mulch for erosion control

Mulch for dust control

-Calrecycle

Municipalities are encouraged to request pricing for compost-amended soil on any projects in need of landscaping. This will help to create a demand for finished compost and provide a beneficial use for the compost created from your food scraps and yard waste. Switching to compost-amended soil is a way to improve the quality of soil, better retain water and get the most out of municipal landscaping.

**Mulch:** While there is currently no statutory or regulatory definition for mulch, it is commonly defined as a soil covering used to control weeds or erosion; retain moisture in soil; and insulate soil from cold weather. It is also used for aesthetic purposes. Organic materials commonly used for mulch include wood chips, ground up landscape trimmings, shredded bark, coarse compost material, straw, and shredded paper. Non-organic materials include crushed concrete and brick, stones and gravel, lava rock, and plastic film.

**Compost:** California statute (Public Resources Code, Section 42231) defines compost as the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic wastes that are source separated from the municipal solid waste stream. Compost feedstock materials include yard and landscape trimmings, agricultural crop residues, paper pulp, food scraps, wood chips, manure, and biosolids. Compost is used for enhancing soil structure and building organic matter content; adding nutrients to soil; controlling weeds and dust; and retaining moisture in soil.

- "Procurement Specifications." <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/products/cmspecs/guide>. Calrecycle, June 21, 2019

The U.S. Composting Council website provides a fact sheet, [Compost and Its Benefits](#), summarizing the many physical, chemical, and biological benefits of compost.



Photo: Seven Generations Ahead

The Compost-Amended Soil Construction Act, which was passed in August 2018, requires all State agencies involved in a construction project utilizing soil within a 20-mile radius of an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency compost facility to request a bid from the facility for their project's compost-amended soil. This allows construction companies to incorporate sustainability into their project plans and practice a circular economy by using composted materials rather than new soil.

With IEPA compost facilities scattered across Illinois, municipalities can seamlessly follow suit in requesting a separate bid for compost-amended soil on any projects in need of landscaping. This will close the loop by using the composted material of food and yard waste. Switching to compost-amended soil is a simple way to get the most out of your landscape. There is [a list of IEPA certified compost facilities in Illinois](#), which can be used to identify and contact facilities in your area. Finished compost varies from processor to processor.

As mentioned earlier, compost-amended soil has many benefits when used. Especially when dealing with soil damaged by human development. By switching to this type of soil in your community, it can improve water conservation, reduce nonpoint source pollution, and promote healthier plant life. By implementing composted materials into your city's landscapes, it will improve soil quality and reduce associated maintenance issues and costs.<sup>9</sup>

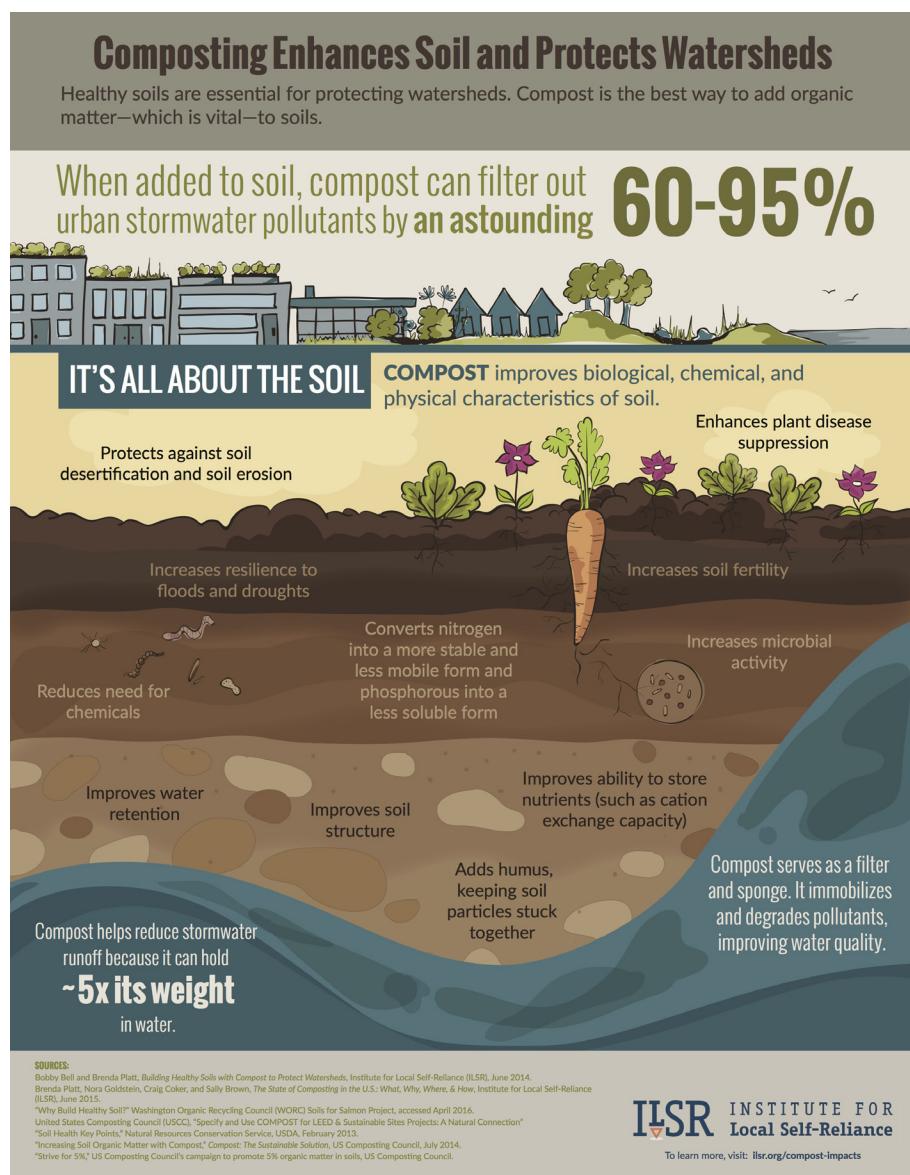


Image: Institute for Local Self-Reliance

<sup>8</sup> IL 100th General Assembly. "Compost-Amended Soil Construction Act ." IL HB4790. <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB4790/2017>.

<sup>9</sup> "Compost Amended Soil Requirements." <https://ilsr.org/rule/compost-amended-soil/>. Institute for Local Self-Reliance.

## 4. Challenges and Solutions

### The “Yuck” Factor

**Challenge:** Residents’ concerns over the smell and potential vermin associated with composting is one common challenge. During the high temperatures of the summer months, bins of organic waste may smell or attract flies and vermin.

**Solution:** Municipalities must address these concerns in their outreach efforts since fearful residents may drastically reduce diversion rates. Messaging about combating this “yuck” factor should highlight that residents are throwing away the same materials as before and just simply separating them into two bins now.

Some tips that municipalities might consider including in their education campaigns:

- Line the container with paper products such as newspapers, paper towels, or paper bags to absorb moisture and odor.
- Mix yard waste and paper products with food scraps to absorb moisture and odor.
- Keep compost containers out of direct sun and in cooler places such as the garage.
- Use a bin that locks shut, or place a heavy object on the lid to prevent animals from getting inside.
- Rinse the containers frequently to avoid mold and other hardened material on the container.



Photo: Seven Generations Ahead

Eco-Cycle created a [simple and useful guide](#) that explains how residents can avoid the “yuck” factor while composting. This guide is a great resource that could be adapted to fit specific municipal standards or simply distributed across municipal media platforms.

**Benefit to your municipality:** Not only does composting improve your soil quality, water retention, and reduce your need for pesticides, but it also creates local jobs. Composting generates and maintains more jobs than landfilling your waste. Composting also creates an end product that is one of value rather than waste, which creates even more job opportunities. By implementing composting in your community, you can ultimately increase local job opportunities by up to four times!<sup>10</sup>

### Contamination

**Challenge:** Contamination can send an entire bin of compost-bound scraps to the landfill. When there is contamination in your compost bin, facilities will not and cannot accept it.

**Solution:** Educating the public on how to thoroughly separate their garbage is extremely important to minimize contamination. Residents may not understand what can and cannot be composted, which will lead to continual contamination. Education on what to compost, and why it is being implemented by their municipality, can be provided to residents through workshops, manuals, and online resources. It is vital to ensure these resources are easily accessible to residents and that residents are aware of their existence.



Photo: Seven Generations Ahead

<sup>10</sup> "The State of Composting in the US." <https://www.biocycle.net/2014/07/16/state-of-composting-in-the-u-s/>

Unfortunately, it only takes a small amount of these items to cause an entire load to be rejected. Common items to cause rejection are non-compostable plastics and glass. However, the items accepted by your compost facility can vary, so it is vital to understand what can and cannot go in your compost bin.

**Benefit to your municipality:** If your municipality is also dealing with high amounts of food contamination in your recycling stream, composting can help decrease this contamination and create a two-in-one solution. When educating the public on what to compost, it may be helpful to reiterate what can and cannot be recycled.

## Cost

**Challenge:** Due to the absence of demand for composting, there is a lack of infrastructure for hauling and processing compostable materials. This need for infrastructure can lead to an increased cost in transportation for municipalities and pose a problem to implementing a composting program.

**Solution:** In order to maximize your composting program, your municipality can map out the most efficient food scrap composting infrastructure to cut down time and resources. Lastly, composting will reduce how much landfill your haulers will pick up. Therefore, the price of landfill will decrease which can create a pricing balance when adding a composting program.

**Benefit to your municipality:** Many municipalities have shifted to composting due to the issue of running out of landfill space leading to an increase in landfill costs. The MSW tipping fee is estimated to increase 6% by 2021, which will lead to a sky rocket in hauling prices.<sup>11</sup> By shifting to composting, your municipality can be ahead of these price increases and reap the benefits of a growing compost industry.



Photo: Seven Generations Ahead

## Seasonal Infrastructure

**Challenge:** Preventing odors requires a proper ratio of 25 parts carbon to one part nitrogen.<sup>12</sup> Carbon material is derived from leaves and wood material found in yard waste, while nitrogen comes from the wasted food. In order to best control the odor and moisture of compost, collecting yard waste and wasted food together is preferred. However, in certain areas and climates, like New England, yard waste is not picked up year-round.

Therefore, a challenge is created due to the seasonal change in organic material collected requiring a vigorous and flexible hauling infrastructure. Cities that only offer seasonal yard waste collection will need a considerable shift in routes, frequency of collection, and an addition of bins and trucks.



Photo: Seven Generations Ahead

**Solution:** Many cities have overcome these challenges using creativity. For instance, you can reduce the frequency of recycling pickup to account for weekly organic collection.

<sup>11</sup> Thompson, James, Watson, Rob, Galantino, Christopher, Weiler, Christina. "No End in Sight to US Landfill Cost Increases - Pacific Region to Experience Highest Growth." SWEEP (Solid Waste Environmental Excellence Protocol), June 13, 2018.

<sup>12</sup> "The Carbon:Nitrogen Ratio (C:N)." Home Composting Made Easy.

US and Illinois Composting Opportunities and Challenges			
	Urban	Suburban	Rural
<b>Composting Opportunities</b>	Concentrated population - can use either drop-off or pick-up model Investment potential for compost infrastructure Institutions can add to the volume of food scraps	Concentrated population - can use either drop-off or pick-up model Better developed infrastructure Investment potential for compost facility	Existing farm-based composting Agriculture market for compost-amended soil Investment potential for compost facility
<b>Composting Challenges</b>	Greater distance to compost facilities that can handle large volume Incorporating multifamily and high-rise buildings Lack of understanding and participation Lack of city leadership support Contamination of food scraps Composting often more expensive than landfill	Incorporating multifamily and high-rise buildings Hauler resistance Lack of understanding and participation Lack of municipal leadership support Contamination of food scraps Composting often more expensive than landfill	Population spread out over large geographic area - drop-off model, not pick-up Lack of understanding and participation Lack of town and county leadership support Contamination of food scraps Composting often more expensive than landfill

## Policy

**Challenge:** There are many Illinois laws that encourage infrastructure and resource development, fostering growth in the composting industry. However, policy challenges still exist and are being addressed by organizations like the Illinois Environmental Council and the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition. For example, while yard waste is banned from landfills, there are few opportunities to compost other organic material, like food scraps, which are estimated to account for nearly 20% of Illinois' waste stream.

**Solution:** Continued efforts to identify policy needs to support food scrap composting. State, county and municipal facilities should lead the way on recycling, composting, waste reduction, and diversion, and coordinate increased purchasing of compost for projects.

To learn more about composting policy in Illinois, please see **Appendix E: Federal & State Composting Policy**.

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## Appendices

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| Appendix B | <a href="#"><u>Food Scrap Composting</u></a>               |
| Appendix C | <a href="#"><u>Hauler Contracts</u></a>                    |
| Appendix D | <a href="#"><u>Resident Education Materials</u></a>        |
| Appendix E | <a href="#"><u>Federal and State Composting Policy</u></a> |
| Appendix F | <a href="#"><u>Case Studies</u></a>                        |
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# Appendix A: Illinois Municipal Composting Programs

As of April 2019, below is a list of select municipalities with available residential curbside food scrap composting programs, according to their respective websites. Click on the County to jump to that section:

[Cook County](#)   [DeKalb County](#)   [DuPage County](#)   [Kane County](#)   [Kendall County](#)   [Lake County](#)

To add programs to this list, please contact the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition at [illinoiscomposts@gmail.com](mailto:illinoiscomposts@gmail.com)

## Cook County

### [Arlington Heights](#)

*Type of Program:*  Seasonal (April to mid-December)       Year-round       Bucket Exchange       Municipal Drop-off  
*Hauler:* Groot  
*Acceptable Items:* Residents are limited to fruits, vegetables, grains, non-liquid dairy, coffee and tea grounds  
*Cost to Residents:*  No Cost       Subscription (opt-in)       Embedded in Garbage Fees  
The cost for using a 95-gallon cart is \$172.19 per season. The cost for using a 65-gallon car is \$156.54 per season.

### [Barrington](#)

*Type of Program:*  Seasonal (March to mid-December)       Year-round       Bucket Exchange       Municipal Drop-off  
*Hauler:* Groot  
*Acceptable Items:* Residents are limited to fruits, vegetables, grains, non-liquid dairy, coffee and tea grounds  
*Cost to Residents:*  No Cost       Subscription (opt-in)       Embedded in Garbage Fees

## Evanston

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Collective Resource			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits, vegetables, leftovers/kitchen scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meat, poultry, seafood, shells, bones, dairy, eggs (no liquids), paper products, paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes.			
	For an extensive list look at <a href="#">What to Compost with Commercial Composting</a>			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Option 1: Seasonal ride along, subscription based \$82.50 one time fee or \$25/year			
	Option 2: Year-round bucket exchange targeting businesses and commercial properties with Collective Resource. Five gallon bucket or 32 gallon cart, additional fees not paid for by the city . Weekly pickup, one bucket: Monthly \$27, Quarterly \$78, Annually \$302.50 Biweekly pickup, one bucket: Monthly \$20.50, Quarterly \$58.50, Annually \$227			
	Residents receive a discounted rate for service from Collective Resource			

## Elmwood Park

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Systems			
Acceptable Items:	Bread, cereal, coffee grounds, dairy, egg shells, eggs, fruits, grains, pasta, shells, and vegetables			
Cost to Residents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	

## Glencoe

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Systems			
Acceptable Items:	Bread, cereal, coffee grounds, dairy, egg shells, eggs, fruits, grains, pasta, shells, and vegetables			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Option 1: Residents can purchase stickers for \$2.25 that can be fixed to each biodegradable yard waste bag or bin			
	Option 2: Residents can enroll in a subscription service. Compost containers can be purchased at local hardware store or rented from LRS for \$3 per container per month			

## Glenview

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal(April - December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Groot			
Acceptable Items:	Grass clippings, leaves, twigs, garden debris, weeds, fruits, seeds, stalks, vines are acceptable landscape items			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in) <input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	Residents must pay a subscription fee of \$149.09. With the subscription, they can set out up to 4 biodegradable yard waste bags without stickers. Each bag beyond that must have a yard waste sticker, which can be purchased for \$3.08. Residents may also choose to rent a 95-gallon cart from Groot for \$8.00 per season.		

## LaGrange Park

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal(April - December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Services			
Acceptable Items:	Bread, cereal, coffee grounds, dairy, egg shells, eggs, fruits, grains, pasta, shells, and vegetables			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	Residents can purchase yard waste stickers for \$3.00. They may also purchase an optional 95-gallon cart for \$20.00 per month during collection season		

## Mount Prospect

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Republic Services			
Acceptable Items:	Grass clippings, brush, flowers, leaves, fruits and vegetables, pasta, meat (no bone), breads, crackers, cereals, dairy – cheese, yogurt (no liquids), coffee grounds			
Cost to Residents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Cost <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in) <input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	Optional yard waste cart rental with a monthly fee of approximately \$3.50		

## Oak Park

Type of Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Waste Management			
Acceptable Items:	Grass clippings, garden vegetation, leaves, brush; food scraps , including meat, bread, vegetables, table scraps, dairy, coffee grounds and pasta; unsoiled or food-soiled paper products, such as paper towels, paper bags, pizza boxes, napkins, paper cups, newspapers and food packaging; compostable plastic bags that meet ASTM 6400 or ASTM 6868 standards			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	\$14.85 per month			

## Park Ridge

Type of Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Go Green Park Ridge promotes Collective Resource as the vendor, as a subscription			
Acceptable Items:	Collective Resource			
	Fruits, vegetables, leftovers/kitchen scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meat, poultry, seafood, shells, bones, dairy, eggs (no liquids), paper products, paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes.			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	For an extensive list look at <a href="#">What to Compost with Commercial Composting</a>			
	5-gallon bucket is either \$10.50 once a week or \$15.50 bi-weekly			

## River Forest

Type of Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Roy Strom Refuse Removal Service			
Acceptable Items:	Grass clippings, garden vegetation, leaves, brush; food scraps , including meat, bread, vegetables, table scraps, dairy, coffee grounds and pasta; unsoiled or food-soiled paper products, such as paper towels, paper bags, pizza boxes, napkins, paper cups, newspapers and food packaging; compostable plastic bags that meet ASTM 6400 or ASTM 6868 standards			
Cost to Residents :	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	\$19.33 per month for a one year contract			

## Wilmet

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Advanced Disposal			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits and vegetables, dairy (no liquids), eggs and eggshells, bread, grains, cereals, pasta, teabags, and coffee grounds and filters. Shredded paper and shredded cardboard egg cartons are also acceptable			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Yard waste sticker(s) must be affixed to the lid of your cart for each collection. The 96-gallon carts will require 3 stickers, and the 35-gallon carts will require 1 sticker per collection. Yard waste stickers cost \$2.25 each.			

## Worth

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling			
Acceptable Items:	Bread, cereal, coffee grounds, dairy, egg shells, eggs, fruits, grains, pasta, shells, and vegetables			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Residents may choose to purchase a yard waste cart for \$3.00 per month			

## Riverside Pilot

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Flood Brothers Disposal/ Recycling Services			
Accepted Items:	Fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, poultry and fish scraps (including bones), cheese and dairy scraps, all solid food leftovers, bread, pasta and grains, eggshells and nutshells, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, food Soiled Paper, paper towels and napkins, paper food wrap, greasy pizza boxes, food-soiled cardboard (remove plastic or aluminum), paper grocery bags containing food scraps, uncoated paper plates and cups, yard waste, leaves, grass and weeds, plant trimmings, branches, house plants / flower bouquets (discard plastic container)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	\$17.00 per month			

## DeKalb County

### DeKalb

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Services			
Acceptable Items:	Bread, cereal, coffee grounds, dairy, egg shells, eggs, fruits, grains, pasta, shells, vegetables			
Cost to Residents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Collection is free if residents place organic wastes in biodegradable waste bags under 32-gallons or 50lbs. Residents may also choose to purchase a yard waste bin. A 65-gallon yard waste cart costs \$3.00 per month during the yard waste collection season. A 95-gallon yard waste cart costs \$5.00 per month during the yard waste collection season.			

## DuPage County

### Carol Stream

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Flood Brothers Disposal & Recycling Systems Co			
Acceptable Items:	Grass clippings, leaves, branches, brush trimmings, garden trimmings, vines, garden plants, flowers, weeds, tree droppings (pine cones, ornamental fruit) and other types of organic waste from the cultivation of a lawn, vegetable or flower garden, trees and shrubbery			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Yard waste stickers: \$2.20			

### Downers Grove

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Republic Services			
Acceptable Items:	Standard yard waste materials, fruits, vegetables, pastas, breads, crackers, cereals, meat (NO BONES), cheese and yogurt			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Monthly fees: \$17.69 for a 35-gallon cart, \$20.12 for a 65-gallon cart, and \$26.34 for a 95-gallon cart. Note: prices are scheduled to increase by a few cents each year. Click <a href="#">here</a> for specific prices.			

## Elmhurst

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Republic Services			
Acceptable Items:	Grass clippings, brush, flowers, leaves, fruits, vegetables, pasta, meat (no bones), breads, crackers, cereals, egg shells, dairy-- cheese, yogurt (no liquids), paper bags			
Cost to Residents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Optional to rent an organics tote for \$17.50 per month			

## Glen Ellyn

Type of Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Groot			
Acceptable Items:	Grass clippings, leaves, brush, food scraps, bread, vegetables, table scraps, dairy, coffee grounds and pasta			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Monthly cost: \$10.86 for a 35-gallon container, \$12.64 for a 65-gallon, and \$15.73 for a 95-gallo			

## Lisle

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (March to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Systems			
Accepted Items:	Bread, cereal, coffee grounds, dairy, egg shells, eggs, fruits, grains, pasta, shells, and vegetables			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Option 1: Yard waste stickers - \$3 dollars for each acceptable biodegradable bag or container			
	Option 2: Subscription cart program - 65-gallon cart: \$125/year; 95-gallon cart: \$150/year			

## Lombard

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Waste Management			
Accepted Items:	Fruits, vegetables, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, nut shells, shredded newspaper, cardboard, paper, yard trimmings, grass clippings, houseplants, hay and straw, leaves, sawdust, wood chips, cotton and wool rags, dryer and vacuum cleaner lint, hair and fur, fireplace ashes			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Annual subscription fee of \$120.96			

## Naperville

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (March to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Groot			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits, vegetables, bread, grains, pasta, cereal, dairy (no liquids), coffee grounds & tea leaves			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	Food scrap composting is only available to those who subscribe to the 95-gallon yard-waste cart program. The fee is \$225.00 per year

## Wheaton

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Systems			
Acceptable Items:	Floral trimmings, tree trimmings, leaves, grass, brush, weeds, fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, shellfish, bones, rice, beans, pasta, bread, baked goods, grains, cheese, eggshells, napkins, paper towels, paper plates, pizza boxes, food-contaminated paper (example: fast-food paper bags), paper milk cartons, tea bags, coffee grounds/filters			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	One biodegradable yard waste bag/container sticker: \$2.81

## **Kane County**

### Batavia

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (March to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Advanced Disposal			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits & vegetables including unpainted holiday pumpkins; breads, grains, pasta & cereal; dairy & eggs including egg shells, but no liquids; coffee grounds, filters & teabags (no meat, poultry, seafood, bones)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	Yard waste stickers for yard waste bags cost \$3 each; yard waste cart has a subscription cost of \$30-32/month

## Elburn

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April - December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Systems			
Acceptable Items:	Bread, cereal, coffee grounds, dairy, egg shells, eggs, fruits, grains, pasta, shells, and vegetables.			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Collection is free if residents place organic wastes in biodegradable waste bags under 32-gallons or 50lbs. Residents may also choose to purchase a yard waste bin. A 65-gallon yard waste cart costs \$3.00 per month during the yard waste collection season. A 95-gallon yard waste cart costs \$5.00 per month during the yard waste collection season.			

## Geneva

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (March to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Systems			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits, vegetables, halloween pumpkins, dairy, eggs (including shells but no liquids), breads, grains, pasta, cereal, coffee grounds and filters, teabags, paper products, including paper towels, napkins and tissues (no meat, poultry, seafood, bones)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Stickers for yard waste bags cost \$3 each; yard waste cart has a subscription cost of \$25-30/month			

## Kaneville Township

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (June to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	DC Recycling Services - Lakeshore Recycling Systems			
Acceptable Items:	Bread, cereal, coffee grounds, dairy, egg shells, eggs, fruits, grains, pasta, shells, and vegetables			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Residents must subscribe to the yard waste collection program for \$220.00 per season			

## Mill Creek

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Advanced Disposal			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits & vegetables including unpainted holiday pumpkins; breads, grains, pasta & cereal; dairy & eggs including egg shells, but no liquids; coffee grounds, filters & teabags (no meat, poultry, seafood, bones)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Residents must be enrolled in the 3 cart (trash, recycling, yard waste) program to participate in food scrap composting. The three cart program costs \$23.07			

## Kendall County

### Oswego

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Groot			
Acceptable Items:	Residents are limited to fruits, vegetables, grains, non-liquid dairy, coffee and tea grounds			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Residents must subscribe to the 95-gallon yard waste bin to participate in food scrap composting. The program is \$120.00 per season			

## Lake County

### Bannockburn

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Systems			
Acceptable Items:	Foods and plants, meat, bread, fish, vegetables, table scraps, egg shells, pastas, coffee grounds, filters, tea bags, papers			
Cost to Residents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	

### City of McHenry

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Free drop-off of food scraps at Prairieland Lake Barrington facility at 21N988 Pepper Rd for all City of McHenry residents			
Acceptable Items:	Prairieland Disposal & Recycling Services			
	Pet waste, fruits and vegetables, leftovers, kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meats, poultry, seafood, bones, dairy, eggs, plants and greens			
Cost to Residents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	

## Crystal Lake

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to December)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Free drop-off of food scraps at Prairieland Lake Barrington facility at 21N988 Pepper Rd			
Acceptable Items:	Prairieland Disposal & Recycling Services			
Cost to Residents:	Pet waste, fruits and vegetables, leftovers, kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meats, poultry, seafood, bones, dairy, eggs, plants and greens			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	

## Deer Park

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Groot			
Acceptable Items:	Grass clippings, leaves, twigs, garden debris, weeds, fruits, vegetables, seeds, stalks, vines, wasted food (no paper goods or non perishable items)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees \$3.15 per yard waste sticker			

## Fox Lake

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Waste Management			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits, vegetables (includes unpainted holiday pumpkins), leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filters), breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones), dairy, eggs (including shells; no liquids), paper products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)			
Cost to Residents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Cost <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in) <input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees			

## Grayslake

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Waste Management			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits, vegetables (includes unpainted holiday pumpkins), leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filters), breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones), dairy, eggs (including shells; no liquids), paper products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	Option 1: Landscape waste subscription for \$82.79. Residents may either place food scraps in a rigid and lidded container under 32-gallons, or purchase a Waste Management 35-gallon cart for an additional \$3.00 a month. Option 2: Landscape waste stickers may be purchased for \$2.29. A new one must be attached with each pick up.

## Gurnee

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Waste Management			
Acceptable Items:	Kitchen scraps, expired fruits and vegetables and other organic materials, lawn clippings and other landscape waste			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	\$91.82 per season for yard waste subscription or \$2.39 per sticker for yard waste

## Hawthorn Woods

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Waste Management			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits, vegetables (includes unpainted holiday pumpkins), leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filters), breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones), dairy, eggs (including shells; no liquids), paper products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	Choice of \$118.00 annual fee or \$3.00 per sticker for yard waste and organics

## Highland Park

Type of Program:  Seasonal (April to December)  Year-round  Bucket Exchange  Municipal Drop-off  
Hauler: Lakeshore Recycling Systems  
Acceptable Items: Fruit and vegetable peels, egg shells, coffee grounds, paper napkins and yard waste  
Cost to Residents:  No Cost  Subscription (opt-in)  Embedded in Garbage Fees  
Residents given one 35-gallon cart upon request without charge.  
Option 1: Subscription service for \$239.05 per season  
Option 2: Volume-based service - \$2.60 sticker per 32-gallon cart

## Highwood

Type of Program:  Seasonal (April to December)  Year-round  Bucket Exchange  Municipal Drop-off  
Hauler: Lakeshore Recycling Systems  
Acceptable Items: Fruits, vegetables (includes unpainted holiday pumpkins), leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filters), breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones), dairy, eggs (including shells; no liquids), paper products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)  
Cost to Residents:  No Cost  Subscription (opt-in)  Embedded in Garbage Fees

## Island Lake

Type of Program:  Seasonal (April to November)  Year-round  Bucket Exchange  Municipal Drop-off  
Hauler: Prairieland Disposal & Recycling Services  
Acceptable Items: Pet waste, fruits and vegetables, leftovers, kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meats, poultry, seafood, bones, dairy, eggs, plants and greens  
Cost to Residents:  No Cost  Subscription (opt-in)  Embedded in Garbage Fees  
Choice of \$96.71 annual fee for unlimited seasonal pickup or \$2.25 per sticker for yard waste. Call Prairieland to set up service

## Kildeer

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April - November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Waste Management			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits and Vegetables (includes unpainted holiday pumpkins), leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filters), breads, grains, pasta and cereal, meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones), dairy and eggs (including shells; no liquids), paper products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Yard waste stickers can be purchased for \$3.25 per sticker			

## Lake Barrington

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April - November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Waste Management			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits, vegetables (includes unpainted holiday pumpkins), leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filters), breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones), dairy, eggs (including shells; no liquids), paper products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Residents must purchase yard waste stickers for \$1.75			

## Lake Bluff

Type of Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Groot			
Acceptable Items:	Branches, brush, vines, fruits, vegetables, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, non-liquid dairy products, eggshells, coffee, tea leaves			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Landscape waste carts can be rented for an annual fee of \$60.00			

## Mundelein

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Groot			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits, vegetables, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, dairy (no liquids – cottage cheese, sour cream, yogurt, butter), egg shells, coffee grounds, tea leaves, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, herbs, unpainted/undecorated holiday pumpkins			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	Pay-per-sticker (\$2.70 each) or a landscape waste subscription (\$108.26/ year)			

## North Barrington

Type of Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Prairieland Disposal & Recycling Services			
Acceptable Items:	Pet waste, fruits and vegetables, leftovers, kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meats, poultry, seafood, bones, dairy, eggs, plants and greens			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	\$4.34 per month for compost container			

## Port Barrington

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Prairieland Disposal & Recycling Services			
Acceptable Items:	Pet waste, fruits and vegetables, leftovers, kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meats, poultry, seafood, bones, dairy, eggs, plants and greens			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	\$100 for unlimited yard waste, \$77.95 for six bags per week, or \$2.45 per sticker			

## Riverwoods

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Lakeshore Recycling Systems			
Acceptable Items:	Pet waste, fruits and vegetables, leftovers, kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meats, poultry, seafood, bones, dairy, eggs, plants and greens			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	\$2.80 per yard waste sticker or \$22.12 per month			

## Round Lake Beach

Type of Program:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (April to November)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-round	<input type="checkbox"/> Bucket Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Drop-off
Hauler:	Waste Management			
Acceptable Items:	Fruits and Vegetables (includes unpainted holiday pumpkins); leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filters); breads, grains, pasta and cereal; meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones); dairy and eggs (including shells; no liquids); paper products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)			
Cost to Residents:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription (opt-in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embedded in Garbage Fees	
	\$2.65 per yard waste sticker			

## Tower Lakes

Type of Program:  Seasonal (April to November)  Year-round  Bucket Exchange  Municipal Drop-off  
Free drop-off of food scraps at Prairieland Lake Barrington facility at 21N988 Pepper Rd

Hauler: Prairieland Disposal & Recycling Services

Acceptable Items: Pet waste, fruits and vegetables, leftovers, kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meats, poultry, seafood, bones, dairy, eggs, plants and greens

Cost:  No Cost  Subscription (opt-in)  Embedded in Garbage Fees  
Yard waste costs are \$75 annually for 6 bags per week

## Volo

Type of Program:  Seasonal (April to November)  Year-round  Bucket Exchange  Municipal Drop-off

Hauler: Groot

Acceptable Items: Fruits, vegetables, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, dairy (no liquids – cottage cheese, sour cream, yogurt, butter), egg shells, coffee grounds, tea leaves, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, herbs, unpainted/undecorated holiday pumpkins

Cost:  No Cost  Subscription (opt-in)  Embedded in Garbage Fees  
Subscription program includes collection of up to six (6) containers of landscape waste per week for an annual charge of \$90.00

## Appendix B: Food Scrap Composting



A municipal residential composting program allows residents to divert food scraps and yard waste from their landfill bins into separate containers or bags that they either drop off at a local site or haulers pick up at their curb. Haulers then transport the material to compost facilities which decompose the organic waste. The process of decomposing organic material occurs naturally on earth, but composting facilities control and accelerate the natural process through various aerobic (with oxygen) methods. The process ensures key elements--nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium--are transformed into a form readily available to plants and soil microorganisms. Mature compost is then distributed in markets for landscaping/gardening/agriculture as a soil conditioner to improve soil quality and enhance plant growth.<sup>1</sup>

There are many reasons to compost food scraps, including:

1. **It's easy!** Collect food scraps into a container and set out as part of your community's yard waste collection program.
2. Reduces garbage and **preserves landfill space**
3. **Reduces greenhouse gas** production at landfills.
4. Creates compost. Food scraps help to create a nutrient rich soil amendment that improves soil health and function. **Compost rebuilds soils**, protects topsoil from erosion, conserves water and attracts earthworms and other helpful organisms.

By advocating for and implementing food scrap composting programs across Illinois, municipalities build greener communities, lower landfill costs, improve soil quality and water retention, reduce greenhouse gasses, and develop a job-creating compost industry with a marketable product.

### Commercial Food Scrap Composting

While some yard waste and food scraps can be recycled at home, either through backyard composting or animal feeding systems, at-home composting is not suitable for meat, dairy and oils. A much greater quantity of food scraps and food soiled paper can be composted with a municipal residential program. For some residents, composting at home can be challenging, and this is where a residential commercial food scrap composting program is appropriate and needed.

<sup>1</sup> [State Of Composting In The US](#)

1. Sort food scraps
2. Haul to a compost facility
3. Food scraps decompose
4. Finished compost sold



What can be composted in a commercial food scrap composting program depends on where the food scraps are being processed. Some processing sites only accept pre-consumer fruit and vegetable scraps while others will accept meat, oil, dairy, and compostable products such as paper or plant-based items. Some sites accept compostable serviceware that meets specific standards while others do not accept any serviceware. Not all compostable products are created equally. Check with your hauler or the compost site to see what they accept to ensure that food scraps are composted and not thrown away due to unacceptable items, also called contamination.

Many communities have hauling accommodations for the holiday season and offer curbside tree collection for a short period of time. For those communities that do not offer curbside collection, a drop-off event can be organized to capture this organic material for compost and deter activities like illegal dumping. Although trees are not food scraps, they are organic and therefore compostable.

For information about on-site or backyard composting programs, please see [Appendix G](#). While municipalities do not provide or run on-site or backyard composting programs, there is a role municipalities play in ensuring ordinances and codes are current and both supportive of and providing guidance for composting.

## Composting in Illinois

While recognition of the benefits of composting is important, it is equally important to have the infrastructure to manage organic waste streams. This infrastructure is not yet fully available nationally nor in Illinois. As more municipalities offer and promote residential composting services, the Illinois composting industry is evolving to overcome current challenges with compost facility capacity, proximity, and efficiency. In addition, while northern Illinois has seen growth in the number of processors willing to accept food scraps for composting and an increasing number of haulers with routes picking up food scraps, central and southern Illinois have not yet had this infrastructure available.

While Illinois has no mandates that require waste diversion targets or ban food scraps from landfills, the state does ban yard waste from landfills and has done so since 1990. It became legal to commercially compost food scraps in Illinois in 2010. The growing number of municipal programs means Illinois municipalities do not have to start from scratch. Illinois models and best practices have been developed to guide new programs through expected opportunities and challenges. Residential awareness, communication channels, route density and patterns, and hauler-processor networks are already established for many Illinois' municipalities.

- Illinois landfills 14 million tons of waste annually, nearly 20 percent of which is food scraps.<sup>2</sup>
- Municipal composting programs can divert significant food waste from Illinois landfills, which are estimated to have a cumulative life expectancy of only 21 years as of 2017.<sup>3</sup>
- The Illinois composting industry processes more than 500,000 tons of landscape waste annually.<sup>4</sup>
- The compost industry adds approximately \$35 million in value to the state economy, yet the industry uses only 15 percent of its "estimated potential value."<sup>5</sup>

## ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE

Illinois has established the building blocks for successful food scrap composting programs through the existing yard waste composting infrastructure of almost fifty permitted compost facilities, over a dozen of which accept food scraps in addition to yard waste.<sup>6</sup> That being said, many of the compost processors in Illinois do not operate year round, providing only seasonal yard waste service. When incorporating food scraps from institutions, residents, businesses and more, the lack of service year-round presents challenges that can be difficult to overcome.

## Composting Across the Country

BioCycle and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) undertook a survey of residential food waste collection programs across the U.S. from June to November 2017. They reported results that identified 148

<sup>2</sup> [What is Food Waste?](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Illinois Landfill Disposal Capacity Report](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Illinois Law To Increase Compost Use On State Funded Projects](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Economic Impact and Market Study Report: Elements of the Case for Advancing Food Scrap Composting Industry and the Link to Building Illinois' Local Food Economy](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Compost Facilities](#)

curbside collection and 67 drop-off programs.<sup>7</sup> As of 2019, Illinois had 30 municipal programs, the fourth largest number of municipalities offering food scrap composting in the country.<sup>8</sup>

## INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Across the nation, composting is developing as a viable, locally-based industry that achieves multiple objectives related to economic development, job creation, cost savings, and environmental sustainability. In many parts of the United States yard waste is generated and collected seasonally. This might include services for residents for fall leaf collection and seasonal yard waste collection or drop-off locations for yard trimmings. For these communities, carts for yard trimmings are not distributed to households. This would mean that to compost food scraps would require providing households with carts for food waste setouts (often green 13- or 20-gallon.) What may be a model for food scrap composting in communities where households already have carts for yard waste and year-round collection service may not be a model for communities with only seasonal yard waste service.

**MODEL YEAR ROUND ORGANICS COLLECTION:** "The rapid expansion of residential food scrap collection and composting in the Bay Area of California was due in part to jurisdictions already using 65- or 90- gallon carts for curbside green waste collection. Green waste is generated year-round in this region of the US, thus the curbside collection service is offered weekly. Households were permitted to add food scraps to their green waste carts. In many cases, this will make a significant difference in waste diversion while not adding any additional hauling cost for either the municipality or the residents."<sup>9</sup>

States with a mandatory ban or separate collection program for:

**Yard Waste:** Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin

**Food Scrap:** California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont

<sup>7</sup> [Residential Food Waste Collection Access In The U.S.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Residential Food Waste Collection Access in the U.S.](#)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.biocycle.net/2014/07/16/state-of-composting-in-the-u-s/>

## Appendix C. Hauler Contracts

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MsqwufgEmwawD\\_9V5Kaox\\_UCemKIT8A2/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MsqwufgEmwawD_9V5Kaox_UCemKIT8A2/view?usp=sharing)

### Step One

An easy way to start is to request that your hauler allow food scraps to ride along with your existing yard waste service. For many Illinois municipalities, yard waste service is already provided to residents and adding food scraps can be done at no additional cost.

### Step Two - Analyzing Your Current Contract

To determine the best way to incorporate residential food scrap composting to a current hauling contract, review the current service and cost for landfill, recycling and yard waste. All of these services will be impacted by having food scraps composted rather than landfilled.

Compare your actual cost per cubic yard for each type of service and ask the following questions:

1. Are the services at the best possible pricing?
2. How is your municipality charged by your hauler?
  - a. based on container size and frequency of pickup (VOLUME BASED)
  - b. based on weight of landfill tipped (WEIGHT)
  - c. some combination of a and b.
3. If not, are there opportunities to decrease service frequency or downsize any of the containers to get a better cost/cubic yard?
4. What is the cost difference be between landfill and **composting**? If food scraps are composted, will that be more or less expensive?
5. What is the cost difference be between landfill and **recycling**? If recycling were improved, would there be a resulting cost savings?

Use the table **Evaluating Municipal Hauling Costs** to look at your contracted costs (HAULER CONTRACT) and compare this to what is currently being charged by your hauler (HAULER INVOICES).

Note that pricing may be adjusted each year without the original contract being updated. This information will be documented in either an amendment to the contract or written agreement update. Make sure you are reviewing the current contracted prices.

## Evaluating Municipal Hauling Costs

*Overview of Pricing for Hauling of Landfill, Recycling and Composting*



Hauler Name:

Year Contract Signed:

Year Contract Ends or Option to Extend:

Service	Landfill	Recycling	Composting Yard Waste	Composting Food Scraps	Composting Yard Waste and Food Scraps
# Households					
# Households participating					
# Multi unit buildings participating					
Container size					
Container size in CY					
# pickups/ week					
Cost per pickup (per contract)					
Monthly cost (per contract)					
Cost/CY (per contract)					
Cost per pickup (per invoice)					
Monthly cost (per invoice)					
Cost/CY (per invoice)					

Are there other institutions or locations that are provided service through your municipal hauler contract?

- Park District
- Public Schools
- Private Schools
- Faith Institutions
- Zero Waste Events
- Other

## **Step Three - Models for Covering Costs**

For areas where food scrap composting costs more than landfilling trash, there are a number of ways to both offset these costs and provide incentive for resident participation:

Pay-as-you-throw (PAYT): A unit-based price system that provides an economic incentive policy, implemented on the municipal level, for collecting waste. PAYT encourages waste reduction and recycling by charging residents only for the amount of waste they landfill, similar to electricity and gas costs. According to the US EPA reports, consumers are more motivated to recycle and reduce waste when they pay for each bag of trash they generate. Communities with PAYT programs have reduced their waste on an average of 14-27% and recycling rates have increased by 32-59%. Over 7,100 communities across the US, and 170 in Illinois, offer a PAYT program, which is proven to be the most cost effective way to reduce waste and promote recycling.<sup>10</sup>

Commonly, waste collection is paid by residents through property taxes, utilities, or fixed fees. However, with a PAYT system, residents are charged based on the number or weight or containers. PAYT programs have created recycling incentives through charging lower rates or no rates for recycled materials. Using this unit based system to incentivize food waste separation only requires minimal change to the system, which is why PAYT programs are found in 80% of communities in the United States collecting food waste.<sup>11</sup>

Reduced Landfill Pickup Frequency: Some communities have implemented programs with composting collection every week while at the same time reducing landfill collection to every other week. The saved cost on landfill service is used to offset the compost service. This is also intended to create an incentive for households to make sure food scraps get composted rather than landfilled.

EXAMPLE: Portland residents have every other week collection for garbage and weekly collection for recycling and organics. Reducing the frequency of landfill services both helps to offset the costs associated with composting and provides an incentive for residents to make sure organic materials are making into the right container. Food scraps and food soiled paper in the compost bin are picked up weekly. Otherwise they sit in the landfill bin for two weeks, beginning the smelly process of decomposition.

Illinois does not yet have any municipalities that have implemented this option, though a few have discussed doing so in the future.

### Embed Composting Cost in Landfill Rates

Another option is to require haulers to set a minimal level of composting service in their trash rates. Therefore, all households will pay for the service. This way rates will moderately increase for all residents, but lack the financial incentive for residents to divert waste that you see in PAYT.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> [Best Management Practices in Food Waste Programs](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois Report](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Getting Started: 10 Questions for Cities and Towns Considering Residential Curbside Composting](#)

## Step 4 - Sample Language for Hauler Contract

Municipal hauling contracts have a number of different places in which food scrap composting services can be incorporated. The USEPA has made recommendations to consider to best manage municipal waste which are presented in *Managing and Transforming Waste Streams – A Tool for Communities*.

Contracts can detail what recyclable and compostable materials are collected and how they are collected. Contracts also allow for the addition of materials based on specific conditions such as the market for materials or incentives for source separation. The municipality should define their program based on the multitude of criteria and real-world conditions. Certain communities require their residents to separate their materials, rather than a “single stream” collection. Therefore, a number of cities have added an additional bin for collecting yard waste and food waste.<sup>13</sup>

Contracts can specify that collected organic material goes to a permitted compost or anaerobic digestion facility. Contract language can also clearly disallow yard trimmings and other organic materials to be used in landfills for Alternative Daily Cover (ADC), alternative intermediate cover, slope stabilization or final cover.<sup>14</sup>

- **Definitions:** One of the first differences between a contract with and a contract without composting provisions is the definitions section. The section should contain an “Organic Material” definition that includes both food scrap (as defined by 415 ILCS 5/3.197) and landscape waste (as defined in 415 ILCS 5/3.270). The municipality and hauler should consult with the compost facility on any definition of acceptable material.
- **Collection:** An optimal contract requires the hauler to provide residents, at no additional cost, compost carts (for example, 35-gallon, 65-gallon, or 96-gallon carts). Including stipulations on cart color-coding or labeling will promote compost education and reduce contamination. **Appendix** for Organic Materials and **Exhibit** Pricing Sheet.
- **Disposal:** The contract should include language that requires haulers to deliver organic material in a lawful manner to IEPA permitted compost facilities.
- **Municipal Collection Sites:** As with landfill and recycling city services at municipal sites, composting services at municipal sites should be provided by the hauler at no cost to the city. Municipalities wishing to establish municipal drop-off sites for compost might consider including drop-off locations on their list of municipal collection sites, which already typically receive service at no cost.
- **Marketing and Education:** Municipalities and haulers should agree on a communication strategy in the contract to raise resident awareness of and participation in the composting program. Language might include requiring the hauler to annually disseminate a joint flyer or brochure on the sustainable service options, meet with the city on a quarterly basis to review participation, and/or personally meet with residents requesting information on the program.

<sup>13</sup> [Contracting Best Practices: Source Separation Requirement or Preference](#)

<sup>14</sup> [USEPA Managing and Transforming Waste Streams - A Tool for Communities](#)

Following are examples and language related to provisions that local governments can incorporate into their contracts with waste haulers.

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## DEFINITIONS

**Agreement** means the Residential Solid Waste & Recycling Services Agreement as finally executed by the Contractor and the Village upon the selection of the successful Proposer pursuant to this RFP.

**Customer** means the owner or occupant of a single-family dwelling, townhome, and multi-family dwellings of four or less units to whom the Contractor furnishes services pursuant to the Agreement.

**Compostables:** The word "Compostables" means any organic waste materials that are Source separated for processing or composting, such as Yard Debris and Food Scraps generated by any Residential or Commercial customers.

**Compostable Bags:** The term "Compostable Bag" means a fully biodegradable bag approved by the composting facility used by the Contractor for handling any Compostables collected in the City. Compostable Bags may include, but not be limited to, fiber- and starch-based bags.

**Compostables Cart:** The term "Compostables Cart" means a City-owned or Contractor provided 32/35-, 64- or 96-gallon wheeled cart provided to all Single-family Residences and to subscribing Multifamily Complexes and Commercial Customers for the purpose of containing and collecting Compostables.

**Designated Recycling Facility** means a materials recovery facility designated by the Village as a facility to which Recyclable Materials are transported for processing

**Drop-box Container:** The term "Drop-box Container" means an all-metal container with ten (10) cubic yards or more capacity that is loaded onto a specialized collection vehicle, transported to a disposal or recycling site, emptied and transported back to the customer's site.

**Food scraps:** Food Scraps mean garbage that is capable of being composted and as further defined in 415 ILCS 5/3.197. The word "Food scraps" means all compostable pre- and post-consumer food scraps, such as whole or partial pieces of produce, meats, bones, cheese, bread, cereals, coffee grounds and eggshells, and food-soiled paper such as paper napkins, paper towels, paper plates, coffee filters, paper take-out boxes, pizza boxes, paper milk cartons or other paper products accepted by the Contractor's selected composting site. Food scraps shall not include large dead animals, plastics, diapers, cat litter, liquid wastes, pet wastes or other materials prohibited by the selected composting facility.

**Landscape Waste/Yardwaste:** means all accumulations of grass or shrubbery cuttings, leaves, tree limbs, aquatic weeds, and other material accumulated as the result of the care of lawns, shrubbery, vines and trees, and as otherwise described at 415 ILCS 5/3.270.

Leaves, grass and clippings of woody, as well as fleshy plants. Materials larger than four (4) inches in diameter or four (4) feet in length are excluded. Bundles of Yard Debris up to two (2) feet by two (2) feet by four (4) feet in dimension shall be allowed and shall be secured by degradable string or twine, not nylon or other synthetic materials. Kraft paper bags and untied reusable bags may be used to contain Yard Debris.<sup>15</sup>

SAMPLE: The Contractor shall collect, transport, and dispose of Landscape Waste from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 of each year, in accordance with the following:

- a) Organic materials; Each Customer shall be provided a 35-gallon Wheeled Container for organic waste pick up. Customers shall place Landscape Waste along with Organic Materials in this container for one-weekly curbside pickup.
- b) Landscape waste that cannot be fit within this container shall be picked up under the volume based sticker system.
- c) Pay per Bag/Sticker System. Each Customer shall have the right to Landscape Waste collection service from the Contractor as follows:

Once-per-week volume-based system, for which the Contractor shall collect Landscape Waste once per week, and for which the Customer shall pay to the Contractor only in proportion to the quantity of Landscape Waste actually collected from the Customer. If the Customer chooses to use the once-per-week volume-based service, the Contractor shall have no obligation to collect any Landscape Waste in any container to which a Waste Sticker is not affixed.

Location of Collection. The Contractor shall collect all Landscape Waste that is properly placed by each Customer at street-side in front of the Customer's property.

**Multi-family:** Any multi-family structure or building that uses individualized service or carts.

**Municipal Collection Sites:** Public areas owned or maintained by the City from which the Contractor is required to collect refuse and waste pursuant to this Agreement

SAMPLE: The Contractor shall, without cost to the City, at Municipal Collection Sites: (i) furnish City Containers for the deposit of Organic Materials at each Municipal Collection Site; and (ii) collect, transport, and dispose of such Organic Materials, at dates and times mutually agreeable to the City and the Contractor.

SAMPLE: The Contractor shall, without cost to the City, at Municipal Collection Sites: (i) furnish City Containers for the deposit of Landscape Waste at each Municipal Collection Site, for Landscape Waste from municipal sites and operations; and (ii) collect, transport, and dispose of such Landscape Materials, at dates and times mutually agreeable to the City and the Contractor. These containers should not be used by the general public for regular dumping of landscape waste. Also the City shall notify the Contractor if a fall leaf collection program will be implemented.

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<sup>15</sup> Comprehensive Garbage, Recyclables and Compostables Collection Contract

**Organic Material** includes food scraps, food soiled paper and Landscape Waste.

**Private Service** means the collection of refuse and waste by the Contractor from Customers, pursuant to separate agreements or arrangements between a Customer and the Contractor.

**Recyclable Materials** means aluminum cans, tin, steel and bi-metal cans; clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars; newspapers, magazines, and mixed papers (junk mail, chipboard, white and colored paper, brown kraft paper bags); corrugated cardboard, #1 PETE plastic containers and #2 HPDE plastic containers, #3 - #5 plastic containers, and any other material or materials which the Village may identify as a "Recyclable Material" after the execution of the Agreement.

**Residential Materials:** Residential Waste, Recyclable Materials, Landscape Waste, and any other similar materials.

**Residential Service:** Collection services shall be provided on the same day and time frames as the collection of Municipal Waste and Recyclable Materials.

SAMPLE Ride-Along: Customers shall be required to place the material at the curb consistent with the collection requirements for Landscape Waste, there will be no backdoor collection of Organic Material. Exhibit A provides the pricing for the following proposed organic material collection services:

SAMPLE Third Bin: The Contractor shall provide a free 35-gallon cart to Customers for Organic Material collection. Customers may fill the provided cart with all Organic Material, including but not limiting to, food scraps and landscape waste. The Contractor shall collect all Organic Material placed in the container once per week, year-round, on the same day of Municipal Waste collection

**Residential Waste:** means garbage, refuse, industrial, lunchroom or other waste, and other material described at 415 ILCS 5/3.290 resulting from operation of single family residential properties and from community activities; provided, however, "Residential Waste" shall not include Recyclable Materials or Landscape Waste.

**Special Collections:**

Christmas Trees. The Contractor shall collect, transport, and dispose of any Christmas tree left curbside by any Customer for a three week period following Christmas, at no additional cost to the Customer or the City.

Leaves: The Contractor shall collect, transport, and dispose of leaves two times each Fall at no additional cost to the Customer or the City. The City will have leaves piled at the end of each block for ease of collection.

**State** means the State of Illinois.

**Street-side** means within four (4) feet of the curb or edge of street pavement in front of a Customer's property.

**Village Container** means a front-loading container suitable for automated waste and recycling collection by private waste haulers from a Municipal Collection Site.

**Waste Sticker** means a sticker or tag to be sold by the Contractor or its agents and that is to be affixed to Residential Waste or Landscape Waste designated for collection from a Customer who places for collection on a given pick-up day cans or bags which exceed the maximum capacity for the selected level of service.

**Wheeled Cart** means a two-wheel durable, plastic, lidded container suitable for curbside automated waste and recycling collection by private waste haulers.

SAMPLE: A Large Wheeled Cart shall have a capacity of approximately 95 gallons, a Medium Wheeled Cart shall have a capacity of approximately 65 gallons, and a Small Wheeled Cart shall have a capacity of approximately 35 gallons.

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## **Disposal of Organic Materials**

### Organic Materials

All Organic Waste shall be disposed of in a lawful manner, (A) at Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) permitted landscape waste composting facilities, at which Landscape Waste is treated, composted, ground, or land-applied; or (B) via land application at legal agronomic rates.

Not less than 60 days prior to the date on which the Contractor commences disposal of Organic Materials at a particular location, the Contractor shall notify the City in writing of the designation of such location.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the City reserves the right to reject any proposed location, or to direct the location of disposal to an alternate Landscape Waste facility. If the City requires the Contractor to use another facility, then negotiating an agreeable adjustment to the Contractor's compensation under this agreement, should be expected.

No Organic materials may be disposed of at a landfill or solid waste incinerator, unless otherwise authorized by the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/1 et seq.) and approved in advance and in writing by the City.

### Landscape Waste.

All Landscape Waste shall be disposed of in a lawful manner, either: (A) at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) permitted landscape waste composting facilities, at which Landscape Waste is treated, composted, ground, or land-applied; or (B) via land application at legal agronomic rates.

Not less than 60 days prior to the date on which the Contractor commences disposal of Landscape Waste at a particular location, the Contractor shall notify the City in writing of the designation of such location. The City reserves the right to reject any proposed location, or to direct the location of disposal to an alternate Landscape Waste facility. If the City requires the Contractor to use another facility, then negotiating an agreeable adjustment to the Contractor's compensation under this agreement, should be expected.

No Landscape Waste may be disposed of at a landfill or solid waste incinerator, unless otherwise authorized by the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/1 et seq.) and approved in advance and in writing by the City.

In the event that the City directs the disposal of any Residential Waste, Landscape Waste, Organic Materials, or Recyclable Materials to any alternate facility pursuant to this Section, the City and the Contractor agree to negotiate an equitable adjustment to the Contractor's compensation under this Agreement as a result of an increase or decrease in realized costs.

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## CITY SPECIAL EVENTS COLLECTION

Ask your hauler to also include offering a "zero waste service" at community events and festivals. This is a great way to educate the general public, increase residential participation, and it will provide free marketing and advertising. Include in your contract a specific number of events for which the hauler is responsible for composting, landfill and recycling.

The Contractor shall provide for the collection, transportation and disposal of all Residential Waste and Recyclable Materials generated at the City events Shown in Exhibit C, at no cost to the City: Contractor will provide event collection containers in advance and ensure these containers are labeled clearly for Landfill, Recycling and Compost. At the conclusion of said events, the Contractor shall collect, transport, and dispose of all waste and recyclable materials that have been deposited in the City Containers and thereafter collect and remove the extra event containers not required for routine use at the City Facilities.

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## SOLID WASTE COLLECTION DATA

Having data to measure the impact and effectiveness of your residential composting program is important. Be specific in what you ask the hauler to provide and how often. Haulers have different systems for collection so data may be easy to obtain in some instances and not in others. For example, if yard waste and food scraps are co-mingled, you may not be able to get data specific to food scraps.

SAMPLE: The Contractor shall provide to the City, on a quarterly basis, a report on the quantity of: (i) Residential Waste collected within the City, (ii) Organic Materials collected within the City, (iii) Recyclable Materials collected within the City, and (iv) Landscape Waste collected within the city. The Contractor shall also provide data to the City on the amount of material collected for other special collections conducted in the City pursuant to this Agreement, as requested by the City. The Contractor shall prepare and deliver to the City, at least once every year, a breakdown, by number and type, of the residential service levels chosen by the customers in the City. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the City will provide program data and other public information to each Customer upon request.

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## **RECYCLING & ORGANIC GOALS, MARKETING & EDUCATION**

The Contractor shall make reasonable efforts to encourage all Customers to participate in the weekly collection of Recyclable Materials and Organic Materials. Such reasonable efforts shall include without limitation meeting personally with representatives of each eligible Customer to provide each such Customer with information regarding recycling and organics services under this Agreement.

The Contractor shall meet with the City on a quarterly basis to review recycling and organics participation among Customers and identify additional steps and programs that Contractor shall undertake to enhance participation among Customers in the collection of Recyclable and Organic Materials.

**Service Options; Changes in Service; and Brochure:** Upon execution of this Agreement, the Contractor, at its expense, shall be required to develop, print and distribute to all existing Customers and new Customers, a bilingual brochure, approved by the City, establishing regular service throughout the Agreement period and explaining the refuse, recycling, organics and landscape waste programs covered under this Agreement. The brochure will include a method for residents to change their refuse, recycling and landscape waste services. The brochure shall be updated and distributed on a bi-annual basis during the term of this Agreement and any extensions and will be posted on the Contractor website

**Minimum Customer Service Standards:** Where any dispute arises between a Customer and the Contractor as to the manner of placing waste or the nature of the contents or the like, the Contractor shall, and does hereby agree in the specific instance to, remove the waste even though, in its opinion, it is improperly placed or contained. Thereafter, the Contractor shall immediately report the controversy to the City for settlement before additional collection becomes necessary in order to avoid further disputes or disagreements between Customers and the Contractor.

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## **EQUIPMENT TO BE USED BY CONTRACTOR**

The Contractor agrees to collect all materials described in this Agreement in **fully enclosed, leak-proof, modern trucks**. All vehicles and collection equipment will be kept in safe, operable condition. Any equipment that is used by the Contractor and determined to be unsafe, or in an overall poor condition by the City shall be replaced at the request of the City. Equipment used for Special Services described in Section x.x of this Agreement may be open-body trucks, dump trucks and similar type equipment when necessary. When open-body trucks are used, the Contractor shall take such action as is necessary to prevent littering and blowing debris.

Containers used in connection with the provision of Residential Services by the Contractor pursuant to this Agreement shall be operable, safe and free of graffiti. Contractor shall replace any container in disrepair of this sort within three (3) days of notification by the City. **Containers with plastic lids that are ill-fitted or warping shall be replaced within three (3) days of notification by the City, in order to maintain a tight fitting**

**seal to prevent access by pests.** All containers will be adequately demarcated with the Contractor's logo. Each container will have an inventory control number demarcated on each container that is cross-referenced to the service matrix.

All equipment used by the Contractor for the provision of Residential Services and Private Services pursuant to this Agreement shall be properly licensed by the State and shall conform to all federal and State equipment safety standards.Oak Park

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## LANGUAGE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

It is important to construct a thorough Request For Proposal in order to communicate the requirement of a composting program to those vital in the implementation. An RFP will be used by all parties as a reference for the project's requirements and provide a baseline of required services. Provided below is sample language used in developing an RFP that accurately portrays the service agreement.

### MUNICIPAL WASTE PROCUREMENT TOOLS<sup>16</sup>

From 2013 - 2015, Delta Institute conducted research on waste management practices in municipalities across Cook County to identify opportunities to maximize environmental and economic benefits. As part of this research, Delta collected and reviewed waste contracts from 128 municipalities, and these contracts revealed a wide variation in services, practices, and costs. Delta created these waste procurement tools to elevate best practices and help municipalities leverage their procurement process to improve diversion rates.

These tools are:

- WASTE HAULING PROCUREMENT AND MANAGEMENT TIPS. Best practices and tips for negotiating future contracts and managing existing contracts.
- MUNICIPAL WASTE PROCUREMENT RFP AND SUPPORTING TOOLS FOR MUNICIPAL DECISION MAKERS. Template Request for Proposals document and supporting documents required for procurement process.

Additional tools may be found on the Partners in Green website<sup>17</sup> and include:

- RFP template for Sustainable Materials Management: Waste Minimization, Recycling and Disposal
- Waste Procurement RFP Scorecard

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<sup>16</sup> <https://delta-institute.org/delta/wp-content/uploads/Waste-Management-Toolkit-for-Web-Final-Draft.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.partnersinprojectgreen.com/wasterfp/>

## Appendix D. Resident Education Materials

This Appendix offers best practices as well as samples of education materials for a variety of food scrap composting programs in Illinois, including:

WRITTEN MATERIALS: [One Page Education Pieces/Flyers](#)

FACE TO FACE: [Education at Events](#)

Public education and outreach are essential to ensuring community participation and limiting contamination. Compost programs are most successful when residents understand their importance and feel the process is straightforward<sup>18</sup>. There are several ways governments can teach their residents about composting, from printed materials to multimedia resources to public presentations. For education to be most effective, it must clearly communicate the program's procedures and rationale, address possible concerns, and occur on a consistent basis<sup>19</sup>.

Tips for your overall program:

- Provide rationale behind composting
- Tailor education materials to the audience
- Reference the specific challenges various types of residents might encounter
- Address the "yuck" factor and other concerns
- Create a volunteer network
- Publicize involvement and make composting into a social norm
- Market and brand your program
- Utilize community newspapers, radio stations or TV networks to broadcast your message
- Partner with other community groups, including community gardens, clubs and schools

### WRITTEN MATERIALS: One-Page Education Pieces/Flyers

Printed materials can include informational flyers, advertisements, and signage and are most useful when they are specific, self-explanatory, and noticeable. Be intentional in your word choice and encourage residents to think about their waste<sup>20</sup>. Using "landfill" as opposed to "garage" or "trash" allows residents to think about where their waste is really going. Further, including positive prompts has been shown to be more effective at motivating residents<sup>21</sup>.

Providing materials with a uniform color scheme will help residents remain consistent in their sorting. One of the most common schemes is to associate blue with recycling, green with composting and black/gray with landfill trash. It is important to keep your haulers in mind when considering a color scheme. Some may

<sup>18</sup> [Municipal Curbside Compostables Collection - What Works and Why](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Growing Local Fertility: A Guide to Community Composting](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Organic Materials Management and Composting for Rural, Small, and Tribal Communities](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Washington State Compost Educator's Guide](#)

already have their own bins and be unable to accommodate the exact arrangement you choose. If that is the case, you may still be able to work with them to choose the color of the lid of the bin or the color of signs placed on them.

Branding the program with a slogan, tagline or logo that can included on all materials, will improve awareness and ease of communication for residents. Distributing stickers, signs or other small objects will help to promote and reinforce the brand<sup>30</sup>. To ensure accuracy and consistency, work with your haulers and processors when developing your brand. Some existing taglines include:

"Our home. Our City. Our Planet" (San Francisco, CA)  
 "There's a New Bin in Town" (Cambridge, MA)  
 "Charleston County Compost" (Charleston, SC)

"Recycling Something" (Fayetteville, AR)  
 "Include the Food" (Napa, CA)  
 "Project Oscar" (Boston, MA)

Additional tips for printed materials:

- Provide specific information
- Be conscious of word choice (ex: consider using “food scraps” instead of “wasted food”)
- Include many and easy to understand graphics
- Publish materials in multiple languages
- Post signage near to where the action takes place
- Address common misconceptions

## Samples of one page education flyers:

Village of River Forest

Service Type:

Hauler: Roy Strom

Compost Processor:

One page:

[https://vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/departments/4/compost\\_pick\\_up\\_flier - 08-16.pdf](https://vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/departments/4/compost_pick_up_flier - 08-16.pdf)



Mount Prospect

Service Type:

Hauler: Republic Services

Compost Processor:



## Village of Riverside

**Service Type:**

## Hauler: Flood Brothers

## Compost Processor:

**RIVERSIDE**

**Flood Brothers**

DISPOSAL • RECYCLING SERVICES

**2017 Food Scrap Composting Pilot Program**

The Village of Riverside and Flood Bros Disposal Co. have partnered with the goal of decreasing the amount of organic refuse sent to landfills. Together we are offering a food scrap composting pilot program to residents throughout the Village. Residents who end up in this program will receive a compost bin and a bag labeled "Food Scraps" to collect all bags or containers of your yard waste collected. Subscribers to this program will see the organics that will be allowed to be mixed with food scraps and yard waste materials.

**Who Can Participate:** The program is available to all single family residents. Organizers will be required to sign up for the program which will coincide with the yard waste seasonal collection program (April 1<sup>st</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>). Organics picks-ups will take place on the normal Thursday collection day. Return the sign-up form below to register for the pilot program. Please include your email address for monthly program updates, educational seminars and event information.

**How the Program Will Work:** The program will be offered on a voluntary, subscription basis. The subscription cost will be \$17.00 per month during your service session, in addition to your regular weekly collection fees. Participants will be responsible for the cost of the bin to be allowed to share the organics carts and costs will neighbors with approval from the Village and Flood Bros.

**Program Details:** Residents who participate in the project will receive a 35-gallon bin for yard waste collection, a 35-gallon bag for collection bucket and a set of compostable approved bags for food scraps. Both yard waste and food scraps must be contained in a bag labeled "Food Scraps".

Remember, food scraps must be contained in a bag labeled compostable that meets ASTM D6400 standards.

Solid Waste Association of Lake County

**Service Type:**

## Hauler: Waste Management

## Compost Processor: Midwest Organics

**Residential Food Scrap Composting Program**

<b>WHY COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS?</b> There are many reasons to recycle food scraps, including: 1. It's easy! Collect food scraps into a container and set it out with your community's trash collection program. 2. Reduces garbage and prevents landfill space 3. Reduces greenhouse gas production at landfills 4. Creates compost. Food scraps help to create a nutrient rich amendment that improves soil health and texture. Compost also helps to reduce runoff from erosion, conserves water and attracts earthworms and other helpful organisms.	<b>HOW TO COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS &amp; TIPS TO REDUCE ODORS &amp; PESTS</b> 1. Collect scraps in your kitchen collector. Do not include meat, bones, or biodegradable bags in your collector. 2. Empty food scraps into your yard waste container. 3. Place your raw container (not plastic bags) in the sun in regular weather events (cloudy days). Tip: To Reduce Odors and Pests: You may want to line containers with paper towels, newspaper, or bags. Add a layer of soil over scraps after each load (with paper or cloth soil screen), sprinkle with baking soda, and keep container closed.
	<b>WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fruits and Vegetables (includes unpainted hollowed pumpkins)</li> <li>Leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags &amp; filters)</li> <li>Breads, grains, pasta and cereal</li> <li>Meat, poultry, seafood (includes shells and bones)</li> <li>Dairy and Eggs (including shells; no liquids)</li> <li>Paper Products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)</li> </ul>
<b>DO NOT INCLUDE:</b> Plastic, Styrofoam, glass, diapers, metal, liquids, grease, pet waste, or oil. <small>For more information on composting, how to set up, etc., visit <a href="http://www.swalco.org">www.swalco.org</a>.</small>	

Municipality: Grayslake

Service Type: Third Bin / Seasonal Ride-Along

## Hauler: Waste Management

## Compost Processor:

Website:

## Program Start:

## 1-Page Program Overview

Municipality: Village of Oak Park

Service Type: Third Bin / Opt in Subscription / Year-Round

## Hauler: Waste Management

## Compost Processor: Waste Management

**Website:** <https://www.oak-park.us/village-services/refuse-recycling/compostable-program>

## Program Start:

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/etPQJJ9-qIY>

## 1-Page Program Overview

Municipality: Highwood  
 Service Type: Third bin/ curbside/ year-round  
 Hauler:  
 Compost Processor:  
 Website: <http://www.cityofhighwood.com/index.aspx?NID=98>  
 Program Start:  
 1-Page Program Overview



Municipality: Mill Creek  
 Service Type:  
 Hauler:  
 Compost Processor:  
 Website:  
 Program Start:  
 1-Page Program Overview: <http://www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/Documents/MillCreekFoodScrapCompostingBrochure.pdf>

## Education at Events

Public outreach events can occur throughout the municipality. Demonstrations and workshops can be given at schools, community centers, libraries, fairs, farmers markets, or any other community meeting place<sup>31 32 33</sup>. After any training, it is important to keep in contact with attendees, to reinforce the information and keep them informed of program updates<sup>32</sup>. A study by the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning found that, “one of the most effective ways to change behavior is for people to educate members of their social and professional networks.” This can be instituted in several ways from nominating outreach volunteers to electing block captains. For example, the city of Seattle encourages each apartment building to recruit a friend of recycling and composting steward, who educates residents about waste management in exchange for a discounted waste bill<sup>30</sup>.

Additional tips for outreach events:

- Deliver In-person presentations and workshops
- Keep in touch with residents through email chains, mail lists, etc...
- Couple workshops and presentations with “fun” events like potlucks or BBQ’s
- Door-door outreach can be implemented with volunteer networks such as block captains, apartment composting stewards, etc..
- Make a public composting demonstration site
- Provide educational tours of compost facilities
- Take advantage of holidays and special events, like pumpkin collections during Halloween

## Appendix E. Federal and State Composting Policy

Municipalities must pay close attention to the federal, state, and local policies on waste reduction and diversion to craft a successful program.

Policy	Federal	State	Local
Clean Water Act, Code of Federal Regulations	IL EPAct, PA 96-0418 (accept food scrap), PA 98-0146 (drop-off events)	County & Municipal Boards	
Oversight	EPA, USDA	IL EPA	Solid Waste Agencies, Health Department
Implementation		Illinois Food Scrap Coalition	Counties, Municipalities, Haulers, Compost Facilities
Resources	EPA 2030 Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal, US Composting Council	IFSC website ( <a href="http://illinoiscomposts.org">illinoiscomposts.org</a> ), Illinois Environmental Council	Seven Generations Ahead's Municipal Guide, Municipalities with Nearby Programs

### FEDERAL POLICY AND OVERSIGHT

At the federal level, standards and guidance for composting are limited. The EPA recently released a Food Recovery Hierarchy to frame the national agenda on wasted food, policy change on a national level is slow.

Most federal composting regulations are found in the Clean Water Act or Code of Federal Regulations. These rules primarily regulate technical standards for composting facilities' operations and methods rather than encourage the expansion composting operations, however.<sup>22</sup>



### ILLINOIS POLICY AND OVERSIGHT

Given limited federal guidelines, each state has developed a unique approach to managing its composting protocol. In Illinois, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is the chief regulatory body for the state's waste management services. The Illinois Environmental Protection Act (EPAct) is the cornerstone of the IEPA's mandate. In addition to the EPAct, the Solid Waste Management Act and Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act also regulate statewide compost operations.<sup>23</sup> Similar to the EPA's Food Recovery

<sup>22</sup> [Reducing the Impact of Wasted Food by Feeding the Soil and Composting](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Summary of Illinois' Solid Waste Legislation](#)

Hierarchy, the Solid Waste Management Act, for example, established a statewide waste management hierarchy<sup>24</sup>:

1. Volume reduction at the source
2. Recycling and reuse
3. Combustion with energy recovery
4. Combustion for volume reduction
5. Disposal in landfill facilities

The IEPA oversees the state's composting operations, including managing compost processing facilities to ensure they adhere to permit, health, and safety regulations.<sup>25</sup> Growth in Illinois' compost market can be partially attributed to recent state legislation, which has eased restrictions and created new compost opportunities.

## Illinois Policy

Yard waste ban in place since July 1, 1990 which contributes to over 500,000 tons of organic waste being composted each year

In Illinois, a composting facility, through notification to the IEPA, is able to include food scraps up to, but not exceeding 10% of the volume of organic materials being accepted for composting

### Illinois State Laws:

**Public Act 85-1430:** Prohibits landscape waste in Illinois landfills. Effective 1990.<sup>26</sup>

**Public Act 96-0418:** Allows yard waste composting facilities to accept food scraps as long as food scraps remain less than 10 percent of the facility's volume of waste, accelerating the permitting process for facilities wanting to accept food scraps. Effective 2010.<sup>27</sup>

**Public Act 98-0239:** Supports off-site compost procurement for urban farming and community gardening by removing permit and set-back (distance between compost and residences) requirements, given off-site compost does not exceed 25 cubic yards. Effective 2013.<sup>28</sup>

**Public Act 98-0484:** Allows farms to accept off-site compost sourced from crop and agricultural plant residue, animal bedding, and any other "composting additives" such as food scraps (additives cannot

<sup>24</sup> [Illinois Compiled Statutes](#)

<sup>25</sup> [A Summary of Regulatory Requirements for Composting Facilities](#)

<sup>26</sup> Full text available here <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/100/SB/10000SB1599.htm> sb1599

<sup>27</sup> Full text available here <http://illinoisc composts.org/images/pdfs/Economic-Impact-Report.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/098-0239.htm>

exceed 10 percent of total compost material) in addition to landscape waste, which was already permissible. Effective 2013.<sup>29</sup>

**Public Act 99-0011:** Eases permitting regulations for one-day municipal drop-off events for compostable material such as pumpkin drop-offs following Halloween. Municipalities must register one-day composting events, but they can circumvent standard permitting protocol. Effective 2015.<sup>30</sup>

**Public Act 100-0951:** Requires state agencies using off-site soil in landscaping projects to request and accept bids for compost if the compost bid is not greater than using soil alone. Tasks the Illinois Department of Transportation with piloting two composting projects. Effective 2019.<sup>31</sup>

## Illinois Environmental Protection Act

Below is a snapshot of relevant Illinois waste and composting legislation.

### Illinois Environmental Protection Act Definitions:

- **Sec. 3150 (previously 3.69):** "Compost" is defined as the humus-like product of the process of composting waste, which may be used as a soil conditioner.
- **Sec. 3155 (previously 3.70):** "Composting" means the biological treatment process by which microorganisms decompose the organic fraction of waste, producing compost.
- **Sec. 3.197:** "Food scrap" means garbage that is (i) capable of being decomposed into compost by composting, (ii) separated by the generator from other waste, including, but not limited to, garbage that is not capable of being decomposed into compost by composting, and (iii) managed separately from other waste, including, but not limited to, garbage that is not capable of being decomposed into compost by composting. "Food scrap" includes, but is not limited to, packaging, utensils, and food containers composed of readily biodegradable material. For the purposes of this Section, packaging, utensils, and food containers are readily biodegradable if they meet the ASTM D6400 standard.
- **Sec. 3.270 (previously 3.20):** "Landscape waste" means all accumulations of grass or shrubbery cuttings, leaves, tree limbs and other materials accumulated as the result of the care of lawns, shrubbery, vines and trees.
- **Sec. 22.55:** "One-day compostable waste collection event" means a household waste drop-off point approved by a county or municipality under subsection (d-6) of this Section.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=098-0484>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=099-0011>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=100-0951>

<sup>32</sup> [Illinois Compiled Statutes: ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY \(415 ILCS 5/\) Environmental Protection Act](#)

## **Illinois Public Act 100-0951**

Compost-amended soil (Sec. 45-22 of the Illinois Procurement Code).

- a) As used in this Section:

"Compost-amended soil" means soil that has been mixed with source separated landscape waste or a mixture of both source separated landscape waste and source separated food scraps to meet an organic matter content of not less than 25 percent, where the compost component meets the certification requirements of the U.S. Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program or any other equivalent, nationally recognized program.

"State agency" means: all officers, boards, commissions and agencies created by the Constitution in the executive branch; all officers, departments, boards, commissions, agencies, institutions, authorities, bodies politic and corporate of the State; and administrative units or corporate outgrowths of the State government which are created by or pursuant to statute, other than HB4790 Enrolled LRB100 18836 LNS 34078 b Public Act 100-0951 universities, units of local government and their officers, school districts, and boards of election commissioners; and all administrative units and corporate outgrowths of the above and as may be created by executive order of the Governor.

b) Notwithstanding any provision of this Code or any other law to the contrary, any State agency that undertakes a landscaping project requiring the use of new or offsite soil for landscape-related use and that is located within 10 miles of any Illinois Environmental Protection Agency-permitted compost facility shall request a base bid with an alternative for compost-amended soil as a part of that project. The State agency shall consider whether compost-amended soil should be used for that project based upon the costs. The State agency shall incorporate compost-amended soil into a landscaping project if the cost of using compost-amended soil is equal to or less than the cost of using other new offsite soil. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency shall maintain a list of the locations of all permitted compost facilities in the State and post the list on its website.

c) Prior to December 31, 2019, the Department of Transportation shall conduct two pilot demonstration projects using compost-amended soil. The Department shall determine the costs and advantages and disadvantages of using compost-amended soil. Within one year of substantial completion of both projects, the Department shall report to the HB4790 Enrolled LRB100 18836 LNS 34078 b Public Act 100-0951 General Assembly stating the immediate costs of the projects, long-term operational cost savings, and advantages and disadvantages of using compost-amended soil. The report to the General Assembly shall be filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate in electronic form only, in the manner that the Clerk and the Secretary shall direct.

d) This Section is repealed on Jan. 1, 2022.

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(30 ILCS 500/45-22)<sup>33</sup>

<sup>33</sup> [Illinois Compiled Statutes](#)

## WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM OTHER STATES

Many states have revised, or are in the process of revising, their permitting regulations for yard waste composting facilities to allow for the inclusion of food scraps. Some states have developed landfill diversion goals and regulatory processes to increase recycling, eliminate waste, and divert organic material from landfills toward the higher end uses of compost or biogas. Over 20 states have yard waste disposal bans (including Illinois), and a small handful of states have enacted ordinances which ban organics, including food scraps, from entering landfills. According to the US Composting Council, 25 states have a mandatory ban or separate collection program for yard waste while five states have mandatory legislation for food scraps.<sup>34</sup>

Massachusetts, Ohio, Oregon and Washington are examples of states with revised composting rules to create distinct categories for source separated organics that include food waste. The permitting and site approval process in this tier is designed to be more streamlined and less costly. One reason for the lack of more facilities accepting food scraps is an inadequate regulatory structure to facilitate the development of new operations.

Disposal bans and mandates with penalties imposed for noncompliance are very effective tools to establish organics diversion programs. Other public policy tools include local government incentives, grants and low-interest loans, streamlined state permitting for composting facilities to compost other organic waste streams such as source separated food scraps, and initiatives to increase compost purchases such as compost procurement by state Departments of Transportation.

## COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL POLICY AND ORDINANCES

Counties and municipalities can play a role in enacting policies and ordinances that support composting of food scraps.

### COUNTY PLANNING

**CASE STUDY:** The Montgomery County Council enacted, and the County Executive signed Bill 28-164 on November 28, 2016, requiring DEP to develop a Strategic Plan to Advance Composting, Compost Use, and Food Scraps Diversion. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to identify: County policies and initiatives to reduce waste and support composting; models and best practices used by other jurisdictions; metrics for assessing and increasing food scraps diversion, composting and compost use; goals and associated timelines for achieving certain levels of food scraps diversion; challenges to meeting these goals and solutions for overcoming such challenges; potential sites for composting operations; environmental and public health benefits of composting and food scraps diversion; and cost estimates and potential economic and environmental benefits of implementing the Strategic Plan.

This Strategic Plan provides the direction, framework, and strategies to reduce wasted food, channel

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<sup>34</sup> [State Compost Regulations](#)

excess food to others to meet needs, increase recycling of food scraps through a variety of means, and encourage use of finished compost product. Pursuit of food scrap reduction and recycling efforts as described in the Strategic Plan will also reduce the amount of food scraps processed at County disposal facilities and preserve limited disposal capacity. This Strategic Plan includes a background, assessment of current efforts, and challenges associated with maximizing participation.

For updates on composting policy, connect to the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition at [www.illinoiscomposts.org](http://www.illinoiscomposts.org) or the Illinois Environmental Council at [www.iec.org](http://www.iec.org). Both of these organizations work to advance composting policy in Illinois.

## Appendix F. Case Studies

1. Seasonal Residential Ride-Along With Yard Waste
  - a. Geneva, Kane County, IL
2. Residential Year-Round Compost (Third Bin)
  - a. Optional, Subscription based - Oak Park, Cook County, IL
  - b. All residents receive 3rd bin - Highwood and Lake Bluff, Lake County, IL
3. Bucket Exchange (supplement to seasonal program)
  - a. Optional, subscription based - Highland Park,
4. Municipal Drop-Off
  - a. Village of Grayslake, Lake County, IL

### Oak Park, Cook County, IL

#### Collection Plan:

Oak Park's composting program is voluntary and subscription based. The subscription cost is \$14.85 per month, which is equal to the cost of one yard waste sticker and one yard waste bag per week.<sup>35</sup>

Participating residents will receive a 96-gallon cart (comparable in volume to three bags of yard waste) for the weekly collection of food scraps and yard waste, an under-sink collection bucket, and a box of compostable bags for food scraps.

Subscribers using the organics cart for yard waste and food scraps will not be required to purchase yard waste stickers for materials placed in the cart. Any food scrap bags used must be labeled compostable under ASTM 6400 standards.

Oak Park also offers an [online sign-up](#) option and a "Share with a Neighbor" option in which residents share one cart and split the cost.

**Service Type:** Third Bin / Opt in Subscription / Year-Round

#### Composting in Oak Park

With the goal of decreasing the amount of organic refuse sent to landfills, the village offers a food scrap composting collection program for single-family and up to five-unit households using Village refuse and recycling services. Residents who participate in the program will receive a 96-gallon cart for weekly collection of organics, an under-sink collection bucket and a box of compostable bags for food scraps. Both yard waste and food scraps may be placed in the organics cart. However, bagged food scraps must be contained in a bag labeled compostable that meets ASTM 6400 standards.

The 96-gallon cart for organics is comparable in volume to three bags or containers of yard waste collected in the current program.

Subscribers who use the organics cart for their yard waste and food scraps will not be required to purchase yard waste stickers. The program is offered on a voluntary, subscription basis. The subscription cost is \$14.85 per month, which is about the cost of one yard waste sticker per week. Residents who maintain backyard compost piles or who mulch grass clippings may wish to investigate sharing organics carts and costs with neighbors. New, 12-month subscriptions receive three months free.

<sup>35</sup> [Incentive offered to join composting program](#)

**Program Start:** 2013

**Hauler:** Waste Management

**Collection Schedule:**

Spring - Fall: Organics carts will be collected on regular refuse collection days from the first full week of April through the end of November.

Winter: Organics carts will be emptied bi-weekly on Wednesdays at a discounted rate.

**Participation:**

Who Can Participate: The expanded program is available to single-family and five-flat households using Village refuse and recycling services. Sign up for the program using the form at the bottom of the page.

# Households: 1,282 households (as of Mar 2018)

% Percentage:

**Collected Material:**

Accepted:

- Yard waste such as grass clippings, garden vegetation, leaves and brush)
- Food Scraps , including meat, bread, vegetables, table scraps, dairy, coffee grounds and pasta
- Unsoiled or food-soiled paper products, such as paper towels, paper bags, pizza boxes, napkins, paper cups, newspapers and food packaging
- Compostable plastic bags that meet ASTM 6400 or ASTM 6868 standards

Not Accepted:

- Plastics that do not meet ASTM 6400 & 6868 compostable standards
- Plastic packaging, bags and serving ware such as plates, cups and utensils
- Pet waste
- Sanitary products
- Diapers
- Dairy cartons (if emptied, these can be recycled in your blue cart)<sup>36</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.oak-park.us/village-services/refuse-recycling/compostable-program>

**Video:**

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## Highwood and Lake Bluff, Lake County, IL

**Collection Plan:**

Residential composting pickup is available to all Highwood Residents. Community members are provided with a 35-gallon cart to fill with yard waste and food scraps.

**Sign up for CompostAble**  
Food Scrap Composting Program

With the goal of decreasing the amount of organic waste sent to landfills, the Village of Oak Park is launching a food scrap composting program. This program will allow residents to receive a compost bin and the option to compost in volume to three bags per week. Residents will receive a discount on their weekly trash service for composted materials and for their compost and bins will be collected by private composters.

**Who Can Participate:** The program is available to single-family residences, up to and including five-flat households using Village refuse and recycling services.

**Sign up online at** [www.oak-park.us/compostable](http://www.oak-park.us/compostable)

**Accepted materials:**

- Yardwaste (grass clippings, green trimmings, brush)
- Food scraps (fruits, vegetables, table scraps, dairy, coffee grounds, meat, bread, pasta, pizza boxes, napkins, paper cups, newspapers and food packaging)
- Unsoiled or food-soiled paper products (paper towels, paper bags, pizza boxes, napkins, paper cups, newspapers and food packaging)
- Compostable plastic bags that meet ASTM 6400 or ASTM 6868 standards

**Items NOT acceptable:**

- Plastic that do not meet ASTM 6400 & 6868 compostable standards
- Plastic packaging, bags and serving ware such as plates, cups and utensils
- Pet waste
- Sanitary products
- Diapers
- Dairy cartons

**CompostAble Questions & Answers**

**What is compost?**  
It is a natural process of breaking down organic material using bacteria, a natural fertilizer. When the composting process is completed, the resulting "finished" product has no smell and is sterile.

**What are the benefits of composting?**

- Reduces the amount of trash sent to landfills
- Reduces water usage by reducing fertilizer needs
- Reduces methane emissions by reducing the amount of methane, a gas more potent than carbon dioxide, comprising these materials reduces its pollution and greenhouse gas impact

**CompostAble program facts**

- If you find your trash is not being reduced by participating in the CompostAble program, please contact the Village of Oak Park at 708.389.5700 or email [parks@oak-park.us](mailto:parks@oak-park.us).
- This will save \$4 a month on weekly trash charges on quarterly water bills. For more information, contact Parks at 708.389.5700 or email [parks@oak-park.us](mailto:parks@oak-park.us).

**Oak Park**

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<sup>36</sup> [CompostAble Program](#)

Any additional organic waste that does not fit in your cart can be placed in a compostable bag next to your bin. These extra bags must be less than 50 pounds, under four feet in length and two feet in diameter. Also, branches in the bag must have under a 3-inch diameter. If you are using a separate bag for compost items, there must be a yard waste sticker on the additional waste.

**Service Type:** Third bin/ curbside/ year-round

**Program Start:** 2017

**Hauler:** Lakeshore Recycling Systems

**Collection Schedule:** Highwood's Curbside Organics pickup is collected once a week on Wednesdays. Your cart must be placed on your curb at 6 a.m. on Wednesday to be picked up. This service is offered all season, and it is the first year-around program in the state.

**Participation:** All of Highwood's 5,405 residents are provided with a third bin to dispose of their organic material which is then picked up and taken to a facility to be composted.<sup>37</sup>

**Collected Material:**

Accepted:

- Food Scraps , including meat, bread, vegetables, table scraps, dairy, coffee grounds and pasta
- Unsoiled or food-soiled paper products, such as paper towels, paper bags, pizza boxes, napkins, paper cups, newspapers and food packaging
- Yard waste such as grass clippings, garden vegetation, leaves and brush

Not Accepted:

- Glass & Plastic
- Aluminum
- Styrofoam
- Rubber bands & Twist ties
- Gloves and Straws

**Website:** <http://www.cityofhighwood.com/index.aspx?NID=98>

**1-Page Program Overview**

[https://vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/departments/4/compost\\_pick\\_up\\_flier - 08-16.pdf](https://vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/departments/4/compost_pick_up_flier - 08-16.pdf)

<http://www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/Documents/MillCreekFoodScrapCompostingBrochure.pdf>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/etPQJJ9-qIY>



## Geneva, Kane County, IL

**Collection Plan:** Geneva provides all of their residents with a seasonal, pay-as-you-throw composting program through a monthly subscription fee.

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.lrsrecycles.com/residential/residential-programs/highwood/>

This program allows yard waste materials to be mixed with permitted food waste items in a brown Kraft yard waste bag or a Lakeshore Recycling yard waste cart.

**Program Start:** July 2018

**Hauler:** Lakeshore Recycling Systems

**Collection Schedule:** Geneva's organics are collected each week on Thursday or Friday, [depending on each residential location](#). Refuse should be placed curbside between 7 p.m. the prior evening and 6 a.m. the day of collection.

**Participation:**

Who Can Participate: All Geneva residents are welcome to participate in the curbside organics pickup.

# Households:

% Percentage:

**Collected Material:**

Accepted:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Halloween pumpkins
- Dairy and eggs, including shells, but no liquids
- Breads, grains, pasta & cereal
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Teabags
- Paper products, including paper towels, napkins and tissues

Not Accepted:

- Meat, poultry and seafood
- Bones and shells
- Fats, grease, oil and liquids
- Packaging
- Paper plates and utensils
- Plastic, styrofoam, glass, metal
- Diapers
- Pet waste<sup>38</sup>



Fresh food scraps for composting are delivered to a Chicago farm in this file photo. Highwood and Lake Bluff recently began requiring residents to separate food waste from other household garbage. (Phil Velasquez / Chicago Tribune)

**Program Publicity:**

**As food scrap composting catches on, some suburbs move to require it**

Karen Berkowitz: Contact Reporter Pioneer Press, May 1, 2017

*As more suburbs are testing out voluntary food composting programs during yard-waste season, the city of Highwood has taken the concept a step further.*

*Starting Monday, Highwood will require residents to separate food scraps from other household garbage in order to keep compostable matter out of the landfill. Highwood's ordinance requires that residential organic waste be placed curbside in designated containers, and not placed in plastic bags with other*

<sup>38</sup> [Food Scrap Program](#)

*garbage.*

*In late 2015, Highwood became the first municipality in Illinois to build food scrap composting into its basic waste hauling contract, according to Walter Willis, chairman of the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition and executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO).*

*Because the contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems did not start immediately, Highwood's close neighbor, Lake Bluff, was the first Illinois town to implement year-round food composting in March, Willis said.*

*In Highwood, the waste hauler has provided residents a third cart for their organic toss-aways like leftover food, spoiled fruits and vegetables, coffee grounds, used paper towels and chicken bones. Those items were previously mixed in with the household garbage stream. Lakeshore Recycling Systems will divert the organic matter to a composting facility.*

*"We really feel like this is going to help us increase our recycling rate and that, in turn, helps us keep the overall cost of our hauling program down," said City Manager Scott Coren. "Lakeshore Recycling Services provided an exceptional bid that allowed us to do something new and innovative that we believe more towns are going to be doing in the future."*

*He believes Highwood is an ideal community to pioneer the change because of its small, manageable size and the high degree of environmental awareness among residents.*

*The 35-gallon composting cart is in addition to a 60-gallon container for household waste and a 95-gallon receptacle for recyclables like plastic containers, aluminum cans, cardboard and glass bottles.*

*Lake Bluff Village Administrator Drew Irvin said the village already was operating its own composting facility and providing year-round service, so the infrastructure was in place for a food organics program.*

*"It just made sense to take advantage of that, and piggyback onto the program we already had going," Irvin said. "The whole point of this is diversion, and this represents the next, best opportunity to get the wet materials that have a lot of weight out of the waste stream."*

*He said most Lake Bluff residents use brown paper bags for their compostables, but they may also use their own carts or rent a cart from Groot Industries, the village's waste hauler.*

*Willis likens the Highwood and Lake Bluff programs to the earliest curbside recycling efforts 30 years ago.*

*"Not many towns were doing it at first, and then they started adding it as a service," Willis said. "Hey, you are going to get a cart for your recycling whether you want it or not. We're starting to do that now with the organics."*

*According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 21 percent of municipal solid waste is food*

*scraps and less than five percent is diverted for composting.*

*According to the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition, the addition of decomposing organic matter to landfills accelerates the production of methane, a greenhouse gas that is much more potent than carbon dioxide. Landfills are the nation's third largest source of methane emissions, according to the coalition.*

*More than a dozen other towns in Lake County have adopted what Willis calls "ride-along" programs that allow residents to place food scraps in with their yard waste on a seasonal basis.*

*"Residents can start to dabble with it for no additional cost," Willis said. "We're not putting a new truck on the street. We are just putting material that would have gone in our garbage carts into our composting carts."*

*The city of Highland Park opted for a voluntary, seasonal program when it changed over to Lakeshore Recycling Systems in 2016.*

*"We think it will take some time for people to catch onto this," Willis said, noting it took time for recycling rates to grow. "It's going to take awhile to get there with organics."*

*Compostables should not be placed in petroleum-based plastic bags, but residents may use paper bags to line their composting containers, Willis said. During months when there is large amount of yard waste, he advises placing a layer of yard waste at the bottom of the container before adding a layer of food scraps.<sup>39</sup>*

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<sup>39</sup> [As food scrap composting catches on, some suburbs move to require it](#)

## Appendix G. On-Site or Backyard Composting

Backyard composting is a way for residents to recycle select food and landscape organics, which creates a lower carbon footprint than transporting organics to a commercial facility for processing. The first step in creating a successful backyard composting program is to have municipal guidelines, and the second step is to promote these guidelines.

### Current Municipal Code in an Illinois Community

#### 3-9-7: COMPOSTING

Properly maintained compost piles may be utilized by single-family units for gardening and landscaping purposes. Such may be located in the side or backyard, the farthest distance possible on site from neighboring residential structures, patios and swimming pools, a minimum of five feet (5') from the property line. Compost piles shall not contain household garbage and must be regularly maintained by turning the composting material to permit aeration and/or by application of chemicals to induce rapid decomposition and prevent offensive odors. (Ord. 0-90-26, 7-2-1990)

While municipalities do not provide or run on-site or backyard composting programs, there is a role municipalities play in ensuring ordinances and codes are current and supportive of and providing guidance for composting. Many of these municipal ordinances in Illinois have not been updated to reflect changes in State policy that allow for food scraps to be composted with yard waste.

### On-Site Composting

Schools, universities, institutions and businesses may look to on-site composting as an opportunity to reduce their environmental impact and save money hauling to the landfill. On-site composting will require following local ordinance regarding which materials can be composted and how the finished compost may be used or distributed.



### Backyard Composting

Backyard composting can be an option for residents depending on backyard space and local restrictions. Before



developing a backyard compost bin, it is important to contact your community or county waste and recycling coordinator to understand any restrictions there may be. When conducted correctly, an on-site compost bin will not generate unpleasant odors and will provide your home with quality soil. The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County created a useful [guide for backyard composting](#) in Cook County.<sup>40</sup>

## Backyard Composting Ordinances

### ORDINANCE: COMPOSTING CHAMPAIGN, IL

#### ARTICLE V. - COMPOSTING

##### Sec. 35-40. - Composting—Maximum size and location standards.

(a) No person shall maintain a compost cell or pile in violation of the standards in this chapter. (b) The

<sup>40</sup><http://www.swancc.org/resources/supportive-documentation/recycling/composting/235-compost-guideline-s/file>

maximum size of a compost cell or pile shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five (125) cubic feet in volume and five (5) feet in height. The cell must be restrained on three (3) sides to minimize blowing material. Side walls should allow aeration. The cell shall not: (1) Be located in a floodway; (2) Be setback less than three (3) feet from any property line, unless the compost cell is maintained jointly by two (2) or more abutting property owners; (3) Be closer than fifteen (15) feet to a neighbor's dwelling; (4) Shall be located in the front yard of any property; and (5) Be maintained so that runoff or leachate created as a result of the cell runs onto abutting property.

**Sec. 35-41. - Same—Allowable organic materials.**

Only the following organic materials are allowed in a compost cell: dirt, grass, grass clippings, waste sod, leaves, woody materials, and garden wastes reduced in size to half an inch in diameter and twelve (12) inches long, cooked and uncooked fruit and vegetable leaves, peels, and greens. Small amounts of wood ash or fertilizer may be added to provide nutrients.

**Sec. 35-42. - Same—Excluded materials.**

Materials excluded from compost cell include but are not limited to: construction or demolition debris, metal items, preservative-treated wood products, petroleum products (gasoline, crankcase oil, paints, or solvents), pesticides or herbicides (except that which is already conveyed as part of the yard waste), fish or animal feces except hen manure when permitted by a coop license (Section 7-19), fish or animal offal, fish or animal carcasses, cooked meat scraps, human feces, paper, and plastic or cardboard items normally considered solid waste as defined in the Code.

**Sec. 35-43. - Same—Violations declared nuisance.**

(a) No owner or occupant shall allow or permit composting on their property in violation of this Code. (b) In addition to other remedies, such violations are declared to be public nuisances and may be abated as such pursuant to Chapter 22.<sup>41</sup>

**ORDINANCE: COMPOSTING - SPRINGFIELD, IL**

**170.17.14. - Composting.**

**(a) Purpose and intent.** The purpose of this section is to promote the recycling of yard wastes through composting, and to establish minimum standards for proper compost maintenance.

**(b) Maintenance.** All compost piles shall be maintained using approved composting procedures to comply with the following requirements: (1) All compost piles shall be enclosed in a freestanding compost bin. Each compost bin shall be no larger in volume than 125 cubic feet and shall be no taller than five feet, and further, said compost bin shall provide adequate penetration of moisture for the compost materials and provide adequate ventilation for products of decomposition. (2) All compost piles shall be maintained as to prevent the attraction or harborage of rodents and pests. (3) All compost piles shall be maintained as to prevent unpleasant odors. (4) No compost pile shall be located in any yard except as follows: a. In rear yard not less than three feet from all lot lines; and b. In side yard no closer to any lot line than the required side setbacks prescribed in the zoning district in which it is located.

**(c) Ingredients.** (1) No compost piles shall contain any of the following: a. Lake weeds. b. Cooked food scraps. (2) Permitted ingredients shall include: a. Yard waste. b. Commercial compost additives. c. Uncooked vegetable waste.

**(d) Owner responsibility.** Every owner or operator shall be responsible for maintaining all property under his or her control in accordance with the requirements of this section.

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<sup>41</sup> [Champaign, IL Composting](#)

**(e) Penalty.** Any person violating this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$300 nor more than \$750. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.<sup>42</sup>

## **ORDINANCE: BACKYARD COMPOSTING - NAPA COUNTY, CA**

8.52.110 - Composting—Small volume on-site operations.

Nothing in this chapter or division shall prevent a person from composting green material or green waste upon their property, provided such composting is conducted on the property where the material was generated or on contiguous property, and is conducted in a manner which will not promote the propagation, harborage, or attraction of vectors, or the creation of public nuisances and no more than two hundred cubic yards of compost, finished compost, or feedstock is on site at any one time.<sup>43</sup>

## **ORDINANCE: MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

244.770. - Composting

(a) Defined. For the purposes of this article, composting is a microbial process that converts plant materials to a usable organic soil amendment or mulch.

(b) Compost containers. Composting shall be conducted within a covered or uncovered container, enclosed on all vertical sides. Containers shall be of a durable material and shall be constructed and maintained in a structurally sound manner. Wood used in the construction of a compost container must be sound and free of rot.

(c) Size. The maximum size for a compost area on lots with a residential structure shall be fifteen (15) cubic yards. The maximum size on lots without a residential structure shall be twenty-five (25) cubic yards for lots under ten thousand (10,000) square feet and one hundred twenty (120) cubic yards for lots over ten thousand (10,000) square feet.

(d) Location on property. The compost container(s) shall not be located closer than one (1) foot from the rear property line and shall not be located in any required front or side yard as defined in the zoning code, nor closer than twenty (20) feet to any habitable building off of the subject property.

(e) Acceptable materials for backyard composting. Composting materials at a backyard compost site are those approved by the Minnesota Rules 7035.0300. Composting materials include: food scraps, garden wastes, weeds, lawn cuttings, leaves, and prunings. Compost piles shall include an appropriate mix of nitrogen-rich materials (or "greens") and carbon-rich materials (or "browns") to reduce odor and ensure adequate composting.

(f) Prohibited compost materials. The following compostable materials shall not be placed in a backyard composting container: meat, fats, oils, grease, bones, whole eggs, milk or other dairy products, human or pet wastes, pesticides, herbicides, noxious weeds, diseased plant material in which the disease vector cannot be rendered harmless through the composting process, and any other mixed municipal solid waste that may cause a public health risk or create nuisance conditions.

(g) Maintenance. Compost materials shall be layered, aerated, moistened, turned, and managed to promote effective decomposition of the materials in a safe, secure and sanitary manner. Compost materials shall be covered with a layer of material such as leaves, straw, wood chips, or finished compost to reduce odor.

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<sup>42</sup> [Springfield, IL Composting](#)

<sup>43</sup> [Napa, CA Composting](#)

(h) Educational materials. The city shall prepare and distribute informational materials to assist persons wishing to conduct source-separated organic composting in an efficient manner that minimizes public nuisance conditions.

(i) Abatement. All compost containers and/or compost materials not in compliance with this section shall be declared a public nuisance and are subject to abatement as provided in [Chapter 227](#) of this Code. In addition, the director may require individuals whose compost containers and/or materials are not in compliance with this section to attend a master composter or similar educational program as a condition of continuing to compost on a subject property. (90-Or-245, § 1, 9-28-90; 2012-Or-007, § 1, 3-8-12; [2015-Or-095](#), § 1, 12-11-15)

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<sup>44</sup> [Minneapolis Composting](#)