

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter, such as food scraps, into a valuable soil amendment. The resulting decomposed matter is called compost. It is rich in nutrients and can be used as a natural fertilizer.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **It cuts down on trash and expenses.** Charlestonians throw away more than 15,000 tons of food scraps each year, making up one quarter of the City of Charleston's collected garbage. Composting saves space and taxpayer money needed for disposal in landfills.
- **It combats climate change.** Food waste recycling will help meet three of the City's Climate Action Plan goals, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and protecting our air and water from pollution to fight climate change.
- **It protects against flooding.** Compost nourishes soil for healthier parks and gardens and increases stormwater absorption capacity.
- **It can save plants and animals.** Compost reduces the need for expensive and polluting chemical fertilizers, makes plants healthier, and can be used without harming wildlife or ecosystem health.



CHARLESTON COMPOSTS

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS IN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON!

A new food scrap drop-off program will support residential composting!

Beginning January 23, City of Charleston residents can recycle food scraps for **FREE** at participating drop sites. The food scraps are then sent to the Bees Ferry Compost Facility instead of the landfill.

Residents must sign up at charleston-sc.gov/compost to participate. Composting tips and information also are available at this website.

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

Ackerman Park (West Ashley)
including the West Ashley Farmers Market

Corrine Jones Park (Peninsula)

Medway Park (James Island)

These are pilot drop-off locations. New sites and program updates will be posted at charleston-sc.gov/compost.

ITEMS ACCEPTED

- ✓ **Fruits & Vegetables**
- ✓ **Bread, Dough, Bakery Items, Pasta & Grain**
- ✓ **Coffee Grounds & Tea Filters**
- ✓ **Compostable Liquids** (e.g., water, juices in small amounts)
- ✓ **Cooked Meats, Fish, Bones & Shells***
- ✓ **Dairy Products*** (e.g., milk, cheese, yogurt)
- ✓ **Food-Soiled Paper** (e.g., paper bags, paper towels, napkins, waxed cardboard boxes*)
- ✓ **Processed Foods** (e.g., pizza, cereal, chips, crackers, cookies, cakes, plate scrapings)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- ✗ **Raw Meat** (e.g., beef, poultry, pork, seafood)
- ✗ **Plastic Items** (e.g., bags, dishes, utensils, cups, Styrofoam)
- ✗ **Small Items** (e.g., rubber bands, twist ties)
- ✗ **Chemical Cleaners**
- ✗ **Non-Food Items** (e.g., wood, metal, glass, ceramics, pet droppings, yard debris)
- ✗ **Fats, Oils, Grease or Non-Compostable Liquids** (e.g., vegetable oil, lard)

* These items are accepted in this program, but **ARE NOT RECOMMENDED** for backyard composting. *Continued on back*



HOW TO STORE FOOD SCRAPS

You can store food scraps in almost any reusable container with a tight-fitting lid. You also can store them in the freezer or refrigerator.

HELP PREVENT CONTAMINATION!

Contamination is a major challenge with any compost program because it is not possible or safe to have staff sort through piles of food scraps removing items that don't belong. Preventing contamination on the front end helps to ensure the final product is free of inorganic materials and is safe to use.

Unfortunately, if any food scrap carts are contaminated with items that can't be composted, the whole cart must be

disposed of in the garbage. Know what goes in and what stays out. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out!

DROP IT OFF

You can drop off your compostables as often as you like, but once a week is recommended. Drop-off sites in parks are open when the parks are open – from dawn to dusk daily.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact City of Charleston, Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability at 2 George Street, Charleston, SC 29401 or visit charleston-sc.gov/compost.

For more information about backyard composting, please visit scdhec.gov/compost. For tips to help eliminate food waste, visit scdhec.gov/dwfsc.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: STEP-BY-STEP

1 COLLECT food scraps in a sealed container or store in a freezer.

2 TAKE your food scraps to a nearby drop-off site.

3 RINSE the container. Repeat!

For drop site locations and more information, visit charleston-sc.gov/compost.



FUNDED BY



CITY OF CHARLESTON

