

**Resilience and
Sustainability
Advisory
Committee
Meeting**

August 22, 2024

Agenda

1. Welcome, Moment of Silence

Mayor William Cogswell, Chairperson

Announcement of new
[Resilience Guidance for Charleston](#)

2. Comprehensive Water Plan
Workshop Announcement

Kaylan Koszela, Communications & Projects Manager

3. Compost Program Progress &
Pumpkin Composting Expansion

Katie McKain, Director of Sustainability

4. Federal Funding Update & Discussion

Katie McKain

5. Discuss Approach to Addressing Gas
Powered Leaf Blowers

Katie McKain
Councilmember Mike Seekings

6. New Business

7. Public Comment Period*

Welcome and Moment of Silence

By: Mayor William Cogswell, Chairperson



City of Charleston

PRESERVATION
ESTD SOCIETY 1920
of CHARLESTON

Resilience Guidance

<https://www.preservationsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/GuidanceFullReduced.pdf>




City of Charleston
PRESERVATION
ESTD SOCIETY 1920
of CHARLESTON



**RESILIENCE GUIDANCE
FOR CHARLESTON**

JULY 2024

Water Plan Workshop Announcement

By: Kaylan Koszela, Communications & Projects Manager

Compost Program Update & Pumpkin Composting

By: Katie McKain, Director of Sustainability



**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**

Underserved Areas:

- North Charleston
- Middle West Ashley
- Johns Island

**Underserved
Areas Fall 2023**

Form online to
suggest a drop site



CHARLESTON COMPOSTS

City hosts 10 sites

Partners host 10:

Chs. County-3

Folly Beach-1

Isle of Palms-2

Mount Pleasant-3

Sullivan's Island-1

**Spring 2024:
20 Drop Sites
Filling Gaps**



**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**

**In 2023,
Over 2.5 tons of
pumpkins were
composted
instead of
landfilled**

**Bees Ferry
Compost Bin**



PUMPKIN SMASH

FOR A FUN WAY TO COMPOST PUMPKINS



**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**



SAVE THE DATES!

-West Ashley Farmers
Market

11/24/2024

-New Realm Brewing

11/9/2024

DON'T TRASH IT, SMASH IT!

PUMPKIN SMASH

FOR A FUN WAY TO COMPOST PUMPKINS



**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**



SAVE THE DATES!

-West Ashley Farmers
Market

11/24/2024

-New Realm Brewing

11/9/2024

SEEKING PARTNERS!

-Farms with livestock
that eat pumpkins

-Businesses to host a
pumpkin smash
event!

-Volunteers

DON'T TRASH IT, SMASH IT!

2024 is Goal on Track



**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**

Filter by Year

All

Estimated Tons of Residential
Food Scraps Composted

340

Estimate of Co2 Emissions
Eliminated (metric tons)

556

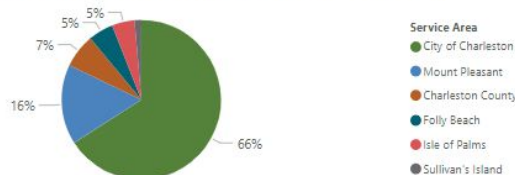
Garbage Truck Trips Avoided
through Composting

24

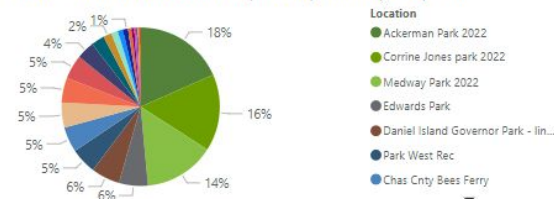
Households Participating in
Charleston Composts

2641

Tons of Residential Food Scraps Composted by Service Area

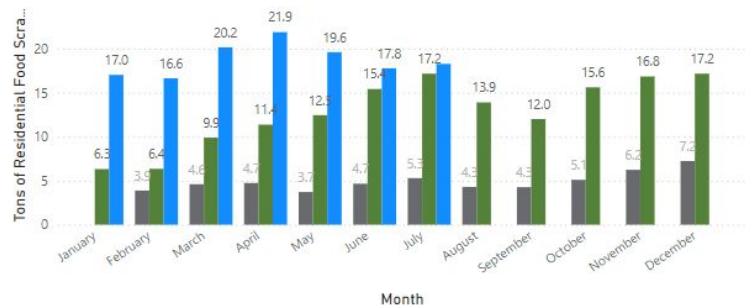


Tons of Residential Food Scraps Composted by Drop Site

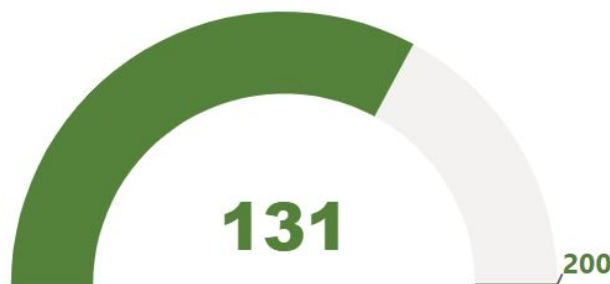


Tons of Residential Food Scraps Composted

Annual ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024



Goal: 200 tons in 2024



Data Dashboard

- Goal progress
- Transparency
- Analytics help improve the program

[View Data Here](#)

Federal Funding Update & Discussion

By: Katie McKain, Director of Sustainability

Status of Grants Submitted

Main Applicant	Grant Name	Amount Awarded
SCOR	EPA Solar For All	\$124,000,000
SCDHEC / SCOR	EPA CPRG- Planning	\$3,000,000
SCOR	EPA CPRG- Implem.	\$0
BCDCOG	EPA CPRG- Planning	\$1,000,000
City of Charleston	DOE EECBG	\$195,380
City of Charleston	DES	\$15,000

Grant Applications Being Reviewed

Main Applicant	Grant Name	Amount Awarded
Sustainability Institute, Root Down Collaborative & North Charleston	EPA Community Change	
BCDCOG	DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure	

Grants

Upcoming Considerations:

- EPA DERA
- EPA Community Change
- USDA Urban & Community Forestry grant

Discuss Approach to Addressing Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

By: Katie McKain, Director of Sustainability
& Councilmember Mike Seekings

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers: Key Issues

- **Health:** Stirs up dust and pollutants, harming lungs and air quality.
- **Noise:** Dangerous decibel levels, potential hearing loss, disrupts community peace.
- **Water Quality:** Fuel spills during refueling.
- **Pollution:** Emits greenhouse gases, nitrous oxide, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide.
- **Impact:** Half-hour use = driving 3,900 miles in a Raptor.

Action in Other Southeast Cities

Over 100 cities across the country have banned or restricted them

- Key Biscayne, FL
- Palm Beach, FL
- Chapel Hill, NC
- Coral Gables, FL
- Key West, FL
- Boca Raton, FL
- Winter Park, FL- in progress
- Kiawah, SC- testing electric options

Benefits of Electric Blowers

- **Quieter:** Operate with much less noise.
- **Cleaner Air:** No burning fuel smell.
- **Lower Emissions:** Fewer greenhouse gases, even with non-renewable power.
- **Low Maintenance:** Fewer parts, longer lifespan.
- **Affordable:** Competitively priced and widely available in Charleston.

City Led by Example

- Resolution to transition all 95 leaf blowers used by City staff in Fall 2021.
- Co-hosted an Electric Lawn Care Expo to spread awareness
- Transition completed in 2023.

The Challenge

The market should be driving this change naturally.

However,

Many landscape companies are still unfamiliar with the technology or unaware of viable alternatives.

How could the City help address this challenge?

New Business

Committee Members

Public Comment Period