



# FOOD SCRAPS COMPOSTING PILOT

## Why is the County conducting this pilot and why should I compost?

Nearly half of the materials that end up in the landfills can be composted. Collecting food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings at the curb will help keep valuable materials out of our landfills, reduce harmful greenhouse gases, protect our environment and help Prince George's County get closer to our zero waste goals.

## What can I compost?

There are a variety of materials that can be composted including yard trim, leaves, grass and brush. Examples of food items include, fruits, vegetables, meats, bones, coffee grounds and filters, egg shells, soiled paper napkins, soiled pizza boxes, tea bags and loose tea leaves, dairy products, and seafood shells, to name a few.

## How can I participate?

After opting in, we will provide you with a 2 gallon kitchen pail, in addition to a 32 gallon exterior wheeled cart to place all of your organics. We will also provide you with a box of compostable liners for your kitchen pail to get you going. Additional liners may be purchased at local retail stores. A list of tested and approved liners is available in your welcome kit.

Collecting food scraps in the kitchen pail is an easy way to save your leftovers. Once the pail is full (the frequency of this depends on the amount of food scraps you produce), you will throw the liner in the cart, which your contractor will empty once a week on the County's yard waste collection day which is Monday. Remember to place your cart at the curb by 6 a.m. for collection.

## What will happen to the organic materials in my cart after they are collected?

After we collect your organic materials at the curb, they are transported to the Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility for processing. Materials are placed in a large pile where they will eventually break down and transform into a rich soil amendment, marketed and sold in bulk as Leafgro Gold.

## How can I control odors in my cart?

The kitchen pail is designed in a way that allows for maximum ventilation, thus reducing smells to a bare minimum. Once the pail is full, you can transfer its contents to your cart – the locking lid will seal it tight and keep it secure. This means you can keep the cart in your yard or garage without worry of attracting unwelcomed pests.

You should rinse your cart with mild soap and water periodically and you may sprinkle baking soda in the cart to control any odors.

## Where and when should I place my cart for collection?

Place your cart at the curb by 6 a.m. on the County's yard waste collection day which is Monday. Please make sure it is visible and accessible from the street.

## Where can I buy extra compostable bags for my kitchen pail?

For the kitchen pails, we recommend using 3 gallon food scrap bags. They are available from a variety of retailers including local grocery stores. BioBags, the ones included in your welcome kit have been tested through our composting system, are sold nationally at Whole Foods and Petco stores. They are also available online from the following retailers: amazon.com, bedbathandbeyond.com buygreen.com, foodfightgrocery.com, greenhome.com, imgoingeco.com, jet.com, letsgogreen.biz, earth-friendly.com, mcguckin.com, mynaturalmarket.com, planetnatural.com, storable.com and target.com.

## I already compost at home. Should I still use my County-issued pail?

Congratulations for already being environmentally conscious by composting at home. We encourage you to continue to do so. However, there are many items that we accept in our carts that are not suitable for a residential compost pile. Please refer to our list of acceptable items for further information.

## I have leftover cooking grease and oil. Can it be added to my organics cart?

No, we do not accept fats, oils and leftover grease. Those items can be recycled at the County's Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Site. Visit [environment.mypgc.us](http://environment.mypgc.us) for more information.

