

## Why Recycle Food Scraps?

Food scraps are one of the largest components of trash sent to landfills and incinerators. However, food scraps are not trash. They are a resource that can be turned into useful compost.

Recycling food scraps into compost captures their nutrients and energy and returns them to the environment. When food scraps are sent to a landfill or incinerator this resource is lost. In a landfill, food scraps create methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas that traps CO<sub>2</sub> and contributes to global warming. When sent to an incinerator, food scraps reduce the efficiency of the incinerator because they contain water and therefore don't burn well.

Composting food scraps turns that story around! Instead of wasting energy trying to burn food, or creating methane from landfilling it, composting food scraps produces a useful and valuable product that gives back to our nutrient life cycle. The result is cleaner soil, water and air.

## What Is Compost?

Compost is a soil amendment which enriches our soil. When purchasing a bag of potting soil or observing your landscaper putting down "dirt," you are using compost.

Compost benefits our landscape by maximizing plant growth, preventing soil erosion and mitigating the frequency of water, fertilizer and pesticide use.

By recycling your food scraps you are reducing waste and creating compost - a double win!

**THANK YOU for participating in Sullivan County's Food Scraps Recycling Program**



# Food Scrap Recycling Guide



**Sullivan County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling**  
**100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701**  
**(845) 807-0921**  
**[recycling@sullivanny.com](mailto:recycling@sullivanny.com)**

# Food Scrap Recycling Is Easy!

## Here's How to Do It:

**COLLECT** your food scraps in a countertop pail. DO NOT line your pail with a compostable bag. *These are not accepted at the commercial facility.*

**TRANSFER** the food scraps from the countertop pail to a larger transfer bucket for storage. It is recommended that the buckets be stored in the house or garage.

**DROP OFF** food scraps weekly or as needed to your nearest Sullivan County Recycling & Transfer Station during regular business hours.

**CLEAN YOUR BINS AND RETURN TO SERVICE**  
Begin saving food scraps and prepare for your next visit to drop off food scraps and compostable materials.

**DROP-OFF SITES** You may bring your food scrap bin to the Food Scrap Recycling drop-off area at Recycling & Transfer Stations as often as needed. The drop-off site is open during regular station hours and days of operation. There is no charge to drop off food scraps.

**TRANSFER STATION LOCATIONS & HOURS** Please visit our website for hours and locations:  
<https://www.sullivanvny.us/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling>

**All material collected is brought to a commercial composting facility where it is turned into compost.**

**QUESTIONS?**  
**recycling@sullivanvny.us**

## Accepted Items:

- ✓ ALL FOOD, including:
  - ✓ Fruits and Vegetables (remove stickers, bands, ties)
  - ✓ Meat and Poultry (bones are ok)
  - ✓ Fish and Shellfish (shells are ok)
  - ✓ Dairy Products
  - ✓ Bread and Pasta
  - ✓ Rice and Grains
  - ✓ Egg Shells
  - ✓ Chips and Snacks
  - ✓ Nuts and Seeds (shells are ok)
  - ✓ Leftover and Spoiled
  - ✓ Coffee Grounds & Paper Filters
  - ✓ Tea Bags (remove staples)

## Not Accepted:

- Compostable bags and other compostable packaging including plates, cups, take out containers, etc. are NOT accepted
- Plastic bags, packaging, hype stickers, rubber bands, twist ties are NOT accepted
- Pet waste, spent flowers, soiled paper (napkins/paper products) are NOT accepted

## Starter Kits:

Starter kits can be purchased at all Sullivan County Recycling & Transfer Stations.

**Kits:** All starter kits include one countertop pail and one medium-sized bin for storage.

