

Ulster County Commercial Composting Guide

Put these items in your composting container

FOOD SCRAPS AND LEFTOVERS

Meat, fish, dairy, fruit, vegetables, shells, bones, pasta, rice, eggshells, nutshells, bread, grains



FOOD-SOILED PAPER

Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, waxed cardboard, soiled paper bags, kitchen paper towels, paper napkins, paper egg cartons, uncoated paper plates (**Absolutely no plastic**)



PLANTS, FLOWERS AND APPROVED COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING*

Plants and flowers, landscape vegetation, holiday trees, untreated wood scraps



*Look for this logo on your food service items and packaging!



THESE ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTED IN COMPOSTING PROGRAM

No glass, metals, coated paper or plastics (utensils, wrappers, bags, plastic foam, etc.)



Garbage

Put these items in your garbage container



Recycling

Put these items in your recycling container



For more information, contact the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, New York 12401

Recycling Hotline — (845) 336-3336 or www.ucrra.org

The Ulster County Commercial Composting Guide is partially funded by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



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Ulster County PARTNER IN COMPOSTING Program

This collaboration between the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, local hauling companies and food related businesses offers a greener alternative that converts food scraps, food-soiled paper and other organic waste into valuable compost for home gardens and local agriculture.

Whether you work in a restaurant, grocery store, hotel, office building or school, the Ulster County **PARTNER IN COMPOSTING** program may be available to you. About 65 percent of the waste that goes to the landfill comes from the business community. Studies show that food scraps, food contaminated paper and waxed corrugated cardboard make up nearly 30 percent of that total.

By recycling food waste, your business can have a positive impact on the environment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), food scraps in landfills produce methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more harmful than carbon dioxide. By composting at work, we are diverting food waste from landfill disposal while creating nutrient-rich material highly valued by gardeners, farms, nurseries and other businesses that contribute to the vitality of our community.

Environmental preservation is an issue of paramount importance to Ulster County residents. Citizens want to know that the businesses they patronize are doing all that they can to help protect our environment. Join the Ulster County **PARTNER IN COMPOSTING** program today!

GETTING STARTED

Take these simple steps to join the **PARTNER IN COMPOSTING** program.

1. Contact the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency at (845) 336-0600 or mleg@ucrra.org
2. Schedule a free site visit to discuss the program and staff training
3. Get your employees involved. See our resources below

BUSINESS RESOURCES

- Free signs, decals and employee training for all **PARTNER IN COMPOSTING** participants
- Free promotional material to promote your efforts with customers
- Potential cost savings by reducing waste, donating and composting
- Assistance in purchasing acceptable compostable service ware

DONATE THE BEST, COMPOST THE REST

Can your high-quality leftover food be donated to hungry people or used for animal feed? Before you compost food that has not been served, consider donation options. The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency has partnered with local food pantries to ensure your donation safely gets to people in need and reduces disposal costs for your business. For additional information on how to donate food contact the **PARTNER IN COMPOSTING** program.

WASTE REDUCTION

Food costs money to purchase and prepare. When it becomes food waste it also costs money to haul it away. By doing your best to minimize food waste and divert it from landfills to composting, you can reduce your operating expenses and help the environment.

REDUCE, DONATE the Best, COMPOST the Rest

BENEFITS OF COMPOST

- Compost provides valuable nutrients and organic matter to the soil.
- Compost reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Compost improves soil structure, improving the soil porosity and bulk density to ensure a healthier root environment for your plantings.
- Compost filters and breaks down pollutants, protecting our groundwater supply. Compost increases the water retention of soil, reducing watering needs.

COMPOST FOR PURCHASE

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency is a member of the US Composting Council and a participant in the Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program. The STA program is recognized as the nation's leader in compost testing and sets the standard for compost quality. STA certified compost products are routinely analyzed for the following properties: pH, soluble salts, nutrient content, moisture content, organic matter content, maturity, stability, particle size, pathogen, trace metals (Part 503 regulated metals)

Visit the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency at 999 Flatbush Road in Kingston to purchase your STA certified compost product and improve your soil today. *If it isn't STA compost... What is it?*



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