

COMPOST NOW AVAILABLE

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency is also a member of the U.S. Composting Council and a participant in their Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program which requires that compost products are regularly tested assuring the production of consistently high quality products. STA compost products also meet all related product quality and testing requirements prescribed by state and federal regulations assuring that you purchase a safe, eco-friendly product. Compost quality and consistency is very important to our Agency and it is vital to our role to help shift our communities' misconceptions that food waste is a waste but instead view it as a valuable resource.



1 ton of compost is approximately equivalent to 2 cubic yards.

WHY COMPOST

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency embarked on a new composting initiative to increase the county's recycling rate and divert valuable organic material from landfill disposal. At a time when many recycling programs have hit a plateau across the nation, food waste is commonly seen as the next segment of the solid waste stream to be tapped for diversion and the Agency plans to be a part of the organics diversion movement.

Since the Ulster County and the Mid-Hudson Region of New York do not have a municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency currently transports MSW to a landfill in Central New York, at substantial economic and environmental costs. Last year, the Agency spent in excess of \$1.5 million on diesel fuel, driving over 2.2 million miles and emitting over 5,500 MTCDE to transport waste to distant facilities.

At the same time, Ulster County is fortunate to have one of the two municipally-operated Extended Aerated Static Pile (EASP) composting facilities in New York State. This Agency-operated facility accepts organics, including food scraps, yard waste and other compostable materials and creates compost - a nutrient-rich soil amendment highly valued

by residents, gardeners, farms, nurseries and other businesses that contribute to the vitality of local communities.

The Agency's EASP method of composting significantly reduces fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution when compared to landfilling these materials. This process eliminates the need for transporting organic waste across the State and reduces methane emissions that occur when organic materials anaerobically decompose at a landfill. In addition, composting produces a valuable soil amendment that can lessen the use of energy intensive synthetic fertilizers, stabilize soil pH and improve the soil's ability to hold nutrients, increase water holding capacity of soil-reducing watering needs and help in binding and degrading specific pollutants. The Agency currently accepts commercially generated food scraps and yard waste for the composting program. The Agency urges residents to compost in their backyard, in addition to the recycling programs already in place. Composting organic material is just as important as glass, plastic, metal and paper recycling. All of these efforts help reduce our reliance on landfills. Composting is nature's way of recycling.

<p>RAIN BARREL Value \$120 \$65 Taxes included</p>	<p>COMPOST BIN Value \$100 \$55 Taxes included</p>

Prices subject to change

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
999 Flatbush Road • PO Box 6219 • Kingston, NY 12401
Recycling Hotline — (845) 336-3336
www.ucrra.org • facebook.com/UlsterCountyRRA



BACKYARD COMPOSTING





Now available at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency



www.ucrra.org

Residents may deliver yard waste and purchase US Composting Council STA Certified compost product and/or backyard compost bins at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency at 999 Flatbush Road in Kingston.

COMPOST FOR PURCHASE (PICK-UP ONLY)

Mon–Sat: 7 AM - 4 PM
Sun: CLOSED
Per ton: \$30
Minimum Load Fee: \$20

FOOD SCRAPS/YARD WASTE DROP-OFF (COMMERCIAL ONLY)

Mon–Sat: 7 AM - 4 PM
Sun: CLOSED
Food Scraps: \$20 per ton
Yard Waste: \$40 per ton

MAIN OFFICE

845.336.0600
Mon – Fri: 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Sat – Sun: CLOSED
Compost Bins: \$55
Rain Barrels: \$65
Kitchen Caddy: \$10

Prices subject to change

HOW TO COMPOST

Compost is what you get when yard and garden waste, kitchen scraps, and other organic materials have completely broken down into a rich, dark, crumbly material. Composting begins by mixing yard and household organic waste in a pile or bin and providing conditions that encourage decomposition. The decomposition process is fueled by millions of microscopic organisms (bacteria, fungi) that take up residence inside your compost pile and continuously devour and recycle it to produce an organic fertilizer and valuable soil amendment. After the organisms have finished their food source, they generate finished compost, which has various minerals and micronutrients in an easily accessible form for plants.

A basic understanding of the composting process can produce a high-quality, usable product. All it takes are a few simple steps and a little time.

COMPOST FORMULA

COMPOSTABLE WASTE

- Waste material can be either yard waste and/or certain household waste, including food scraps.
- An ideal size for the pile is 3' x 3' x 3'.
- Large pieces of waste material should be broken up by hand or shredded.
- Check COMPOST INGREDIENTS list before adding waste materials.

OXYGEN

Turning the pile (moving materials from the sides into the middle and from the bottom to the top) will allow oxygen to reach the organisms which break down the material.

MOISTURE

- The pile should be moist, like a wrung-out sponge. Dry or wet piles will slow down the decomposition process.
- Check compost moisture by squeezing a handful. A few drops should come out.
- Adjust moisture by adding water to a dry pile or adding dry material to a wet pile.

TEMPERATURE

- For optimum composting, the compost temperature should be 90° to 140°.
- Consider checking the center of the pile periodically using a thermometer with a probe.

C:N RATIO

- The pile needs a good balance of Carbon and Nitrogen materials to decompose properly.
- The ideal C:N ratio is 30:1 (30 parts carbon to 1 part nitrogen) or 30 parts leaves to 1 part grass clippings.

COMPOST INGREDIENTS

(It is **NOT** recommended to put meat, fish scraps, dairy products, fats, grease, oil, dog or cat feces, kitty litter, pesticide-treated plants/grass clippings, charcoal ashes, non-compostable materials such as plastics, metals or glass in a **Backyard Compost Bin**.)

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, cardboard, soiled paper bags, kitchen paper towels, paper napkins, paper egg cartons, uncoated paper plates (**Absolutely no plastic**)



PLANTS, FLOWERS AND YARD WASTE

Plants and flowers, landscape vegetation, holiday trees, untreated wood scraps/chips, grass clippings (*can also be left on lawn*)



NON-COMPOSTABLE

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



COMPOST APPLICATION RATES

Compost should be used as a soil amendment to develop or improve moisture retention and add important organic matter. Compost worked into clay or sandy soils improves texture, helps with compaction, and aerates the soil, thereby facilitating grass and root development. It can also be used as a substitute for landscaping mulch or peat moss.

LAWN ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Establishment: Apply 1-2 inches of compost to the new lawn area. Incorporate into the soil to a depth of 5-8 inches. Rake soil surface smooth prior to applying seed. Apply seed as required. Lightly water the newly seeded area.

Maintenance: Apply fine layer of ¼ to ½ inch of compost and rake evenly across the lawn. Reseed if needed and lightly water.

FLOWER BED AND GARDEN SOIL MAINTENANCE

Apply about 2 inches of compost to the garden. Blend with existing soil to a depth of 6-8 inches.

LANDSCAPING DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Apply 1-3 inches of compost around planting beds, trees, and shrubs.

TREE AND SHRUB PLANTING

Excavate a hole slightly shallower and 2 to 3 times the width of the root ball or container. Uniformly blend compost with the excavated soil at 1 part compost to 2-3 parts soil. Back-fill and firm the soil/compost blend around loose roots and root ball within the planting hole. Water trees and shrubs thoroughly after planting.

COMPOST MAINTENANCE

FOR A HOLDING UNIT

- ✓ Add material to the holding unit in batches from stockpiled material, or as materials become available.
- ✓ A week after adding material, the pile should be turned.
- ✓ The pile should be turned again the following week and whenever the pile starts to cool.
- ✓ Add a few shovels of soil.
- ✓ Check moisture.

FOR A TURNING UNIT

- ✓ Thoroughly mix compostable material within the unit.
- ✓ When the pile cools off, it should be moved into the second bin.
- ✓ A new pile should be started in the first bin.
- ✓ The process should be repeated with the compost being mixed together in the third bin.
- ✓ Add a few shovels of soil.
- ✓ Check moisture.

GENERAL

- ✓ The compost process is finished in about 12 months, when the pile cools to within 10 degrees of the air temperature.
- ✓ When finished, the compost (humus) should be dark brown, crumbly, and have a slightly earthy odor.
- ✓ During the winter, insulate your container by placing chips or straw on the sides of the pile to help retain heat.
- ✓ Compost kitchen wastes carefully! Put kitchen wastes deep in the center of the pile to help keep pests away.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

PROBLEM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	SOLUTION
Rotten Odor	Too much moisture Compaction	→ Turn pile or add dry materials → Turn pile or make pile smaller
Ammonia Odor	Too much nitrogen	→ Add a high carbon material such as sawdust, fall leaves, wood chips, or straw
Low Pile Temperature	Pile too small Pile too dry Lack of air in pile	→ Make pile larger or insulate with straw → Add water while turning pile → Turn pile