

PE5 Residential Organic Waste Program

Village of Bronxville

Bronxville's Food Scrap Recycling program and Yard Waste Pick-Up program promote the composting of organic material in Bronxville.

Food Scrap Recycling Program

According to the Draft Scoping Plan of the CPA, "ending the disposal of food scraps and yard waste at landfills and incinerators is probably the single most important action the State can take to cut emissions from [the solid waste] sector."

In December 2021, with the intention of reducing organic waste in Bronxville, the Village launched a voluntary, residential food scrap recycling program in which residents collect their food scraps and drop them off at a central drop-off site behind Village Hall.

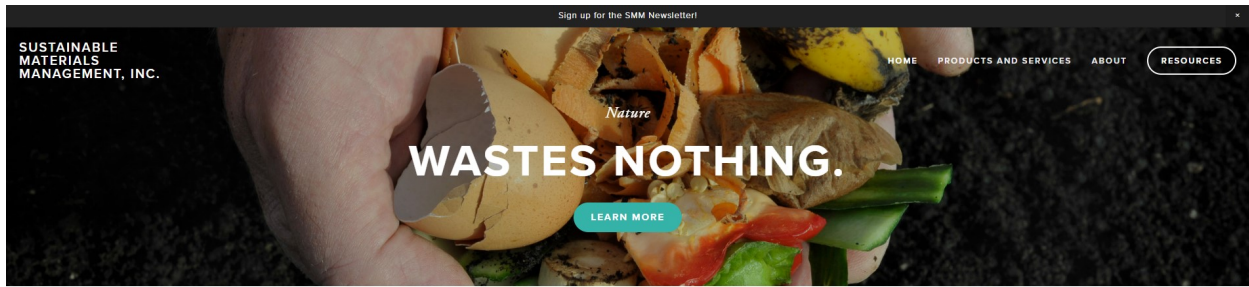
Background

In early March, 2020, during a public meeting of the Bronxville Trustees, the Bronxville Green Committee hosted the presentation of a residential food scrap recycling program given by Michelle Sterling of Scarsdale, NY's Sustainability Committee. The Green Committee had extensively researched the Scarsdale drop-off model of this program, which had already been adopted by over 20 municipalities in the county. The Trustees were impressed with the program and willing to move forward but preferred to wait until ongoing construction of a new DPW facility was finished and could become the location of a drop-off site.

In fall of 2020, the Village joined an Inter Municipal Agreement (IMA) with Westchester County in which the County manages the transportation and disposal of food scraps collected through the Village's municipal program, making the cost of the transportation and recycling of food scraps equal to or less than the cost of disposal as managed solid waste.

Where are Food Scraps Taken for Composting?

Suburban Carting hauls Bronxville's food scraps to two commercial composters; the county does not specify a particular one and the carter determines which facility has room at the time of pick-up. Suburban hauls to both Sustainable Materials Management in Cortlandt Manor, 30 miles away; and to Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency near Kingston, 60 miles away. See screenshots from their websites below. Food scraps are turned into rich, organic compost, a soil amendment, which is sold to retail stores and then to consumers.



WESTCHESTER'S FIRST NYSDEC REGISTERED FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING FACILITY.



By September 2021, construction of the DPW was complete, and the Trustees passed a resolution officially adopting the Food Scrap Recycling program. (See G Resolution: <https://ecode360.com/documents/BR1468/public/626272720.pdf>.)

The Program

In this program, residents collect all food waste, including meat, bones, and dairy, as well as soiled compostable paper products such as paper towels, paper napkins, and the greasy portion of pizza boxes.

Paper plates (without plastic coatings) and compostable single-use cutlery, popsicle sticks, and all natural products (nothing plastic) are also collected. Liner bags MUST be compostable (not biodegradable). No stickers on fruit/veg and no staples on tea bags.

Bronxville’s Green Committee volunteers promote the program, sign up participants, handled the initial distribution of Starter Kits (which consist of a counter-top collection bin, roll of 24 compostable liners, larger totter bin, and brochure, sold at cost for \$25), and monitor the program’s progress. Village and DPW staff order and store bins and bin liners, maintain the drop-off site, and provide collection data. From Village Hall, they handle sales of starter kits and additional bin liners.



Above, Bronxville’s food scrap drop-off site, located behind Village Hall.



Bronxville Starter Kit

Promotion

On November 23, 2021, an eblast with sign-up form was distributed to residents by the Village. The program was initially promoted by the Green Committee through its website, an article in a local digital newspaper (Dec 8), on social media, and in several follow-up emails and a second eblast from the Village (Dec 9). The program was launched on December 10th and 11th when volunteers distributed starter kits to residents from Village Hall, from 10am-2pm each day. On December 13th a ribbon was cut at the drop-off site, which officially began accepting food scraps.

In winter 2022, a spike in Covid cases meant that promotion efforts could not safely take place in person. The Green Committee promoted Food Scrap Recycling through articles in My Hometown Bronxville, in church newsletters, community promotional board, email messaging, and through word of mouth. In April they arranged a display of books on food waste in the Bronxville Public Library along with information about the program. In April they ran an in-person Compost Give-Back Day where free compost was made available to all residents, who could also sign up for the program. In June, the Green Committee set up a table at the Bronxville Farmers Marketing to promote the program and sell kits.

Promotional Flyer:

FOOD SCRAP REC IN BRONXVII

Separate food scraps out of the waste stream into vital compost and reduce the pollution associated with sending it to an incinerator.

How does it work? It's as easy as 1-2-3



COLLECT food scraps in countertop pail using compostable bags.

STORE & TRANSFER bags of food scraps in the transfer bin.

What do I need to start?

Launch Event & Ribbon Cutting with Village Officials:



Left photo: Bronxville Trustee Helen Knapp (far right), Assistant Administrator Stephen Shallo, Green Committee Members



Bronxville Mayor Marvin & Green Committee Members

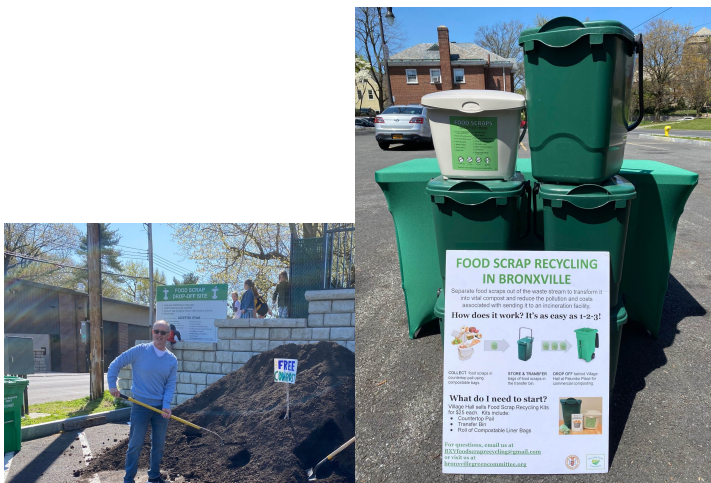
Village Hall Promotional Display:



Community Board:



Compost Give Back Day:



Jim Palmer, Village Administrator, and Amy Paulin, NYS Assemblymember District 88

Farmers Market Promotion:



Green Committee Members

Promotion on Bronxville Green Committee website:

<https://www.bronxvillegreencommittee.org/waste-not/food-scrap-recycling>



Food Scrap Recycling is an easy way to separate food scraps out of the waste stream to transform it into vital compost and reduce the pollution and costs associated with sending it to an incineration facility.

Sign Up for the program now and pick up your food scrap recycling kit from Village Hall Monday-Friday, 9AM-4PM. Kits are \$25 each payable by cash or check to the order of the Village of Bronxville. This is a voluntary program.

Residents can drop off food scraps at the designated drop off site at Palumbo Place behind Village Hall. Enter and leave via Midland Avenue. Once on Palumbo, please take a right into the parking lot, swing around to the left to drop off your food scraps, and continue left to exit Palumbo. You'll see the large Food Scrap Recycling sign and bright green drop off bins!



It's easy as 1-2-3: Collect, Transfer and Drop off

Just **COLLECT** your food scraps, **STORE & TRANSFER** in a secure bin and **DROP OFF** behind Village Hall for commercial composting.

Bronxville will be using the Scarsdale FSR model. Check out the video with information [What, How and Why! Scarsdale Food Scrap Recycling Program](#). [What How Why YouTube](#)

Library Display:



My Hometown Bronxville Articles:

my hometown
where Bronxville goes to know
Bronxville

HOME / SUSTAINABLE LIVING / NEW YORK STATE IS TACKLING FOOD WASTE. JOIN THE EFFORT!

PARK STERLING REALTY
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST
18 Springs Road
Bronxville Village
(914) 337-1234

Summer Fest
CONCERTS | FOOD | FUN
UPCOMING EVENTS

New York State is Tackling Food Waste. Join the Effort!
By the Bronxville Green Committee
Feb. 9, 2022: On January 1, 2022, the New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law went into effect, an effort to reclaim still edible food and significantly reduce the amount of organic matter going into landfills. This law requires that businesses and institutions that produce an average of two tons of food waste a week must donate their excess edible food and recycle the remaining food waste (as long as they're located within 25 miles of an organics recycling facility). Hospitals and K-12 schools are exempt, and no businesses or institutions in the Village of Bronxville are

THE COMMUNITY FUND
PACE
Are you looking for something to do in the Bronxville, Eastchester and Tuckahoe communities? Then, here's your chance to participate in the community-wide survey organized by the BET Community Fund in collaboration with Pace Community.

SUMMER CAMP 2022
JUNE 10 TO AUGUST 24, 2022
NOTES SPORTS ACADEMY
FITNESS STAR SQUASH CAMP
KIDZ VOLLEYBALL

my hometown
where bronxville goes to know
Bronxville

HOME / SUSTAINABLE LIVING / FOOD: TOO GOOD TO WASTE. LET'S DO BETTER TOGETHER!




Food: Too Good To Waste. Let's Do Better Together!



By the Bronxville Green Committee

Feb. 23, 2022: We've all heard the wasted food stats in this country. In summary, 40% of the food grown in the U.S. is wasted. If you pause, it's shocking. And while we all love our food and don't intend to waste, sometimes we do. By shopping smart, storing food properly, understanding food labels and recycling our food waste, we can make changes in our daily lives that significantly lower our environmental impact. We don't have to be perfect, just do a little bit better!



Wasted food...

- Uses natural resources and depletes the environment while producing no tangible benefits.





my hometown
where bronxville goes to know
Bronxville

HOME / SUSTAINABLE LIVING / BRONXVILLE'S FIRST COMPOST GIVE-BACK DAY IS APRIL 30, 2022



Bronxville's First Compost Give-Back Day is April 30, 2022



By the Bronxville Green Committee

April 27, 2022: Join the Bronxville Green Committee and our Village DPW on April 30th between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for Bronxville's first Compost Give-Back Day! Bring your own bucket and shovel and pick up FREE compost (while supplies last) at the food scrap drop-off site on Palumbo Place behind Village Hall (enter Palumbo Place from Midland Avenue). Rain date is Sunday, May 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Our local government is offering this organically rich soil amendment to all Village residents to make your springtime planting more fun and rewarding. Compost is the soil that results when the food scraps collected in the Village's residential Food Scrap Recycling program are composted at a commercial facility.

As of May 1, 2022, about 100 residents have signed up for the program and 95 Starter Kits have been purchased. From January 2022 until March 2022, the Village collected an average of 1.86 tons/month of food scraps, diverting approximately 1% of our entire waste stream (168 tons/month) from the waste-to-energy facility in Peekskill. We will continue to build on this strong start.

Organic Yard Waste Program

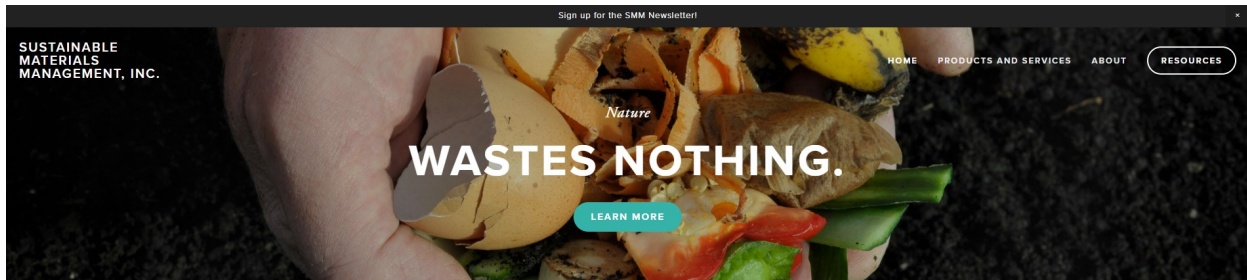
From mid-October until the first week of December, Monday through Friday as needed, the Bronxville DPW picks up leaves at curb side; they must be piled loosely apart from other yard waste. Small branches must be cut into 4 foot lengths and tied into bundles no more than 18 inches in diameter. Small twigs, flowers, etc. must be placed in biodegradable brown bags intended for lawn-care debris and left at the curb.

From early April until mid-October, residents are encouraged to leave grass clippings on their lawn. Other yard material may be tied in bundles or placed in brown biodegradable bags and left at the curb for pick up.

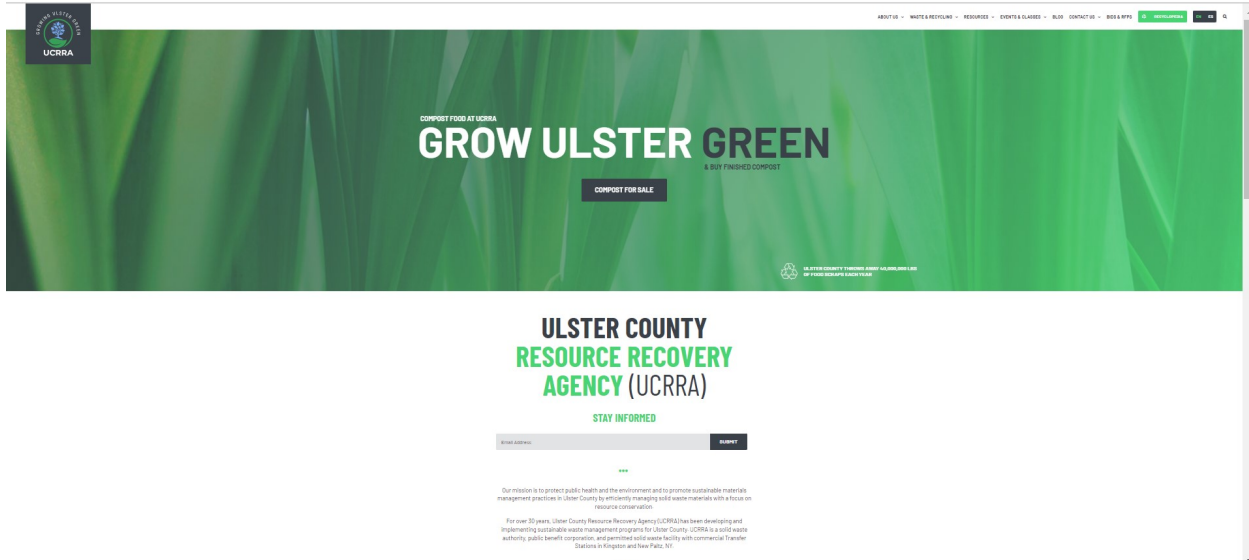
According to Westchester County's 2020 Annual Report on Solid Waste, beginning in 1998, the Westchester County Board of Legislators authorized the County to enter into Inter-Municipal Agreements (IMAs) with municipalities to operate the Organic Yard Waste Transfer Station Program. Participating municipalities collect yard waste at a municipal depot. The County arranges for collection from the depot and transport to private commercial composting facilities. As an economic incentive to divert yard waste from the solid waste stream, member municipalities pay less per ton for collected yard waste than for disposal of municipal solid waste. The program allows participating municipalities to increase local recycling rates and to save money by diverting yard waste from the waste stream.

Where is Yard Waste Taken?

Through Bronxville's agreement with neighboring Eastchester, organic yard waste is collected and brought to a transfer station in Eastchester, a natural area near Twin Lakes county park (off California Road), where it is placed in piles and allowed for a time to naturally decompose. When the area gets full, the County transports the material to an organic composting facility. Depending on which facility has space, the yard waste goes to either Sustainable Materials Management, Inc. in Cortlandt, NY, or to Ulster County Recourse Recovery Agency near Kingston. The county does not receive any of the resulting compost, which is sold to retailer stores and then to consumers.



WESTCHESTER'S FIRST NYSDEC REGISTERED FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING FACILITY.



The Village collects about 750 tons of yard waste each year. This program is promoted on the Village of Bronxville website: <https://www.villageofbronxville.com/public-works/pages/sanitation-recyclingyard-waste/>;



The Bronxville Green Committee continues to promote “love ‘em and leave ‘em” and other healthy yard care practices. The Pollinator Pathway Committee, under the umbrella of the Green Committee, encourages residents to avoid using pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides in their yards; use native plants that support the full lifecycle of pollinators and other insects and birds; and other healthy yard practices. See “Biodiversity” tab on the Bronxville Green Committee website: <https://www.bronxvillegreencommittee.org/>.

Please find in the Description of Implementation Box a copy of the agreement between Bronxville and Eastchester allowing Bronxville to drop-off yard waste in Eastchester’s transfer station at Twin Lakes.