

FOOD & PAPER WASTE COMPOST PROGRAM

at 15 municipal transfer stations in Franklin County, MA (see list on page 2)



YES - DO Compost:

Solid food wastes:

- Meat, poultry, fish, bones, shells
- Cheese, dairy (no liquids)
- Eggs, eggshells
- Fruits, vegetables, peels
- Bread, rice, pasta, cereal
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags

Paper:

- Paper napkins, paper towels
- Paper plates, paper cups, take-out containers (*BPI certified* only*)
- Waxed cardboard, waxed paper
- Cardboard/pizza boxes with stuck on food (*recycle empty pizza boxes*)
- Paper egg cartons, molded fiber packaging (rip up to save space)
- Paper bags (*recycle paper if clean*)

Wood:

- Wooden chopsticks, skewers, stirrers
- Small wooden fruit crates

"Compostable plastic" products:

- Compostable cups (i.e. Greenware)
- Compostable bags (i.e. BioBag)
- "Plastic" brands must be BPI certified:

*bpiworld.org



NO - DO NOT Compost:

- **NO** liquids
- **NO** plastic bags, wrappers, cling wrap
- **NO** Styrofoam™
- **NO** plastic, aluminum foil, metal, glass (*recycle in container recycling*)
- **NO** chemicals, hazardous residues
- **NO** beverage cartons, aseptic cartons (*recycle with containers*)
- **NO** frozen food boxes, ice cream cartons, Chinese food take-out boxes, butter wrappers (put these in trash)
- **NO** kitty litter, pet waste, diapers
- **NO** disposable cleaning wipes



DO NOT DEPOSIT MATERIALS IN PLASTIC BAGS!



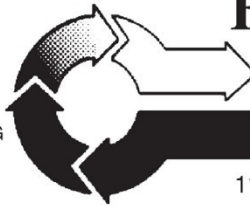
Food waste and other biodegradable materials are hauled weekly to a permitted commercial composting facility. Plastic harms this process.

(To buy a home compost bin, contact FCSWD below. It is not recommended to put meat, poultry, dairy, or oily foods in home compost bins.)

Franklin County Solid Waste District:
413-772-2438; info@franklincountywastedistrict.org
MA Relay for the hearing impaired:
711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)



REDUCTION
RECYCLING
COMPOSTING
DISPOSAL



Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

117 Main Street., 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA 01301 • (413) 772-2438 • Fax: (413) 772-3786
www.franklincountywastedistrict.org • info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

Franklin County Municipal Food Waste Compost Programs

As of Spring 2023, food waste compost programs are operating at 15 out of 19 municipal transfer stations in Franklin County: Bernardston, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. The collections are open during each transfer station's operating hours. These programs are free of charge, but a residential access permit may be required.

Why compost? Composting makes a valuable soil amendment from waste, saves money, slows climate change, and reduces trash. Households that separate their food waste for composting can potentially reduce their trash volume and save money on required town trash bags or stickers.

Each participating transfer station has a dedicated dumpster or bins for the collection of separated food waste. The containers are emptied weekly, and the contents brought to a commercial compost facility in Greenfield or Orange for composting. **Commercial composting facility is different from your average backyard compost system in that it can compost meat, bones, cheese, paper products, and other materials that are not appropriate for home compost bins or piles.**

These compost programs accept many materials that are otherwise destined for the trash. All solid food wastes are acceptable including meat, bones, poultry, fish, cheese, dairy (no liquids), eggs, eggshells, shellfish, fruits, peels, vegetables, bread, grains, tea bags, coffee grounds and paper filters. Non-recyclable paper is also accepted: napkins and paper towels, paper egg cartons, paper to-go containers (BPI-certified only; bpiworld.org), and pizza boxes with stuck-on food. (Pizza boxes that are empty and free of food should go in *paper recycling*.)

It is very important to keep the following items OUT of the compost container: liquids; pet wastes, kitty litter, diapers; plastic bags, wrappers or cling wrap; polystyrene foam; conventional plastic, metal, foil, glass; or non-biodegradable items. Yard waste, leaves and brush are not accepted in these programs.

To collect compostable items at home, residents can use a compost pail, 5-gallon bucket or any other closed container. The Solid Waste District office in Greenfield sells 2-gallon "Sure-Close" compost collection pails for \$5, by appointment: 772-2438. Check with your town's transfer station about the availability of compost pails at the transfer station. To make clean up easier, residents can line pails with newspaper, a paper bag, or a compostable BioBag. (Available online and at Green Fields Market.) "Compostable plastic" bags and similar materials must be BPI-certified; for more info, see bpiworld.org

If compostable wastes are transported to the transfer station in a traditional plastic bag, the bag must be emptied into the compost container and then the plastic bag must go in the trash. Never put plastic bags in the compost!

As always, residents are also encouraged to compost at home. The Solid Waste District sells home compost bins to residents (\$25-\$65, depending on the resident's town); call 413-772-2438. For more information, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Questions? Franklin County Solid Waste District: 413-772-2438, info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.
MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).