

MULTI-FAMILY FOOD SCRAPS PILOT

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Include the Food!

Now you can reduce waste by composting your food scraps and food-soiled paper!

Pilot at Mountain View Recycling Center (MVRC)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Free. Registration Required. Sign up at mountainview.gov/foodscraps or (650) 903-6311.
- After you register you may pick up kitchen pail and starter supply of bags at the MVRC.
- Line kitchen pail with 3 gallon compostable bag. Put food scraps/food-soiled paper in bag.
- When 2/3rds full, knot the top of the compost bag, and empty at least weekly.
- Take your compostable bags of food scraps to MVRC, 935 Terra Bella Av., Tues-Sat 9am-4pm.
- The pilot is only for neighbors who sign up, so we can provide corrections if needed.
- **Why are we doing a pilot?** Because food scraps in the landfill are the number one cause of methane, a greenhouse gas associated with climate change. See back page for more info.



Information

www.mountainview.gov/foodscraps
recycle@mountainview.gov
(650) 903-6311

Collection, Pails & Carts

www.recology.com
ContactUsRMV@recology.com
(650) 967-3034



REDUCE ■ REUSE ■ RECYCLE ■ ROT ■ REPAIR

HOW TO GUIDE

Every pound counts in the fight against climate change

- 1** Collect food scraps and food-soiled paper in kitchen pail and keep lid closed. Line pail using a compostable bag only.
- ▼ **Please no plastic bags--** they do not decompose.



- 2** When 2/3rds full, twist the bag closed and knot the top.
- ▼ Take to MVRC weekly. 935 Terra Bella Av. Tues-Sat 9am-4pm



- 3** Recology turns your food scraps into organic compost. **No kleenex or bathroom waste please!**
- ▼

TIPS FOR PAILS

- Please use only a compostable bag and knot it closed before taking it to the MVRC. No twist ties, bands or plastic.
- Keep your kitchen pail in a convenient location on the counter, under the sink, or in the freezer.
- Place food scraps and food-soiled paper in the pail while cooking or cleaning up after meals. The paper helps to absorb moisture.
- Use the garbage disposal only for liquids such as soups and sauces. (See FAQ, pg. 3)



- Freeze spoiled foods until collection day. Remove packaging first.
- Empty your compost pail at least once a week, more often if necessary.
- Rinse kitchen pail with soap and water weekly. Pail is dishwasher safe and the lid is removable. Sponge lid with a little vinegar to sanitize and discourage any pests.
- Stores sell compost pails that might fit your style better.
- Please do **not** use ice cream or milk cartons for pails because they are made to withstand moisture and do not break down in the 12 week composting process.

BAGS:

No plastic or vegetable bags. Use only bags certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute with the BPI symbol on the package.



Bags are available in 3 and 13 gallon sizes at many local grocery stores and retailers. They cost a few cents more than plastic trash bags (which do not decompose). See list of local retailers at www.mountainview.gov/foodscraps, and support your local economy and jobs.

Questions?

Contact us at recycle@mountainview.gov or (650) 903-6311.

FROM CART TO COMPOST

Keeping food and paper out of the landfill reduces greenhouse gas emissions and gives these valuable resources a second useful life as organic compost for farmers and growers.



1 After collection, the materials in your cart are transported to a commercial composting facility. They are ground up into small pieces and moved into large piles.

2 Microorganisms break down the materials and heat the pile to very high temperatures.

3 In about 3 months, the microorganisms transform the pile into an earthy, soil-like material called compost. The compost is used for many different landscape applications.

4 The finished compost is available at the SMaRT Station® (free). Call **(408) 752-8530** for limits and to check daily supply.

Important—Keep it Clean

Unaccepted items (like plastic bags/wrap, compostable plastics [PLA] foodware, frozen/refrigerated food or ice cream boxes, glass and metal containers) do not break down naturally and may cause significant problems during the composting process. It is important to keep these items out of the cart so they do not contaminate the compost. See list of *What Goes Where* on the enclosed insert.

Why can't I just use my garbage disposal?

The kitchen “garbage” disposal is intended for liquid wastes and small bits of food residue from dish washing. Food often contains fats, oils and grease that are the cause of most residential sanitary sewer backups.

The water treatment plant strongly discourages using the disposal for food scraps because it unnecessarily creates more organic waste for expensive treatment, and the resulting sludge must be incinerated and landfilled. Disposals also require gallons of water to flush and energy to operate — not a good use of our drinking water or electrical grid. Composting food scraps is less expensive than treatment and more environmentally friendly.



Red Fox, MV Resident

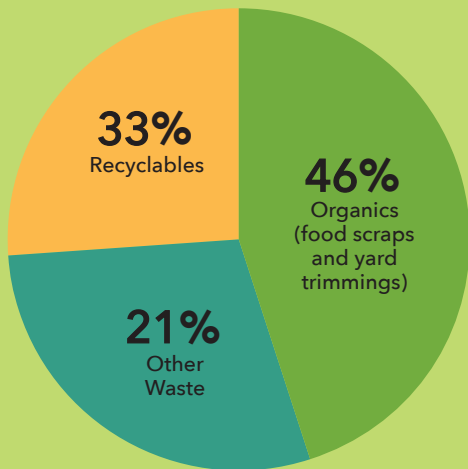
You now have the power to significantly reduce what is sent to the landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions! Just add food scraps and food-soiled paper to the compost cart. Keeping organics out of the landfill also gives these valuable resources a second useful life as organic compost for farmers and landscape growers.

See back page for program reviews, facts and figures.

WHY IS COMPOSTING FOOD SCRAPS IMPORTANT?



Food scraps and yard trimmings make up the largest percentage of "organic" waste that residents put in the trash cart. When organics are landfilled, they do not break down as they would in nature or in a compost pile. They decompose slowly without oxygen and emit large amounts of methane gas—a type of greenhouse gas associated with climate change.



MULTI-FAMILY TRASH

Burrowing Owl MV Resident



You now have the power to significantly reduce what is sent to the landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions! Just add food scraps and food-soiled paper to the green compost cart. Keeping organics out of the landfill gives these

valuable resources a second useful life as organic compost for farmers and landscape growers.



31%
of our trash consists of food scraps



3rd
largest source of human-caused methane gas = landfills



72x
methane gas is 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide

Here is what some of the pilot participants had to say about the program:

"I thought the pilot program was great and liked the fact it was collected on a weekly basis. With the weekly collection, the food did not have a chance to smell."

"We loved this program; it reduced our garbage load by so much. We got more detailed about separating out recycling items as well. Our whole family learned better habits and we were able to teach our kids about composting."

"Taking out the 'garbage' just got easier. All the garbage that we make now is plastic wrap, frozen food boxes and kitty litter. The compost bag and recycling tote help me to get to the containers outside without spilling stuff all over the walkway."

"Took some time to get acclimated (habits are hard to break), but really easy."



WHAT GOES WHERE

Recycling

CONTAINERS

Blue lid side of split cart
Grey cart at multi-family

- Aluminum cans and foil
- Glass bottles and jars (no other glass)
- Metal cans and lids (no other metals)
- Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, and lids (no clamshells or other plastic)
- Milk, juice, soup cartons (refrigerated or shelf stable)

Unsure if it's recyclable?

Search online at MountainView.gov/WhatGoesWhere
 For mobile phones, download the "Recology" App from the Apple or Google App stores.



PAPER

Grey lid side of split cart
Tan cart at multi-family

- All paper must be dry, free of food residue
- Cardboard boxes, small, flattened*
- Food boxes (no frozen/refrig boxes)
- Gift wrap (no metallic)
- Magazines, catalogs, phone books
- Manila folders, colored paper
- Newspaper, inserts, and junk mail
- Paperback books (no hardbacks)
- Paper bags
- Store receipts



*Large cardboard:

Flatten and place in white cardboard bin if you have one, or lean against recycling cart. If you have lots, bundle and tie.

Garbage

- Aerosol cans*
- Black plastic
- Ceramics and porcelain
- Clamshells
- Diapers and pet waste (bagged)
- Foam egg cartons
- Frozen food boxes, ice cream cartons
- Juice pouches
- Mirrors, window glass, Pyrex
- Photographs
- Plastic bags, film and wrap
- Plastic cups, plates, utensils (including those marked compostable)
- Plastic planter pots
- Pots and pans (and other metal)*
- Snack wrappers and papers
- Foam containers "styrofoam" of any kind
- Tyvek or padded envelopes

* These items with limited recycling markets are accepted at Mountain View Recycling Center during drop-off hours (page 8). Residents only, bring ID.



Compost

- Bread, pasta, cereal and grains
- Dairy products (solids and semi-solids)
- Eggshells, nutshells, seafood shells
- Fruits and vegetables, peels/pits, cobs/husks
- Leftover or spoiled food
- Meat, fish and chicken, including bones
- Coffee grounds, paper filters and tea bags
- Paper egg cartons and mushroom boxes
- Paper plates and cups, take out boxes
- Paper towels and napkins
- Pizzeria boxes (no frozen food boxes)
- Waxed paper
- Branches and prunings (under 4' long and 6" in diameter)
- Flower bouquets or plants
- Grass, leaves and weeds



NO: liquids, compostable "plastic" PLA foodware, plastic packaging, twist ties, glass, frozen food boxes/cartons, bathroom waste, tissues, floss, pet waste, cactus, bamboo canes, iceplant, palm fronds, yucca, stakes, bender board, pickets.

Store List - Compostable Bags - Food Scraps

	Store List MVW	Address	Phone	Sizes	Brand	Bags Per Box	Price Box/Bags
Grocery	Ava's Downtown Market	340 Castro Street	(650) 961-5652	2.6 gallon	Natural Directions	25	5.69 / 0.23
				13 gallon	Natural Directions	12	4.69 / 0.39
				3 gallon	Bio Bag	25	5.99 / 0.23
				13 gallon	Bio Bag	12	5.99 / 0.50
				33 gallon	Bio Bag, World Centric	10	9.99 / 1.00
	Nob Hill	1250 Grant	(650) 390-9222	3 gallon	Nature Bag	25	4.69 / 0.19
			13 gallon	Nature Bag	12	7.19 / 0.60	
Safeway	580 N Rengstorff 645 San Antonio 570 N Shoreline 1750 Miramonte	(650) 316-6321 (650) 948-4533 (650) 961-4868 (650) 903-5850	3 gallon	Bio Bag	25	5.99 / 0.24	
			13 gallon	Bio Bag	12	5.99 / 0.50	
			33 gallon	Bio Bag	5	5.99 / 1.20	
			N/A	Does Not Sell Bags	N/A	N/A	
Sprouts	630 San Antonio	(650) 397-3001	3 gallon	World Centric	25	4.99 / 0.20	
			13 gallon	World Centric	12	4.99 / 0.42	
			33 gallon	World Centric	5	4.49 / 0.90	
Whole Foods (LA)	4800 El Camino	(650) 559-0300	3 gallon	Bio Bag	25	4.69 / 0.19	
Hardware	Orchard Supply	(650) 691-2000	3 gallon	Bag To Nature	20	2.99 / 0.15	
			13 gallon	Bag To Nature	50	19.99 / 0.40	
			33 gallon	Bag To Nature	10	7.99 / 0.80	
True Value	1297 W El Camino	(650) 964-7871	3 gallon	Bag To Nature	20	4.49 / 0.22	
			13 gallon	Bag To Nature	15	8.99 / 0.60	
			33 gallon	Bag To Nature	10	9.99 / 1.00	
Retail	Target	555 Showers	(650) 965-7764	3 gallon	Bio Bag	48	9.99 / 0.21
				33 gallon	Bio Bag	10	9.99 / 1.00
				33 gallon	Bio Bag	5	6.29 / 1.26
	Walgreens	121 E El Camino 1905 W El Camino	(650) 961-7555 (650) 967-3531	3 gallon	Bio Bag	25	5.49 / 0.22
13 gallon				Bio Bag	12	7.49 / 0.62	
Walmart	600 Showers	(650) 917-0796	2.6 gallon	Al-Pack or Hefty	Info N/A	Info N/A	
			13 gallon	Al-Pack or Hefty	Info N/A	Info N/A	
Bed Bath & Beyond	2470 Charleston	(650) 691-0364	3 gallon	Bio Bag	48	9.99 / 0.21	



Please shop local and buy only what you need between shopping trips so stores can regularly stock items. Do NOT use produce bags of any color (they are plastic).

The following stores do not carry compostable (biodegradable) bags: CVS, Trader Joe's, Ranch 99, Nijaya, Mercado, La Plaza

Food Scraps Program Information: www.MountainView.gov / recycle@mountainview.gov / (650) 903-6311