

## Composting Program

The City of Hutchinson is always looking for more cost-effective ways to manage our solid waste. The citywide phase of the Organic Food Waste Recovery Program has been a great benefit to our residents. In order for the program to continue to thrive it is important that the residents understand what composting is all about. Composting is the next step beyond recycling. It is the controlled decomposition of organic materials, such as food scraps and soiled paper products. Because the organic wastes are derived from an animal or plant, they are able to decompose.

This project is completely voluntary and your participation benefits everyone involved. Composting allows for the use of wastes that would otherwise be taken to the landfill. This program has saved the city and individual homeowners on costs associated with landfill disposal and, at the same time, provide a valuable soil product that can be used to enrich the soils of our community. With your cooperation, the City of Hutchinson's organic waste recovery program has become a model for surrounding communities and the State of Minnesota. The first step relies on you, the separator.

We have tried to make participation as simple as possible, save all your yard and food waste, and put it in the 90 gallon organic plastic roll cart.

Place your cart curbside on the same day that your regular weekly garbage/recycling are picked up. This service may allow you to downsize your current garbage container. If you currently are using a 90 or 60 gallon container, you may choose to downsize to a 60 or 30 gallon container. Also in the program a resident has the choice of a 30 gallon container that allows you the option for every-other-week pickup.

You are provided with 8 special kitchen waste biodegradable bags per month (or 2 bags per week). These bags aid in separating the kitchen organic wastes. A list of acceptable and non-acceptable compost items is listed on the lid of 90 gallon organic cart. Also with each delivery of bags a brochure is distributed to help answer any questions.

An Organic Waste Recovery truck will pick up your food and yard waste and haul it to CreekSide Organic Material Processing facility.



### **SAME ROUTINE**

When you're collecting food waste, you may choose to collect in a small plastic container with a tight lid. You could store this under your sink, allowing your food preparation and clean-up routines to remain unchanged. When your small container is full, just empty the contents into the special compost bags provided and place in your 90 gallon cart outside. Please do not use black bags or grocery bags as they are not biodegradable.



Organics collected from city residents

To keep things simple, we've made your organic waste pick-up day the same as your regular garbage/recycling pick-up date. Just put your 90 gallon organic cart curbside by 6 am, no matter how little or how much organics you've collected. Yard waste is accepted and need not be put in the compost bags.

A special truck clearly marked "Residential Pick-Up Only Hutchinson" will be by sometime that day to pick up your organic waste and transport it to CreekSide process facility. To assist the drivers during pick-up, please set your containers at the curb and at least 4 feet apart.



## QUESTIONS

Is there any size limit to the branches I put in the bin?

*Yes, we would ask you to limit the branch size to less than ¼ inch in diameter. This is smaller than your pinky finger. Please have branches no larger than 3"-4" long.*

Can I put old clothes in the bin?

*No. Most clothing has some percentage of polymers on its fabric- this will not compost*

Can we put all our recyclable materials in the compost container?

*No. the glass, plastic, tin and unsoiled newspaper should still go into the blue bin for recycling.*

If I run out of the special biodegradable compost bags, where can I get more?

*If you use more than the allotted number of bags, you may purchase additional bags at the City Center or the Recreation Center. You may also use paper grocery bags for collection.*

*Does yard waste need to be in a bag?*

No. Yard waste such as leaves, branches and grass clippings should not be placed in any bags. The biodegradable compost bags are too small and plastic bags are not biodegradable.

Accepted Items:

Boxes:

Thin cardboard grocery boxes-paperboard (used for cereal, spaghetti and frozen dinners)

Pizza boxes

Egg cartons (not plastic or foam)

Shoe boxes

Milk and juice cartons

Paper Goods:

Tissues

Paper napkins

Paper towels

Brown paper bags

Paper plates & cups

Junk mail

Colored/glossy newspaper inserts

All kinds of food:

Vegetable trimmings

Meat, fish & bones

Clam, scallop and other shells

Coffee grounds & filters



Tea bags  
Eggs & eggshells  
Nut shells  
Bread & baked goods

Other:

Yard waste: leaves, grass clippings, garden waste, small branches (limit the branch size to less than ¼ inch in diameter. This is smaller than your pinky finger. Please have branches no larger than 3"-4" long), shrub trimmings

Vacuum cleaner bags  
Waxed cardboard boxes  
Cat litter

**WILL NOT COLLECT THESE THINGS:**

Your attention to the guidelines of the Food Waste Recovery Program will ensure a higher quality of compost, which in turn can be used to enrich the soils of our community. Also keep your garbage rates lower.

Please **DO NOT** throw in any:

Cloth, rugs and clothing

Metal

Styrofoam

Glass

Batteries

Plastic

Corks

Stumps

Plastic handle bags

Rock and Stones

Cement or Bricks

Construction Debris



Anything made of two materials- light bulbs, pens, golf or tennis balls, toothpaste tubes, and computer disks.

Please continue to recycle your plastic, tin, and unsoiled newspapers in your blue bins!

The City of Hutchinson has a successful track record of recycling, yard waste collection, and other resource recovery methods. The implementation of the Food Waste/Yard Waste Organic Recovery Program is just another step in Hutchinson's commitment to making this community the best it can be. Your participation and cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Important Phone numbers:

Missed cart collection: 1-800-450-9378

Downsizing/Billing info: 587-5151

General composting & recycling questions: 587-6762