

## Resources

[Organics Recycling Guide (PDF)](https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/business/recycling-hazardous-waste/documents/Business-Recycling-Organics-at-work-Guide-34-705-37-18.pdf?la=en&hash=6B04B8C5A31F5F90BDE14E87A29A5129A2ACEEBB)

### Website

[www.hennepin.us/businessorganics](http://www.hennepin.us/businessorganics)

## 

## Sample e-mail:

Subject: [Organization] announcement on new compost program!

Hello,

We are excited to announce our new sustainability project. This is an important program to reduce our campus’s environmental impact.

Now, we will separate food scraps, food waste, and compostable items from trash and put it in the bins marked for “organics recycling for composting”.

Information is available online [link to internal site].

Please contact [main contact] from to answer your questions on recycling and organics recycling for composting. Available at [E-mail] or [Phone].

These are exciting times for [Organization] on our journey to corporate AND community sustainability! Whatever your position is at [Organization], it is ALL of our responsibility to participate in living and working in a manner that is respectful and responsible to our environment.

Thanks for your help!!

[Name of Director/Owner]

## Sample Newsletter Article

# We give back to nature with organics recycling

### What is organics recycling?

About a third of what we throw away is compostable, which includes food scraps and food-soiled paper products. Organics recycling for composting is the collection of fruits, vegetables, bones, meat, bread, eggshells, paper towels, tissues and more for recycling into compost. Compost is a nutrient-rich soil additive used in landscaping and road construction projects. Organics recycling for composting is an easy way to reduce trash and create a valuable resource that improves soil, reduces soil erosion, and decreases the need for chemical fertilizers.

Materials accepted in organics recycling for composting programs:

### Food scraps

* Fruits and vegetables
* Meat, fish, and bones
* Dairy products
* Eggs and egg shells
* Bakery and dry goods

### Food-soiled paper products

* Napkins, paper towels, and tissues
* Pizza boxes from delivery

### Other compostable items

* Coffee grounds and filters
* Houseplants and flowers
* Wooden items such as chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks

### Certified compostable products

* Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers  
  Look for the BPI logo or the term “compostable” on certified products.

Materials not accepted plastic lined paper products like frozen food boxes, microwave popcorn bags, uncertified compostable products like coffee cups and paper plates, and all items labeled “biodegradable”.

## Sample Newsletter Article

# Keep trash out of organics recycling for composting

Diverting food, food-soiled paper, and compostable products, is the biggest opportunity to reduce our trash. Waste sort studies continue to show that these materials are the largest proportion of our trash.

We can use our leftover food, food-soiled paper, and compostable products to make compost, which puts our trash to better use. Compostable materials generate methane, a potent greenhouse gas, in landfills, which could be prevented by composting them instead. Using compost also increases carbon storage in soil and improves plant growth, further increasing carbon sequestration. Soils are the largest source of carbon storage in the world, but soil erosion has decreased those benefits. Additionally, Minnesota’s composting industry supports about 700 jobs and produces $148 million in gross economic activity per year. The composting industry supports four to eight times more jobs on a per ton basis than landfilling operations.

See our [Organics Recycling Guide (PDF)](https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/business/recycling-hazardous-waste/documents/Business-Recycling-Organics-at-work-Guide-34-705-37-18.pdf?la=en&hash=6B04B8C5A31F5F90BDE14E87A29A5129A2ACEEBB) for a list of materials that are accepted and not accepted throughout Hennepin County.

### Keep these out of organics recycling for composting

When you’re confused, it’s best to place that item into the trash. Some of the most important materials to keep out of the bin are:

**Paper cups and plates:** Do not put paper cups and plates in your organics recycling for composting as these materials are often lined with plastic. Avoid by carrying reusable water bottles and mugs and by choosing reusable or compostable alternatives. Put paper cups and plates in the trash.

**Plastic bags and wrap:** Do not put these materials in organics recycling for composting as they get tangled in equipment or are not possible to remove and are contamination in the compost. Bring them to a retail drop-off location for recycling, avoid by finding reusable alternatives, or put them in the trash. Learn more at [www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/plastic-bags-wrap](http://www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/plastic-bags-wrap).

**Recyclable items like plastic bottles and cans:** It is important to keep recycling and trash out of organics recycling for composting, because when organics recycling is too contaminated it cannot be composted.

**Biodegradable or oxo-degradable products:** Do not put materials labeled as biodegradable or oxo-degradable unless clearly marked with a certification of compostable as well. Most products with these words are not compostable and are often made of plastic and extra ingredients like metals and salt that help the plastic degrade in the environment.