



# Setting up organics recycling at home

Hennepin County environmental education



# Steps to setting up organics recycling

- You're signed up and ready to participate in organics recycling. Great!
- Some steps you may need to take to get started:
  - Make space for your cart
  - Figure out your set up room-by-room
  - Get the supplies you need



# Make space for your cart

- Where will you put it:
  - Near your other carts
  - In your garage
  - Somewhere else?



# Need more room?

- Downsize to a smaller garbage cart
- Many cities and haulers offer the option to downsize your garbage cart
  - Can help make space for a new organics cart
  - Can save you money



# Inside the home: start with the kitchen

- This is where the most organics recycling is generated
- In the kitchen, you generally need:
  - A collection container
  - Compostable bags



# Choose your collection container – there are many options



Small  
countertop  
container



Fancier metal  
container



Larger  
container



Bowl on your  
kitchen  
counter

# Choose the location – make it work for you



Countertop  
containers are  
convenient



Under the sink  
is more hidden



Paired with  
recycling and  
trash bins  
helps ensure  
things end up  
in the right  
place



A larger  
container can  
hold more

# Keep a container in the fridge or freezer

- Good for wetter organics like fruits, vegetables and meat
- Reduces pests and smells and helps compostable bags last longer





# Expand to other rooms

- Collect organics in the bathroom, bedrooms, office
- Remember items like tissues, paper towels, cotton balls, hair, and pet fur are accepted for organics recycling



# Have well-labeled bins

- Help everyone in your household know what goes where
- Order labels at [www.hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere](http://www.hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere)



# Empty your organics often

- This will reduce pests, smells and make sure your compostable bags don't break down



# Try different brands of compostable bags

- Each brand will perform differently – so try a few and find what works for you
- Look at your grocery or home goods store, or order online
- Look for the BPI logo on compostable plastic bags
- Remember paper bags work, too!



# Know what items need to go in compostable bags

- Some programs allow you to put larger items like pizza boxes from delivery and paper egg cartons into the cart without being bagged



Thanks for organics recycling!

Learn more at [www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/organics-recycling](http://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/organics-recycling)

