



DON'T LET YOUR GARBAGE GO TO WASTE



Composting Q&A...

Why are we doing this?

Locally, food scraps account for almost 30,000 tons of unnecessary garbage every year. Composting food scraps reduces waste going to the landfill and creates nutrient-rich compost for fertilizing yards and gardens. Compost also prevents erosion, retains water and blocks disease and weeds.

Composting our food scraps will also help Portland reach its goal of recycling 75 percent of our waste, a target set by City Council in 2007 through the Portland Recycles! Plan. Portland's recycling rate is currently 67 percent.

What if I already compost in my backyard?

Continue to backyard compost! With the new Curbside Collection Service, many items that should not be composted in your backyard, such as **meat, bones, dairy, grains, cooked foods and pizza delivery boxes**, will now go in the green Portland Composts! roll cart.

What about smells and rodents?

Residents in the Portland Food Scrap Curbside Collection Pilot areas haven't reported any significant increase in pests around their garbage, recycling or food scrap collection bins. Collecting food scraps in the green roll cart is similar to putting them in the garbage—if a household hasn't experienced problems with pests and food odors in the past, it's unlikely they will with the new system.

Where do the food scraps go?

The food scraps will go to Oregon commercial composting facilities with specialized processes to quickly break down the organic matter. Compost from these businesses is sold to landscapers and other agricultural users.

What types of food scraps can be composted in this system?

All food can be composted, including meat, bones, poultry, seafood, dairy, eggshells, beans, bread, pasta, rice and other grains, fruits and vegetables, coffee grounds and filters, teabags, and other plate scrapings. Paper napkins, paper towels and pizza delivery boxes can also be placed in the composting roll cart. Yard debris can still be placed in green roll carts along with food scraps.

Can't I just use my garbage disposal for food scraps?

Disposals aren't meant to handle large amounts of food. Sending food solids into the sewer puts added stress on the sewer system and those solids must then be removed later. Grease, fats and oils are especially harmful and should be disposed of as garbage. Give our sewer system a break and compost your food scraps instead!

Do my food scraps really make a difference?

YES! Food scraps are heavy and dense, which means that even small amounts add up quickly.

Almost a third of the garbage Portland's households send to the landfill is food scraps (by weight). Composting food scraps creates a nutrient-rich soil amendment and prevents the carbon emissions that occur when food breaks down in the landfill.

Keep an eye out for your information packet and kitchen pail that will arrive in a few weeks!



Postmaster please deliver between 9/29/2011 and 10/3/2011.

SPECIAL EDITION!

All you need to know about changes to your composting, recycling and garbage service.

Portland Curbsider

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability • Sam Adams, Mayor • Susan Anderson, Director

Fall 2011



STARTING OCTOBER 31
You can add food scraps along with yard debris in your green roll cart!



WWW.PORTLANDCOMPOSTS.COM

Questions about the new Curbside Collection Service?

Visit: www.portlandcomposts.com

Email: wasteinfo@portlandoregon.gov

Call: 503-823-7202

During the rollout of the new Curbside Collection Service, the Curbside Hotline will be open on Saturdays and extended evening hours.

Events: We'll be out at community events and meetings to answer questions. Look for the **Include the Food!** booth.

To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-7700 with such requests.



Join us at the first Fix-It Fair of the season!



**25th ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD
FIX-IT FAIR**
HEALTHY FAMILIES, HEALTHY HOMES

**Saturday, November 19, 2011
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Ron Russell Middle School, 3955 SE 112th Avenue
Visit www.portlandonline.com/bps/fif
for more information.**

New curbside composting, recycling and garbage service begins October 31!

After a successful year-and-a-half long pilot with 2,000 Portland households, the City of Portland is rolling out new composting, recycling and garbage services, which includes food scrap collection.

What are the changes?

- Starting October 31, **most residents will be able to add food scraps, along with yard debris, to their green Portland Composts! roll carts.** These changes apply to all single-family households and buildings with four or fewer units.
- As part of this new service, **collection of the green Portland Composts! roll cart will increase to weekly, and garbage collection will change to every-other-week.** This will allow for additional food scrap and yard debris collection without raising prices for most residents.

There are no changes with the blue Portland Recycles! roll cart and yellow glass recycling bin. They will continue to be collected weekly.

With the new service, instead of throwing away things like meat, dairy, bones, vegetables and grains, you will be able to send food scraps to local composting facilities where they will be turned into a nutrient-rich fertilizer for yards and gardens.

Ongoing support from the City's customer service team will help Portlanders become as skilled at food scrap collection as they already are at recycling. You can call, email or go online to learn how to plan for your household's needs and successfully collect food scraps.

What to expect

Before the program starts on October 31, residents will receive a kitchen pail for collecting food scraps, instructions on food scrap collection, tips for maintaining the kitchen pail and green roll cart, and information about selecting the right service option for your household.



BE CART SMART

YOUR NEW CURBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICE



You have options!

With the transition to weekly food scrap/yard debris collection and every-other-week garbage collection, many new options are available to help you find a service level that works best for your household.

Want a bigger or smaller container?

You can increase or decrease the size of your garbage roll cart to fit your household's needs. Garbage roll carts are available in 20-gallon, 35-gallon, 60-gallon, and 90-gallon sizes.

Prefer less frequent garbage collection?

If your household does not produce a lot of garbage, you can request that your 35-gallon garbage roll cart be picked up every four weeks, or you can sign up for a new service option that combines regular weekly recycling and composting pickup with on-call garbage collection.

Occasional extra garbage?

You can set out an extra bag or can of garbage on your regular collection day for \$5. This option is helpful when you have extra garbage from an occasional event, like a party or holiday.

Find out more.

Many of these options can impact your bill. Contact your garbage and recycling company to make changes to your service level and to request special pickups.

Rates for the new service

Rates for most service levels will not increase with the new service. The monthly rate for the 60-gallon roll cart will increase by \$3.50 and the rate for the 90-gallon roll cart will increase by \$3.80. With the new curbside service, once-a-month garbage pickup will move to every four weeks (13 pickups per year) because garbage trucks will be coming down the street every-other-week. Due to the weekly collection of the green Portland Composts! roll cart and the additional garbage pickup each year, current once-a-month customers will see a slight increase in their bill of \$2.60.

A note to multifamily residents:

One in four people in Portland live in multifamily communities such as apartments, condominiums, mobile home parks and moorages with five or more units. These communities are **not yet included in the new program.**

However, the City will begin a multifamily food scrap collection pilot next year that will combine elements of the City's residential and business food scrap programs. Results from that pilot will inform the launch of a new program supporting food scrap collection at multifamily properties.

Multifamily recycling assistance and information is available online at www.portlandonline.com/bps/multifamily or by calling 503-823-7224.

Food Scrap Curbside Collection Pilot wraps up



October 31 marks the beginning of the new citywide Curbside Collection Service and also the end of Portland's pilot program. We want to extend a big thank you to the pilot households that have been composting their kitchen food scraps and trying out every-other-week garbage for over a year. Pilot households were from the Roseway, Arnold Creek, Centennial/Hazelwood and Richmond neighborhoods. The feedback and data has been instrumental in evaluating and improving the program for the citywide rollout. We appreciate their important contribution!

What did we learn from the pilot?

- Garbage collected from the pilot households has dropped more than 30 percent.
- An estimated 120 tons of food scraps were composted in one year.
- Removing food scraps from the garbage and increasing the green roll cart to weekly pickup made every-other-week garbage collection manageable for residents.
- Only seven percent of pilot participants upgraded to a bigger garbage can and only 60 percent of garbage cans were full on collection day.

Pilot residents share their experiences!



"Putting food scraps in the kitchen pail is just as easy as putting them in the garbage can. When I make myself a snack after school, I just toss stuff like banana peels and orange rinds into the pail. We keep our pail on the counter next to the sink where it's easy to reach."

Now that we compost food scraps, we have less garbage and our garbage container doesn't stink."

Abigail Matsushima, age 14 Roseway neighborhood



"The new program is very convenient for us. We keep the collection bucket we were given next to the sink, where it's very easy to immediately put all food waste in there, and keep the smell under the lid. Then it's a short trip outside to move it to the green roll cart for pickup day."

We moved to Portland two years ago, and consider ourselves lucky to live in the neighborhood that got to participate in the pilot for this excellent program."

Sally Joughin & Bernie Koser Richmond neighborhood



"With two kids under 8, we generate a lot of food scraps in our house. Now we put bones and vegetable peels right into the kitchen pail. Crumbled animal crackers, soggy cereal, and sandwich crusts can go in as well."

The kids are excited about turning their food scraps into usable compost and doing something good for the earth."

Brad Robertson Richmond neighborhood



"Composting was new to us and at first my family was skeptical that we could make the change to every-other-week garbage collection work. We were surprised how much of our garbage really was compostable in the green roll cart and we quickly learned to make composting part of our family's day-to-day routine. We feel great about turning what was garbage into something valuable that can be used again."

Val Thorpe Centennial neighborhood

THREE SIMPLE STEPS FOR FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION



1 Place your kitchen pail in a convenient location in your kitchen and choose an optional liner.*



2 Include the food! Toss all food scraps and plate scrapings in the kitchen pail.



3 Empty your kitchen pail into your green Portland Composts! roll cart along with your yard debris. Place your green roll cart out for weekly pickup.

PUT IT IN!



- meat
- poultry
- fish and shellfish
- bones
- eggs and eggshells
- cheese and dairy products
- bread and baked goods
- pasta
- rice and other grains
- beans, nuts and seeds

- vegetables
- fruit
- coffee grounds and filters
- tea bags
- paper napkins and paper towels
- pizza delivery boxes
- table scraps and plate scrapings
- leftovers

Leave it out

- large amounts of grease, oil and liquid
- paper plates and cups
- paper cartons
- fast food wrappers and packaging
- takeout containers
- coffee cups
- compostable plastic takeout containers and utensils
- plastic and produce bags
- non-approved compostable plastic bags*
- Styrofoam™
- metal
- glass
- corks
- pet waste



*You can line your pail with newspaper, a paper bag or an approved compostable bag. Approved 2-3 gallon compostable bags include BioBag Certified Compostable, Ecnow Tech Compost Me, EcoSafe 6400 Line, Glad Compostable Kitchen, and Natur-Tec Natur-Bag Compostable. Visit www.portlandcomposts.com to find out where to purchase these approved brands and to check for updates to this list.

Curbside Collection E-Schedule ...

Your composting, recycling and garbage schedules are **available online** through Portland Maps!

This new web tool allows you to check your collection day of the week and frequency, download a reminder for your personal calendar, and sign up for a weekly email reminding you of your collection day. The E-Schedule is also available in a mobile-friendly version for use on your smartphone or tablet device.

To access the Curbside Collection E-Schedule, visit www.portlandonline.com/bps/carts.

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*Instant Rebates are available on a first come, first served basis, subject to change without prior notice, non-transferable and will only be reserved for a qualified applicant for a limited time

BRING YOUR BAG!

Starting October 15, plastic bags will no longer be available at the checkout in large grocery stores and large retailers with pharmacies. This is a big win for our environment, as well as our recycling facilities, where plastic bags jam and shut down machinery.

Paper bags will still be available at the checkout, but this is a great time for Portlanders to get even better at remembering to bring reusable bags!

Tips to remember your reusable bags for your next shopping trip:



- ▶ Return bags to your car or bike.
- ▶ Store bags near your house keys.
- ▶ Put a reminder on your grocery list.



Tell us what you're doing!

Lots of Portlanders are choosing to bring their own bags. Reusable bags come in a variety of styles and sizes—and they're not just for groceries anymore!

Join us on Facebook and tell us – where does your bag go?
www.facebook.com/gotbag

