

Sign up for CompostAble

Food Scrap Composting Program

With the goal of decreasing the amount of organic refuse sent to landfills, the Village of Oak Park offers a food scrap composting program to residents throughout the community. Participants will receive a special mobile cart for organics that is comparable in volume to three bags or containers of yardwaste collected in the current program. Subscribers who use the organics cart for their yardwaste and food scraps will not be required to purchase yardwaste stickers.

Who Can Participate – The program is available to single-family residences, up to and including five-flat households using Village refuse and recycling services.

Sign up online at
www.oak-park.us/compostable

How the Program Will Work – The program will be offered on a voluntary, subscription basis. The subscription cost will be \$14.85 per month, which is about the cost of one yardwaste sticker per week. Residents who maintain backyard compost piles or who mulch grass clippings may wish to investigate sharing organics carts and costs with neighbors.

New in 2018 - Residents who join the Village composting program for the first time will get three months free this year if they sign up for 12 months of continuous service, a savings of \$44.56!

Collection Plan – Residents who participate in the project will receive a 96-gallon cart for the weekly collection of organics, an under-sink collection bucket and a box of compostable bags for food scraps. Both yardwaste and food scraps may be placed in the organics cart. However, food scraps must be wrapped in newspapers or contained in a bag labeled *compostable* that meets ASTM 6400 standards.

CompostAble: Questions & Answers

What is composting?

Composting is the process of organic waste decomposing into humus, a natural fertilizer. When the composting process is complete, the resulting material looks like deep rich soil and smells sweet.

What are the benefits of composting?

- Materials will be diverted from landfills
- Materials will create a valuable end product
- Since yardwaste and food scraps are high emitters of methane, a gas more potent than carbon dioxide, composting these materials reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Consider downsizing your trash cart

If you find your trash is significantly reduced by participating in the CompostAble program, you might consider exchanging your 96-gallon refuse cart for the smaller 64-gallon cart. This will save \$4 a month on refuse fees charged on quarterly water bills. For more information, contact Public Works at 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

**Compost
Correctly**
Clip and Save

What can be collected in the CompostAble program?

Acceptable materials:

- **Yardwaste** (grass clippings, garden vegetation, leaves, brush)
- **Food Scraps** (meats, breads, vegetables, table scraps, dairy, pasta, coffee grounds, fruits, outdated spices)
- **Unsoiled or food-soiled paper products** (paper towels, paper bags, pizza boxes, napkins, paper cups, newspaper, paper food packaging)
- **Compostable plastic bags** that meet ASTM 6400 or ASTM 6868 standards

Items NOT acceptable include:

- Plastics that do not meet ASTM 6400 & 6868 compostable standards
- Plastic packaging, bags and serving ware such as plates, cups and utensils
- Pet waste
- Sanitary products
- Diapers
- Dairy cartons

