

## Why Recycle Food Scraps?

Food scraps are one of the largest components of trash sent to landfills and incinerators. However, food scraps are not trash, they are a resource that can be turned into useful compost and renewable energy.

Recycling food scraps into compost captures their nutrients and energy and returns them to the environment. When food scraps are sent to a landfill or incinerator this resource is lost. In a landfill, food scraps create methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas that traps CO2 and contributes to global warming. When sent to an incinerator, food scraps reduce the efficiency of the incinerator because they contain water and therefore don't burn well.

Composting food scraps turns that story around! Instead of wasting energy trying to burn food, or creating methane from landfilling it, composting food scraps produces two useful products that give back to our nutrient life cycle resulting in cleaner soil, water and air. By participating in the Town's Food Scrap Recycling Program the food scraps will be delivered to a facility that turns the scraps into BOTH compost and renewable energy!

## What Is Compost?

Compost is a soil amendment which enriches our soil. When purchasing a bag of potting soil or observing your landscaper putting down "dirt" you are using compost.

Compost benefits our landscape by maximizing plant growth, preventing soil erosion and mitigating the frequency of water, fertilizer and pesticide use.

## What is Renewable Energy?

Renewable energy, often referred to as clean energy, comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished, displacing fossil fuels and offering the benefit of lower emissions of carbon and other types of pollution.

**THANK YOU for your participation in Essex's Food Scrap Recycling Program!**

# Town of Essex

# Food Scrap Recycling Guide



**FREE TO ALL  
ESSEX RESIDENTS**

**NO TRANSFER PASS  
NEEDED**



Sustainable Essex Committee



# Food Scrap Recycling: It's Easy!

## Here's How To Do It:

1. **COLLECT** your food scraps in a countertop pail. Although not required, you may line your pail with a compostable or paper bag - *please no plastic bags*. Store container in convenient location (on counter, under sink, in cabinet drawer, etc.) Compostable bags will soon be available for purchase (roll of 25 bags for \$2.00) by credit card or check at the Essex Transfer Station(**5 Dump Road**).



2. Most residents will fill the countertop pail with food scraps 3-4 times per week. Therefore, it is suggested that residents also have a larger bin to **TRANSFER** food scraps into for weekly storage. This larger bin can also be used for transportation of food scraps to the Essex Transfer Station. Anything that holds around 5-6 gallons and has a lid will work. It is recommended that food storage bins be kept indoors – either in the house or in the garage.



3. **BRING** your transportation bin to the Essex Transfer Station to dispose of your food scraps as often as needed.

**All material collected is brought to a facility where it is turned into compost and renewable energy.**

## Drop-off Location and Hours:

The Food Scrap Recycling bins are located at the Essex Transfer Station (**5 Dump Road**) and are accessible during the Transfer Station hours of operation (**Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7am-3pm**). There is no charge to drop off food scraps but you must be an Essex resident.

## Accepted Items:

- ALL FOOD, including:
  - Fruits and Vegetables (remove stickers, bands, ties)
  - Meat and Poultry (bones ok)
  - Fish and Shellfish (shells ok)
  - Dairy Products
  - Bread and Pasta
  - Rice and Grains
  - Egg Shells
  - Chips and Snacks
  - Nuts and Seeds
  - Leftover, Spoiled and Expired Food (cooked ok)
  - Coffee Grounds (paper filters ok)
- Tea Bags (no staples)
- Paper Towels and Napkins
- Cut Flowers
- Compostable Bags (no plastic bags)

## Items Not Accepted:

- Plastic bags, plastic packaging and wrappers are never allowed in the bins. Plastic does not biodegrade and therefore will contaminate the compost. Use only compostable bags, paper bags or no bags.
- Baby/Hand wipes are never allowed in the bins. They are synthetic, do not biodegrade and will contaminate the compost.
- Please no pet waste.
- If unsure about an item, please email before putting it in the bin: [afinnegan@essexct.gov](mailto:afinnegan@essexct.gov)

## Starter Kits:

Starter kits can be purchased at the Essex Transfer Station (**5 Dump Road**) for \$25 using a credit card or check payable to Town of Essex. Kits include one 2-gallon countertop pail, one 6-gallon home storage & transportation bin and one roll of 25 compostable bags for your pail.

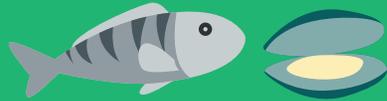
**QUESTIONS? Email**  
[afinnegan@essexct.gov](mailto:afinnegan@essexct.gov)

# COMPOST

# DON'T COMPOST



MEAT & BONES



SHELLFISH & FISH PRODUCTS



EGG SHELLS & DAIRY



FRUITS & VEGETABLE SCRAPS



BREADS & CEREALS



COFFEE GROUNDS, FILTERS, & TEA BAGS

## OTHER THINGS TO COMPOST:

CONDIMENTS & SPICES | PITS & PEELS  
FOOD SOILED PAPER | UNCOATED PAPER PLATES  
PAPER TOWELS | PLANTS & HERBS | INCIDENTAL OILS & FATS



CORKS



PLASTIC



CANDLES



METAL / ALUMINUM FOIL



STYROFOAM



GLASS OF ANY KIND



GUM

## OTHER THINGS TO NOT COMPOST:

TWIST TIES | RUBBER BANDS | DISPOSABLE MOPS / CLEANING SHEETS  
FIREPLACE OR BARBECUE ASHES | HOT LIQUIDS | PLASTIC GLOVES  
ENGLISH MUFFIN CARTONS | WAXY CARDBOARD | MILK CARTONS  
CLEAN PIZZA BOXES (RECYCLE) | COFFEE PODS



HAVE QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT US: (860) 266-7346  
INFO@BLUEEARTHCOMPOST.COM

