MAKE COMPOST MAINSTREAM

Composting in DC has never been easier



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Office of Waste Diversion

COMPOST DC
ZERO WASTE DC
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WE ARE WASHINGTON DC
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Turn your food scraps into new life

Composting takes your food waste and turns it into nutrient-rich soil for gardens and farms.



TAKE FOOD AWAY FROM RATS IN THE STREET

Rats eat what we leave out. It's their nature. By placing your food scraps into secure bins, you take away their food source.

FEED TOMORROW'S FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Your composted scraps turn into soil for local farms and gardens. Your coffee grounds can help grow somebody's tomatoes.

REDUCE TRASH AND ODOR IN YOUR HOME

By taking food out of your household trash, you'll generate less trash and have less odor in your kitchen.

BE SUSTAINABLE AND FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

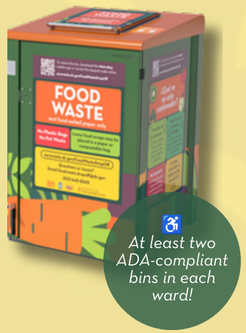
In landfills, food produces harmful greenhouse gases. By composting, you can help the planet instead of hurting it.

Food waste composting, wherever you are.

With expanding programs, the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) has options for all residents to make composting easy. Compost at home, at a farmers market, or wherever you are.

in your neighborhood

Use a food waste smart bin anytime



- 50+ food waste bins located throughout the District, available 24/7 (many are accessible) ♿
- Secure, rodent-proof bins with sensors to ensure timely collection
- Unlock bins easily using the free metroKEY app or by entering the access code on the keypad (Code: 2-0-2-5-#)
- Find a location near you at zerowaste.dc.gov/foodwastedropoff

Visit our team at a weekly food waste drop-off event



- Staffed events with team members present to answer any questions
- Every weekend, year-round, located at popular farmers' markets and community spots citywide ♿
- See the full list and map of weekend drop-off events at zerowaste.dc.gov/foodwastedropoff

or at home

Sign-up for curbside collection



- Weekly residential food waste collection from your home
- Available to DC residents currently receiving trash and recycling collection from DC DPW
- If eligible, sign-up to join the program's waitlist at tinyurl.com/FWCwaitlist
- Details, FAQs, and waitlist form are available at zerowaste.dc.gov/foodwastecollection

Learn how to compost at home



- Residents can attend a DPW workshop to learn how to compost in your backyard, on your balcony, and beyond
- Workshop attendees can earn a rebate of up to $75 on a home composting system
- For more information on home composting visit zerowaste.dc.gov/homecomposting

Get started today!

Not sure how to get started? Follow these simple steps.

1

Grab a container to store your food scraps



2

Learn what is and is not accepted

Just scrape your plate!

DPW's Food Waste Drop-Offs accept all food scraps, even meat, bones & dairy!

3

Collect your food scraps at home



4

Drop off your food scraps



ACCEPTED MATERIALS



Fruit & veggie scraps, salad



Milk, cheese, eggs & dairy*



Meat, seafood, bones & shells*

**These materials are typically not suitable for home composting.*



Bread, grains, pasta & nuts



Cooked, spoiled & oily foods



Food-soiled paper & cut flowers



No plastic bags
Drop off your scraps in a BPI-certified compostable bag or a paper bag.

NOT ACCEPTED



Plastic bags, straws, containers, utensils, twist ties & produce stickers



Metal, plastic, glass, recyclables & foil



Diapers, pet waste & other trash



Yard waste
Call 3-1-1 to schedule a free yard waste pickup or compost at home

Questions? We're here to help.

For more information, visit
zerowaste.dc.gov/compost

in your neighborhood

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- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
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- Unlock bins easily using the free metroKEY app or by entering the access code on the keypad

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NEARBY LOCATIONS

COMING SOON

ANC 4E (Coming soon) ♿
24-hour access (0.0 miles away)

NEW

Lorenzo Allen Park ♿
24-hour access (0.8 miles away)

Georgia Ave NW & Van Buren St NW
24-hour access (0.7 miles away)

Takoma Library
24-hour access (1.2 miles away)

Uptown Farmers Market ♿
Sundays, 8:30am - 1:30pm (0.2 miles)

Learn more at zerowaste.dc.gov/foodwastedropoff

Interesting elements of DPW's Food Waste Smart Bins



- Cutting-edge technological solution for public composting access + rodent mitigation (rodent-proof design)
- Internal optical sensors measure and report the fullness of the food waste drop-off bins every hour to program staff (DPW + contractor)
- Upon reaching the predetermined fullness threshold, bins send an alert to program staff and the contractor for service
- Self-locking units can be unlocked with an easy-to-remember keypad code (2-0-2-5-#) on the front of the bin or the MetroKey app.
- New units are ADA-compliant (top lid, front lever & keypad are within reach per current ADA Standard, braille on keypad, hand lever within 5 lbf with no twisting required).

Collection & Cleaning of DPW's Food Waste Smart Bins

- At least twice-weekly service, or more frequent if fullness threshold triggered
- No "tipping" of internal carts streetside to prevent odors and messes
- All internal carts are swapped 1-for-1 with a clean, washed cart. Full carts have lids secured and are loaded on a small box truck and removed
- Weekly cleaning and maintenance by DPW Program Staff
- Collection service provided by a contractor, Agricity DBA Compost Cab
- Materials taken to regional composting facilities for processing

Learn more at zerowaste.dc.gov/foodwastedropoff

Placement Aspects for Food Waste Smart Bins



- **Accessible:**
  - No architectural barriers prevent access to the bin. (Note: a curb or step in front of a Food Waste Smart Bin, or one that is required to step up or down to use a bin, is considered an architectural barrier, too);
  - does not block an access ramp and is near a ramp if there is a curb considered an architectural barrier);
  - Does not block a bus stop from picking up passengers.
- **Walkable:**
  - Walkable from higher population densities in ANCs (such as densities of multi-family properties
- **Serviceable/Maintainable:**
  - Location is outside (never inside; under cover is okay)
  - Location is able to be serviced and maintained/cleaned without a waiver
  - Ideally located along sidewalks within the public right-of-way or DC-government-owned property
  - May not be located on private property without permission and a waiver to service/maintain the bins
  - The location can access a typical cellular signal from nearby cell towers or relays in order to report its fullness levels

Learn more at
zerowaste.dc.gov/foodwastedropoff

Placement Aspects for Food Waste Smart Bins



- **Suitable:**
  - The location and immediate surroundings are suitable to support a smart bin (concrete or brick foundation);
  - What hangs above is suitable for placement of a smart bin beneath (some tree/vine species are not ideal due to leaf litter, sap, seed drop, or natural latex; no drooping power lines)
  - Preferably co-located or within eyesight of a public wastebasket; 20+ feet away from buildings;
  - Level or near-level ground
- **Safe:**
  - Within the glow of nearby streetlights;
  - The bin's orientation allows pedestrians to use it safely; the step-back area is ample enough for users.
  - Does not block a walkway or crosswalk
  - Nothing above, below, or around poses a clear safety risk.
- **Geographic Distribution:**
  - (For this tranche): Within an ANC where there is not another smart bin presently located (One in each ANC is preferable to accomplish geographic distribution),
  - Preferably located away from an established food waste drop-off event (co-locating is not preferred)

Learn more at
zerowaste.dc.gov/foodwastedropoff

Placement Aspects for Food Waste Smart Bins



- **Near points of interest:**
  - Preferably near a point of interest, such as a grocery store, farmers market (without being immediately on top of them, libraries, schools, rec/community centers
  - (we have many successful food waste smart bins near libraries, schools, and rec centers), and generally lively gathering areas.

- **Aesthetics**
  - The bin's exterior wrap is bright and welcoming. It is not designed to look like a streetside trash or recycling bin. We cannot change the design.
  - Aesthetics are considered when reviewing locations.

- **No active construction immediately present:**
  - We avoid placing a new bin near active building construction or major roadwork/streetscaping.
  - Note: If major work is about to begin, we can temporarily move the bin or find a new location in the ANC.

Learn more at
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Program Impact



1 million lbs

10.2k registered users

WARD 4 IMPACT

153k lbs

at home

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Thank you!

Contact Us

Food Waste Collection:
compostdc@dc.gov

Food Waste Drop-Off Events & Smart Bins:
foodwaste.dropoff@dc.gov

Home Composting:
home.composting@dc.gov



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