

Did you know...

It is estimated that more than 7 percent of Montgomery County’s population is considered food insecure – meaning they do not have consistent access to quality, nutritious foods. If your property has food services on-site, consider donating excess consumable foods to those who have unmet needs.

Donating excess and unexpired foods can help reduce your property’s waste disposal costs while decreasing food insecurity in the County.

For more information on recycling food scraps and other materials, visit [MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling](http://MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling).



# Recycling Food Scraps at Your Multi-Family Property



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## Food Scraps Recycling in Montgomery County, Maryland

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection estimates 9 percent of the 1.1 million tons of waste comes from the multi-family sector. The County's most recent waste composition study showed 16,000<sup>1</sup> tons of food scraps are disposed of annually from this group. Montgomery County has a goal to reduce waste and recycle 70 percent of all waste generated in the County, aiming for zero waste. Implementing a food scraps recycling program at your apartment or condominium could increase the County's overall recycling achievement.

## How to Recycle Food Scraps at Your Multi-Family Property

Food scraps can be collected and recycled into a beneficial soil amendment. Removing food scraps from your waste stream can reduce your property's solid waste disposal costs.

- **Select a food scraps recycling collector/hauler** that collects food scraps for recycling collection. For a list of food scrap recycling collection companies, visit [MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling](http://MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling)
- **Verify the types of food scraps and other organic materials that are acceptable** in your program. Your collector will be able to provide this information.
- **Purchase food scraps recycling containers and supplies** for your residents to use (small bins for inside their units and larger collection containers in common areas).
- **Determine if your property will use compostable bags** to line the food scraps recycling containers. Ask your collector if compostable bags are acceptable in your program.
- **Educate your staff and residents** about the food scraps recycling program. Use flyers, pamphlets, posters at collection sites, community newsletters, email, and events to educate staff and residents.
- **Monitor your program and address issues** as they arise. Obtain data from your food scraps recycling collector/hauler to report the results of your efforts.

## Why Recycle Food Scraps?

Recycling food scraps has many environmental and economic benefits.

### Environmental Benefits



Recycling food scraps creates a beneficial soil amendment which can be used to improve soil health and structure. Using beneficial soil amendments reduces the need for water, commercial fertilizers, and minimizes run-off of rain and melting snow.

### Economic Benefits



Setting up a food scraps recycling program at your multi-family property helps reduce the amount of trash your property produces. This can help reduce the number of trash containers, the frequency of collection needed, and potentially reduce your solid waste disposal costs.

## Which Types Food Scraps Can You Recycle?

Below are examples of food scraps and other organic materials generally acceptable for food scraps recycling:



Meats, Fish, & Bones



Baked Goods



Dairy Products



Fruits & Vegetables



Breads, Grains, & Pasta



Compostable Items  
(Check with your collector)



Coffee Grounds & Tea Bags



Food-Soiled Paper  
(Pizza boxes)

Acceptable materials can vary depending on the food scraps recycling collector and processor; be sure to contact your collector to confirm which materials are acceptable.