

### Did you know...

According to a 2022 study done by Feeding America, 11.1 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 food assistance providers, who distribute it to those who have unmet needs.

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



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



DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND



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This information is available in an alternate format by calling 240-777-6486.

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# Recycling Food Scraps at Your Multi-Family Property



## Food Scraps Recycling in Montgomery County, Maryland

According to Montgomery County's most recent Waste Composition Study, approximately 97,000 tons of food scraps are discarded annually. Of that total, the multi-family sector contributes an estimated 16,000 tons each year. Montgomery County has a goal to reduce waste and recycle more, 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 nutrient rich and 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/Multi-Family-Food-Scraps](http://MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Multi-Family-Food-Scraps)
- **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 nutrient rich and 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 of 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.