

FROM RESIDENTS TO RESTAURANTS EVERYONE CAN REDUCE FOOD WASTE

An estimated 124,000 tons of food scraps are disposed annually by residents, businesses, and multi-family communities in Montgomery County, MD. Some of this waste includes food that can be donated to feed residents who experience food insecurity, while a significant amount includes food scraps that cannot be donated. Montgomery County is working to create opportunities for businesses and residents to recycle food scraps.

How Can You Reduce Wasted Food?

- Buy only the amount of food that you need.
- Donate edible foods to a local food pantry or shelter.
- Use leftovers to prepare soups, stews and other new meals.
- Consider recycling food scraps by contacting a food scraps recycling collection company.

For more information on recycling food scraps and other materials, visit MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling.



Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Environmental Protection
Recycling and Resource Management Division
Waste Reduction and Recycling Section

101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling
Phone: 3-1-1 or 240-777-0311
TTY: MD Relay 711

This information is available in an alternate format by calling 240-777-6480.

Follow us on social media:



Facebook: **MyGreenMontgomery**
Twitter & Instagram: **MyGreenMC**
Flickr & YouTube: **MCRecycles**



Printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

Food Scraps Recycling

More Than Leftovers

The Next Step in Your Recycling Efforts



MORE THAN LEFTOVERS. THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR RECYCLING EFFORTS.

WHAT ARE FOOD SCRAPS?

Food scraps are leftover portions of food such as vegetable peelings, bones, or used tea bags that get thrown away. By recycling these items through a process called composting, they can be turned into a beneficial soil amendment which can be used to improve soil health and structure, minimize the use of water and commercial fertilizers, and reduce runoff caused by rain and melting snow.

WHY DOES FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING MATTER?

Montgomery County, Maryland has a goal to reduce waste and recycle 70 percent of all waste generated by 2020, aiming for zero waste. Based on the County's most recent Waste Composition Study, approximately 124,000 tons of food scraps were disposed by residents, multi-family properties, and businesses and organizations. That's a significant portion of the waste stream! By recycling food scraps, we reduce the amount of waste sent to disposal facilities and create a valuable nutrient-rich soil amendment keeping our land, air, and water clean.



HOW IS MONTGOMERY COUNTY SUPPORTING FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING?

Currently, the County is working to secure processing capacity at food scraps recycling facilities in the region. The County is also researching other options for recycling food scraps in the County.

Montgomery County continues to develop educational and training materials to encourage food scraps recycling programs at businesses, organizations, and multi-family properties.

HOW CAN I HELP?

As a resident, create meals that use all of the groceries you buy! Check the refrigerator for items that may spoil soon and use them first. See if you have food items you could use before going to the grocery store, and when you're shopping, buy only what you need.

Residents and businesses with excess food items can donate them to a local food pantry or shelter. Over six percent of Montgomery County residents are considered food insecure and would benefit from the donation. Foods that do not exhibit any signs of spoilage (off odor, flavor, or texture) can still be consumed, and this will help reduce unnecessary wasted food.

WHAT FOOD SCRAPS ARE RECYCLABLE?

If your business or community has an existing food scraps recycling program in place, remember to check what items are accepted by the food scraps recycling processing facility. Some commonly accepted food scraps include:



Fruits, Vegetables, Meats, Fish, and Bones



Breads, Grains, Baked Goods, and Dairy Products



Soiled Paper Products and Compostable Containers

