

Medfield Food Composting Q&A's

1 WHAT IS THE FOOD COMPOSTING PROGRAM AT THE MEDFIELD TRANSFER STATION?

This pilot program will allow residents to divert food waste from the trash/tip floor to containers that will be collected for composting.

2 WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROGRAM?

According to the MassDEP, food waste is 20% of trash by weight. Our goal is to turn this waste into a valuable resource, compost, which can improve the nutrient value of soil. It is less expensive to compost food waste than to haul and incinerate food waste as trash. These cost savings are another reason for the program.

3 WILL THIS COST RESIDENTS MONEY?

No. The pilot program is being funded by a MassDEP grant and is open to everyone with a Transfer Station Sticker. The grant covers transportation costs of the food waste to a commercial composting facility for just over a year, and education costs. The Garden Continuum is off-setting the cost of biodegradable kitchen scrap bucket liners that are included in the compost starter kits. Purchase of a compost starter kit is optional.

4 WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

You will need a container to transport your food waste to the Transfer Station. We recommend that you don't use plastic bags. Plastic bags cannot be placed in the food waste totes/barrels. You could use a pail from home or an old kitty litter pail. Also, Starter kits are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Two options are available. The first is a 3.5 gallon pail with animal-proof, and odor-proof lid, a kitchen scrap bucket and biodegradable liners. The cost is \$15, including sales tax. The second option is a kitchen scrap bucket and biodegradable liners. The cost is \$5, including sales tax. The equipment can be purchased at the Department of Public Works Building/Town Garage office: 55 North Meadows Rd. from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. M – F (except 1-2 p.m.) beginning May 9 and Saturdays in May at the Transfer Station from 9 – 1 in conjunction with Medfield Green Month.

5 WHERE IS FOOD COMPOSTING SET-UP AT THE TRANSFER STATION?

Food waste totes/barrels are placed to the right of the tip floor. The containers will be emptied weekly and taken to a commercial composting facility in Medway.

6 WHAT IS BEING DONE TO KEEP THE ODOR DOWN, AND KEEP OUT PESTS AT THE TOTERS/BARRELS?

The totes/barrels have lids that will remain down between resident usage. The food waste is collected weekly. The totes/barrels are secured with bungie cords at night.

7 WHAT CAN AND CANNOT BE COMPOSTED?

All foods including meat, seafood, cheese and bones are accepted. Please do not include liquids, oils, grease or plastic bags. Composting guidelines are posted on the lids of the toters at the Transfer Station. You can also find these guidelines on town.medfield.net under DPW/Permits and Publications. At this time we cannot compost any compostable dishes, containers or utensils. Also, paper towels and napkins should not be included.

8 HOW CAN I KEEP DOWN ODOR FROM MY KITCHEN SCRAP BUCKET?

Our starter kit kitchen scrap bucket and biodegradable liners have lots of ventilation to let heat escape and moisture evaporate. This dries out food scraps and slows down the rotting process, practically eliminating odor. Keep your bucket on the counter, or under your kitchen sink. When your kitchen scrap bucket is full, transfer the compost to your transport pail. The kitchen scrap bucket can be cleaned in your dishwasher's top rack.

The pail has a gasket lid that contains odor. We recommend that you keep this pail in your garage or outside in a shady area. Clean the pail with soap and water. Drain the water onto a grassy area to avoid getting the wash water in catch basins.

Another idea is to keep your compost in your freezer until you are ready to come to the transfer station. Keeping a container with food waste in your refrigerator is also an option. Just remember that no plastic bags can be included in the toters, so you may need to thaw the bag somewhat to allow the food waste to come out.

9 DO I NEED TO USE BIODEGRADABLE LINERS?

No, you do not need to use biodegradable liners. You can place your food in the toter/barrel in a paper bag or just dump it in. Please remember **PLASTIC BAGS CANNOT BE DEPOSITED**.

10 I ALREADY BACKYARD COMPOST, OR HAVE A SINK DISPOSAL. SO THIS PROGRAM DOESN'T APPLY TO ME, RIGHT?

We encourage backyard composters to use the Transfer Station's food waste containers for meat, fish, cheese, and bones. Because the temperature of the compost piles at the commercial facility reach higher temperatures, these items can be composted in this program.

Those that have sink disposals should use the Transfer Station's food waste containers for fibrous foods such as corn husks and fruit pits.

**THIS IS A PROJECT OF THE DPW AND TRANSFER STATION AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE.
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CALL (508) 906-3003.**



Funded in part by a grant from MassDEP



Sponsor of biodegradable kitchen scrap bucket liners.