

## WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is the slow, natural decomposition of organics such as food waste. Microorganisms break down this material into a nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used to replenish soils naturally.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **It cuts down on trash and expenses.** Horry County residents throw away more than 70,000 tons of food scraps each year, making up one quarter of all the garbage collected. Composting saves space and taxpayer money needed for disposal in landfills.
- **It combats climate change.** Food waste recycling will help meet three of the City's Climate Action Plan goals, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and protecting our air and water from pollution to fight climate change.
- **It protects against flooding.** Composting nourishes soil for healthier parks and gardens and increases stormwater absorption capacity.
- **It can save plants and animals.** Composting reduces the need for expensive and polluting chemical fertilizers, makes plants healthier, and can be used without harming wildlife or ecosystem health.



# HORRY COUNTY COMPOSTS PILOT PROGRAM

## COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

During this pilot program residents can bring food scraps to the landfill recycling center for **FREE**. These scraps are then sent to the Horry County Solid Waste Authority (HCSWA) Compost Facility to be recycled into compost.

### Landfill Recycling Center

1886 Highway 90, Conway, SC

**OPEN Saturday through Sunday from 7 AM to 7 PM**  
(except holidays)

**The pilot program will run through June 1, 2023.**

### ITEMS ACCEPTED

- ✓ **Fruits & Vegetables**
- ✓ **Bread, Dough, Bakery Items, Pasta & Grain**
- ✓ **Coffee Grounds & Tea Filters**
- ✓ **Compostable Liquids** (e.g., water, juices in small amounts)
- ✓ **Cooked Meats, Fish, Bones & Shells\***
- ✓ **Dairy Products\*** (e.g., milk, cheese, yogurt)
- ✓ **Food-Soiled Paper** (e.g., paper bags, paper towels, napkins, waxed cardboard boxes\*)
- ✓ **Processed Foods** (e.g., pizza, cereal, chips, crackers, cookies, cakes, plate scrapings)

### ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- ✗ **Raw Meat** (e.g., beef, poultry, pork, seafood)
- ✗ **Plastic Items** (e.g., bags, dishes, utensils, cups, Styrofoam)
- ✗ **Small Items** (e.g., rubber bands, twist ties)
- ✗ **Chemical Cleaners**
- ✗ **Non-Food Items** (e.g., wood, metal, glass, ceramics, pet droppings, yard debris)
- ✗ **Fats, Oils, Grease or Non-Compostable Liquids** (e.g., vegetable oil, lard)

\* These items are accepted in this program, but **ARE NOT RECOMMENDED** for backyard composting. *Continued on back*



## HOW TO STORE FOOD SCRAPS

You can store food scraps in almost any reusable container with a tight-fitting lid. You also can store them in the freezer or refrigerator.

## HELP PREVENT CONTAMINATION!

Contamination is a major challenge with any compost program because it is not possible or safe to have staff sort through piles of food scraps removing items that don't belong. Preventing contamination on the front end helps to ensure the final product is free of inorganic materials and is safe to use.

Unfortunately, if any food scrap carts are contaminated with items that can't be composted, the whole cart must be disposed of in the garbage. Know what goes in and what stays out. **Remember, when in doubt, throw it out!**

## DROP IT OFF

You can drop off your compostables as often as you like, but once a week is recommended. Use your freezer to store scraps for longer periods of time in between drop-offs. The Landfill Recycling Center is open Saturday and Sunday from 7 AM to 7 PM (except on holidays).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

This pilot program is managed by HCSWA. To learn more, visit [solidwasteauthority.org/foodwaste.html](http://solidwasteauthority.org/foodwaste.html).

For more information about backyard composting, please visit [scdhec.gov/compost](http://scdhec.gov/compost). For tips to help eliminate food waste, visit [scdhec.gov/dwfsc](http://scdhec.gov/dwfsc).

For additional information about the sponsoring partner SMART Recycling, please visit [smartrecyclingus.com](http://smartrecyclingus.com).

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE: STEP-BY-STEP

**1 COLLECT** food scraps in a sealed container or store in a freezer.

**2 TAKE** your food scraps to the Landfill Recycling Center.

**3 RINSE** the container. Repeat!

For more information, visit [SolidWasteAuthority.org/foodwaste.html](http://SolidWasteAuthority.org/foodwaste.html).

