

# HARRISON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Town and /Village of Harrison  
Alfred F. Sulla, Jr. Municipal Building  
1 Heineman Place  
Harrison, New York 10528

Anthony P. Robinson  
Commissioner of Public Works



July 2021

Re: Food Scrap Recycling Program

Dear Harrison Resident:

The Town is seeking to create a **voluntary** food scrap recycling program. The program involves separating food scraps and other compostable items from your household trash. These items are separated and placed in a **compostable** bag on your countertop and periodically transferred to a yet to be determined Town Drop-off location for disposal through an agreement with Westchester County.

On the reverse side of this letter is an informational flyer outlining in more detail, the proposed Food Scrap Recycling Program.

While the Town would provide a drop off location for your household scraps, the homeowner would be responsible for ensuring that the scraps are properly segregated (as per Westchester County Guidelines), purchasing appropriate receptacles and compostable bags and dropping said materials to our drop off location. Receptacles and compostable bags can be purchased at stores such as Home Depot and Bed Bath and Beyond and online at Amazon.

In order to gauge interest in program participation please complete the enclosed self-addressed postcard and return by August 15, 2021. You can also call 914-670-3128 and let us know your thoughts on the program.

When all the responses are received and tabulated, we will inform you of the results. It is anticipated, depending upon level of interest that the program would commence after Labor Day.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony P. Robinson  
Commissioner of Public Works

APR/fmb

# FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING PROGRAM

## WHY RECYCLE FOOD SCRAPS?

Food scraps are one of the largest components of trash sent to landfills and incinerators. However, food scraps are not trash, they are a resource that can be turned into useful compost. Recycling food scraps into compost captures their nutrients and energy and returns them to the environment.

Composting food scraps turns that story around! Instead of wasting energy trying to burn food, or creating methane from landfilling it, composting food scraps produces a useful and valuable product that gives back to our nutrient life cycle resulting in cleaner soil, water and air.

## WHAT IS COMPOST?

When purchasing a bag of potting soil or observing our landscaper putting down “dirt” you are using compost. Compost benefits our landscape by maximizing plant growth, preventing soil erosion and mitigating the frequency of water, fertilizer and pesticide use.

By recycling your food scraps you are reducing waste and creating compost – a double win!

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THE RULES?

If an item not accepted as part of this program is mixed with the waste, the entire truck load is considered “contaminated”. Contaminated loads are rejected by the composting facility and will be reintroduced into the normal waste stream. *It is important to not put anything but accepted items in the compost drop off bins.*



## HERE'S HOW TO DO IT...

1. **COLLECT** your food scraps in a countertop pail. Although not required, you may line your pail with a compostable bag – please no plastic bags.
2. Most residents will fill the countertop pail with food scraps 3-4 times per week. Therefore it is suggested that residents also have a larger bin to **TRANSFER** food scraps into for weekly storage. This larger bin can also be used for transportation to the Recycling Center. It is recommended that food storage bins be kept indoors – either in the house or in the garage.
3. **BRING** your transportation bin to the Compost Program Drop Off bins to dispose of your food scraps as often as needed. There is no charge to drop off food scraps.

All material collected is brought to a commercial composting facility where it is turned into compost.

## ACCEPTED ITEMS:

ALL FOOD, including: fruits and vegetables (remove stickers, bands, ties), meat and poultry (bones are ok), fish and shellfish (shells are ok), dairy products, bread and pasta, rice and grains, egg shells, chips and snacks, nuts and seeds (shells are ok), leftover, spoiled and expired food (cooked is ok), coffee grounds (paper filters are ok), tea bags (remove staples), paper towels, tissues and napkins (colored are ok), wooden chopsticks, popsicle sticks and wine corks, cut flowers, and compostable bags (no plastic bags).

## NOT ACCEPTED ITEMS:

Plastic bags, plastic packaging and wrappers (use only compostable bags, paper bags or no bags), baby/hand wipes, and pet waste.

If unsure about an item, please call 914-670-3200 or email us at [foodscraps@harrison-ny.gov](mailto:foodscraps@harrison-ny.gov)

