

The Denver COM-POST

A Biannual Newsletter of the Denver Composts Program • August 2017

Did You Know? By Participating in Composting, You Are Helping to Improve Our Land

Maintaining a healthy level of organic content in soil is necessary for healthy plant growth which in turn helps control soil erosion. More often than not, materials that could be used to feed soils (such as discarded food scraps and yard debris) end up in our landfills instead of our soil. Fortunately, your composting efforts are part of the solution to this problem. The more compostable materials Denver residents place in their green carts, the more organic material that is kept out of the landfill and returned to where it actually belongs—the soil.



When added to soil, compost significantly improves the overall health of our land and increases the chance for successful plant growth by:

- **Returning valuable nutrients to the soil.**
- **Promoting the growth of beneficial microorganisms, insects and earthworms in the soil.**
- **Increasing the water retention capacity of the soil.**
- **Encouraging healthy root growth, which leads to better crop yields.**
- **Reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.**
- **Helping to minimize wind and water erosion.**

For a list of other benefits to composting, visit DenverGov.org/Compost.

Be a Composter for ALL Seasons

Don't think of composting as only a seasonal activity. Since we generate compostable material in one form or another no matter the season, maximizing the use of your green cart is easy. Below are some quick tips and suggestions for diverting material from your trash cart to your compost cart year-round:

- **FALL** is a great time for composting leaves, pine cones and other foliage. Just scoop up a cart load each week and set your cart out for collection.
- During the **WINTER** months, food scraps from routine cooking and additional food waste from holiday celebrations can go straight into your compost cart. Turkey carcasses (bones & all), spoiled food, burnt cookies and even fruitcakes are all accepted in the Denver Composts program.
- In the **SPRING** and **SUMMER**, our yards can keep us busy and our green carts full! Grass clippings, hedge prunings, weeds and small branches can all go directly into your green cart.



Make Use of Your Compost Cart Year-Round

CAN THIS GO IN MY GREEN CART?



YES PLAIN PAPER PLATES

Coated paper plates contain plastic elements, and because of this, they are not acceptable for composting. Therefore, only paper plates without a glossy or “soak proof” coating are accepted in the compost program. Look for BPI certified compostable plates to be sure you are composting the right ones.



NO GLASS

Even small amounts of glass are a serious contaminant in the composting process and can result in the rejection of large volumes of materials.



YES BONES

Food bones, such as chicken and fish bones, are okay to put in your green cart.



NO GIFT WRAP TISSUE PAPER

Various coatings and colors make this product unacceptable for compost. Unfortunately, gift wrap tissue paper is not recyclable either.



COMPOST THESE ITEMS

FOOD SCRAPS

- BAKED GOODS
- CEREALS/PASTA
- COFFEE GROUNDS/FILTERS
- DAIRY
- MEAT
- PRODUCE
- VEGETABLES



YARD DEBRIS

- BRANCHES
- BRUSH
- FLOWERS
- GRASS CLIPPINGS
- LEAVES
- WEEDS



NON-RECYCLABLE PAPER

- NAPKINS
- PAPER CUPS
- PAPER PLATES
- PAPER TOWELS
- GREASY PIZZA BOXES
- TISSUES
- WAXED PAPER



MISCELLANEOUS

- PET HAIR
- TEA BAGS
- WOODEN CHOP STICKS
- WOODEN POPSICLE STICKS



Look for BPI certified compostable paper products

Denver Composters Reaching New Heights

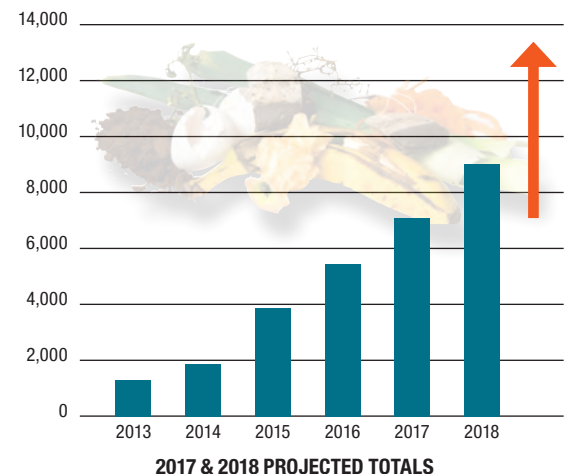
Thanks to your efforts, **5,567 tons** of organic material were collected in the Denver Composts program in 2016. **That's the equivalent of over 4,903 metric tons of carbon dioxide prevented from entering our atmosphere OR comparable to removing 12,703 cars from the road!**

Two new compost routes were added in the Spring of 2017, and four new compost routes are scheduled to be added in late Fall 2017. So the projected amount of compost collected is expected to rise dramatically in the next two years.

But, we still need your help spreading the word to your neighbors, family, and friends about how easy it is to participate in the compost program and encouraging them to sign up. There are still openings on existing routes to add more composters like you to the program. So, consider sharing this newsletter with others to help increase compost participation.

For more information on compost expansions, visit DenverGov.org/Compost.

TONS OF MATERIAL COLLECTED



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