

Everything is Harder and Takes Longer Than You Think

Food Scraps Collection- Arlington County, Virginia

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Household Solid Waste Rate List of Services (\$318.61 annually)



History



2004 SWMP- program enhancement to add food scraps collection



2015- new collections contract which allowed for the addition of both organics and food scraps collection curbside



2016- rolled out separate organics collection program (green carts)

Cart costs embedded in contract- paid off in five years

Carts paid off in March 2021 (Saving \$11.40 on the HSWR)



2020 Survey info- 79% supported adding the program



2020 Composting Facility Opens-post consumer food scraps



Apr 2021- County Board approved addition of food scraps collection

Full year cost of \$10.62



Sep 2021- Food scraps collection begins

Logistics

Educational Materials

Food caddies/
compostable bags

Distribution

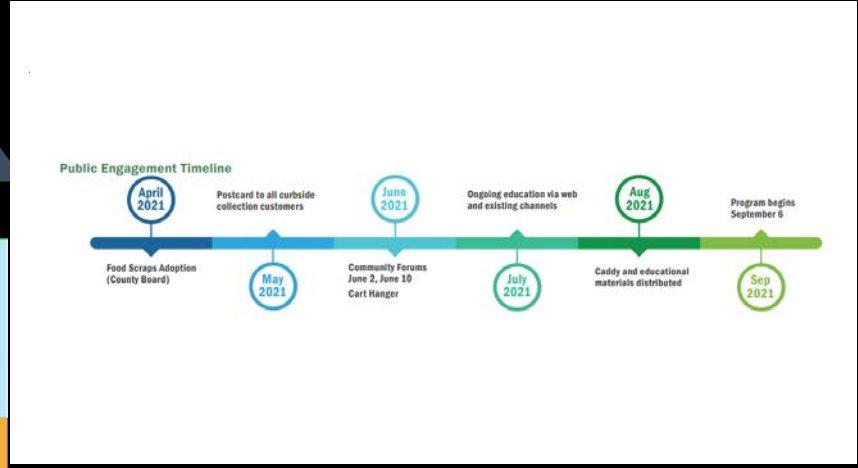


Save the Date!
Food Scraps Collection Begins September 6, 2021
recycling.arlingtonva.us/food-scraps-collection



Food Scraps Collection in Arlington County begins September 6th on your regular weekly trash pickup day. Here's how:

- COLLECT:** Collect food scraps in a counter-top pail using compostable bags
- PLACE CURBSIDE:** Place bags of food scraps in green organics cart and place cart at curb on your pickup day
- WEEKLY PICKUP:** Cows will pick up the food scraps weekly



Frequently Asked Questions – Residential Food Scraps Collection

- How does organic recycling work?**
 - Collect food scraps using your kitchen caddy or any bucket in your kitchen. Fill your collection container with a paper bag or compostable bag to help keep it clean. Compostable bags are available at food stations. *Plastic bags are not accepted.
 - Recycle your bagged organics into your green cart.
 - Place your green organics cart on the curb on your trash collection day.
- Would it have any impact on the city's green cart?**

No. The County's adopted Household Solid Waste Rate for FY2022 is \$318.61. This is a 5% increase from FY2021 to \$302.40. The curbside program covers the new service by being added with no net increase to the Household Solid Waste Rate.
- When would the program begin?**

The food scraps collection program would begin the second half of 2021. www.a11y.com
- What is the benefit of this new service?**

If implemented, a food scraps collection program would provide the platform to increase awareness on each of our routes on reducing food waste and generating healthy soil. Benefits include: reducing the total volume of garbage, reducing landfill gas, reducing environmental and potential climate impacts, and more importantly, that only 1% of us live a planet with recycling food waste. Food waste and organic by-products. The program would also help to divert food waste from being incinerated to being composted, helping to increase Arlington's recycling rate.
- What materials are accepted?**

Food waste or food scraps will include: vegetables, fruits, meats (including bones), bread, poultry, etc. - basically anything that we consume. We will also be able to accept food contaminated paper products such as napkins and paper towels.
- What about other used products?**

Residents would be required to separate their food scraps in the green cart as they do the plastic, metal, which means ensuring that the caddy is clean and empty, and that the green cart is properly sealed. To maintain safety, we need to have your container fully handwashed or paper bag to already lined from food waste. Empty your container thoroughly and reuse it as necessary.

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION: WHAT CAN YOU COMPOST?

YES ✓	NO ✗
<p>ALL FOOD SCRAPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meats & Seafood Bones Shells Meat Trimmings Dairy & Eggs Milk Cheese Egg Shells Yogurt Grains & Bread Fruit/Vegetables/Herbs Fruit Cakes & Scoops Sauces/Pasta Not Shells 	<p>TOXIC/PATHOGENIC MATERIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal or Human Waste Auto Parts Chemicals Cigarette Butts Dead Animals Cigars Used Tissues Herbicides Kitty Litter Medicine/Medical Waste Salted Bowls/Trays Hazardous Materials <p>UNNATURAL MATERIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combs and Cigars Synthetic or Petroleum-based Cosmetics Soil Biogenic Materials Acrylic, Polyuretic, Rubber, etc.

If you have questions or are not sure about how to dispose of an item please consult our directory at recycling.arlingtonva.us

FOR MORE INFORMATION: recycling.arlingtonva.us/food-scraps-collection

- What if I don't have a green cart?**

Residents can view www.a11y.com or call 703-226-5900 and request a green cart.
- Will larger organics carts be allowed?**

Households that currently have a 32-gallon green organics cart will be able to upgrade to a 64-gallon cart. However, we don't expect significant increases in the volume of green cart materials. Green cart pickups will decrease, but because food waste is very dense, the volume of organics collected should stay pretty level.



Education/Outreach

- Post card (May)
- Community Forums (2) June
- Cart Hanger (July)
- FAQs for call center staff
- Starter Kit (August)
- Videos (August)

Food Scraps Program Videos

How Can I Get Involved?

- [How can I get involved? | Food Scraps Collection Arlington County - YouTube](#)



Whats is the food scraps program?

<https://youtu.be/rocDQSPi7sE>

How can I get involved?

<https://youtu.be/gH3QJPQjH80>

What is the benefit of this new service?

<https://youtu.be/a60FMbtI04E>

What materials are accepted?

<https://youtu.be/MSwRWbYJW3M>

How does it work?

<https://youtu.be/DDzXZCUGy7I>

Will this change how trash is collected at all?

<https://youtu.be/F5PtSqV5z08>

When does the program begin?

<https://youtu.be/W1TN4g70ubk>

¿Qué es el programa de restos o sobras de comida?

<https://youtu.be/MuxotKwB4sc>

¿Cómo puedo involucrarme?

<https://youtu.be/firvIUuBCR8>

¿Cuál es el beneficio de este nuevo servicio?

<https://youtu.be/RxAz2Q02pLY>

¿Qué materiales se aceptan?

<https://youtu.be/zeVt40Wt3bi>

¿Cómo funciona?

https://youtu.be/Q7riZ_lp8x8

¿Cambiará esto la forma en que se recolecta la basura?

<https://youtu.be/oje1wHpsnUY>

¿Cuándo comienza el programa?

<https://youtu.be/hS982Th3KMM>

How To?

- [How to use your Food Scrap Caddy - YouTube](#)



Food Caddies/ Compostable Bags

Caddies

- Color choices (tan, black, green, combo, etc.)
- Solid/perforated lids
- Hot stamp information

Compostable Bags

- Size does matter
- Not all 2.5 gallon compostable bags are the same
- Volume and dimensions
- Production/Delivery delays

The Delivery plan & Challenges

FACTS

CARRIES

- Boxed 22 per box (396 lbs)
- Carries generally need to have full attachment
- Some assembled with, some not (regarding 90)

Box Truck x 2

- Can carry — pilots (7) (total carries per box truck)

House count = 33,093

Relief slots: 8221
Impover: 9201, 9223

Available bags: 172 bags per person

The math

33,093 carry deliveries

2 box trucks (16,547 cars)

16 days (1,183 per day)

20 days (822 per day)

2 delivery staff (552 per day) (5 days)

2 delivery staff (414 per day) (20 days)

Average truck route: 602 miles

Size	Year	Cost
- Box Truck	2000	10,000
- Christmas	2000	10,000
- Christmas	2000	10,000
- 2012	2012	10,000

Staff

- Box car - maintenance
- Rental trucks (1000) (EVA)
- Fuel (up left)
- 2 relief
- 2 trailers (2)
- Safety bags (3)
- 2 trailers (3)

Questions

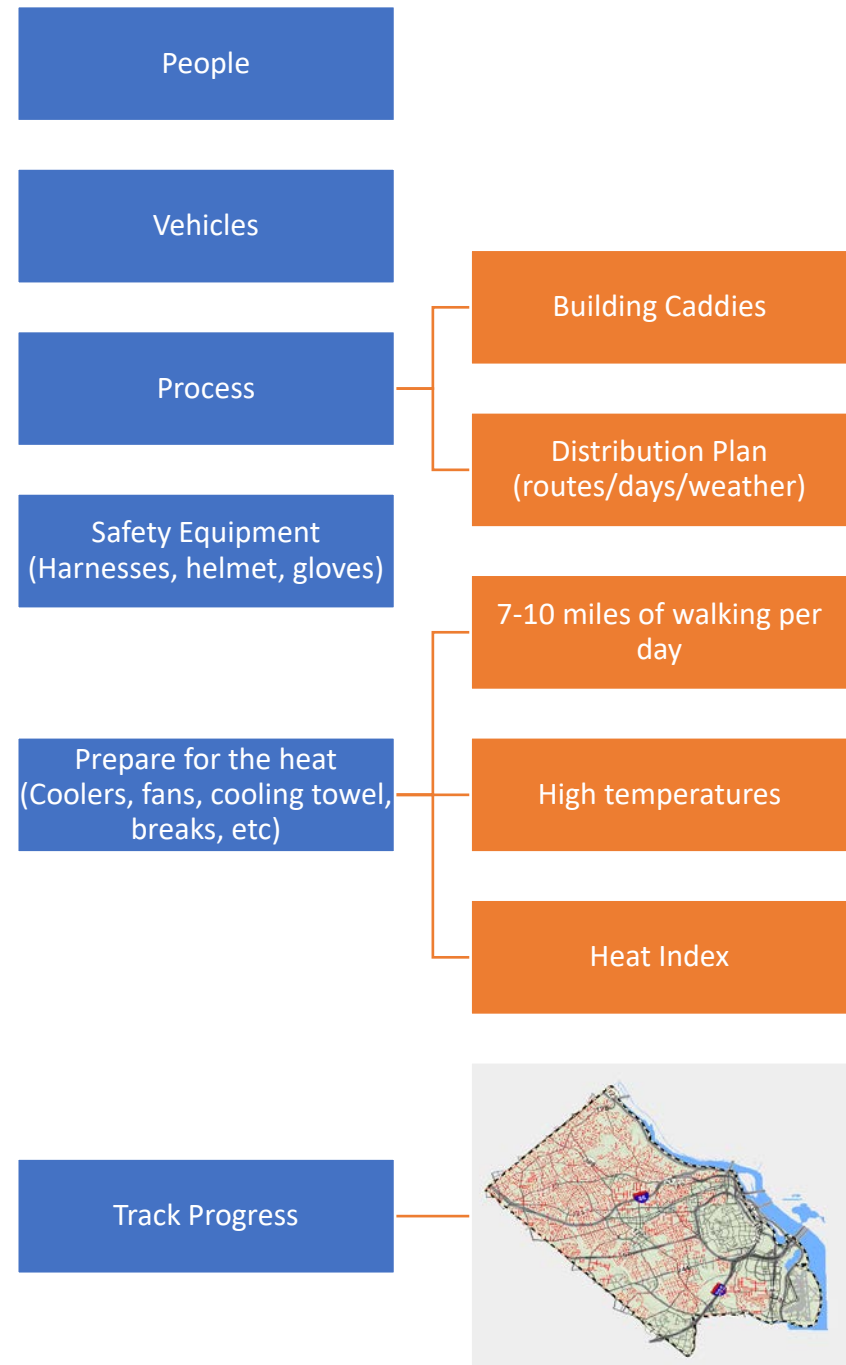
- Do we have up additional (what?) parked on truck?
- Imports to get boxes on truck (already requires 2 weeks per day per truck)
- Do we get better state, how to get in our vehicles?
- Staff: 2 trailer carry
- What is needed to complete carries? What is needed delivery - how/what box? Do we need intermediate staging? etc. what?



Challenges:

- No temp agency support
- Need for rental equipment
- Production/Delivery Delays
- Safety/Heat/Roadways
- Distribution schedule- 4 weeks
- COVID safeguards
- Tracking of deliveries

Distribution



Distribution Results



33,200 caddies delivered

- 84 reported misses (>99% accuracy)

Safety

- NO vehicle accidents
- NO injuries (cuts, bruises)
- NO heat injuries

Communication to Distract

- What can you do with your caddy?

Caddy take back program

- Libraries/ drop-off centers/ SWB

Not
Everyone
Will Love It



Metal Ox · 4 hours ago

Instead of this rubbish, as it were, the County should get serious about recycling and food waste in its largest facility: APS.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



Arl res → Metal Ox · an hour ago

This is a GREAT idea.

^ | v · Reply · Share >



Hank · 4 hours ago

Juh oh, I thought these were community privies, similar to the Little Free Libraries. I have some apologizing to do.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



Metal Ox → Hank · 3 hours ago

Leave one, take one?

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



CommonSenzical · 4 hours ago

I'm an avid recycler, but this is way off the mark. I'm using it as a cleaning bucket.

7 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



tburger → CommonSenzical · 3 hours ago

Yup. We are using it as a trash can in our of our cars.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



Lauren1900 → tburger · 2 hours ago

Great idea!! I may do this

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



JW → CommonSenzical · 4 hours ago

now that I think about it, this would be an ideal place to empty my bike chain degreasing tools

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



K Racing SKEK → CommonSenzical · 3 hours ago

Mine is landfill.

^ | v · Reply · Share >

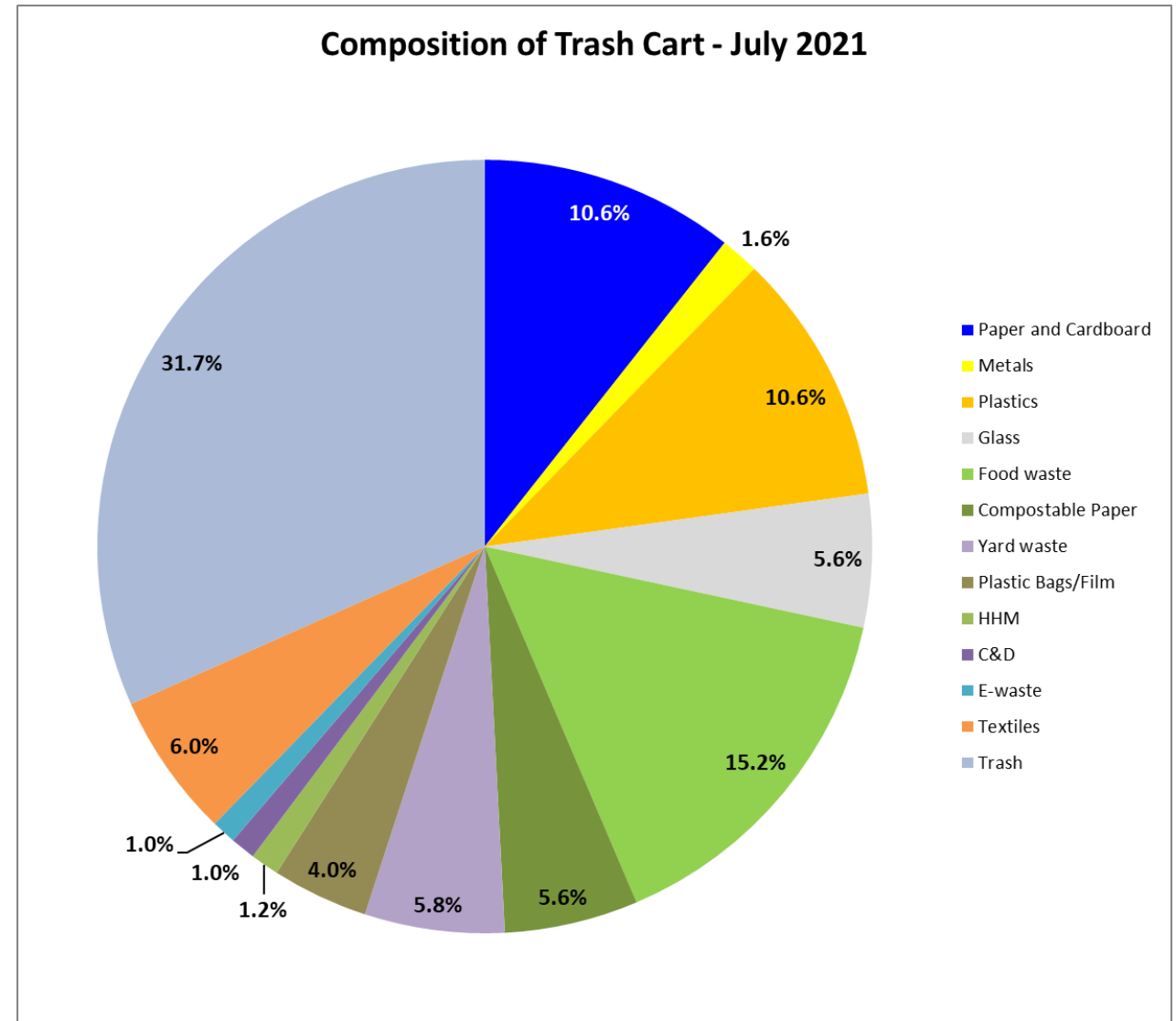


Arlington Robin · 2 hours ago

The local racoons knocked on my door last week asking when this composting thing was going to start.

How will we know if we have been successful?

- Set out rates (observation)-anecdotally 60%
- Quarterly waste sorts
 - Setout rates
 - Tonnages
- Collection tonnages
 - Trash
 - Organics



Final Thoughts

Achieves goal outlined in SWMP

Supports our 4 C's philosophy of providing convenient, comprehensive, cost effective and conservation focused residential services

Time will tell how effective the food scraps program is

Initial utilization roughly 60%

Waste Audit in October will allow us to understand real impacts

Compost will be made available to the public

Supports healthy soils which increases carbon sequestration by plants

Questions?