



TAKOMA PARK

FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Date: October 1st, 2015

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Special Projects Coordinator
Department of Public Works

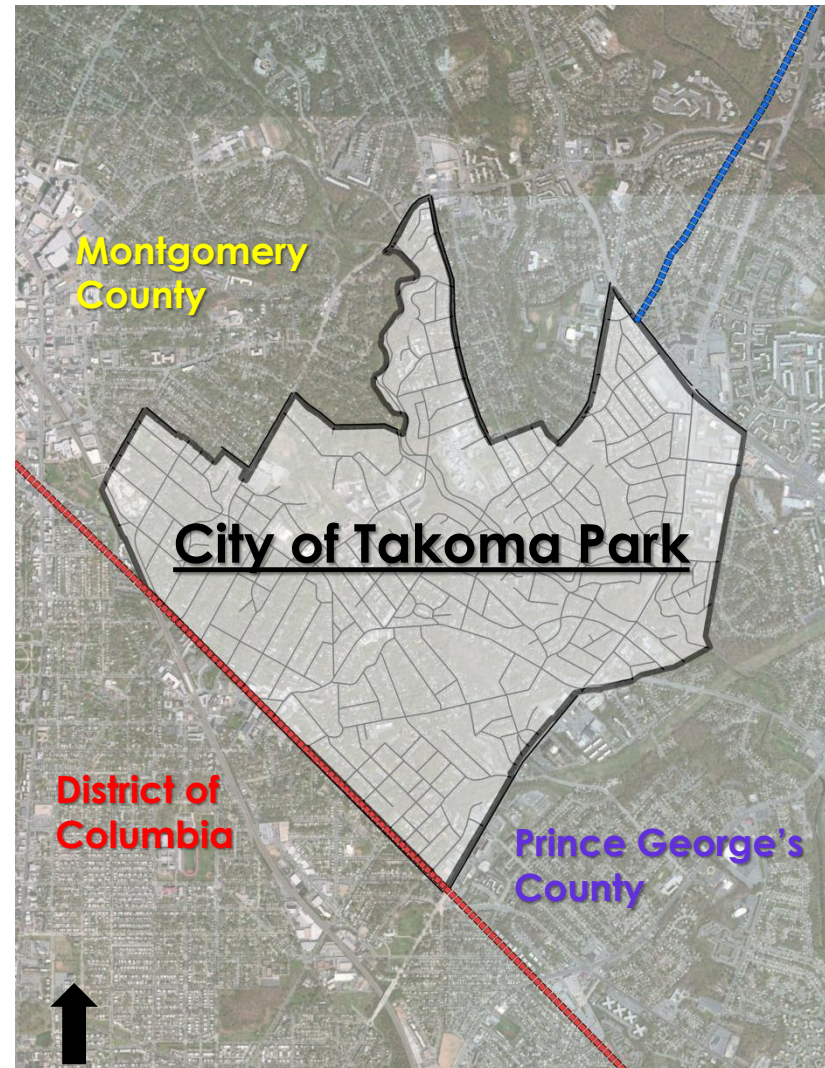
Agenda

- About Takoma Park
- Pre-Existing Curbside Programs
- Food Waste Program
 - Pilot Phase
 - Expansion
 - Current phase
- Program Evaluation
- Moving ahead
- Question

City of Takoma Park

- Incorporated in 1890
- 2.4 Square Miles
- Shares a border with the District of Columbia
- Population: 16,715 (Census 2010)
- 7,000 housing units, 52% owner occupied, 48% rental

City provides curbside collection to **3,300 homes** , primarily single family and apartments of 6 units and less



Takoma Park Pre-Existing Programs for Waste Management

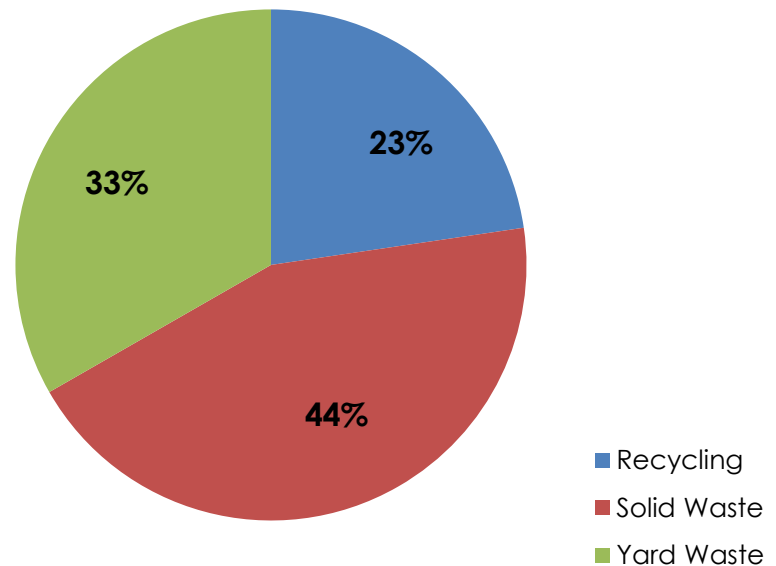
Robust curbside recycling and mandatory yard waste programs manage 56% of total Waste stream

Fiscal Year 2012

- **Yard Waste: 2,240 Tons ***
- **Solid waste: 2,963 Tons**
- **Recycling: 1,526 Tons**

* **Yard Waste includes vacuum leaf collection each Fall as well as weekly collection of grass, leaves, branches and brush**

Residential Trash Tonnage for FY 2012

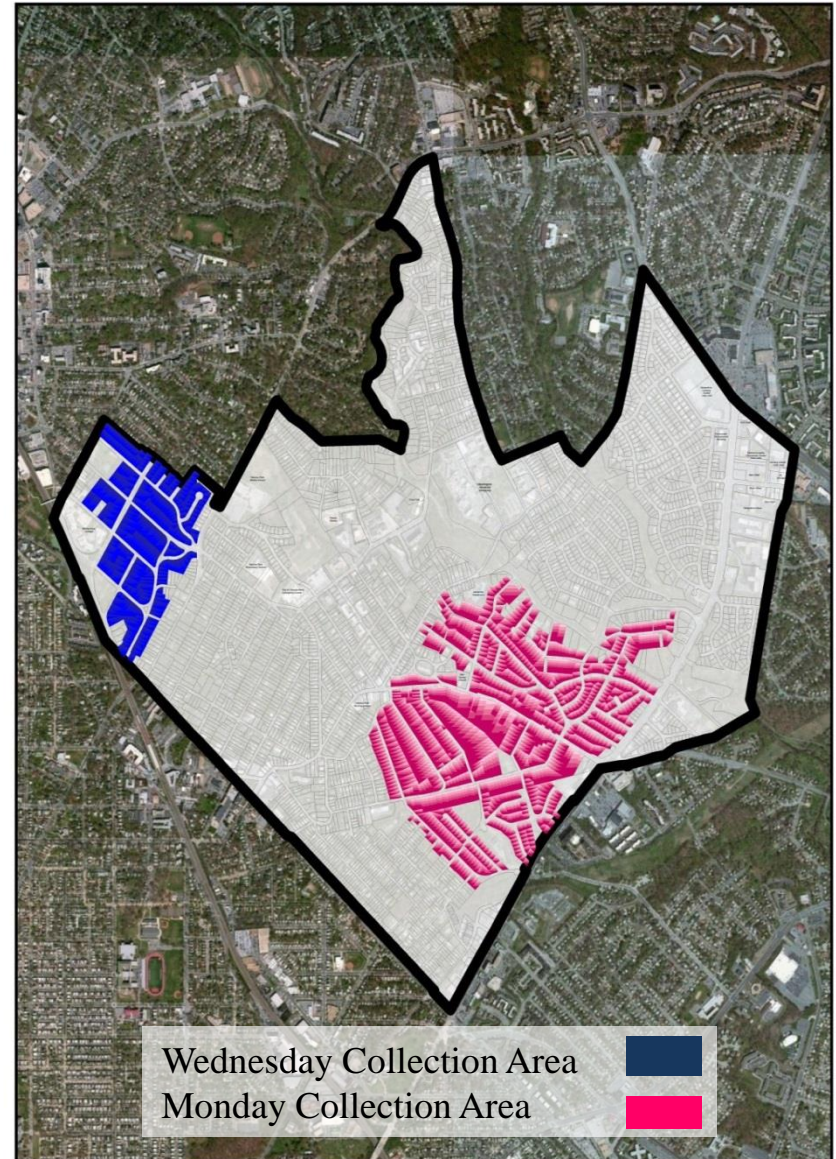


Food Waste Collection Program

- Begun on February 2013 as a pilot program
- Targeted two neighborhoods with high recycling rates
- Collection by private haulers
 - The Compost Crew and
 - Growing Soul
- Voluntary Participation

Pilot Phase

- **Area 1**
 - Contractor collection on same day as trash
 - 260 total homes
 - 65 participants (25%)
 - Growing Soul
-
- **Area 2**
 - City collection on same day as yard waste
 - 850 total homes
 - 300 participants (35%)
 - The Compost Crew



Participant /Recruitment



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

31 Oswego Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20912
www.takomaparkmd.gov

Dear Resident:

Would You Like To Participate in A Food Waste Collection Program?

The City of Takoma Park is partnering with The Compost Crew to run a 6 month pilot program for the collection of food waste for composting. This program is being offered to 300 households in your neighborhood. The pilot program will start February 25 and run through August 19.

Food waste makes up to about 23% of household trash. By reducing the amount of food waste in the trash, the City could lower trash collection costs and create a valuable compost product that could be used to enhance our lawns and gardens.

What Will Be Accepted?

The food waste collection program will accept food waste and food related paper products. This includes such items as:

- Fruit, vegetable and meat scraps (raw or cooked),
- Breads, pasta, rice, cereal, grains (raw or cooked)
- Nuts, beans, seeds (raw or cooked)
- Cheese, yogurt and cultured milk products
- Coffee grounds, filters and tea bags
- Used paper towels, paper napkins, paper plates, paper bags, paper food containers
- Egg shells

How Will The Program Work?

The collection will take place once a week, on Monday, with the yard waste pick up. Food waste items are to be placed with your yard waste items or set out separately in a City provided container. City collection crews will pick up the food waste with yard waste in City trucks.

Each participating household will receive a 5 gallon plastic container with a tightly sealed lid for the storage of food waste items. 13 gallon compostable plastic bags will also be provided. The compostable plastic bag is to be placed in the plastic container and filled with food waste items during the week. The night before collection, the food waste container is to be brought to the curb, or the compostable plastic bag can be placed in your yard waste bag or can.



TAKOMA PARK FOOD COMPOST PILOT

Want to cut down on the amount of waste you send to the incinerator and waste water treatment facility? You can, by **signing up** for the food waste pilot collection program.

Registration is still open !

Here's how you can sign up: The City's partner, The Compost Crew, has established a website & phone line for registration. If you would like to participate, please email The Compost Crew at takoma@thecompostcrew.com or call 301-202-4450.

You can also Sign up on your smartphone or tablet device.



The program is designed for **300 households & will be offered on a first come, first served basis.**

THE  COMPOST CREW

A pilot program in partnership with

Accepted Materials



FOOD SCRAPS

Meat, poultry, seafood, bones, eggshells, cheese, bread, pasta, grains, beans, nuts, fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, paper napkins, paper towels, coffee filters, tea bags, pizza delivery boxes

Questions? Email us at takoma@thecompostcrew.com

- Initial Introductory letter
- Postcards encouraging residents to sign up

Participant Recruitment

City Website:

- [Food Waste Collection Program](#)

Registration Form

Takoma Park Food Waste Collection Registration Form

The food waste collection program is now available to all the households within the City of Takoma Park. Single family and multi-family properties with twelve (12) units or less that currently receive City of Takoma Park curbside trash and recycling pickup are eligible to participate in the food waste collection program.

Households with a **Thursday trash route** or **Friday trash route** can register by filling out this form. Public Works staff will follow up with you to let you know how to get started! Households with a **Wednesday trash route** are divided into two areas and are serviced by either the Compost Crew or Public Works. Review the map above to determine your service provider. Households within the Compost Crew service area are highlighted yellow and should register on The Compost Crew's website. Households with Wednesday routes outside of the yellow area will be serviced by Public Works and can register with this form. Households with a **Tuesday trash route** should register on The Compost Crew's website.

- [The Compost Crew](#)

Full Name *

Last, First

Enter your full name here.

Email Address *

Enter your email address here.

Street Address *

Enter your Takoma Park street address here. Your household must be in the pilot area to participate.

How many people live in your household? *

Enter the total number of people living in your household.

What day of the week is your trash collected? *

- Select -

Select the day of the week you get your trash and recycling collected.

Submit

Collection Details

Each participant received:

- 5 gallon plastic bucket with screw top lid
- 6 month supply of compostable plastic bags
- Instructional information
- Website access for questions, comments

What Can Be Collected as Food Waste in Takoma Park

Items to be included	Items not to be included
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• fruit & vegetable• scraps meat, fish, shellfish• dairy products• bread, pasta, rice, grains, cereal, baked goods, etc.• nuts, beans, seeds• coffee grounds, filters, tea bags• paper products /pizza boxes• chopsticks and popsicle sticks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• diapers• facial tissues• fats, oils or grease• pet waste• styrofoam

Collection Details

Collection process:

- Residents place buckets at the curbside the morning of collection
- Collection crew empties bucket by removing the bag
- Collected materials are loaded into refuse paker or dump truck and delivered to the composting facility



Expansion

- August, 2014:
 - Program expanded throughout the City
 - Outreach through City's Newsletter, Facebook and Webpage
 - Comments about the program through online [Survey](#)

Survey

Received responses from 283 of 1000 participants...

- 85% stated they put their container out weekly
- 97% report less trash as a result of their participation
- 50 % preferred putting out food waste on the same day as trash collection

Survey link: [Survey](#)

Current Status

- Approximately 1500 participating household.
- Voluntary participation
 - Online registration
- Food Waste collection by in house sanitation crew
- Collection on the same day as trash and recycling
- Promotion
 - Participating household receives finished compost early spring and early fall
 - Monthly program update via mailchimp

Current Status

Program Update from the Department of Public Works

[View this email in your browser](#)

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM UPDATE (6-30-2015)

Participants,

Thank you for making this program a success!

Currently, the City is collecting from approximately 1,500 households with an average of 13 pounds per household per week. This curbside collection program is available to all single family homes and multi-family properties with twelve (12) units or less. Interested households can register through the [City's Food Waste Page](#) or by calling 301-891-7633.



Independence Day schedule!

Friday's food waste, trash and recycling collection is moved to Thursday (07/02/2015). Please set your bins out by 6 am.

In-house food waste collection!

Beginning September 1, 2015, the City's sanitation crew will be collecting Food Waste from all participants. The City's contract with The Compost Crew will expire (they had been providing collection to less than 50% of the participants). The program costs will be reduced by bringing all collection services in-house.

Plastic Bags & Plastic Film no longer recyclable!

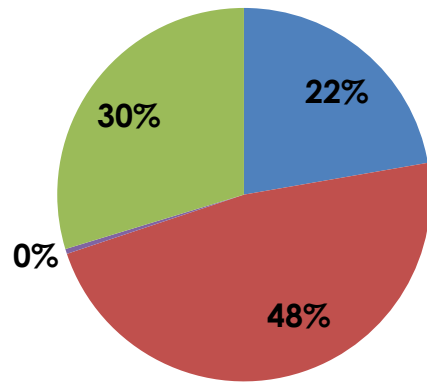
Beginning tomorrow, i.e., July 1, 2015, plastic bags and plastic film is no longer accepted in the City's collection curbside recycling program. See more at: [Plastic Bag](#)

Free compost!

We are still giving away free compost to all participants. Please stop by our Public Works facility to receive your share.

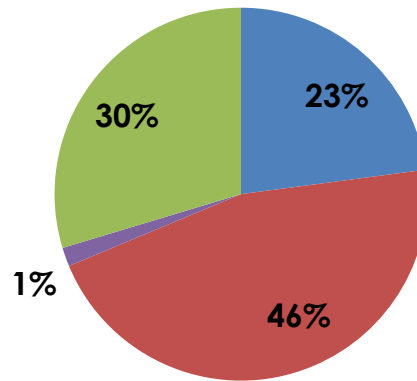
Program Evaluation

FY 2013



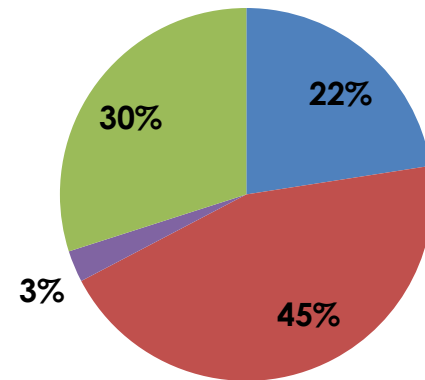
Food Waste
Compost = 29 Tons

FY 2014



Food Waste
Compost = 110 Tons

FY 2015



Food Waste
Compost = 183 Tons

Fiscal Year (FY) starts July of every year and ends on June 30th

Program Evaluation

FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

- Average weight of food waste per house = **13 lbs/week**
- Average set out rate per week = **70 %**
- Percentage of households participating = **45%**

COMPARISON TO OTHER COLLECTIONS

- Average weight of weekly trash per house = **39 lbs**
- Average weight of weekly recycling per house = **18 lbs**
- Average weight of weekly yard waste per house = **26 lbs**

Program Goal

Increase the participation rate to 55% by end of 2017

- 1800 participants by Dec.2017
- Approximately 280 tons of food waste

Actions

- Public Outreach
- Survey

Moving Forward

- Explore program options for businesses and institutions, current program is residential only



- Advocate for more local processing options

Question