

# TAKOMA PARK FOOD COMPOST PILOT

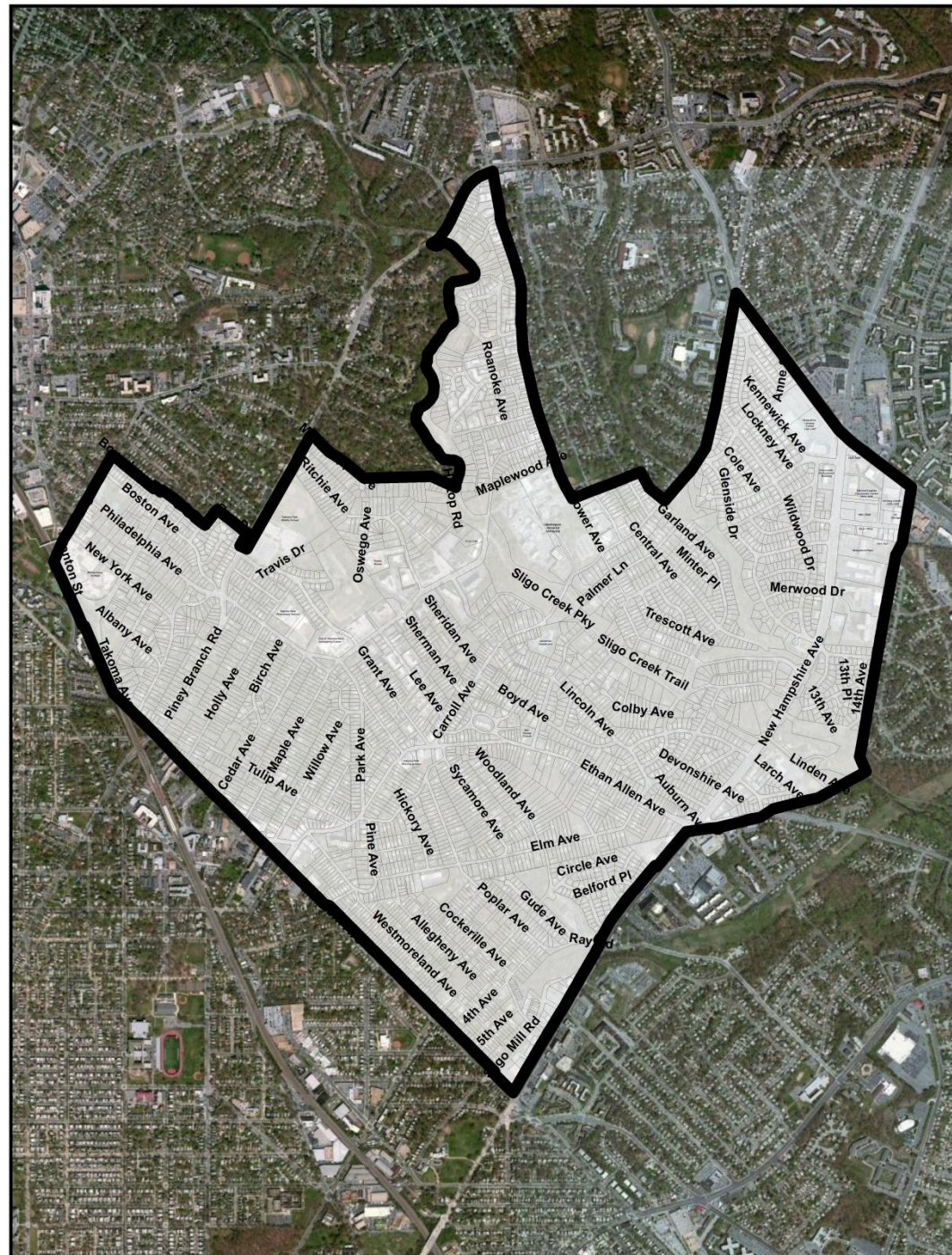
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Daryl Braithwaite  
Director of Public Works  
Date: 4-18-2013

# Introduction

- City of Takoma Park
- Area: 2.09 Sq.Mile
- Population: 16,715 (Census 2010)
- City provides solid waste services to 3,300 homes
- Robust curbside recycling and mandatory yard waste programs manage 50% of waste
- To increase %, food waste composting identified as best opportunity



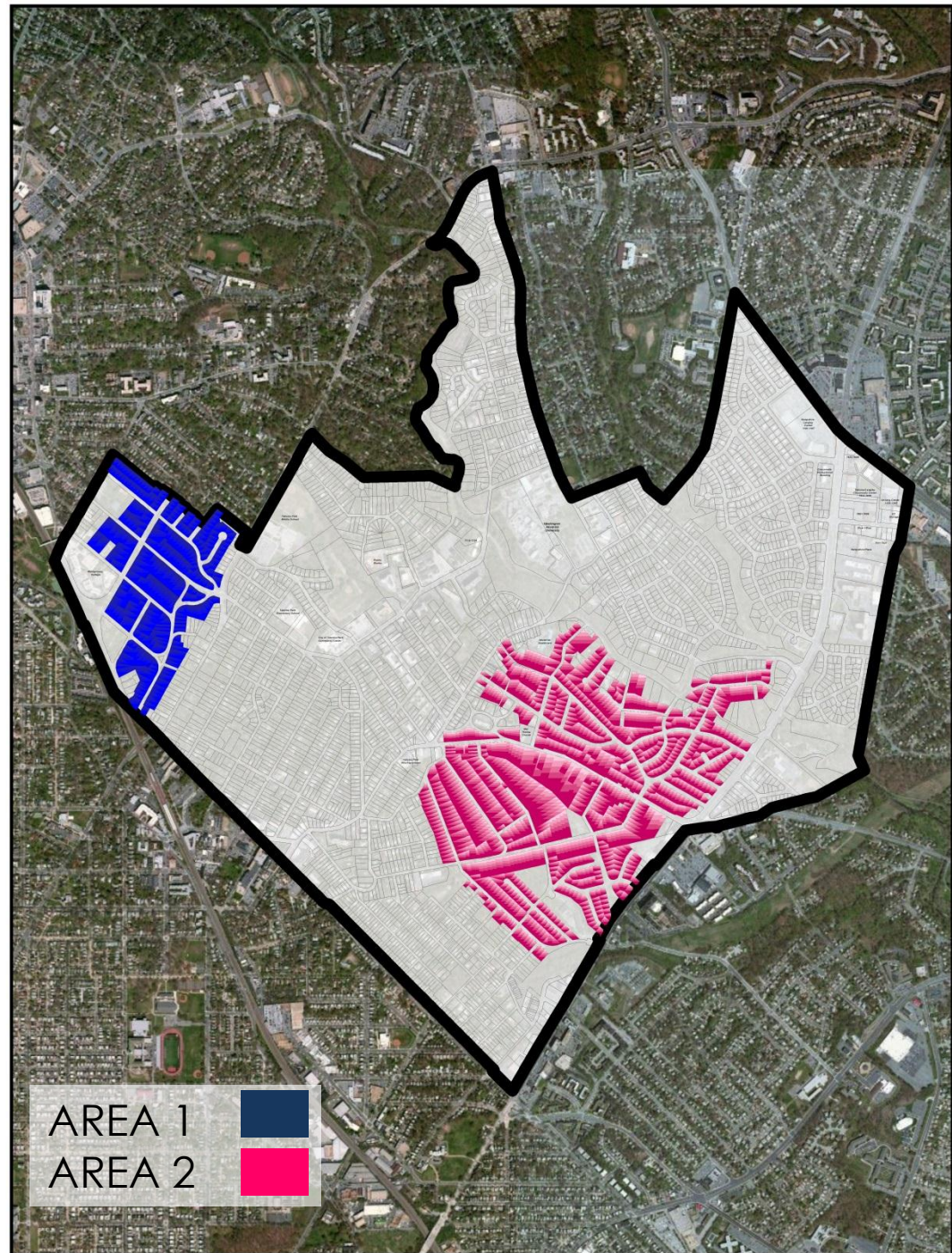
# Pilot Areas

- **Area 1**

Partner collection  
260 total homes  
25% participation  
vegetable matter only

- **Area 2**

City collection w/ yard waste  
850 total homes  
35% participation  
all food types and paper waste



# AREA 1

- Designed for 65 households
- Manages accounts by email, provides weekly collection, weighs each container
- Processes at facility in Montgomery County



# AREA 2

- Designed for 300 households
- Registration by email
- Delivered containers
- City collects and delivers to Chesapeake Compost Works in Curtis Bay, Baltimore
- City records total weight collected and counts number of set outs weekly



# GROWING SOUL

# COMPOST CREW



## 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 *growing SOUL* to run a 6 month pilot program for the collection of food waste for composting. This program is being offered to 65 households in your neighborhood. The pilot program will start February 20 and run through July 31.

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, and vegetable scraps (raw or cooked),
- Breads, pasta, rice, cereal, grains (raw or cooked)
- Nuts, beans, seeds (raw or cooked)
- 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 Wednesday. Food waste items are to be set out separately in a City provided container. Staff from *growing SOUL* will pick up the food waste in a bio-diesel fueled collection vehicle.

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 should be brought to the curb.



A PILOT PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



## 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.



# GROWING SOUL



## TAKOMA PARK FOOD COMPOST PILOT

**Registration is still open !**

**Items that can be included :**

in partnership with  
growingSOUL

growing  
SOUL

[www.growingSOUL.org](http://www.growingSOUL.org)



bread, cereal,  
pasta, rice & grains  
(raw or cooked)



fruit & vegetable scraps  
(raw or cooked)



nuts, beans, seeds (raw or cooked)  
egg & nut shells, pits, corn cobs, husks



cakes, pies,  
baked goods



dairy, milk, eggs  
(raw or cooked)



soiled napkins,  
paper towels

Also: limited amounts  
of wooden toothpicks,  
popsicle sticks &  
chopsticks



soiled pizza boxes, paper egg cartons, paper bags  
cardboard food and ice cream containers



uncoated paper plates



shredded paper



coffee grounds,  
filters & tea bags

### DO NOT COMPOST:

- x - meat, fish or bones
- x - metal, aluminium foil
- x - styrofoam
- x - plastic wrap
- x - plastic-coated or wax-coated paper or cardboard
- x - plastics of any kind including compostable plasticware

### Instructions:

- Place paper in the bottom of your empty bin to absorb moisture
- Line your bin with ONLY compostable plastic bags provided
- Always screw the lid on tightly to keep odors in and pests out
- Save your compostables in a lidded container as you prep and scrape food
- Transfer compostables DIRECTLY into lined bin
- DO NOT PLACE OTHER TYPES OF PLASTIC BAGS INTO THE BIN
- Place your bin out at your curb Wednesday morning by 8am
- Rinse your bin, dry, REPEAT

**To register please email at [takomaparkcompostpilot@gmail.com](mailto:takomaparkcompostpilot@gmail.com) or call at 301-799-8955**

# COMPOST CREW



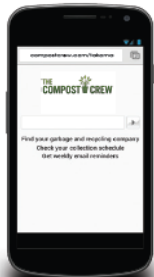
## TAKOMA PARK FOOD COMPOST PILOT

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](mailto: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.**

A pilot program in partnership with **THE COMPOST CREW**

### 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](mailto:takoma@thecompostcrew.com)

# PROGRAM EVALUATION

## AREA 1

- 5 gallon plastic bucket, screw top lid and compostable plastic bag liners
- Average weight per home per week = 8 lbs
- Average set out rate per week = 85%
- Maximum weight per container = 24 lb

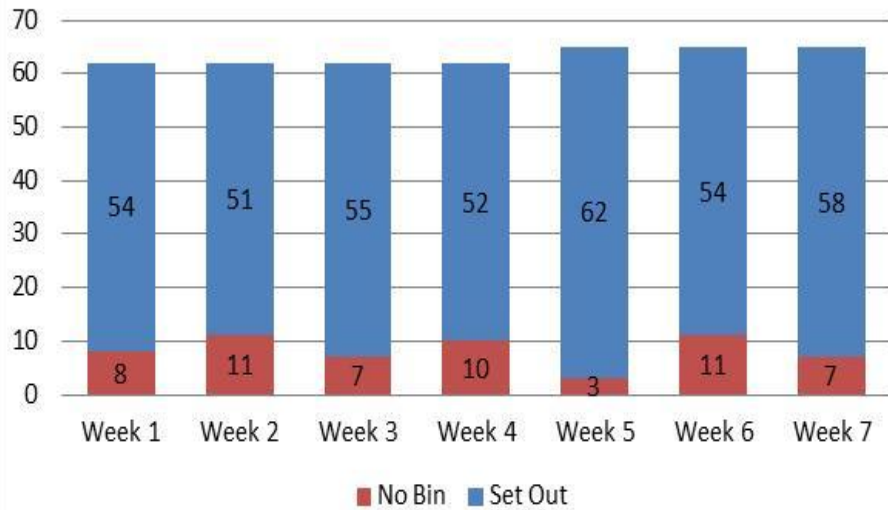
## AREA 2

- 5 gallon plastic bucket, screw top lid and compostable plastic bag liners
- Est weigh per participant per week = 24.85 lbs
- Average set out rate per week = 68 %
- yard waste compared to food waste = 80% to 20%
- Anticipate wide seasonal variance

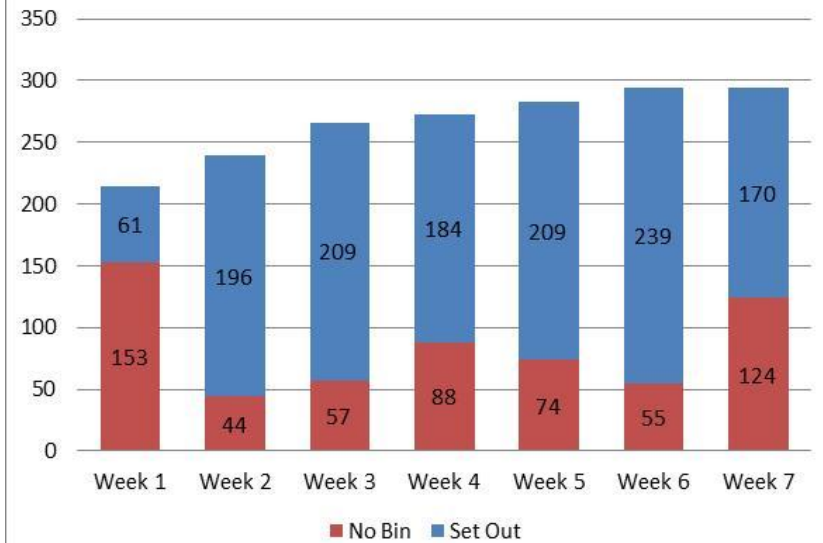


# PROGRAM EVALUATION

## Area 1 Weekly Set Out



## Area 2 Weekly Set Out



# Next Steps

- Pilot programs to last 6 month - ends in early August
- Continue to evaluate weights collected and develop estimates for Citywide program
- Determine if program will be separate or in combination with yard waste
- Fingers crossed for more local processing options



Thank  
you !