

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is the slow, natural decomposition of organics such as food waste. Microorganisms break down this material into a nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used to replenish soils naturally.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **It cuts down on trash and expenses.** Composting saves space and taxpayer money needed for disposal in landfills.
- **It combats climate change.** Food waste recycling will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and protect our air and water from pollution to fight climate change.
- **It protects against flooding.** Composting nourishes soil for healthier parks and gardens and increases stormwater absorption capacity.
- **It can save plants and animals.** Composting reduces the need for expensive and polluting chemical fertilizers, makes plants healthier, and can be used without harming wildlife or ecosystem health.



Meet Mossy!

*Beaufort County's
New Composting
Mascot*

DON'T TRASH IT! COMPOST!



COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS IN BEAUFORT COUNTY!

Through the new composting pilot program, Beaufort County residents can bring specific food waste to participating county drop-off sites listed below. Each site includes clearly labeled collection bins, signs, and instructions to help residents participate correctly. Collected food scraps are transported to a composting facility, where they are turned into a valuable soil amendment.

To begin composting, visit beaufortcountysc.com/compost and register. Participants will receive an access code to use any of the following food waste drop-off sites.

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

Bluffton, 104 Simmonsville Road, Bluffton

Shanklin, 80 Shanklin Road, Beaufort

Hilton Head, 26 Summit Drive, Hilton Head

St. Helena, 639 Sea Island Parkway, St. Helena

ITEMS ACCEPTED

- ✓ **Fruits and Vegetables**
- ✓ **Bread, Dough, Bakery Items, Pasta, and Grain**
- ✓ **Coffee Grounds and Tea Filters**
- ✓ **Compostable Liquids** (e.g., water, juices in small amounts)
- ✓ **Cooked Meats, Fish, Bones, and Shells***
- ✓ **Dairy Products*** (e.g., milk, cheese, yogurt)
- ✓ **Food-Soiled Paper** (e.g., paper bags, paper towels, napkins, waxed cardboard boxes*)
- ✓ **Processed Foods** (e.g., pizza, cereal, chips, crackers, cookies, cakes, plate scrapings)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- ✗ **Raw Meat** (e.g., beef, poultry, pork, seafood)
- ✗ **Plastic Items** (e.g., bags, dishes, utensils, cups, Styrofoam)
- ✗ **Small Items** (e.g., rubber bands, twist ties)
- ✗ **Chemical Cleaners**
- ✗ **Non-Food Items** (e.g., wood, metal, glass, ceramics, pet droppings, yard debris)
- ✗ **Fats, Oils, Grease or Non-Compostable Liquids** (e.g., vegetable oil, lard)

* These items are accepted in this program, but **ARE NOT RECOMMENDED** for backyard composting. *Continued on back*

HOW TO STORE FOOD SCRAPS

You can store food scraps in almost any reusable container with a tight-fitting lid. You also can store them in the freezer or refrigerator.

HELP PREVENT CONTAMINATION!

Contamination is a major challenge with any compost program because it is not possible or safe to have staff sort through piles of food scraps to remove items that don't belong. Preventing contamination on the front end helps to ensure the final product is free of inorganic materials and is safe to use.

Unfortunately, if any food scrap carts are contaminated with items that can't be composted, the whole cart must

be disposed of in the garbage. Know what goes in and what stays out. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out!

DROP IT OFF

You can drop off your compostables as often as you like, but once a week is recommended. Drop-off sites are open when the parks are open – from dawn to dusk daily.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this pilot program or about composting in Beaufort County, please visit beaufortcountysc.com/compost.

For more information about backyard composting, please visit des.sc.gov/compost. For tips to help eliminate food waste, visit des.sc.gov/dwfc.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: STEP-BY-STEP

1 COLLECT food scraps in a sealed container or store in a freezer.

2 TAKE your food scraps to a nearby drop-off site.

3 RINSE the container. Repeat!



SC DEPARTMENT of
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES