



Guide to Talking with Your City or Township About Residential Curbside Food Scrap Collection

1. Understand the Basics of Food Scrap Collection

- What is Food Scrap Collection? Curbside food scrap collection involves separating organic waste (like fruit peels, coffee grounds, and food scraps) from regular trash for composting.
- Benefits: Reduces landfill waste, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and creates nutrient-rich compost.

2. Research Your Community's Current Waste Management System

- Check if your city or township already has a program in place or has discussed implementing one.
- Identify the department or official responsible for waste management (e.g., Public Works, Sanitation Department).

3. Build Your Case

- Highlight environmental benefits, such as reduced methane emissions and increased composting.
- Share potential economic benefits, like reduced landfill fees and the creation of local compost products.
- Present successful examples from nearby cities or comparable communities.

4. Engage Your Community

- Organize a survey or petition to gauge community interest and support.
- Host informational events or webinars to educate neighbors on food scrap collection.
- Collaborate with local environmental groups or schools to amplify your message.

5. Contact Your City or Township Officials

- Identify decision-makers: City Council members, waste management officials, or the mayor.
- Write a letter or email outlining the benefits and community interest in curbside food scrap collection.
- Request a meeting to discuss the proposal and present supporting data.

6. Prepare for the Meeting

- Bring research on the environmental and economic benefits.
- Highlight community support with petitions or survey results.
- Share examples of successful programs from other cities or townships.
- Be ready to address concerns, such as costs or logistics.

7. Propose a Pilot Program

- Suggest starting with a pilot program in a specific neighborhood to test feasibility.
- Recommend working with local composting facilities or waste haulers experienced in food scrap collection.

8. Follow Up

- Send thank-you notes to officials you meet and reiterate key points.
- Keep your community informed about progress and next steps.
- Stay engaged by attending public meetings or budget discussions related to waste management.

9. Consider Funding and Resources

- Look for grants or state programs supporting composting initiatives.
- Explore partnerships with local businesses, schools, or nonprofits to offset costs.

10. Stay Persistent and Flexible

- Implementing a new program can take time. Be patient and adaptable.
- Be open to phased approaches or compromises to move the project forward.