

FOOD & PAPER WASTE COMPOST PROGRAM

at Charlemont and Shelburne Transfer Stations



YES - DO Compost:

Solid food wastes:

- Meat, poultry, fish, bones, shells
- Cheese, dairy (no liquids)
- Eggs, eggshells
- Fruits, vegetables, peels
- Bread, rice, pasta, cereal
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags

Paper:

- Paper napkins, paper towels
- Paper plates, paper cups, take-out containers (*BPI certified* preferred*)
- Waxed cardboard, waxed paper
- Cardboard/pizza boxes with stuck on food (rip up to save space)
- Paper egg cartons, molded fiber packaging (rip up to save space)
- Paper bags (*recycle paper if clean*)

Wood:

- Wooden chopsticks, skewers, stirrers
- Small wooden fruit crates

Compostable plastic products:

- Compostable cups (i.e. Greenware)
- Compostable bags (i.e. BioBag)
- Brands must be BPI certified:

*bpiworld.org



NO - DO NOT Compost:

- **NO** liquids
- **NO** plastic bags, wrappers, cling wrap
- **NO** Styrofoam™
- **NO** plastic cups, utensils, straws
- **NO** plastic, aluminum foil, metal, glass (*recycle* in container recycling)
- **NO** chemicals, hazardous residues
- **NO** beverage cartons, aseptic cartons (*recycle* with containers)
- **NO** frozen food boxes, ice cream cartons, butter wrappers (trash)
- **NO** kitty litter, pet waste, diapers
- **NO** disposable cleaning wipes



DO NOT DEPOSIT MATERIALS IN PLASTIC BAGS!

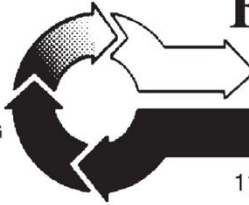


Food waste and other biodegradable materials are hauled weekly to a permitted commercial composting facility. Plastic harms this process.

(To buy a home compost bin, contact FCSWD below. It is not recommended to put meat, poultry, dairy, or oily foods in home compost bins.)

Franklin County Solid Waste District:
413-772-2438; info@franklincountywastedistrict.org
MA Relay for the hearing impaired:
711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)

REDUCTION
RECYCLING
COMPOSTING
DISPOSAL



Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

117 Main Street., 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA 01301 • (413) 772-2438 • Fax: (413) 772-3786
www.franklincountywastedistrict.org • info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

New Food and Paper Waste Compost Program at the Charlemont and Shelburne Transfer Stations

On May 10, 2022 a new food and paper waste compost program will begin at the Charlemont / Shelburne Transfer Station on North River Rd. There is no cost to participate in this program. The collection is open to residents of these towns only, during each town's operating hours.

Similar programs are successful at 10 municipal transfer stations and 25 schools in the county. Franklin County is a statewide leader in school and transfer station compost programs.

Why compost? Composting makes a valuable soil amendment from waste, saves money, slows climate change, and reduces trash. Households that separate their food waste for composting can potentially reduce their trash volume and save money on required town trash bags or stickers.

The Compost Cooperative will place special receptacles at the transfer station. The containers will be emptied weekly, and the contents brought to Martin's Farm in Greenfield for composting. **This commercial composting facility is different from your average backyard compost system in that it can compost meat, bones, cheese, paper products, and other materials that are not appropriate for home compost bins or piles.**

The new compost program will accept many materials that are currently destined for the trash. All solid food wastes are acceptable including meat, bones, poultry, fish, cheese, dairy (no liquids), eggs, eggshells, shellfish, fruits, peels, vegetables, bread, grains, tea bags, coffee grounds and paper filters. Paper is also accepted: napkins and paper towels, paper egg cartons, paper to-go containers, and pizza boxes with stuck-on food. (Pizza boxes that are empty and free of food should go in paper recycling.)

It is very important to keep the following items OUT of the compost container: liquids; pet wastes, kitty litter, diapers; plastic bags, wrappers or cling wrap; polystyrene foam; conventional plastic, metal, foil, glass; or non-biodegradable items. Yard waste, leaves and brush are not accepted in this program.

To collect compostable items at home, residents can use a compost pail, 5-gallon bucket or any other closed container. The Solid Waste District office in Greenfield sells 2-gallon "Sure-Close" compost collection pails for \$5, by appointment: 772-2438. Check with transfer station attendant about the availability of compost pails at the transfer station. To make clean up easier, line pails with newspaper, a paper bag, or a compostable BioBag. All "compostable plastic" bags must be BPI-certified; for more information, see bpiworld.org.

If compostable wastes are transported to the transfer station in a traditional plastic bag, the bag must be emptied into the compost container and then the plastic bag must go in the trash. Never put plastic bags in the compost!

As always, residents are also encouraged to compost at home. The Solid Waste District sells home compost bins to Charlemont and Shelburne residents for a subsidized price of \$25, by appointment. Please call 772-2438. For more information, visit: <https://franklincountywastedistrict.org>.

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