

City of Minneapolis

Department of Public Works: Division of Solid Waste & Recycling

Yard Waste Collection

City-wide residential yard waste collection began in October 1988.

Our Program:

- Weekly seasonal yard waste collection
- Alley and curb collection
- Monthly fee included in Solid Waste fee
- Compostable bags, personal container or bundled
- Yard Waste goes to compost facility

Collection Criteria:

- Yard waste must be placed at the solid waste collection point by 6 a.m. on garbage day.
- Meet preparation requirements shown in chart on right.
- Acceptable reusable containers must be less than 33 gallons in size, no less than 26 inches in height and have sturdy handles for crews to use during collection.
 - Yard Waste stickers, shown on the container in the picture below, are available upon request for customers' reusable containers.

Materials Accepted	Preparation Requirements
Leaves & Other Vegetation Includes: acorns, bark, garden plants, grass clippings, pine cones, pine needles, twigs, straw or hay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bag in Kraft (paper) bags, compostable plastic bags, or place unbagged in a reusable container with sturdy handles. • Each bag or container must weigh less than 40 pounds.
Brush & Branches Brush and branches must be less than 3 inches in diameter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bundle with twine or rope. No wire. • Each bundle must be less than 3 feet long. • Each bundle must weigh less than 40 lbs.



Compostable Plastic Bag Requirement:

Minnesota State law (HF403/SF383) went into effect on January 1st, 2010, requiring any yard waste picked-up at the collection point or dropped off at a composting facility in the seven county metro region to be bagged in a certified compostable plastic bag, in a Kraft (paper) bag, or in a reusable container that can be emptied. Minneapolis residents were required to comply with the compostable bag law beginning with the 2012 yard waste season.

Certified compostable bags **must have one of the labels** shown below which guarantees the bag has been tested and meets ASTM D6400 standards.

Fun Fact: In 2012, Minneapolis crews collected 16,967 tons of yard waste from Minneapolis residents utilizing two person crews and a rear packer collection truck.



City of Minneapolis—Solid Waste & Recycling Division

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Residential Organics Pilot

The residential organics collection pilot project started in the Linden Hills neighborhood in September 2008. In July 2009, the pilot was expanded to neighborhoods that make up the East Calhoun Community Organization (ECCO). The entirety of these neighborhoods were allowed to participate in the organics pilot program. In September 2010, the pilot was again expanded to gather additional data by matching existing garbage routes for organics collection. The expansion offered participation to parts of the following neighborhoods: Cooper, Hiawatha, Howe, Longfellow, Phillips, and Seward.



The pilot program was designed to collect source-separated organics (SSO) separate from yard waste to determine participation rates, tonnages and cost-effectiveness.

Pilot Project Goals:

- Determine participation levels
- Testing of “opt-in” system
- Effectiveness of mailings, neighborhood events, and “block captains”
- Route design and efficiencies

Results: The “opt-in” organics collection program at offered no additional charge in various neighborhoods can effectively generate interest and results in collecting SSO for composting.

The cost to collect SSO separate from yard waste and garbage is not recuperated simply by the reduced tipping fees for the organic materials. Collecting SSO for composting is 2.5 times more costly than collecting SSO with garbage and delivering it to a waste to energy facility.



Participation Data	Linden Hills	ECCO	*2010 Expansion
Outreach Methods	Mailings, Events, & “Block Captains”	Mailings Only	Mailings Only
Option to Participate (# of Dwelling Units)	2,524	566	2,280
Neighborhood Subscription Rates	53.5%	46.8%	36.7%
Average Weekly Cart Set Out Rates of Subscribers	60%	54%	n/a
Average pounds of SSO per dwelling unit per week from interim report	7.71—11.01	9.07—12.95	n/a

** 2010 Expansion data is from the three additional routes added to collect data of utilizing existing garbage routes for organics collection.*

Future for Organics: In February 2013, the City hired a private consulting firm to prepare a report detailing the different options and impacts of organics collection methods. The results of the study will be used to help make a decision on the feasibility and cost associated with implementing a city-wide residential organics collection program.