

# Thank you for participating in the new organics program!

## Why should we separate organics ?

Organics make up the largest part of our current waste stream—the materials we throw out each day. Unlike many other things thrown in the trash, placing clean organic material in the trash is a waste of valuable resources and needlessly burden the limited capacity of the Resource Recovery Facility (Incinerator) in Fosston and Landfill near Gentilly. These organic materials, if collected for composting rather than disposal in the trash, can be converted back to useful soil materials.

## How does the program work ?

Under a Environmental Grant offered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Polk County has secured funding to begin an Organics Collection Program. Polk County has purchased large organics collection containers which have been placed at the Crookston Transfer Station and Fosston Recycling Center (adjoining the Resource Recovery Facility). These large collection containers will accept the organics separated by residents at home and delivered to one of these sites. When the large containers are full, they are shipped to the new Source Separated Organic Materials (SSOM) Compost Facility at the Polk County Landfill. The incoming materials are deposited in the receiving area, mixed with other yard wastes (shredded wood, leaves and grass clippings) and added to the compost windrow. From there the windrows are monitored and turned as required by the Compost Facility permit until a final compost product is achieved.

## What do I need to get started ?

You will get everything you need to begin collecting organics at home in the Polk County Organics Starter Kit. The Starter Kit includes a 5 gallon bucket with easy-removal lid, 50 certified compostable (ASTM D6400) bags (BPI and Cedar Grove Certified), a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials that can be placed in the organics bucket, and instructions on how to collect and drop-off your organics as well as re-order more bags when needed.

## How do I begin?

When you get the Starter Kit home, read through the Organics Compost Guide for what is allowed and not allowed. Remove one of the compost bags supplied, open it and line the bucket provided. When you have waste organic material, simply take it to the bucket, remove the lid, and place the organics inside. Once done, close the lid. When the bucket either starts to get full or gets too heavy, tie off the bag, replace the lid, and bring the bucket with organics to one of the Polk County collection sites. You should find a large cart marked for organics. Place your organics bag in the cart, clean the bucket and repeat.

# Polk County Organics Composting Guide

## All food:

- ◆ Fruits & Vegetables
- ◆ Meat, Fish & Bones
- ◆ Dairy Products
- ◆ Eggs & Eggshells
- ◆ Bread, Cereal & Baked Goods
- ◆ Pasta, Beans & Rice
- ◆ Nuts & Shells



*(no grease, gravy or liquids)*

## Food-soiled paper:

- ◆ Napkins & Paper Towels
- ◆ Paper Egg Cartons
- ◆ Pizza Boxes (Cardboard Take-out)
- ◆ Soiled Paper Bags



## Other compostable items:

- ◆ Coffee Grounds & Filters & Tea Bags
- ◆ Hair & Nail Clippings
- ◆ Houseplants & Flowers
- ◆ Shredded Paper & Paper Bags
- ◆ Wood Popsicle Sticks & Toothpicks
- ◆ Domestic Pet Feces & Kitty Litter



## Certified\* compostable products:

- ◆ Certified Compostable Cups, Bowls & Containers



*(no utensils)*

*\* Must have the BPI or Cedar Grove logos printed on the items. (see logos below)*



## Unacceptable for Composting:

Recyclable items: no glass, plastic, metal cans & containers, or clean paper & cardboard.

Trash: no wipes, diapers, dryer sheets, plastic or foil wrappers, cups and containers, utensils, straws, packaging, any plastic, plastic bags, frozen food boxes, microwave popcorn bags, sanitary products, foam containers, K-cups, or product labeled "biodegradable".

## Polk County Environmental Services

Crookston Transfer Station:

320 Ingersoll Ave

Crookston, MN 56716

Questions? Contact us at (218) 281-6445 or by email at:

[environmental.svs@co.polk.mn.us](mailto:environmental.svs@co.polk.mn.us)

Website: [www.co.polk.mn.us/517/Organics-Program](http://www.co.polk.mn.us/517/Organics-Program)

