

2026

Co-collected Organics Recycling

Feed the Earth, Not the Landfill

WASTE
TO
COMPOST



This program was partially funded through a grant from the MPCA

Together **We Can Do Better**



Up to 40% of all household trash is organic and could be diverted from disposal and composted. If not diverted for composting, these organic materials waste the limited and costly capacity at waste disposal facilities. Organic materials produce methane when decomposing in Landfills. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is regulated at Landfills due to its odor and other undesirable environmental impacts to air and water resources.

What we're collecting



Food
Scraps



Paper Towels
Napkins



Certified
Containers

Residential Co-collected Organics Program

The residential co-collected organics program will be rolling out Q1 2026. This program utilizes specially designed compostable bags for this program. Residents will collect organic waste in these bags, tie them off, and place them in the same trash cart or dumpster used for garbage. These bags will be recovered using robots at the Polk County Resource Recovery Facility. These bagged organics will then be hauled to the Polk County Compost Facility for composting.

1.) Collect Organic Waste in Special Organics Bag



2.) Tie-off the Organics Bag & Place in Trash Container



3.) Trash & Organics Bags Sorted by Robots



4.) Organics Bags Sent to Compost Facility



Organics Recycling | Acceptable & Unacceptable

Food Waste

- Vegetables & Fruit
- Grains & Bakery Goods
- Meat & Coffee Grounds
- Bones & Egg Shells



Food- Soiled Paper

- Paper Towels & Tissues
- Napkins & Egg Cartons
- Soiled Pizza Boxes



Organic Waste

- Wooden Popsicle Sticks
- Toothpicks & Chopsticks
- Hair & Nail Clippings
- Coffee Filters & Tea Bags



Compostable Products

- Must be BPI Certified
- Bowls, Cups & Plates
- Containers & Forks



Unacceptable Items - Do Not Dispose of These Items in this Container

- Plastic Lined Paper Products
- Recyclable Items (Paper, Plastic, Glass, Cardboard)
- Diapers & Wipes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Items Labeled Biodegradable
- Yard Waste
- Styrofoam [™]
- Plastic Bags
- Milk Cartons
- Juice Boxes
- Popcorn Bags
- Dryer Lint (Has Synthetic Fibers)
- Non-Certified Compostable Products
- Juice Boxes
- Pet Waste (Litter & Bedding)

DO NOT PLACE LIQUIDS INTO COMPOSTABLE BAGS