

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE ?

Participating in organic waste collection is a key action in keeping our world environmentally clean. This practice transforms organic waste into a valuable resource, creating a circular economy instead of sending materials to our landfill.

Environmentally Friendly



Reduces landfill waste, cuts potent methane emissions, creates a nutrient-rich soil that needs fewer chemicals, improves soil's water retention, and sequesters carbon.

Lower Trash Volume



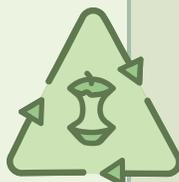
By diverting organic materials, composting extends the lifespan of existing landfills, which can save taxpayer dollars and reduce the need for new landfill construction.

Soil & Gardening Benefits



Finished compost is full of essential nutrients & beneficial microorganisms. Plants grown in compost-amended soil are generally stronger & more resilient.

Circular Economy



Through participation, you help create a system where waste is transformed into a valuable product that goes back into the local ecosystem.

Get Involved!

The organics program aims to allow residents to collect their organics within their household and drop it in your regular trash at the Transfer Station. Residents that are interested in collecting compostable organic waste within their households should contact Beltrami County Solid Waste at the number below.

For more information about our programs

CONTACT US

Email Address

BeltramiCountySolidWaste@gmail.com

Phone Number

(218) 333-8187

Visit our website

www.co.beltrami.mn.us/living-here/garbage-and-recycling/



751 Industrial Park Drive SE • Bemidji, MN 56601
Bemidji Transfer Station



Beltrami County Solid Waste

Feed the Earth, Not the Landfill

Up to 25% of all waste is organic and can be recycled into compost. Once we send this material to the landfill, it becomes contaminated and unrecoverable. By participating in our organics collection program, you can be part of the long-term solution.

Together, we can do better!

WHAT ARE ORGANIC MATERIALS ?

Food Waste

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



Organic Waste

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



Food-Soiled Paper

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



Compostable Products

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



UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

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

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 MRF Materials 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



PICKUP PROGRAM

Follow these easy steps to get started:

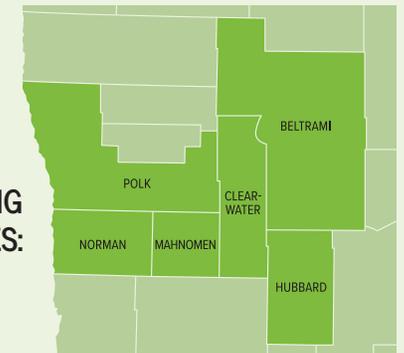
1. Pick up your supply of food scrap bags from the Bemidji Transfer Station, Blackduck Transfer Station or Beltrami County Demolition Landfill.
2. Collect your food scraps in these bags. At least once a week, or when the bag is full, tie a knot at the top to close the bag.
3. Place your food scrap bag inside your household trash container or dumpster for collection.
4. Done! The food scraps will be composted.

NEW NORTHWEST MN 6 COUNTY Organics Recycling PROGRAM

— Feed the Earth, Not the Landfill —

How It Works:

Polk County will utilize artificial intelligence robots to identify and remove food scrap bags from the rest of the trash at the Polk County Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Fosston, MN. Food scrap bags are specially designed to withstand the collection process and remain intact for removal at the MRF. The robots are trained to identify these bags and remove them from the rest of the trash. The separated bags will be aggregated and hauled to the Polk County Compost Facility in Crookston, MN. Over 25% of household trash is food scraps, like fruit peels, eggshells, coffee grounds, bones and more. By separating your food scraps, you can help turn them into soil instead of waste. This program was partially funded by a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



PARTICIPATING
COUNTIES:

