

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



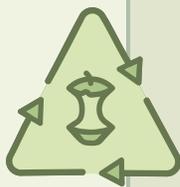
By diverting organic materials, composting extends the lifespan of existing landfills, which can save taxpayer dollars and reduce the need for new landfill construction.

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 off at the Transfer Station.

Residents that are interested in collecting compostable organic waste within their households should contact the Environmental Services department at the number below.

For more information about our programs

CONTACT US

Email Address

environmental.svs@polkcountymn.gov

Mobile Number

(218) 281-6445

Facebook

Polk County Environmental Services

Visit our website

[www.polkcountymn.gov/188/
Environmental-Services](http://www.polkcountymn.gov/188/Environmental-Services)



320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, MN 56716
Polk County Transfer Station



Polk County

Feed the Earth, Not the Landfill

Up to 40% 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) **

View our website for a complete list.

** Pet Waste bags are available at the Transfer Station still. Please do not throw these in your household garbage - only drop off at the Transfer Station is allowed.

CO-COLLECTION ORGANIC COMPOST PROGRAM

What is co-collection?

Co-collection describes how the resident will separate the Source-Separated Organic Material (SSOM) from the trash and get that material from their home to the County facility for composting. Under this system, residents will collect their food scraps in a specially designed compostable bag and place it in the same trash can, cart, or dumpster that they already utilize for their bagged trash.

How is this different from the current compost program?

Previously, residents had to bring their composting to the Transfer Station in Crookston and put it in a designated drop-off bin. Polk County has implemented artificial intelligence robots to identify and remove these SSOM bags from the rest of the trash at the Polk County Material Recover Facility (MRF) in Fosston. Those bags are specifically designed to withstand the collect process and remain intact for removal at the MRF. The separated bags of SSOM will be aggregated and hauled to the Polk County Compost Facility at the Landfill Complex. This negates the need for residents to drop off the compost bags at the Transfer Station as they can place them right into their household trash at home.

Want to learn more?

Visit our website or scan the QR code below to see the progress of the robots, learn more about Source-Separated Organic Material (SSOM), and our ASP Project!

www.polkcountymn.gov/634/Co-Collection-Organic-Compost-Program



AERATED STATIC PILE

What is an aerated static pile?

The Aerated Static Pile (ASP) describes the composting method utilized. Transitioning to an ASP process refers to making large, compact piles of compostable material instead of long, narrow rows. This results in a more efficient use of the compost pad.

How is this different from the current compost process?

Polk County's compost facility currently utilizes a low-tech but very common composting process referred to as a Static Windrow. Long rows of compostable materials are formed in which moisture and heat are managed to promote the composting process. When composting activity slows, and heat drops, the windrow is mixed to reintroduce air and moisture. The County is transitioning to use of the Aerated Static Pile.

GET INVOLVED

Get a composting kit!

Contact the Polk County Environmental Services Department to get signed up for compost and pet waste kits if you are interested. Pick up your free kit at the Transfer Station in Crookston today!

