

Food Scrap Collection Programs in Lake County, IL

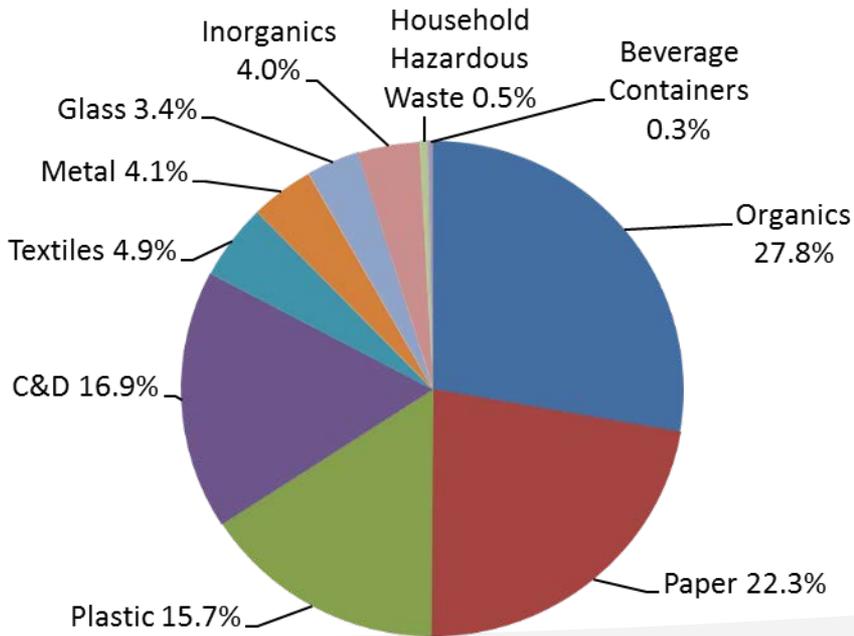
Soil, Food, Water and Composting Summit

November 3, 2017



Lake County SWMP

- 60% recycling goal by 2020, organics diversion is essential to reaching goal
- Encourages residential collection programs
- Evaluate need for infrastructure



Category	Waste Composition %	Cum. %
Food Scraps	17.5%	17.5%
Uncoated OCC/Kraft	8.8%	26.3%
Compostable Paper	3.7%	30.0%
Other Film	3.1%	33.1%
Painted Wood	3.0%	36.1%
Bottom Fines & Dirt	3.0%	39.2%
Mixed Paper - Recyclable	2.7%	41.9%
Yard Waste - Compostable	2.6%	44.5%
Recyclable Glass Bottles & Jars	2.6%	47.0%
Other Rigid Plastic Products	2.5%	49.6%

Food Scrap Collection Options

Landscape Waste/Food Scrap Ride Along (8 Month Subscription or sticker)

Residents with this program may mix food scraps with landscape waste by placing food scraps along with the landscape waste and “ride along” thereby reducing costs to participate in food scrap diversion and introducing residents to food scrap diversion with the long term goal of having year round programs.



Food Scrap Collection Options

Year round organics collection as part of base service

In 2017, residents in Highwood and Lake Bluff became the first residents in the State with year round organics collection in a third cart, as part of the base service. This is not an opt in program, all residents are charged for the service, regardless of participation.



Food Scrap Collection Options

Year round organics collection as part of base service

Highwood Program Specifics:

- Program began May 1, 2017 and includes a 35 gallon cart for landscape waste and food scraps. Additional cost is \$3.90/hh/month, total cost for all materials/waste is \$22.40/month
- Negotiated to reduce cost by \$1/hh/month by moving all residents to a 65 gallon refuse cart instead of a 95 gallon cart, limited program
- Key selling point was each resident would have 35 gallons of capacity for yardwaste and food scraps, many residents bought stickers for yardwaste at \$2.50 per sticker, that cost is now reduced or eliminated



SWALCO
Residential Food Scrap Composting Program

WHY COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS?
There are many reasons to recycle food scraps, including:

1. **It's easy!** Collect food scraps into a container and set out as part of your community's yard waste collection program.
2. **Reduce garbage and preserve landfill space.**
3. **Reduce greenhouse gas production at landfills.**
4. **Create compost.** Food scraps help to create a nutrient rich soil amendment that improves soil health and fertility. Compost reduces weeds, protects crops from erosion, conserves water and attracts soil bacteria and other helpful organisms.

HOW TO COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS & TIPS TO REDUCE ODORS & PESTS

1. **Collect scraps** in your kitchen collection. Do not use plastic or biodegradable bags in your collection.
2. **Freeze fresh scraps** for your next yard waste collection.
3. **Set Out** your right container (no Kraft bags) at the curb on regular yard waste collection day.

Tip to Reduce Odors and Pests: You may want to line container with newspapers or paper liner/bags, empty frequently - line after use (with string or dish soap or fabric), sprinkle with baking soda, keep container closed.

WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED?

- Fruits and Vegetables (includes unpeeled holiday pumpkins)
- Leftovers/Kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filter)
- Breads, grains, pasta and cereal
- Meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones)
- Dairy and eggs (including shells; no liquids)
- Paper Products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)

DO NOT INCLUDE: Plastic, Styrofoam, glass, diapers, metal, liquids, grease, pet waste, or oil.

Logans Lake **4 Seasons Organics** **WM**
For more information on backyard composting, how to and rates, visit wmliving.org. September 2020

Food Scrap Collection Options

Year round organics collection as part of base service

Lake Bluff Program Specifics:

- Historically had year round landscape waste collection, added ride along to it, total cost for collection is \$18.45/month, actually lower costs under new contract. First such program in IL, began in March 2017.
- Owns the compost site where material will be taken, cost for site not included in monthly bill to resident
- No cart provided, residents must use own containers/Kraft bags



Food Scrap Collection Options

Recycling Center Food Scraps Drop-Off Service

Starting May 1st, 2016 the Village of Grayslake's Public Drop Off Recycling Center began accepting food scraps, the first such year round drop off in the State. This is a **FREE** service to residents of Lake County. The Center is open weekdays from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, excluding holidays.



Food Scrap Collection Expansion



- 2016
 - Village of Bannockburn
 - Village of Deer Park
 - Village of Grayslake
 - Village of Hawthorn Woods
 - City of Highland Park
 - Village of Island Lake
 - Village of Mundelein
 - Village of North Barrington (year round, appr. 150 homes)
 - Village of Port Barrington
 - Village of Riverwoods
 - Village of Tower Lakes
- 2017
 - City of Highwood (year round)
 - Village of Lake Bluff (year round)
 - Village of Volo
 - Village of Fox Lake
 - Village of Round Lake Beach

Food Scrap Program Expansion



- In 2016, 26 grocery stores in Lake County diverted 1,221 tons of food scraps, approximately 47 tons per store per year (37 tons in 2015).
- The seven commercial franchises in Lake County all have food scrap pricing in the contracts.
- Midwest Organics Recycling made a significant investment in expanding its site this year, the largest in Lake County.

Food Scrap Program Expansion



Key factors to consider:

- Need infrastructure to reduce costs (both landscape waste transfer stations and compost sites)
- Local government must work to develop markets for compost through local use, market growth will prompt compost sites to invest and help grow organics diversion programs
- Ride along can be done at no cost, depending on negotiations, the goal is for ride along programs to become year round
- It takes one or two towns to begin a bigger movement
- Hauler's willingness to work with you is key
- Education, Education, Education, this will be a long term effort to change behavior



Thank you! Questions?

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