

NYC Composts!

Curbside Composting is Citywide!

nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting



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The World's Largest Sanitation Department!

- Collects more than 10,500 tons of garbage – each day
- Collects more than 1,750 tons of recyclables – each day
- Provides services for other waste streams, including textiles, e-waste and other hazardous items, etc.
- Residential and institutional waste, not commercial collection
- Commercial business enforcement and regulation



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Curbside Composting Timeline

Legacy Programs

1990: First fall leaf and yard collections on Staten Island.

1991: First food scrap collection pilot in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

1993: NYC Compost Project established to promote backyard composting. Community gardens run ad-hoc “food scrap drop-off” sites.

1994: Special 2-week Christmas tree collections begin in Manhattan and Staten Island. Expands citywide in 1997.

1999: Fall leaf collections expand citywide to 39 “leaf generating” districts. Service suspended from 2002-2024 due to budget

2011: GrowNYC starts compost collection pilot at 7 “Greenmarkets” in the City

2013: Organics collection pilot – residents & schools in select low density residential neighborhoods

2013: Mandatory organics for large businesses

2015: Organics collection expansion beyond pilot

2019: Organics collection to half of city and half of schools, expansion to additional districts suspended

2020: Organics collection canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic & budget

2021: Schools 5-day organics service pilot

2021-2022: Enrollment-based residential organics collection pilot: “Opt in” strategy



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Curbside Composting Timeline

Current Program

2022: Curbside Composting expands to Queens

2023: Public Smart Composting Bins expand citywide

2023: Curbside Composting expands to Brooklyn

2024: Curbside Composting expands to Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx. Rollout of curbside composting to all K-12 NYC Public Schools completed. Service is now citywide!



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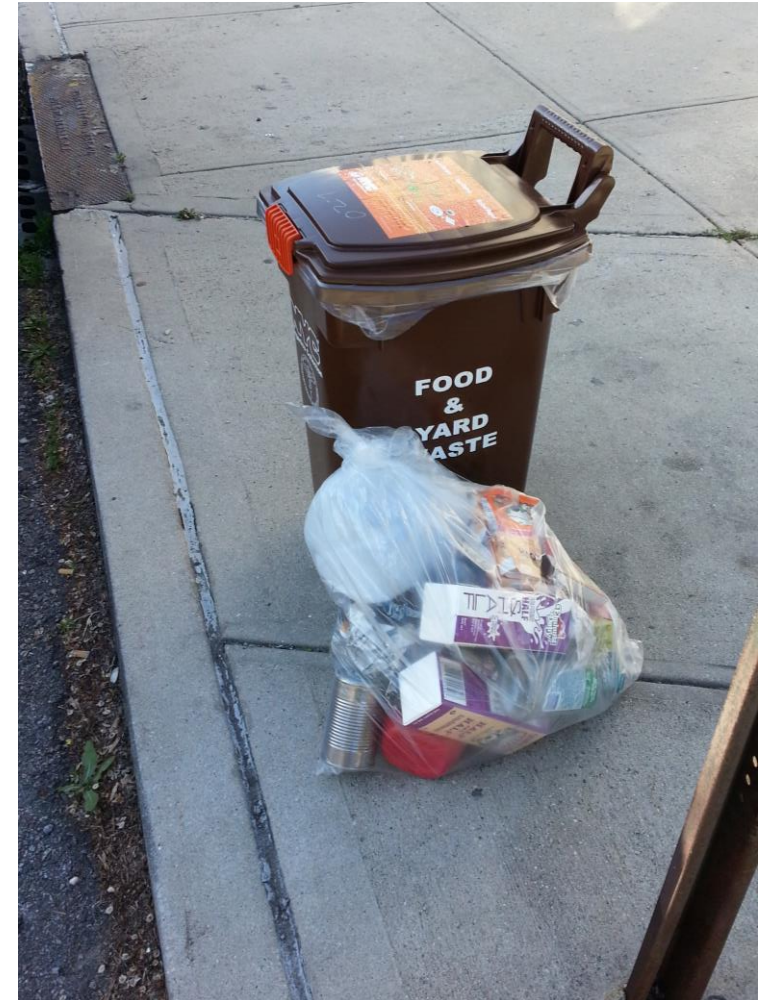
Service is Citywide!

All residential buildings have Curbside Composting service, including single-family homes, small apartment buildings, and multi-unit residential buildings.

Collection is the same day as recycling—every week!

Residents can use any labeled bin that is 55 gallons or less with a secure lid to participate

Separation of compost from the trash is mandatory for all residents citywide. Enforcement started April 1, 2025.

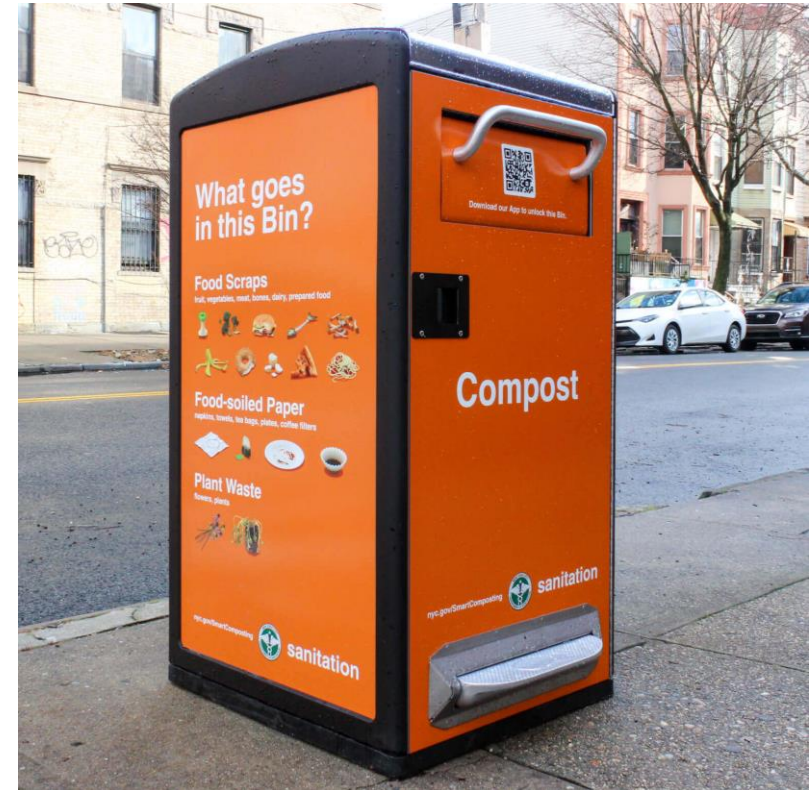


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Smart Composting Bins

From pilot to citywide service!

- **400** bins across all five boroughs
- Bins are open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week
- Requires NYC Compost app on a smartphone to open the bin.



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Composting is Easy!



- 1 Separate food scraps and yard waste from trash.



- 2 Empty food scraps and yard waste into your bin outside.



- 3 Set your bin and extra leaf and yard waste out the night before your collection day.



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What to Compost

Leaf and Yard Waste

plants, leaves, twigs, grass



Food Scraps

fruit, vegetables, meat, bones, dairy, prepared food



Food-soiled Paper

napkins, towels, tea bags, plates, coffee filters, pizza boxes



No

Recycling: metal, glass, plastic, cartons, clean paper and cardboard

Trash: wrappers, pet waste, medical waste, diapers, foam, hygiene products

Where Does it Go?

Compost collected in some areas is taken to the **Staten Island Compost Facility** to create a natural fertilizer.

We also send some compostable material to be anaerobically digested at facilities like the **Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant** to create renewable energy.



Outreach + Education

In-home:

Comprehensive educational mailer sent to all residential addresses

Paid Advertising:

Combination of social, community and ethnic web publications, streaming radio, out-of-home, and print, as applicable.



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Outreach + Education

Direct Outreach:

- Door-to-door canvassing to all buildings with 1-9 residential units
- Targeted calls to the largest property management companies and tenant organizations
- In-person presentations and trainings for high-rise building tenants and staff as requested
- Host distribution events for kitchen containers, leaf and yard waste bags, and bags of compost
- Warnings and enforcement (citations)



Outreach + Education

Informational Sessions:

- Community Board and Elected Official presentations
- Virtual info sessions for residents, building owners and building staff
- Engagement with civic, tenant, and trade associations, and other community organizations



Educational Resources

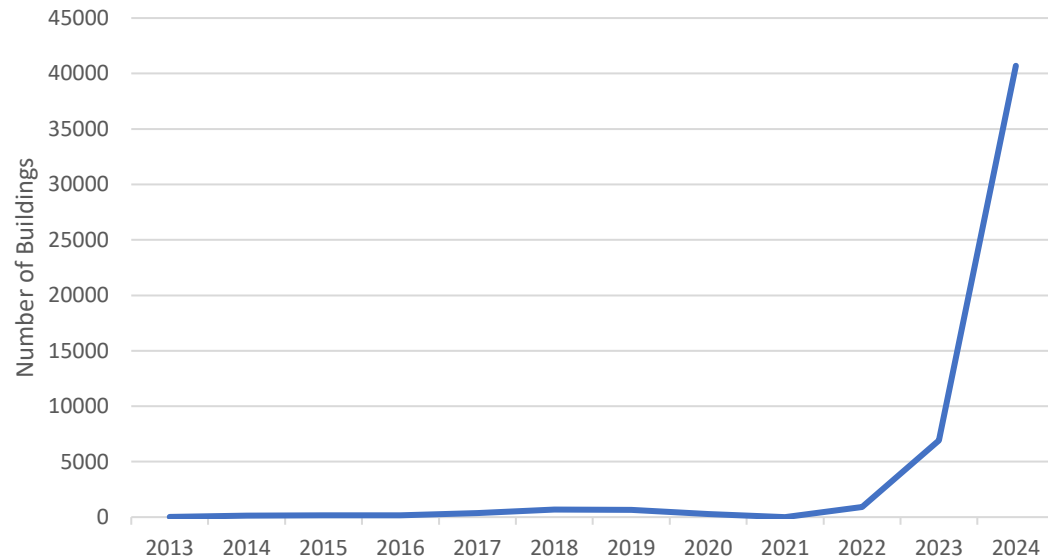
- Multilingual tip sheets, building signage, and bin decals available online.
- “Influencer kit” made for enthusiastic supporters.
- Ongoing speaker or event requests availability.



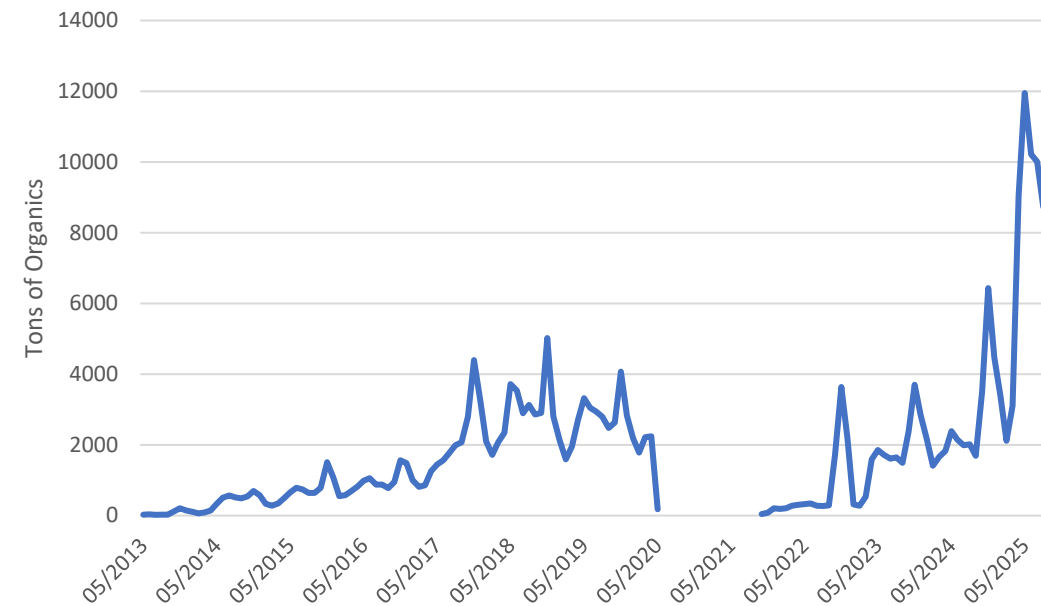
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Service and Participation Have Grown

Number of 10+ Unit Buildings With
Curbside Composting Service



Organics Tonnage



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Persistent Challenges

- Public confusion and common myths still prevent resident participation. “It will cause rodents, It will smell, it all gets thrown out anyway...”. The need for education and outreach remains.
- Even with a citywide, convenient, and simple to use program, the “ick-factor” still exists. Indoor kitchen containers are a great carrot!
- Building management can present a hurdle and we will continue to need new strategies overcome reluctance to provide the bins for interested residents.



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Questions?



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