



The City of College Park extends composting to residents doorsteps

A Composting Success Story

The Opportunity

The City of College Park, located within Prince George's County, is home to the University of Maryland and a population of more than 34,000 residents. Since 2013, the City is a Silver Level Sustainable Maryland municipality. This certification honors municipalities who have made significant strides to go green and enhance the quality of life for all who inhabit the area.

The City has implemented multiple sustainable initiatives like tree plantings, solar panels, and EV station installations within its communities. With more than 4,500 residential single- and multi-family homes receiving City trash and recycling services, the City began to analyze individual homes and their accumulated waste.

While the City has even embarked on reducing single-use plastic with a Better Bag Ordinance going into effect September 2023, their efforts don't end there.

"We are actively working to help change how our residents think about the trash they produce through various sustainability efforts, thereby reducing what goes into the trash and later landfill."

-Robert L. Marsili Jr., Director of Public Works

The Solution

With ongoing efforts to be environmentally responsible, the City decided to embark upon a mission to provide alternative disposal options for residents' organic waste.

The City initially gained resident interest for composting by offering several free drop-off locations. This was a strategic way to invite residents to think about how much waste they are accumulating in their homes. After diverting over 2,000 pounds per month of food scraps from local landfills, City Council saw College Park residents as the perfect candidates to introduce a curbside composting pilot program to.

After a competitive RFP process, the City selected Compost Crew as its organic waste recycling partner to haul the food scraps from participating homes to a composting facility.

Quick Summary:

- ➔ The City of College Park, home to University of Maryland, looked to expand its sustainability efforts
- ➔ Rolled out curbside composting after a successful food scrap drop-off program
- ➔ Diverted over 60K tons of organics in the first nine months

The Roll Out

After a successful drop-off pilot, the City of College Park announced an opportunity for residents to recycle their organic waste right from home. The City's official website dedicates an easy to navigate space for residents to learn more about local sustainability efforts, composting opportunities, see what belongs in their bins and access quick links to sign-up. Response from the community was positive, as there was minimal financial burden on residents.



Each resident who was interested in joining the program is required to use a compost bin purchased through the City.

To obtain this bin, households pay a one-time fee for one of two bin size options that they could choose based on the amount of food scraps they expected their household to generate.

“Compost Crew made it easy for the City of College Park to launch a curbside food scrap collection program,” said Marsili. “We have been pleased to see this partnership increase the amount of food waste that is being diverted from the landfill.”

The two bin options include a 12-gallon wheeled cart, or a five-gallon twist-top bucket. Helpful accessories, like a countertop kitchen caddy, are available as an optional purchase for people who would like an indoor container to capture their daily food scraps before moving them to the larger bin.

The Results

More than 360 College Park residents have purchased their bins from the City and are receiving Compost Crew's curbside composting service.

Within nine months, the City has diverted 60,845 pounds of organic waste through curbside composting. With just under 10% of homes currently participating, that number should continue to climb as more homes join this program and marketing efforts continue to drive interest.

For More Information:

Contact info@compostcrew.com
Visit www.compostcrew.com

