COMPOSTING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19
Webinar Series
Part 3: Navigating COVID-19 for Small-Scale Food Scrap Collectors: Drop-off and Curbside
Composting for Community

Advancing local composting to create jobs, enhance soils, protect the climate, and reduce waste.

Community Composters | Training | Policies | On the Ground

COVID-19 Resources for Composters & Food Scrap Collectors

Virginia Streeter, April 3, 2020

Resources to help food scrap collectors and composters respond to evolving conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will update this resource page and welcome feedback and suggestions. READ MORE

www.ilsr.org/composting
The US Composting Council is a trade and professional association advancing compost manufacturing, compost utilization, and organics recycling to benefit our members, society, and the environment.

**Vision Statement**

We believe compost manufacturing and compost utilization are central to creating healthy soils, clean air and water, a stable climate, and a sustainable society.

**Compost: Nature’s Way To Grow!**
Everyone is on “mute”
   • Use Audio Settings to adjust sound, or to switch to a phone call

Use the Q&A box
   • Questions will be asked after each speaker if time allows and at the end of the webinar

The webinar is being recorded and will be available “on demand” at www.compostingcouncil.org
Webinar series:

COMPOSTING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

• Wednesday, April 1: Reviewing Safe Procedures for Composting Feedstocks with Possible Coronavirus Contamination

• Tuesday, April 7: Composting IS an Essential Service: Experiences and Recommendations From Around the Country

• Tuesday, April 21: The Re-emergence of the “Victory Garden”: Selling Compost to Customers Sheltering in Place

https://www.compostingcouncil.org/page/Composting-In-The-Time-of-COVID-19
Webinar series:
COMPOSTING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19
Navigating COVID-19 for Small-Scale Food Scrap Collectors: Drop-off and Curbside

Daryl Braithwaite
City of Takoma Park
Maryland

Dan Matsch
Eco-Cycle
Boulder, Colorado

Eileen Banyra
Community Compost Co.
New Paltz, New York

Ceci Pineda
BK ROT
Brooklyn, New York

Jeremy Brosowsky
Compost Cab
Washington, DC

Natasha Duarte
Composting Association of Vermont
Sanitation worker William Laster picks up food from a compost bin in Takoma Park. Behind him is Adrian Dabreu. (Sarah L. Voisin/THE WASHINGTON POST)
FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

What Can Be Collected as Food Waste in Takoma Park

The following items can be placed into food waste collection buckets in Takoma Park:

- bread, pasta, rice, grains, cereal, baked goods, etc.
- chopsticks and popsicle sticks
- coffee grounds, filters, tea bags (no foil or foil-backed products)
- dairy products (cheese, butter, ice cream, etc.)
- fruit and vegetable scraps (fresh or cooked)
- meat, fish, shellfish (including bones)
- nuts, beans, seeds (including shells/hulls)
- paper products (paper towels, napkins, & paper plates)
- pizza boxes (remove non-food items)

How to Register for the Food Waste Collection Program
Community Compost Co.

ABOUT US

Established in 2014, Community Compost Company is a women-owned business based in the Hudson Valley. We are a team of passionate environmentalists committed to educating the public on food waste reduction, composting, & soil health.
Community Compost Co.

COMMERCIAL COLLECTION

RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION

FARMERS’ MARKET DROP SPOTS
TRANSFER STATION DROP SPOTS

IISR Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Community Compost Co.
COFFEE SHOPS, SPECIALTY RETAILERS, AND PRETTY MUCH ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL ENTITY YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT MIGHT WANT TO COMPOST

Local business with deep roots in the community? Us too. National organization growing in the region? We've got you covered. We'll work with you to craft a sustainability solution that fits your goals and your budget. And we'll do it in a way that's helps you put your commitment to sustainability front and center with your customers.

LEARN MORE

OUR PIONEERING, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN HOME PICKUP SERVICE. FOR ABOUT A DOLLAR A DAY.

For only $32 per month, we make it easy—peasy lemon squeezy to compost at home — and by home we mean house, apartment, condo, coop, townhome, etc — wherever you live, our friendly neighborhood Compost Cabbies have you covered.
Compost Cab

PARTICIPATING FARMERS MARKETS

- Columbia Heights Farmers Market
  14th and Kenyon St NW
  Year Round | Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm

- Uptown Farmers Market
  14th and Kennedy St NW
  April 20-Nov 23 | Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm

- University of District of Columbia Farmers Market
  (in front of the law school)
  4340 Connecticut Ave NW
  May 4-Nov 23 | Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm

- Brookland Farmers Market
  (Monroe St) 716 Monroe St NE
  April 20-Dec 14 | Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm

- Dupont Circle Farmers Market
  1500 20th Street, NW
  Year Round | Sundays 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

- *Glover Park Bureiff Farmers Market
  32th St and Wisconsin Ave
  May 18-Nov 23 | Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm

- Ward 7 Farmers Market
  (Minnesota Ave) 3701 Hayes Street, NE
  June 1-Nov 23 | Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm

- Ward 8 Farmers Market
  3200 6th St SE
  June 1-Sept 28 | Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm

- Eastern Market
  635 North Carolina Ave SE
  Year Round | Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm

*These are seasonal markets. For the most up-to-date information on the market locations and times, please visit our website: zerowaste.dc.gov/foodwastedropoff
What safety protocols have you put in place to protect your workers?
Takoma Park, Maryland
Highlights of COVID-19 Safety Measures

1. Providing Personal Protective Gear
   - Latex gloves
   - Uniforms and laundry service
   - Goggles and regular face masks

2. Facilitating Social Distancing
   - Clock in and out on their phones, rather than time clock
   - Discourage use of staff lounge for meal breaks, though space is cleaned daily
   - Trucks parked outside of Sanitation Bay in separate parts of the yard to facilitate social distancing by staff
3. Vehicle Use & Assignments
- Each truck has an assigned driver, they are the only ones in the cab
- Sanitizing wipes provided in each truck
- The collection staff ride on the outside of the truck only, no longer in the cab.
- The driver rides alone to the processing facility (no change there as that has always been the practice)
- Food waste is collected by a single staff person in a dump truck

4. Other
- Collection of solid waste is our priority. Staff from other Public Works Divisions will fill in if Sanitation staff numbers drop below 10.
Eco-Cycle and Partners COVID Impacts and Responses

Collections
• Curbside, dumpster collections ongoing; drop-off site closed
• Extra PPE, hand sanitizer in trucks
• Guidelines – temporary changes (tissues, napkins)

Processor
• No hand-picking contaminants
• Direct marketing spike for finished compost

General
• Bills before state legislature are on hold
• County compost facility construction timeline to be impacted
• Putting a pause (not stop) to reusables campaigns
COMPOST

COMPOSTABLE PAPER
- dark & bright-colored paper
- coffee grounds & filter residues
- napkins
- paper towels
- greasy or waxed cardboard

FOODS & PLANTS
- pizza crusts
- banana peels
- bread crusts
- plant trimmings

CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

PAPEL COMPOSTABLE
- papel de colores oscuros y brillantes
- residuos del café
- servilletas
- papel toallas
- cartón con grasa o cera

ALIMENTOS Y PLANTAS
- plantas cortadas

PRODUCTOS COMPOSTABLES CERTIFICADOS

Trust these compostable product labels:
- Everyday Organics

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

US Composting Council
Information about curbside composting in light of the coronavirus pandemic

We’ve received questions about composting tissues and paper towels that potentially could be infected with coronavirus after being used to blow noses or clean surfaces. Here’s some advice on what to do with commonly-compostable items during this time:

- Tissues used to blow noses: According to the CDC, coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets. If you are sick with the flu, virus or a cold, or have symptoms, please do not compost tissues that were used to blow your nose, cover a cough or sneeze, or for a bloody nose; instead, put them into the trash. This is always good practice. For other uses, you can continue composting tissue.

- Paper towels used to clean surfaces: It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus.
Eco-Cycle response to safety concerns about reusable bags, cups and other products during the COVID-19 crisis (excerpt)

There is currently no scientific evidence that coronavirus or any other health-threatening pathogens are transferred by reusable bags, cups or containers. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, “There is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with transmission of COVID-19.” The coronavirus persists on several surfaces, including plastic, metal and cardboard, regardless of whether those products are reusable or disposable. Simply put, there is no data to support that limiting the use of reusable bags, mugs or other containers will slow the spread of the disease and more research is needed to study the transmission of the virus on hard and soft surfaces.
Community Compost Co.
Community Compost Co.
SERVICES DURING COVID-19

FOOD SCRAPS PICK-UP

HOME COMPOST KITS DELIVERY

COMPOST DELIVERY & PICK-UP

bkrot.org/business-composting

bkrot.org/home-compost-kits

bkrot.org/compost
COVID-19 WORKER PROTECTION PROTOCOLS:

BIKER-COMPOSTERS:

- **Micro-hauling:**
  - Use a fresh pair of single-use latex gloves (and bring 1-2 pairs back-up)
  - Spray gloves with alcohol-based spray after each household/business pick up
  - At end of shift:
    - clean compost bins with alcohol-based spray
    - spray bike and e-trike handlebars with alcohol-based spray
    - Spray/wipe down lock and gate entrance with clorox-based spray
    - Dispose of gloves
    - Wash hands

- **Composting:**
  - Put on a fresh pair of single-use gloves
  - Use gloves when sorting through organic waste
  - At end of shift:
    - Dispose of gloves and put on a fresh pair
    - Wipe down tools and surfaces touched by gloves and organic waste with alcohol-based spray (on-site)
    - Spray bins with alcohol-based spray (on-site)
    - Spray/wipe down lock and gate entrance with clorox-based spray
    - Dispose of gloves
Compost Cab
Compost Cab @CompostCab · Apr 4
Good morning friends. Proud to be open for dropoff til 1p @CoHiFoodworks @MonroeStMarket @EasternMarketDC. Please support our team in the effort to make dropoff safe and contact-free so all DC residents can continue to enjoy this essential service. @dczerowaste @FRESHFARMDC
Compost Cab

NO FARMERS MARKET DROPOFF FOR THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 11-12.

IN RESPONSE TO DC’S LATEST COVID-19 PROTOCOLS, DC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED COMPOST DROPOFFS AT FARMERS MARKETS AS OF APRIL 10. SO SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

SIGN UP HERE TO REGISTER YOUR LOVE OF COMPOSTING IN DC — WE’RE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT, AND WE’LL BE IN TOUCH ASAP WITH SOLUTIONS TO KEEP YOU UP AND COMPOSTING IN THIS BIZARRE AND CHALLENGING TIME.

Compost Cab
@CompostCab · Apr 10
1/ Sustainability is essential, and our team is out there making it happen for thousands of you every week. If you’re home quarantining, you might be asking yourself, “is there something — anything — I can do to seize a little control and do a little good in this crazy time?”

Compost Cab
@CompostCab · Apr 10
2/ The answer is yes. #Compost. It'll nourish the earth and your soul every time you do it. Sign up now at compostcab.com for contact-free pickup. Use promo EARTHDAY2020 for 1/2 off your first month of service, and plus we’ll donate $1 to our friends @CmmnGoodCtyFarm.
Compost Cab @CompostCab · 18h
Freeze those scraps, #compost lovers. Great news! Dropoff will be back up and running this weekend at eligible farmers markets (those with SocialDistancing waivers). Thanks, @DCDPW! More details later in the week.
@dcerowaste @PoPville @DCist @slowfooddc @FRESHFARMDC @HillRagDC
Health Precautions for Composting Food Scraps at Rural Community-Scale Operations

Note: this guidance is not intended to override local, state, or national directives

WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED?
- Are there other organic management options in your community?
- Is there enough space at the community compost site to allow for social distancing?

WHO ARE YOUR MEMBERS? (volunteers/staff and people who bring organics to your site)
- Are many of them in higher-risk demographics?
- Talk with everyone about their comfort levels in continuing to participate.

IT’S OKAY TO CHOOSE TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE:
- If you don’t feel your site can be managed safely.
- If too many volunteers are reluctant to work.
- If people stop bringing scraps & the volume doesn’t justify remaining open.

Whatever you choose – be purposeful & make a plan.
If you decide to close:
• Put the active compost “to bed”
• Ensure that the site is left tidy and secure
• Post temporary closure signs
• Consider posting no dumping or trespassing signs
• Lock entrance gates, if applicable
• Suggest alternatives for food scraps management

If you continue to operate:
• Prepare for possible changes in volunteer/staff availability and food scrap/organics feedstock intake
• Request that individuals who may be at higher risk, are ill, or have household members who are ill, stay home.
• Request that individuals who may be at higher risk, are ill, or have household members who are ill, stay home.
Establish a COVID-19 policy that works for your site:

• Consider changes to drop-off procedures
  • Stagger drop-off times
  • Mark off 6-foot distances
  • Have people integrate their scraps directly into the system
  • Consider using compostable bags to limit direct exposure

• Require use Personal Protective Equipment (disposable or washable gloves and face masks, or face shields)

• Provide a hand washing station and post handwashing instructions

• Update your protocols for tool & equipment use and cleaning
  • Tools for raw feedstocks ≠ tools for curing or finished compost or sanitize them in between
  • Sanitize all plastic, metal, & other often-touched parts of compost bins, storage bins, tools, and other surfaces
Establish a COVID-19 policy that works for your site:

Let people know! By phone, email, online meetings, signage...
- Be in touch with everyone involved at the site – make sure they share the new policies with everyone in their households!
- Be in touch with your neighbors
- Post signs

D. Consider temporary changes to materials accepted
- Because coronaviruses may be more stable on cardboard, consider eliminating cardboard or paperboard as a feedstock.
- As an additional precaution, eliminate tissues, paper towels and napkins. *If these materials were significant sources of carbon at the site, be sure to identify alternative carbon sources (sawdust, leaves, etc.).*
- Do not accept disinfecting wipes for composting. All wipes used in cleaning handles, compost bin lids, tools, etc. should be thrown in the trash. If washable rags are used, see guidelines for cleaning washable gloves.
How are you communicating your safety protocols to your team?
And how are you communicating protocols and changes to households and clients?
PUTTING OUT YOUR BINS

To reduce the potential for cross contamination, please follow this advice when putting out your household bins:

- Bins to be presented on the evening **before** scheduled collection
- Handles of bins to be **cleaned** with disinfectant where possible before and after presentation
- **Wipes, cloths, gloves etc.** used for cleaning can be placed in your general waste bin

If you are self-isolating / quarantine, please manage your waste in accordance with HSE guidelines
https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus

Source: Mywaste.ie
Where are you sourcing your PPE and disinfecting supplies?
Reusable Masks

How to SEW a REUSABLE FACE MASK with FILTER POCKET // DIY Fabric Face mask // BATCH sew Medical mask

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zm_NmpdgWWA
Reusable Masks – Sample!

https://www.etsy.com/shop/Masks4Good

MORE INFO ON BUYING REUSABLE MASKS:

NY MAGAZINE, APRIL 13 ARTICLE:
In order to sustain operations, how have you pivoted to offering other services?
MAKING AN INDOOR WORM BIN WITH

@BK_ROT
BKROTCompost
bkrot.org
Brijit was born on 17 March 2020 as a direct response to the dislocation created by the COVID-19 pandemic and our collective reaction to it. We’re setting out to accomplish three things in a very short period of time — five days from concept to first deliveries.
Brijit No. 3

$29.00

Sold Out

Well, friends, we are back with another week of local goodness, courtesy of Brijit. This is the third rendition of our experiment in distributed deliciousness — we hope you like it. So proud to be able to give you a taste of these amazing producers, and to be directly supporting the kinds of businesses and artisans that make our communities vibrant.

DELIVERIES FOR BRIJIT NO. 3 WILL OCCUR ON MONDAY, APRIL 6TH.

Your Brijit No. 3 bag will include five selections; you’ll have a chance to customize your Brijit in checkout.

**Bread from Seylou Bakery & Mill:** 1/2 Baguette

**Sprouts from Little Wild Things farm:** Cilantro Microgreens or Farmer’s Choice Microgreens

**Pickles from Number One Sons:** Cider Masala Beets or Clean Kraut

**Juice from Fight Juice:** Gold Warrior or Green Warrior

**Sweet from Elle:** TBD
QUESTIONS
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Thank you!