

ANJEC Case Study: Municipal Food Scraps Drop-off Program

Town of Secaucus (Hudson County)
March 28th, 2023



Is food waste that big of a problem?



How do I reduce the amount of food I waste at home?



What is composting?



Why should I compost?



How can I compost at home?



How can I participate in the Secaucus compost drop-off program?



What about grass?



What about leaves?



Municipal organics recycling webpage

Why should I compost?



How can I compost at home?



- a. There are various at-home composting methods, depending on the space and materials that you have. Review these expert guides to get started:
 - 1. Rutgers: Home Composting
 - 2. Institute for Local Self-Reliance: Home Composting Basics
 - 3. U.S. EPA: Composting at Home
- b. HCIA sells discounted compost bins for \$40 through this [online order form](#).

How can I participate in the Secaucus compost drop-off program?



You can participate by completing this quick [registration Google Form \(click here\)](#). The Environmental Department will review your submission and contact you via email with: individualized feedback, your selected location's access code, and additional information.

What about grass?





Not secure

green.secaucusnj.gov/recycling/compost-organics-recycling

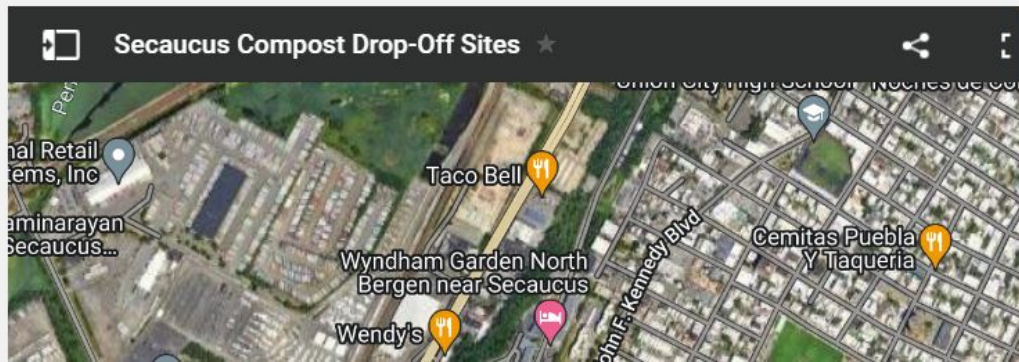


SECAUCUS COMMUNITY COMPOST DROP-OFF PROGRAM:

BACKGROUND: In June 2021, the Secaucus Environmental Department launched a pilot compost drop-off program in partnership with [Community Compost Company](#). In six months, participating residents collectively diverted over 9,000 tons of food scraps from the landfill! Thanks to the pilot's success, Mayor Gonnelli and the Secaucus Town Council authorized the program to continue long-term. There are currently five drop-off locations in Town. We hope to continue to add locations as interest grows!

HOW IT WORKS: Participants must register for the program by completing a short [Google Survey \(CLICK HERE\)](#). The Environmental Department reviews submissions and contacts interested residents via email with individualized feedback, the selected location's access code, and additional guidance. Participants then collect [accepted materials](#) at home and drop off to their site 24/7.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS: Fountain Park Community Garden, Millridge Community Garden, Harmon Cove Towers, Harmon Cove Townhouses, & the Xchange at Secaucus Junction.



How it Works

RESIDENTIAL PLANS

COMMERCIAL PLANS

COMMUNITY DROP
SPOTS

TIPPING SERVICES

FAQ

GIFT CERTIFICATES

COMMUNITY DROP SPOTS



It takes all of us working to protect the planet. We are to making food scrap recycling accessible to everyone with Community Drop Spots!

Scroll down to find a drop spot in your neighborhood and sign up today.

NEW JERSEY

City of Hoboken

Drop spots located throughout Hoboken.
hobokennj.gov/resources/compost

City of Jersey City

Drop spots located throughout Jersey City.
jerseycitynj.gov/cityhall/DPW/recycle/compostyourfoodscraps

Town of Secaucus

Drop spots located throughout Secaucus.
green.secaucusnj.gov/recycling/compost-organics-recycling

City of Union City

Drop spot located at Ellsworth Park.
301-399 24th St
Union City, NJ 07087
unioncitycommunitygarden@gmail.com



Town of Secaucus

June 24 · 🌐

...

Have you seen one of our new compost drop-off sites around town? Register to participate by visiting secaucusnj.gov/compost





23

4 Comments 5 Shares



Community Compost Company

Jun 18, 2021 · 🌐

...

We're excited to announce the start of a new drop spot program in partnership with the Town of Secaucus! Starting this week, residents can drop their food scraps at 5 locations in town. 🍎♻️🌱

To learn more and register visit: green.secaucusnj.gov/recycling/compost-organics-recycling





15

3 comments

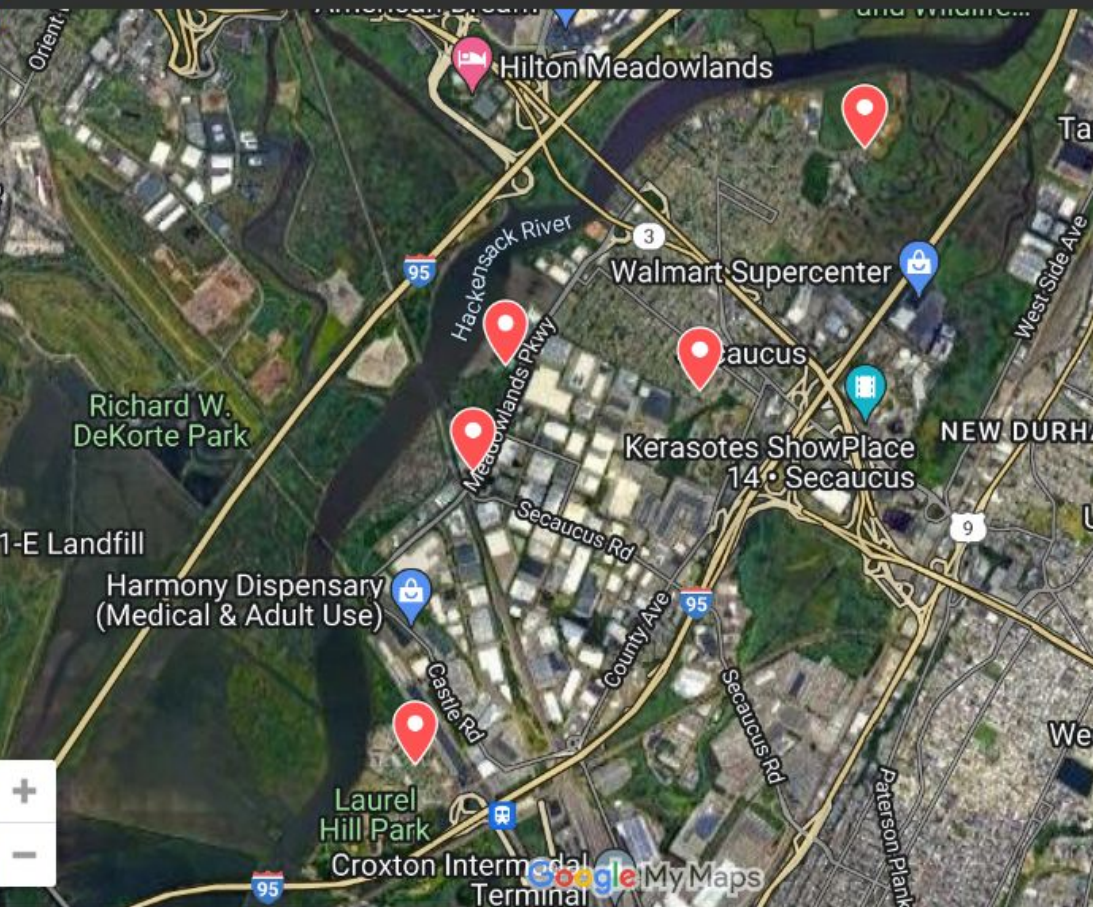
Outreach Examples

- Interest Survey
- Enviro. Dept. Emails
- Social Media
- Town Newsletter
- Summer Green Speaker Series
- HOA / MUD Mgt.
- Green Festival
- School Carnival
- Community Garden Compost Training
- Schools





Secaucus Compost Drop-Off Sites ★



Map data ©2023 Imagery ©2023, Airbus, Bluesky, CNES / Airbus, Landsat / Copernicus, Maxar Technologies, New York



COMPOST DROP-OFF



We compost the following:

YES!

ALL FOOD

Fruits
Vegetables
Meat
Bones
Dairy
Seafood
Grains
Eggs & Shells
Coffee Grounds
Flowers

SOME PAPER

Coffee Filters
Napkins
Paper Towels
Uncoated Paper Plates
Tea Bags

NO!

NON-FOOD

Plastic
Metal
Glass
Chemicals
Styrofoam
Liquids
Grease
Produce Stickers
Staples In Tea Bags
Compostable "Plastics":
(Bags, Utensils, Coffee Pods, Cups, Etc.)
Coated Paper & Molded Fiber:
(Hot Cups, Cartons, Take Out Boxes, Etc.)
Diapers
Tissues
Menstrual Products
Pet Waste (Including Cat Litter)
*Our compost vendor is certified organic.
They cannot take compostable products.



201-86-GREEN (47336)
secaucusnj.gov/compost

Residential Drop-off Composting Registration

The Town of Secaucus partners with Community Compost Company to offer a food scraps drop-off program for interested residents.

Each of the 5 drop off sites have an enclosure shed with a combination lock. To ensure that only accepted materials go in the green collection bins, residents are asked to take this short quiz to register. When you receive the combination, please do not share it with others. We need all participants to know our drop-off process and this is done through the completion of our quiz. Thank you!

jschneider@secaucus.net [Switch account](#)



* Required

Email *

Your email

First and Last Name *

Your answer

Please review what CAN and CANNOT be accepted by Community Compost Company before taking the quiz (<https://www.communitycompostco.com/what-to-compost>)



Residential Drop-off Composting Registration

jschneider@secaucus.net [Switch account](#)



* Required

Secaucus Drop-off Compost Registration Quiz

1. Take our quiz to receive the combination code via email (not automatic; individually reviewed in 1-2 days)
2. Visit your selected drop-off site
3. Unlock shed
4. Drop your accepted materials in the green bin within the shed
5. Place any trash or recycling in designated cans next to the shed
6. Close and lock lid

DO NOT PLACE PLASTIC OF ANY KIND IN THE GREEN BIN, INCLUDING COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS

If there appears to be contamination (incorrect items) please contact Environmental Department at environmental@secaucus.net or 201-330-2000 ext. 3222.

Are plastic bags and plastic utensils accepted in Secaucus Compost bins? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

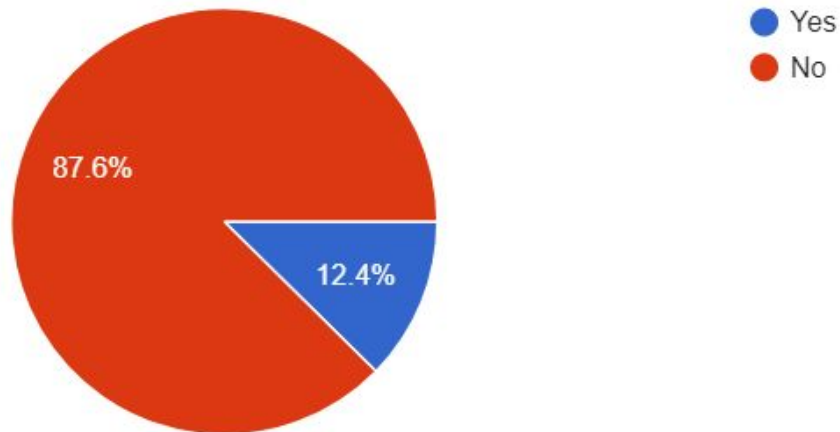
Is pet waste accepted in Secaucus Compost? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

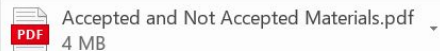
Are "compostable plastics" or bamboo such as utensils, cups, and bowls accepted in Secaucus Compost bins?



291 responses



Example Email to Resident



Good Morning Paige,

Greetings from the Secaucus Environmental Department!

Thank you so much for registering for our Town's residential food scraps drop-program. We greatly appreciate your support!

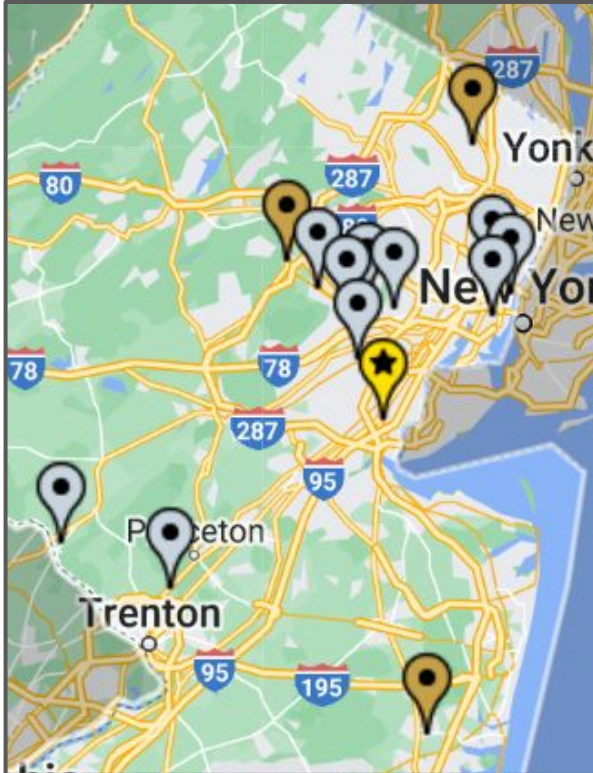
Before you begin dropping off to your selected location, please review the following feedback from your registration quiz:

- *"Are "compostable plastics" or bamboo such as utensils, cups, and bowls accepted in Secaucus Compost bins?"*
 - "Compostable plastics" or bamboo such as utensils, cups, and bowls are [NOT accepted](#). Our [compost vendor is certified to sell their compost to organic farms](#) and therefore cannot accept "compostable plastics."

Please find additional guidance below along with your access code. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will get back to you as soon as we can!

Thank you,
[The Secaucus Environmental Department](#)

Sustainable Jersey - Food Waste Action (2021 Certification Cycle)



Food Waste

10 Points

Program Summary: Please refer to the uploaded narrative about the Environmental Department's food waste recycling initiative. In addition to this program, the Secaucus Public Works Department collects pumpkins, corn stalks, and pumpkins along with regular leaf collection in November. The 2020 and 2021 flyers for this opportunity are attached. They are also posted on the Town Facebook page October-November and in the November community newsletter.

PDF: [2021 PUMPKIN COMPOSTING FLYER](#)

PDF: [SECAUCUS 2021 FOOD WASTE ACTION NARRATIVE & PHOTOS](#)

PDF: [2022 RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [2020 PUMPKIN COMPOSTING FLYER.PDF](#)

PDF: [2021 PILOT PROGRAM RESOLUTION](#)



- **Secaucus municipal/household solid waste:**

- 2020: 6,809.95 tons
- 2021: 6,279.65 tons
- 2022: 5,363.84 tons

Current rate: **\$112.85 per ton**

Amount of Food Scraps Collected, Hauled, & Composted

- 2021:
 - 6 month pilot
 - 9,313 lbs. *or 4.66 tons*
- 2022:
 - Full year program
 - 24,146 lbs. *or 12.07 tons*
- Cumulative totals from day 1 of pilot in 2021 to last pick-up on 3/24/23”
 - **291 registered residents**
 - **39,525 lbs. *or 19.76 tons***



Your Environmental Impact

Statistics based on CO₂E (Carbon Equivalency). This number allows us to translate abstract measurements into concrete terms we can understand, such as the emissions from cars, households, or power plants. To learn more visit the EPA's [Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#).



39,525 lbs diverted!

This is the total weight we have collected from you so far.



260 seedlings planted!

Composting has a huge impact on the environment. From a greenhouse gas equivalency standpoint your composting efforts are equivalent to 260 urban trees seedlings grown for 10 years.



39,208 miles offset!

Your composting efforts are equivalent to not driving 39,208 miles. Whoa.



1,778 gallons of gas!

The number of gallons of gasoline offset by diverting food scraps from the landfill

Visit to Community Composting Facility

On Friday, December 9th Councilman John Gerbasio and the Environmental Department visited Community Compost Company's composting facility in Kerhonksen, New York. The former 300-acre dairy farm is where food scraps from our municipal drop-off program are brought to and processed. They learned first-hand how CCC combines Secaucus food scraps with other organic materials (such as wood chips, leaves, and manure) to create a nutrient-rich compost with the aerated static pile method. All compost is approved for organic use, which means it ends up on local farms and in our Town's community gardens. In all, this process not only helps the environment by diverting food scraps from the landfill, it also recycles it back into the earth and improves the quality of soil for plants to grow.

To learn more and join the Town's community composting program, visit www.secaucusnj.gov/compost. Since the program began in June 2021, over 200 Secaucus families have helped divert over 16 tons of food waste! When you join, organic materials will go to the farm in Kerhonkson, NY (90 miles away) and be converted to compost, instead of going to a landfill in Amsterdam, Ohio (425 miles away). In addition to waste reduction, composting provides a range of environmental benefits, including improving soil health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, recycling nutrients, and more. It also saves money for Secaucus taxpayers by cutting down on landfill fees and the volume and frequency of garbage collection. So please take a moment and sign up for our community composting program today!



Chess Challenge!

Wednesday January 18, 2023



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
America's Volunteer Lifesavers



FOOD DRIVE

Important Considerations For Your Program

- Do you know the current end destination of your municipal solid waste?
If not, check out your County's Solid Waste Management plan.
- Food waste diversion is the first step, but then is your main goal to:
 - **Compost?** (*recycle nutrients back into the earth*)
 - **Feed animals?**
 - **Generate energy?**
- Questions to ask haulers: Where are our scraps going? How are they processed? What is the final application of the product?

Resources

- Municipal and/or County Certified Recycling Professional
 - nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/recycoor.htm
- Rutgers courses
 - cpe.rutgers.edu/recycling-solid-waste
- Virginia Lamb, Groundwork Education & Consulting
 - groundworkec.com
- Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

AIR, ENERGY AND MATERIALS SUSTAINABILITY

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Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

Tel. (609) 292-2795 • Fax (609) 777-1330

www.nj.gov/dep

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

Lt. Governor

SHAWN M. LATOURETTE

Commissioner

PAUL BALDAUF

Asst. Commissioner

Regarding: 2022 Municipal Tonnage Grant Guide

Dear Municipal Recycling Coordinator:

Attached for your review and action are the 2022 Municipal Tonnage Grant (MTG) Guide and application documents. With the issuance of this Guide, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP or the Department) is initiating the 2022 MTG Program Year. Grant years are named for the year in which the recycling was accomplished. The 2022 MTG program is for recycling accomplished in 2022. Grant applications for the 2022 Program are due to the Department no later than April 30, 2023, and awards will be distributed in the Fall of 2024. The Guide constitutes the guidelines of the Department concerning the administration of the Recycling Enhancement Act (REA or Act) Tonnage Grant (Grant) Program pursuant to P.L. 2007 c.311. Please closely review the Guide as it identifies parameters required in order to qualify for the Grant.

H. Allowable/Dis-Allowable Grant Expenses

1. Pursuant to the Act, “All grant monies received by a municipality shall be expended only for its recycling program”. Grant awards must be used solely for recycling activities. Although no specific exhaustive list of eligible uses has been established, the following are examples of previously approved uses:
 - a. Salary for the Municipal Recycling Coordinator or staff
 - b. Purchase of recycling containers, except for containers used for CEDs (see Section I below)
 - c. Food waste recycling initiatives
 - d. Maintenance of municipal recycling convenience centers
 - e. Management of municipal compost sites
 - f. Tire amnesty events
 - g. Salary and costs related directly to recycling education or recycling compliance monitoring/reporting
 - h. Costs for recycling collection
-

2. The Department's intention, in regard to assigning a per ton value to each rate band, is to continue to increase funding to "band 2" which encompasses materials 1-8, food waste and other plastic (which includes single use plastic bags) whenever possible to assist municipalities whose costs to recycling these materials is increasing. The Department also intends to increase the funding to material ID 23 (food waste) in the coming years as this material is a focus of P.L.2020, c.24 (Food waste source

⁶ The Act restricts the dollar amount of the tonnage grant monies to no more than \$10.00 per ton for any given material.

separation and recycling law), enacted in April 2020. The Department will also continue to decrease the funding to material ID 21 (consumer electronics (e-waste)) due to the full implementation of the EWMA at N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.94 et seq. which causes additional types of devices and an expanded universe of generators to be charged by an e-waste manufacturer.