



# sanitation

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## **Brooklyn Update: Curbside Collection of Organic Material Begins in CB's 1 and 16 Week of Monday, May 1; Brown Bins Also Being Delivered to CB's 2, 13 and 15**

Starting the week of May 1, the New York City Department of Sanitation will begin the curbside collection of food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard waste, otherwise known as organic material, from residents living in Brooklyn's Community Boards 1 and 16. Additionally, the Department will soon begin distributing brown bins to residents in Community Boards 2, 13 and 15. Curbside collection in those areas begins next month.

This is a part of Department's major expansion of the NYC Organics program. This year, the program, which collects "organic" waste and turns it into usable compost or renewable energy, will be made available to more than two million additional city residents. The city's program is now the largest curbside organics collection program in the country.

This expansion is the Department's latest effort to make food scrap, food-soiled paper and yard waste recycling available to all New Yorkers by the end of 2018, with either curbside service or convenient neighborhood drop-off sites. The program began as a pilot for 3,200 residents in spring 2013 and is now available to more than one million residents citywide.

"Organic material – food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard waste – make up about a third of what we throw away, but it's not trash," said Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia. "Putting your food scraps and yard waste to good use decreases the amount of garbage going to landfills and helps create a greener and healthier New York City. We thank all of the residents currently participating in organic waste collection, and look forward to welcoming millions more New Yorkers to the program this year."

### **How does it work?**

All eligible households, those in buildings with nine or fewer units, will receive a starter kit which includes an indoor kitchen container, an instruction brochure, and either their own outdoor brown bin or a larger one to share for the building. Residents place food scraps and food-soiled paper products into their kitchen container. Residents then transfer the material to their outdoor bin for DSNY collection on their pick up day. Yard waste may be placed directly in the bin, or placed at the curb in open, unlined containers or in paper lawn and leaf bags.

### **Who is included?**

All single-family homes and buildings with nine or fewer residential units are automatically enrolled in the voluntary program. Residential buildings with 10 or more units may apply to participate. Building managers may find more information on the application process at <http://on.nyc.gov/request-organics>.

**What happens to the material?**

The collected material is managed locally and regionally. Some organic waste is turned into compost, and used locally by greening groups, such as urban farmers, community gardeners, and street tree stewards to rebuild the City's soil.

**Other options for food scraps:**

Residents who do not currently receive curbside collection may visit food scrap drop-off sites offered throughout all five boroughs. To help bring the program to all residents by the end of 2018, the drop off programs will be expanded this year. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/organics](http://nyc.gov/organics).

**About the New York City Department of Sanitation**

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 689 salt/sand spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.