



sanitation

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Queens News: DSNY's Expanded Curbside Food Scraps and Yard Waste Collection Begins in Ridgewood

The New York City Department of Sanitation has expanded the NYC Organics voluntary curbside food and yard waste recycling program to all residents in Ridgewood, Queens. Collection begins this week.

“Organic materials make up about a third of our trash. When you recycle your food and yard waste, you decrease the amount of garbage going to landfills and help create a greener and healthier New York City,” said **Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia**.

Who can participate?

All single-family homes and buildings with nine or fewer residential units will be 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 nyc.gov/apt-recycling.

How does it work?

All eligible households 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 (if there are between three and nine units in the building).

To participate in the program, residents place their food scraps, and soiled paper products such as paper napkins and paper plates, into their kitchen container. Residents may then transfer the material to their outdoor bin for DSNY collection on their pick up day.

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.

Examples of items that may be placed in the bin:

- Food scraps such as fruits, vegetables, egg shells, pasta, tea bags, coffee grounds and filters, baked goods, meat and bones

- Flowers and houseplants
- Food-soiled paper such as paper towels, napkins and paper plates

Examples of items that may NOT be placed in the bin:

- Plastics of any kind, even if labeled biodegradable
- Liquids
- Foam items
- Animal waste, cigarettes and ashes, and medical waste

Other options for food scraps:

Residents not served by the pilot program may visit food scrap drop-off programs offered throughout all five boroughs

For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/organics.