Why should I participate?

By participating in the organics program, your food scraps and certified compostable products will be turned into compost – a valuable resource that improves soils, reduces soil erosion and decreases the need for chemical fertilizers.

How to sign up

Residents with the city’s solid waste service can sign up by visiting www.stlouispark.org/organics or call utility billing at 952.924.2111. The city provides compostable bags, a wheeled cart and weekly collection at the curb or alley.

Multifamily residents who do not receive city solid waste service can sign up to participate at one of several city operated drop-sites. Visit www.stlouispark.org/MFrecycling for more information.

Tips

Lose the liquids and keep it cool

When collecting organics in your kitchen, remove excess liquids before placing them in the bag. Liquids sitting in a compostable bag will weaken the bag. Also, allow warm foods, coffee grounds and tea bags to cool before placing them in the bag.

Don’t overfill bags

The heavier the bag, the more likely it will tear. Letting organics sit in the bag for longer will weaken the bag, so make sure to take it out at least once per week and follow the tips above for reducing liquids. Also, take your organics out when the bag is about two thirds full, as it’s easier to tie.

Use a vented container to help control odors

Air flow helps reduce odors. Purchase a kitchen pail with a vented lid or make your own by reusing an empty plastic or metal container (ice cream pails or coffee containers work well) and cutting slits in the lid.

Certified compostable products

- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers

Look for the term “compostable” or the BPI logo on certified products.

Organics guide

All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells

Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons

Other compostable household items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Facial tissues
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers
- Tea bags
- Wooden chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks

Not accepted:
- Yard waste
- Diapers
- Menstrual products
- Animal and pet waste, litter or bedding
- Cleaning or baby wipes
- Grease or oil
- Styrofoam™
- Dryer lint and dryer sheets
- Recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic)
- Frozen food boxes
- Paper ice cream tubs
- Microwave popcorn bags
- Gum
- Fast food wrappers
- Products labeled “biodegradable”

St. Louis Park Public Works
www.stlouispark.org/organics
952.924.2562