

What you always wanted to know about food scrap composting but didn't know you should ask

"I love it! The hallways are cleaner. We started with one bin and now are up to four" J.D. Super, West End Avenue

"It was easy to get the hang of it-easier than I thought, because it makes so much sense."
Resident, 102nd and Riverside.

"My trash has gone way down in volume and it rarely smells!" Resident, 102nd and Riverside

"Why wouldn't I love it? The halls are cleaner and less smelly and rodents can't get at it." V.P. Super, West 104th Street.

You may have noticed that jaunty brown food scrap bins are popping back up in our neighborhood. Here are some FAQ's to help you understand what this effort is all about.

Why does separating food scraps from other garbage matter?

When food scraps go into regular garbage bins they end up in landfills where, because they are shut off from oxygen they produce methane, a greenhouse gas 30x worse than CO₂. Food scraps left on their own break down into CO₂ and humus which can be put to good use in gardens and farms.

What can I put in a brown bin?

Basically any formerly living thing including fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and chicken including bones and garden debris.

The paper bag or plastic bag you save up your scraps in can also be tossed in the bin. (**Now the Department of Sanitation can separate out the plastic bag.**)

Please note: if you have been bringing your food scraps to local farmers markets or plan to, they do not accept meat, fish and chicken scraps.

What can I use to collect my food scraps?

Countertop bins are available locally and online as well. Compost scraps can also be kept in a paper or plastic bag in the freezer until pick up day.

What is the schedule for pick up of the bins?

In our neighborhood it is **Wednesday**. Bins go out in late afternoon for evening pickup.

How can I get my building to participate in the program?

Approach your co-op board, building management or landlord to get on board. Some typical questions they may raise include: where will we put the bins in the building, will they make a

mess and create more work for building staff, will they attract vermin? Each building will need to problem solve their own unique responses to these issues. A good selling point is that participation by residents is completely optional and voluntary, but those who want to participate should be given the opportunity. The building staff is only responsible for putting the containers on the street on collection days, not for filling the containers or collecting compost. Contact itseasybeinggreen.uws@gmail.com for a write up you can give to your board.

What can I do if my building refuses to get on board?

Some buildings that have a brown bin are happy to share it with people on their street. As a courtesy, ask the building if they are willing to share their bin. Other options are farmer's markets. Columbia University collection at 116th is from 8-1 on Sunday .Another option is 97th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam from 8-12 on Fridays. (Remember, no meat scraps for the Green market!)

What costs are involved in participating? Who can I call at DSNY?

NONE! This is a free program offered by NYC Dept of Sanitation. Call or write Allie Gumas, Outreach Coordinator at DSNY if you have any questions a gumas@dsny.nyc.gov 212 437-4802.

Sure, separating organic matter from your regular garbage may require a personal mindset shift and change of habit. If you think it's going to be too cumbersome, **try** it for a few weeks before you make up your mind. Think of it as an effort that contributes to the common good which sets a great example for the young people in your life and makes a small difference to mitigate climate change. Try it! You may like it.

Feedback welcome at itseasybeinggreen.uws@gmail.com