



Residential Food Scrapping / Green Package FAQs

I. WHY?

Question: Why should I compost?

When food is landfilled it decomposes without air, which creates methane, a greenhouse gas that can be detrimental to our atmosphere.

Composting is a great way to reduce your food waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Composting also keeps food and yard waste from going to the landfill!

The Village has a goal to divert 60% of the waste stream from going to the landfill. Organic / compostable material is a large source of the waste stream that can be diverted! By composting, you can do your part in helping the Village achieve its sustainability goals!

Question: Why is the Village promoting this program?

The Village has always been a leader in sustainable initiatives and actively seeks to promote new sustainable programs. One of the goals of the Village's Sustainability Plan (2017-2027) is to promote programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The plan also seeks to educate residents on how they can help reduce green gas emissions at home.

The Green Package program is a way for residents to ensure the Village remains a municipal leader in sustainability.

II. WHAT?

Question: What is the Green Package?

The Green Package is a waste service package provided by Waste Management that includes your current trash cart, recycling cart, and **an additional 35 gallon cart for organics, collected year round.**

Question: What items can be collected in the new organics cart?

All sorts of things! Take a look at the chart below for items that can be composted. Remember, if it grows, it goes!

Food Waste	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fruits, Vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• House plants, including soil
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meat, poultry, fish products (including bones)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coffee grounds/filters, tea bags
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pasta, bread, cereals, rice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soiled paper such as food packaging, ice cream containers, popcorn, flour and sugar bags
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dairy products, eggs and shells (no liquids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soiled tissues, napkins, paper towels (unless they have been used with chemicals / cleaning supplies)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cake, cookies, candy, nuts	

Question: What shouldn't I put in my organics cart?

Do not include any type of plastics, glass, and metal. Diapers, Styrofoam, grease, or oil should also not be included in your organics cart. Additionally, pet feces of all kind should not be placed in compost bins.

Question: What about my grass clippings and other yard waste?

Throw your grass clippings, leaves and small branches into your new organics cart! Your third cart can be used for yard waste as well as food scraps.

Question: What do I use to collect food scraps in my house?

Collecting food scraps in a reusable container in the kitchen is an easy way to save leftovers for your organics cart. Coffee cans, plastic food storage containers, or kitchen catchers can be used.



Question: What is a kitchen catcher?

A kitchen catcher is a name for a small kitchen pail (see pictures) that can be easily used inside your home before transferring the food scraps into your cart for collection. Need a kitchen catcher? We can provide a free kitchen catcher to the first 175 interested households!



III. HOW?

Question: How will this service affect the way my other carts and collections work?

Your existing garbage & recycling carts / collections will still be serviced on your current pickup schedule.

Trash: Instead of placing food scraps and food-soiled paper in your trash cart, you can now place those products into your organics cart!

Yard Waste: Now you can place your grass clippings, leaves, and small branches into your organics cart!

Recycling: No change! You can continue to place recyclables (plastic, glass, cardboard, etc.), in your recycling cart.

Question: How often will my organics cart be collected for disposal?

From April 1 – November 30 your organics cart will be collected weekly by Waste Management on the same day that your trash and recycling are picked up.

From December 1 – March 31 your organics cart will be collected every other week by Waste Management on **Tuesdays**.

Question: How do I compost at home?

Easy! Composting is just like your normal trash and recycling process.

- 1) Keep your kitchen catcher / container in a convenient location in your kitchen, such as on your countertop, under the sink, or in your refrigerator / freezer (if it fits).
- 2) Line your composting container or kitchen catcher with paper towels, newspapers, or paper bags to help keep it clean.
- 3) When cooking or cleaning up, put your food scraps and other compostable materials in your kitchen catcher or other small container just like you put trash in your trash can.

***Do not use plastic bags, biodegradable plastic, or any type of plastic to line your kitchen catcher.**

- 4) When your kitchen catcher or container is full, empty it into your organics cart. Your organics cart should be lined with a 30-gallon paper yard waste bag for easy disposal and to keep the cart clean (see picture)!



Question: How do I collect food scraps each week without making my house smell?

Answer: Empty your kitchen catcher / container on an as-needed basis prior to the food scraps going bad on you. Another tip to reduce the potential for odor in your home is to try refrigerating or freezing food scraps like meat, poultry, and fish in a reusable container until it's time to take scraps to your cart!

When filling your organics cart, try bagging food scraps in a plain paper bag to prevent scraps from sticking to the cart. You can also try a cereal box or tissue box (be sure to remove any plastic lining!).

Wrapping food scraps in paper towels or old newspapers will also help prevent scraps from sticking to your cart and reduce any potential odor.

Don't forget to routinely wash out your container or kitchen catcher to avoid any odors.

Question: How do I keep my organics cart clean?

Answer: Using 30-gallon paper yard waste bags will help keep your organics cart clean. Rinsing your cart with a garden hose when necessary and periodically rinsing your cart with mild soap and water will also help ensure the cart stays clean.

Keeping the lid closed at all times and locating your cart in a shaded area will all help reduce odor and keep your cart clean.

IV. COSTS

Question: How much will the Green Package cost me?

In addition to your regular trash and recycling bill, you will be billed \$11.60 a month by the Village for your organics cart. That's only 39 extra cents a day for the Green Package!

You will be paying the Village for your organics cart, just like your current trash & recycling bill.

Question: How much do 30-gallon paper yard waste bags cost and where can I get them?

You can get 30-gallon paper yard waste bags right here in Grayslake! The Ace Hardware at 945 E Belvidere Road sells 30-gallon paper yard waste bags at \$1.99/5 bags.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Question: Why aren't plastic bags accepted?

Plastic bags are not biodegradable and cannot be composted. Bags that are labeled "compostable" or "biodegradable" are not accepted because they break down at a significantly slower rate than the organic materials accepted in the program.

Question: Does the 30-gallon paper yard waste bag that I am lining my organics cart with get collected along with my organics?

Yes, the 30-gallon paper yard waste bag that you use to line your organics cart will be collected when your organics carts is collected each week.

Question: My cart isn't full. Should I still set it out at the curb?

Yes. No matter how full your cart is, it should be brought to the curb each week to ensure your organics are collected. By having your organics collected every week, you can help to keep your cart clean and reduce odor by reducing the amount of time items are stored in your cart.

Question: Are there other benefits from this program?

Besides showing your commitment to sustainability, the organics cart included in the Green Package will likely leave you with less trash to throw away each week. This may allow you to downsize to a smaller, less expensive trash cart and save money on your monthly utility bill! You can find the pricing for different sized garbage containers on the Village's website at www.villageofgrayslake.com.

Question: Where do I sign up?

Are you interested in showing your commitment to the Earth and initiating the Green Package for your home? Residents can sign up using the link below!

<https://www.egovlink.com/grayslake/action.asp?actionid=19108>

*Information and pricing presented in this document was current as of November 2019