

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
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**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TURNS FOOD SCRAPS INTO COMPOST  
GOLD**

*County expands curbside composting pickup to an additional 65,000 residents to help combat climate change*

**LARGO, MD** – Today, Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks kicked off the County's expanded Curbside Composting program, [PGC Composts](#). Beginning the week of November 7, an additional 65,000 residents who receive trash services from the County will receive a wheeled green cart and kitchen pail to collect their food scraps and yard trim for composting pickup on Mondays. They will join 22,000 residents who are already participating in the program. The expanded [Curbside Composting](#) program adds another weekly waste collection service to the County's existing trash, recycling, and bulky trash schedule.

"We are Prince George's Proud to provide this exciting program to County residents interested in helping combat climate change by diverting their food waste from our landfill. We know that one-third of food waste currently goes into our landfill, and when it decomposes, it creates greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change," said Alsobrooks. "One of our goals is to reduce these gas emissions by providing a program that allows our residents to deal with leftover food in an environmentally responsible way, while also giving residents an additional day for waste collections."

The County will provide residents with a 32-gallon wheeled green cart, a 2-gallon kitchen pail, and [educational materials](#) that will assist residents in the proper way to compost. Residents only need to fill the bin with their food scraps and yard trim and wheel it to the curb by 6 a.m., following the campaign's slogan *Every Meal. Every Scrap. Every Monday*.

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) will manage the program as part of its *Clear the Curb* waste collection services that include trash, recycling, the new curbside bulky trash program launched earlier this year, and yard trim pickup.

“*PGC Composts* aligns with the agency’s goals of creating a healthy environment for our residents and empowering them to be good stewards within our communities,” said DoE Director Andrea Crooms. “Residents not receiving wheeled carts in this cycle will receive them in the spring or fall of 2023 with no sign-up required.”

[\*PGC Composts\*](#) accepts everyday food scraps, including fruits and vegetables, dairy products, breads and pasta, meat and bones, pizza boxes, seafood, shellfish like Maryland crabs, and even pumpkins. Items that can’t be composted include leftover grease, plastic, Styrofoam™, diapers, pet waste, and household trash or litter.

An ongoing educational component will be part of the composting campaign to help alleviate contamination issues. Contamination is a very serious concern in any composting operation, so it is important that residents take the time to educate themselves on what items are acceptable and unacceptable. If in doubt, they should leave it out of the carts. Residents can view a list of acceptable and unacceptable items at [mypgc.us/compost](http://mypgc.us/compost).

“MES is proud of our long and successful partnership with Prince George’s County, supporting efforts like the expansion of free curbside composting collection that are true examples of sustainability and environmental stewardship,” said Dr. Charles Glass, Executive Director of the Maryland Environmental Service (MES).

According to a recent [Waste Characterization Study](#), more than 34.1 percent of materials found in the landfill are identified as organics, meaning food waste and food-related items. The County made a significant investment in expanding its Organics Composting Facility in Upper Marlboro, one of the largest and most advanced of its kind. For more than 23 years, Prince George’s County has owned and managed the facility in partnership with Maryland Environmental Service (MES). It began accepting food waste in 2013, and today, it accepts residential, commercial, and institutional (schools) food waste, grass clippings, leaves, brush, small branches, and Christmas trees. The facility currently produces some 62,000 tons of food waste compost per year, which is converted into a rich soil nutrient named Leafgro Gold®.

For more information about [\*PGC Composts\*](#), visit [mypgc.us/compost](http://mypgc.us/compost) or contact PGC311.

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