

# Turn Food Scraps Into Farm-Fresh Produce

Ever wonder where your apple cores and sandwich crusts should go? Here in western Oregon, Republic Services makes sure your food scraps get a second life when you put them in your yard debris cart instead of the trash.

## What is food scrap recycling?

Just what it sounds like. Put your food scraps in your yard debris cart for a convenient way to divert food waste from landfills and transform it into nutrient-rich compost. This amazing process helps our environment and closes the organic waste loop!

## How does it work?

Simply toss your food scraps into your yard debris cart. Think anything you'd put on your plate: fruits, veggies, even bones, dairy, onions and citrus! Our local high-tech composting facility handles it all.

## What else can go in the yard debris cart?

Leaves, grass clippings, garden plants, sticks and branches (6" diameter or less) can all go in the cart.

## Can I put the packaging in too?

Keep food containers and garden planter pots out of the yard debris cart, along with any "compostable" plastic or bioplastic bags or packaging. No matter what the marketing says, stick them in your regular trash instead.

## Benefits? You bet!

- ▶ **Reduce landfill waste:** In Oregon, the average family throws away nearly 9 pounds of wasted food each week. That's more than 450 pounds each year! Food scraps take up precious space and create harmful greenhouse gas. Composting diverts this waste and creates a valuable resource.
- ▶ **Save money:** Depending on how much food waste your family makes each week, you could switch to a smaller trash cart.

- ▶ **Grow a greener future:** Compost nourishes soil, promoting healthy plants and reducing fertilizer reliance. Most of the compost we make goes to local organic farms, which use it to grow nutritious organic produce.

Toss your food scraps in the yard debris cart, and be a champion for our planet. Together, we can divert waste, create nutrient-rich compost and cultivate a healthier environment for everyone.

