

WHERE DOES THE MATERIAL GO

That I put into the...



ORGANICS/ GREEN CART?

Organic materials collected from the green carts will be delivered to Republic Services' state of the art composting facility in North Richmond. The materials are placed into long rows called windrows, where the material is aerated, watered and monitored to ensure optimal composting conditions. The material breaks down naturally into a nutrient rich soil amendment which is sold to farmers and landscapers.

Food scraps can be transformed into a nutrient rich soil enhancement called compost. Compost can be added back into the soil to help grow fruits, vegetables and other plants, which is a fine example of taking something that is commonly thrown away and making it into a renewable resource.

What is Composting and Why Do It?

Composting is the controlled decomposition of organic material such as leaves, twigs, grass clippings, and vegetable food waste. Compost is a soil amendment product that results from composting.

Whether it's done on site, at the point of waste generation, or at a large scale facility, composting helps to keep the high volume of organic material out of landfills and turns it into a useful product. On site composting reduces the cost of hauling materials and is generally exempted from solid waste regulations. Large scale facilities can handle more material and produce a more consistent product.

Basic Recipe for Composting

Composting is a lot like cooking, and the easiest compost recipe calls for blending roughly equal parts of green or wet material (which is high in nitrogen) and brown or dry material (which is high in carbon). Simply layer or mix these materials in a pile or enclosure; chop or shred large pieces to 12" or shorter. Water and fluff to add air. Then leave it to the microorganisms which will break down the material over time.

Once the materials break down into compost that is ready to be harvested, it will look like a rich, dark soil with an earthy smell. Mix this with your gardening soil for a potent fertilizer, your plants will thank you!