

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN APPLEWOOD:

Tired of so many trash and recycling trucks in your neighborhood? Frustrated with paying more for services than our neighboring cities, or being left without access to services like curbside compost? Is your current service working great?

We want to hear from you!



We have an opportunity to work with a locally owned waste removal company to take advantage of group rates, cost-saving "pay as you throw" options, and potential large-scale curbside compost - all with no contract or centralized billing requirement!

Why would this be beneficial?

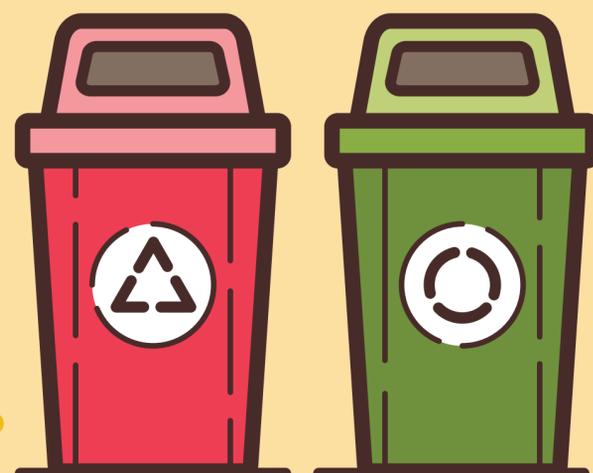
- More affordable services - tiered group rates (starting at \$52/quarter) that decrease as more residents participate
- Less truck traffic - the entire Applewood service area would share a single pick-up day, decreasing the number of trucks up and down our streets
- Expanded services - Recycle all plastics #1-7, and with enough interest, the company will offer curbside compost of up to 96 gallon bins (that can be shared between neighbors!)

What is "pay as you throw?"

Customers could purchase pre-paid bags for waste disposal (approximately \$3.25 for 33 gallons - 2-3 kitchen bags worth), so good recycling/composting practices mean less money spent on trash removal.

Can I use my own bins instead?

Yes! Bins will remain an option for trash, and you can continue to use your existing bins or purchase new ones if needed - they will be yours to keep.



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Would this reduce truck traffic in our neighborhoods?

Yes - the company would ensure all customers in the neighborhood have the same pickup day, decreasing truck traffic and the related noise, pollution and wear-and-tear on our roads!



What if I am unhappy with the program? Is there a time-commitment?

This program does NOT require any contracts or time-committments to join.

Is this being managed by the City of Lakewood?

No, this is a resident-driven initiative with no government involvement from the City of Lakewood or Jefferson County.

Tell Us What You Think!

[Link to survey and/or email instructions](#)



COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), food scraps and yard waste make up about 30% of materials sent to landfills and paper products about 50%. At a landfill, biodegradable materials decompose anaerobically—with little or no oxygen present—and release methane gas into the atmosphere. The greenhouse gas effect of methane is 28 to 36 times stronger than carbon dioxide (CO₂), so this methane contributes significantly to climate change. In addition to its climate impacts, methane also affects air quality because it is an ingredient in the formation of ground level ozone, a dangerous air pollutant that harms our health.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every 3 months in the US, enough aluminum cans are thrown out to rebuild the entire American commercial plane fleet



BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING:

LESS TRASH PRODUCED

Composting and recycling can divert a significant amount of waste from landfills. This allows residents to take advantage of money-saving initiatives such as "pay as you throw" programs, that allow for payment per bag of trash rather than a standard bin, which may be largely empty for low-waste households.

IMPROVED GARDEN SOIL

Composting enriches the soil with nutrients, which reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Fertilizers and pesticides require fossil fuels for their production and shipping, and some of them are potentially harmful to our health.

REDUCED WATER NEEDS

Compost increases soil's ability to retain moisture, thus helping to prevent erosion by reducing runoff. This also improves the workability of the soil and reduces fossil fuel emissions that would otherwise be needed to produce and ship soil-maintenance products.

DECREASED ENERGY USE

Recycling saves on average 50 percent of the energy costs associated with making items from new materials – recycling aluminum cans requires 95 percent less energy than making them from raw materials.

Composting: Common Questions

What is compostable?

- paper products (without glossy or waxy finishes)
- yard waste
- food scraps*
- plastic products labeled as compostable*

What is NOT compostable?

- Animal waste - especially dog and cat feces
- Plants treated with chemical pesticides - this can kill the microorganisms that break down compost
- Coal ashes - the sulfur and iron can harm plants
- Glass, metal and plastics (unless labeled compostable) - recycle these!

Doesn't organic matter/food waste help my other trash breakdown in landfills?

No - unfortunately, when buried and surrounded by other trash, organic materials take many years to decompose. For example, researchers in 1992 uncovered fresh-appearing guacamole from a landfill - it was in a bag thrown out in 1967!

I want to compost but it seems like too much work, or I don't garden. What can I do?

Fortunately, composting services will collect your food scraps, yard waste and compostable paper/plastic products and turn them into compost! You are often eligible for a compost share from these companies as well.

Get Started Composting Today! Find Resources at:

<https://sustainableapplewood.org/>

**Curbside compost services allow dairy, meat and compostable plastics, which cannot be included in home-based compost systems*

