



Kingston, NY

Population: 177,573 (2019) Ulster County

Households serviced: 69,539 households (2018 census)

Households participating in organics: Unknown. 4 municipalities offer residential food scrap drop off programs at town transfer stations.

Program type: Commercial drop off with tipping fee, including enrollment process to onboard new Partners in Composting Program.

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Program overview

UCRRA’s composting operation is a subset of the county’s municipal solid waste program. It is highly regulated and subject to a great deal of scrutiny.

- Program is self sustaining with three mechanisms to financially support it: \$20 / ton organic waste and \$40/ton yard waste tipping fees, compost sales at \$30/ton, 50% reimbursement grants for equipment and educational investments.
- UCRRA is the only permitted site accepting organics in the region and therefore accepts food scraps from neighboring municipalities. Note: there are 3 other small-medium scale composting operations in the County that accept source separated foods scraps, but UCRRA is the largest site and the only one that is permitted (rather than registered status) with NYSDEC.
- Uses own grinding equipment to create wood chips from yardwaste. Has partnerships with neighboring communities and offers use of equipment for fee or for free if UCRRA keeps the wood chips.
- Facilities, schools, restaurants etc. are eligible to enroll in their composting program, share information about their plan/program, then UCRRA invites participants to their facility to educate, share tailored feedback, and set expectations about product quality and best practices to reduce contamination.

Materials accepted

- All food including meat, bones, dairy
- Certified compostable bin liners / compostable bags
- Food-service items - BPI certified have been accepted historically, but UCRRA is pivoting to certified compostable paper products / paper food service ware only

No kitchen pail provided. However, UCRRA does offer 35 gallon rolling tote bins for a returnable deposit fee.

FIND A DROP-OFF SPOT
HOME / WASTE & RECYCLING / FOOD WASTE / FIND A DROP-OFF SPOT

Contamination rate

- 10% / Visual inspection leads to contamination fee charged at solid waste rate

Note: UCRRA is pivoting away from smaller compostable items and paper napkins because these blow away in the wind during mixing become “litter” in the facility.

Composting

- Extended Aerated Static Pile method of onsite composting
- Drop-off site(s): Yard waste and organics collected separately
- STA participation: Grow Ulster Green Compost is a STA certified product.
- Education: direct mailing, UCRRA website, social media, facility tours, a composting partner entry survey helps create customized feedback about education plan, provide posters/bins/labels/training to staff if needed. **commercial partners only no residential drop off*



Compost use

- Compost is available for general public use to grow vegetables, flowers, trees/shrubs, turf, or for other applications.
- UCRRA Compost is sold to farmers, landscapers, greenhouses, gardeners, highway departments, etc. for \$30/ton.
- Historically compost has been sold in bulk loads only (no delivery services) but the UCRRA will launch a bagged compost product in 2022.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Become a Partner in Composting

Help Us Grow Ulster Green

Step 1

Contact the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (845-336-0600) to meet with Staff and tour our Organics Recovery Facility. These meetings are essential to understand our operations, and allow us an opportunity to learn about your business and your particular waste stream. You'll be asked to complete a Partners in Composting Questionnaire to gather important information.



Most successful component about program

- Low cost tip fee incentives participation
- Partners must deliver/self-haul food scraps to the site. UCRRA does not provide any hauling services.
- Extensive on-boarding program helps educate partners and reduce contamination
- Visual Inspections and frequent feedback help reduce contamination
- STA Certification supports high quality compost in marketing materials

