City of Minneapolis, Minnesota
Population: 400,000
Households serviced: 107,000
Households participating in organics: 55,049 (51.11%)
Program type: All pay, must opt-in to get a cart
Website: minneapolismn.gov/organics
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Program overview

Residential curb and alley collection where all residential customers pay for the program through their solid waste and recycling base fee, but they must sign up to get a cart.

- 32 gallon carts given to single-family and duplexes. 64-gallon carts for larger buildings.
- Residents who sign up are given a welcome kit that includes a refrigerator magnet, Home Setup Tips guide, and a starter set of compostable bags.
- Organics are collected weekly by City and contractors using semi-automated trucks with cart flippers. Collection crews check every cart and leave educational tag and leave cart and contents if contamination is found.
- 20 Organics drop-off sites are available for residents in larger multi-unit buildings without City collection service.
- Commercial organics services are limited to small businesses who can use carts for collection with once a week pickup. Private haulers also offer commercial organics collection.

Materials accepted

- All food scraps, kraft paper bags, and BPI certified compostable bags and food-service items.
- Yard waste collected separately (in resident owned bins, bundled or bagged).

Contamination rate

- 1% contamination—verified through sorts of truck-loads of organics each year.
- Plastic-lined paper makes up the majority of contamination.
  - See the City’s 2021 Organics Sort Result summary.
**Composting**

City contracts with private company, Specialized Environmental Technologies (SET), for composting. Compost site is located approximately 30 miles from Minneapolis. Organics are composted in aerated static piles.

SET participates in the USCC’s STA program.

**Compost use**

- Through the contract, the City receives 600 tons of compost to distribute for free or low-cost to community gardens around the City.
- Contract includes up to 500 tons of compost for experimental projects and research.
- Working on increasing the amount of compost used in Public Works projects and getting participants access to compost.

**Most successful component about program**

- Continued promotions to areas with lower sign-ups and a focus on multi-cultural outreach and education.
- Use Minneapolis residents participating in the program in advertising campaigns and educational materials.
- Educational materials pre-translated to reduce language barriers.
- Outreach and education at 70-100 neighborhood and community events each year.
- Bus tour to the compost site each year.