

City of Fayetteville Arkansas

Population: 97,000

Households serviced: 22,000

Households participating in organics: Over 800

Program type: Commercial and Residential drop off

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Program overview

The City has a goal to divert 40% of waste sent to the landfill by 2027. Food waste makes up 18% of the total waste Fayetteville sends to the landfill.

The City owns and operates its own composting facility. It originally was opened to manage yard waste. In 2018 they began a commercial program collection program for schools and restaurants. In 2020, they received a USDA grant to help kick-start a residential program.

As of fall 2022 are just beginning a residential organics program. Currently the residential program is drop-off only program with no fee to participate.

- Hauling for both the commercial pick-up program and residential drop-off program is done in house by Fayetteville employees.
- Composting of all materials is completed by City employees.
- There is no charge for residents to use one of the 7 residential drop-off sites. Drop-off sites which are located at these locations: Fayetteville Compost site, Marion Orton Recycling Center, Happy Hollow Recycling Center, Trinity United Methodist Church, the Yacht Club on College, Good Shepard Lutheran Church, and Margaret's Culinary (food truck).
- Restaurants and schools are charged \$15.58 / month for collection three times a week (Mon, Wed, and Fri).



Promoting the program

- Program is promoted through:
 - Direct mailings
 - City website
 - Social media
 - A trailer at the local farmer's market
 - Word of mouth
- Trailer is also a mobile collection unit for market attendees and farmers to put food scraps, certified food-service items and spoiled foods for composting.



Materials accepted

- Yard waste and organics are collected separately.
- A kitchen pail is provided to all residents who a pledge to participate correctly in the drop-off program.
- All fruits and veggies, cooked meats, Kraft paper bags, compostable plastic or compostable plastic-lined / BPI Certified compostable food service items and bags are accepted in both the residential and commercial programs.
- Compostable products have been a challenge but are inevitable. Residents want to use bags to collect their food scraps.



Composting

- Compost produced is a 30:1 carbon to nitrogen ratio static pile.
- Piles are turned using a windrow turner.
- Compost produced is Garden Compost and is tested by Midwest Laboratories, Inc.
- Contamination rate is unknown, but by starting small (limited number of residential participants) the amount of contamination is limited.



Compost use

- Compost can be purchased from the City by the scoop.
- Food waste compost is \$36.75 / two-cubic-yard scoop
 - Yard waste compost is \$26.25 / two-cubic-yard scoop
 - Give away to community gardens for free.