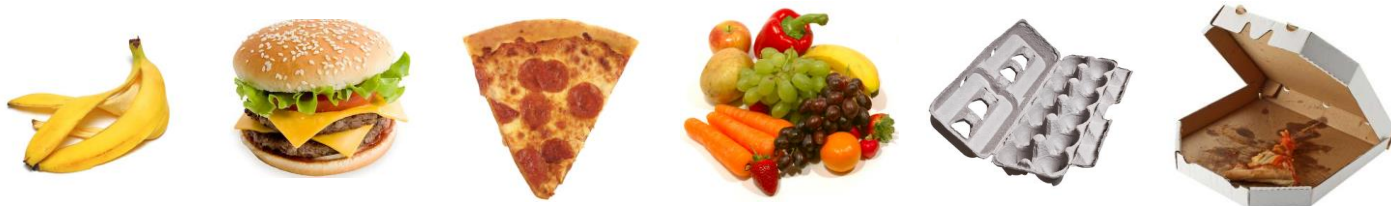


# FOOD & PAPER WASTE COMPOST PROGRAM

at Montague Recycle Center and Transfer Station



## YES - DO Compost:

### **Solid food wastes:**

- Meat, poultry, fish, bones, shells
- Cheese, dairy (no liquids)
- Eggs, eggshells
- Fruits, vegetables, peels
- Bread, rice, pasta, cereal
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags

### **Paper:**

- Paper napkins, paper towels
- Paper plates, paper cups (*no plastic, BPI certified\* preferred*)
- Waxed cardboard, waxed paper
- Cardboard, pizza boxes with food
- Paper egg cartons, fruit packaging
- Paper take-out containers
- Paper bags (*recycle paper if clean*)

### **Wood:**

- Wooden chopsticks, skewers, stirrers
- Small wooden fruit crates

### **Compostable plastic products:**

- Compostable cups (i.e. Greenware)
- Compostable bags (i.e. BioBag)
- Brands must be BPI certified:

\*[www.bpiworld.org](http://www.bpiworld.org)



## NO - DO NOT Compost:

- **NO** liquids
- **NO** plastic bags, wrappers, cling wrap
- **NO** Styrofoam™
- **NO** plastic cups, utensils, straws
- **NO** plastic, aluminum foil, metal, glass (*recycle* in container recycling)
- **NO** chemicals, hazardous residues
- **NO** beverage cartons, aseptic cartons (*recycle* with containers)
- **NO** frozen food boxes, ice cream cartons, butter wrappers (trash)
- **NO** kitty litter, pet waste, diapers



### **DO NOT DEPOSIT MATERIALS IN PLASTIC BAGS!**



Food waste and other biodegradable materials are hauled weekly to a permitted commercial composting facility.  
(To buy a home compost bin, contact FCSWD below. It is not recommended to put meat, poultry, dairy, or oily foods in home compost bins.)

**Franklin County Solid Waste District:**  
413-772-2438; [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org)  
MA Relay for the hearing impaired:  
711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)



## New Food and Paper Waste Compost Program at the Montague Recycling Center and Transfer Station

On March 17, 2021, a new, residential food and paper waste compost program will begin at Montague's Recycling Center and Transfer Station on Sandy Lane. There is no cost to participate in this program.

Similar programs are successful at 10 municipal transfer stations and 25 public schools in the county. Franklin County is a statewide leader in school and transfer station compost programs.

Why compost? Composting makes a valuable soil amendment from waste, saves money, slows climate change, and reduces trash. Households that separate their food waste for composting can potentially save money on Montague's \$3 town trash bag stickers.

Triple T Trucking will place a special compost-only dumpster at Montague Recycling Center and Transfer Station. The container will be emptied weekly, and the contents brought to Martin's Farm in Greenfield for composting. **This commercial composting facility is different from your average backyard compost system in that it can compost meat, bones, cheese, paper products, and other materials that are not appropriate for your home compost bin or pile.**

The new compost program will accept many materials that are currently destined for the trash. All solid food wastes are acceptable including meat, bones, poultry, fish, cheese, dairy (no liquids), eggs, eggshells, shellfish, fruits, peels, vegetables, bread, grains, tea bags, coffee grounds and paper filters. Paper is also accepted: napkins and paper towels, paper egg cartons, paper to-go containers, and pizza boxes with stuck-on food. (Pizza boxes that are empty and free of food should go in paper recycling.)

It is very important to keep the following items OUT of the compost container: liquids; pet wastes, kitty litter, diapers; plastic bags, wrappers or cling wrap; polystyrene foam; conventional plastic, metal, foil, glass; or non-biodegradable items. Yard waste, leaves and brush are not accepted in this dumpster.

To collect compostable items at home, residents can use a compost pail, 5-gallon bucket or any other closed container. The Solid Waste District office in Greenfield sells 2-gallon "Sure-Close" compost collection pails for \$5, by appointment: 772-2438. In spring 2021, Montague residents can get a free Sure-Close pail at the Montague Transfer Station, while supplies last. To make clean up easier, line pails with newspaper, a paper bag, or a BioBag. All compostable bags must be BPI-certified: [www.bpiworld.org](http://www.bpiworld.org).

If compostable wastes are transported to the transfer station in a traditional plastic bag, the bag must be emptied into the compost container and then the plastic bag must go in the trash. Never put plastic bags in the compost!

Residents can bring compostable materials during transfer station open hours only: Wednesdays from 7 am – 2:30 pm, and Saturdays from 7 am – 12 noon.

As always, residents are also encouraged to compost at home. The Solid Waste District sells home compost bins to Montague residents for a subsidized price of \$25, by appointment. Please call 772-2438 or visit: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/composting.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/composting.html).