



# Food Scraps Recycling Program

## Turning Your Food Scraps Into Soil

The City of Portage is partnering with My Green Michigan to debut a Food Scraps Recycling Pilot\* Program. The program, provided to Portage citizens at no additional fee, is tailored to turn food scraps into rich, nutrient-dense soil for the environment. Diverting food waste to composting has additional benefits, including reducing pollution and landfill waste, and lowering methane emissions. This pilot program is a part of the city's continuous efforts toward sustainability.

Portage citizens can easily recycle food scraps using a container at home, such as a lidded bowl, compostable bag, plastic container, countertop bin, or 5-gallon bucket. Simply visit one of the 10 convenient drop-off locations on your schedule and deposit your scraps into the 64-gallon lime green bins provided. My Green Michigan will empty the collection bins every other Tuesday.

*Food scrap recycling has never been easier and more accessible!*

### If it GROWS it GOES

#### ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS



FRUITS & VEGETABLES



DAIRY PRODUCTS



TEA BAGS, COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS



BREAD & GRAINS



NAPKINS & PAPER TOWELS  
(CHEMICAL FREE)



MEAT & BONES



COOKING OIL, GREASE



EGGSHells



BPI CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

### When in DOUBT, leave it OUT!

#### NON-ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS



GLASS



METAL



PLASTIC



CONDIMENT  
PACKAGING



NAPKINS & PAPER TOWELS  
WITH CHEMICALS



PET WASTE

### How to Participate

1. Place your kitchen pail in a convenient location in your kitchen and choose an optional liner (newspaper, paper bag, compostable bag).
2. Toss all acceptable food scraps in the kitchen pail.
3. Empty your kitchen pail (and your compostable liner) into the specially marked lime green bins located at one of the ten drop off locations.



### Drop Off Locations

WESTFIELD PARK: 4500 West Milham Avenue

HARBOR WEST PARK: 3458 Summersong Path

MARLOW STREET CUL-DE-SAC: Adjacent to Haverhill Elementary

PORTAGE CREEK BICENTENNIAL PARK: 910 East Milham Avenue

LAKEVIEW PARK: 9345 Portage Road

OAKLAND DRIVE PARK: 7600 Oakland Drive

RAMONA PARK: 8600 South Sprinkle Road

WEST LAKE NATURE PRESERVE: 9001 South Westnedge Avenue

SCHRIER PARK: 850 West Osterhout Avenue

LEXINGTON GREEN PARK: 4750 Pittsford Street

### BPI Certified Products

BPI Certified food service items (e.g., bags, cups, cutlery, wrappers, pouches, containers) are fully compostable. Look for the BPI Certification Mark to determine whether an item meets compostability standards. When choosing a liner for your kitchen pail, be sure to use newspaper or a paper bag, or a compostable bag with the BPI Certification Mark. Visit [bpworld.org](http://bpworld.org) for more information about compostability standards and certification.



Questions? Please call visit [portagemi.gov/933](http://portagemi.gov/933) or call the Department of Public Works at 329-4444.

See reverse for Frequently Asked Questions.

\*This pilot program will run through December 2025, after which the city will evaluate results and determine the future of the program.

# Food Scraps Recycling Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q.** How do I collect food scraps in my home?

**A.** Use a kitchen pail (e.g., a large bowl with a lid, a compostable bag, a countertop compost bin, a 5-gallon bucket, etc.) big enough to hold a day or two of food scraps.

**Pro Tip** Keep extra smelly scraps, like meat, in the refrigerator or freezer until you're able to drop off your scraps.

**Pro Tip** Line your kitchen pail with newspaper or a paper bag, which will absorb liquid and help keep your kitchen pail clean.

**Q.** Where can I drop-off my food scraps?

**A.** Flip this flyer to find 10 convenient drop-off locations featuring 64-gallon lime green bins.

**Pro Tip** Most drop-off bins are located in city parks, open daily from 7 AM to dusk. Plan your visit accordingly!

**Q.** Will the 64-gallon bins in the parks attract animals?

**A.** As long as the lid to the bin is closed after use, animals will not be able to access the bins. City staff will monitor the bins at the 10 drop-off locations.

**Q.** How do food scraps become compost?

**A.** Check out the "How It's Made: Compost" video on the My Green Michigan website by scanning this QR code.



**Q.** Why should I participate?

**A.** By recycling your food scraps, you're contributing to a cleaner, greener future for everyone!

**Reduce Waste** Divert food scraps from landfills and reduce overall waste, helping to extend the life of landfills.

**Support Sustainability** Recycled food scraps are turned into nutrient-rich compost, which can enrich soil and support local agriculture.

**Cut Emissions** Decomposing food in landfills produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Recycling food scraps helps lower these harmful emissions.

**Protect the Environment** Composting helps improve soil health and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, benefiting ecosystems.

**Q.** Is this program the same as yard waste composting?

**A.** Not exactly. Both processes aim to recycle organic material into nutrient-rich compost, but differ in the types of materials they accept and how they are processed. Our Food Scraps Recycling Program is specifically designed for items like fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, meat, and dairy (see reverse for a list of acceptable materials). Yard waste composting focuses on plant-based materials such as leaves, grass clippings, branches, and garden trimmings. These materials break down differently, and combining them improperly can disrupt the composting process.