

# Scaling Up Composting in the Charlotte Region Fact Sheet



Large-scale foodservice waste composting has the potential to take approximately one-third of the municipal solid waste stream out of landfills, benefiting the local economy, retaining essential resources, and addressing climate change impact. Businesses in the Charlotte area have a tremendous opportunity to turn waste into value through composting of food scraps and compostable packaging.

**Institutions, restaurants, retailers, business groups, and any other organizations that generate any amount of food waste are invited to join!**

The project funding is provided by the U.S. EPA Region IV, supplemented by Mecklenburg County funds and in-kind contributions from SPC member dues and the IDEAS Center.

**Food and related waste composted at Charlotte-area Business Earth Farms produces healthy soil, instead of ending up in landfills!**



## What Participants Receive

- Funding towards start-up costs, typically for the first month
- Development of a customized collection system, including bins
- A phase-in plan as needed
- Training and signage
- Troubleshooting as needed
- Optional recognition as part of [EPA's Food Recovery Challenge](#) Program

## Partners

GreenBlue's Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC) works to close the loop on packaging end-of-use, focusing on recycling and composting. Our partners include:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV
- The Infrastructure, Design, Environment and Sustainability Center (IDEAS) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC)
- Elemental Impact
- Earth Farms
- Mecklenburg County
- State of North Carolina

## Participant Requirements

In order to track the program success, data from each facility is needed. Individual facility and company data will not be shared publicly; rather, the team will compile the data and report in aggregate. Participants may request a non-disclosure agreement. We request the following of all participants:

- Complete a pre-selection questionnaire
- Collect food scraps
- Consider post-consumer food waste collection and using compostable packaging
- Allow a project representative to observe the collection process and perform a visual waste characterization
- Communicate collection, material handling, or other issues as they arise
- Complete a questionnaire (September 2015)
- Provide a quote regarding lessons learned or other points

## Steps to Participate

- Contact Anne Bedarf (information below) for an application
- Jim Lanier of Earth Farms will contact participant to set up an initial on-site meeting
- Participants will be invited to monthly calls for updates and peer-to-peer discussions

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To find out more: [charlottecompost.org](http://charlottecompost.org)

