

# 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!

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

The Charlotte project partners seek to build on current efforts to 1) demonstrate successful commercial-scale composting of food waste and foodservice packaging, illustrating economic viability, and 2) develop best practices to accelerate the rate at which sustainable materials management practices are adopted by municipalities and private companies across the U.S.

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.

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

## 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



## 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 an end-of-project questionnaire (tentatively October 2014)
- 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

**Food waste composted at Earth Farms produces healthy soil, instead of ending up in landfills!**



Please contact:

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