

County of Santa Cruz

Food Scrap Compost Program



Kitchens in Santa Cruz County are going green in a program that recycles food scraps into high-grade compost. About 50 restaurants, grocery stores, schools and residential care facilities take part in the County-sponsored program. The result is less waste in the landfill, lower garbage pickup costs for participants, a valuable soil amendment—and, for staff of participating businesses, a gratifying sense of completing a circle—sending nutrients back to the earth. The finished compost is suitable for growing food and flowers. The program is part of the County’s strategy to reduce waste going to our landfill.



Santa Cruz County Recycles!

www.compostsantacruzcounty.org



Compost Collection Program participants keep food scraps and soiled paper separate from regular refuse and put them into special waste carts and bins.



Green Waste Recovery collects the material and transports it to the compost site at the County’s Buena Vista Landfill.



The food scraps are mixed with ground yardwaste and shredded before placement in the compost system. Vision Recycling is in charge of composting the material.



The compost has been laboratory tested and is suitable for growing food and flowers.



The material is packed into heavy plastic sausage-shaped bags and composted for three months. Air is blown through the bags to facilitate the compost process. The bags prevent odors and retain excess liquids.



Large items and any inorganic contaminants are screened out of the finished compost.

Questions? County of Santa Cruz
Public Works, (831) 454-3102

Need compost?
Vision Recycling,
(510) 353-6030 ext. 13 or
(831) 479-7857