



Food & Yard Waste Composting

Small Effort: Compost your own yard and food wastes or take to your community's compost site.

40% of the food we purchase is thrown away – a sad fact of American life. Placing food and yard waste into our trash (which goes into our landfill) contributes to methane gas generation. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 14.1 percent of these emissions in 2017. At the same time, methane emissions from landfills represent a lost opportunity to capture and use a significant energy resource.

When MSW is first deposited in a landfill, it undergoes an aerobic (with oxygen) decomposition stage when little methane is generated. Then, typically within less than 1 year, anaerobic conditions are established and methane-producing bacteria begin to decompose the waste and generate methane. We can help by not adding food and yard waste to the landfill.

Composting is one way to help keep methane gases from being generated in the first place. It is against the law to place yard waste into the landfill. Yard waste can be composted in your own backyard or brought to your community's compost site. Remember to double-check what you can or cannot take to these sites before you go.



BIG IMPACT

- **Save money!**
Composting can save 40% of your trash bill by reducing your garbage volume.
- **Reuse!** Compost provides a useful soil additive to lawn and plants.
- **Improve soil and help with plant growth!** If your soil is light and sandy, placing compost back into your garden will keep moisture in and if your soil is heavy, compost will help your soils drain better.

Compostable organic materials:

- Grass
- Leaves
- Coffee grounds
- Eggshells
- Flowers
- Fruits and vegetables
- Lawn plants
- Leftover plants at the end of the gardening season
- Non-woody shrub trimmings or twigs less than one-fourth inch in diameter
- Shredded newspaper (black and white print)
- Small amounts of wood ash and sawdust
- Straw
- Weeds



Take to: Marshall's Compost Site or your city's compost site

North 7th Street, Marshall, MN 56258 (next to ADM Corn Plant)

Open 24 hours, 7 days a week. No garbage is allowed (including plastic bags).