



TOWN OF PRESTON

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Preston — The Preston Board of Selectmen has unanimously approved a new, free food scrap recycling pilot program to begin February 2, 2024.

[Blue Earth Compost](#), based in Hartford, will be placing food scrap collection bins at the Preston Transfer Station, located at 108 Ross Road.

The program is free to all town residents with a Transfer Station sticker.

Blue Earth will collect the food scraps and haul them to [Quantum Biopower](#), a state [Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#)-approved anaerobic digester in Southington.

In 21 days, Quantum can convert the food scraps into compost, and contain the methane byproduct inside the facility into bio-gas that generates electricity for the town of Southington.

Preston pays to have municipal solid waste incinerated at the SECONN facility in town. Data from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) states that about 22% of the waste stream is food.

The ultimate goal is to reduce the amount of tonnage incinerated by removing food from the trash. Other surrounding towns, such as Haddam, Deep River, Guilford, Old Saybrook and Essex are participating in similar food scrap recycling programs.

Food scraps can be converted into compost, which improves soil quality, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, helps to retain water in the soil, and reduces soil erosion, the town said.

Many food items cannot not be placed in a backyard compost. All food scraps can be composted through the anaerobic digester.

"If it Grows, it Goes" is the Blue Earth motto. Acceptable items include fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry and bones, fish/shellfish and shells, dairy products, bread, pasta, rice, grains, eggs, eggshells, chips and snacks, nuts and seeds, left over and spoiled food, coffee grounds, tea bags (no staples), paper towels and napkins used for food production (not for cleaning), cut flowers and pet food (no pet waste).

There are starter kits available at the Transfer Station and the Town Hall in the Planning Department, lower level, during business hours. The kits will be free to residents while supplies last. Kits include a roll of 25 compostable bags and a 6-gallon bin to place food scraps. Starter kits are not required in order to participate. Proof of residency will be required if picking up kits at the Town Hall. All vehicles entering the Transfer Station facility must display a Transfer Station sticker, and stickers are available from employees at the Transfer Station.

More info can be found on www.preston-ct.org and in this [brochure](#).

Preston Food Scrap Recycling Guide



*A free food scrap recycling program for
residents with a Transfer Station pass*



Brought to you by the
Town of Preston and
Blue Earth Compost



Starting February 2, 2024

Why is Preston removing food scraps from municipal waste?

Food scraps make up about 22% of trash. By sending these valuable materials to compost, rather than incineration we can improve our air, soil and water.

Food Scraps are NOT Trash. Food can be converted into compost. Compost improves soil quality for plant growth, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, helps to retain water in the soil and reduces soil erosion. Putting food scraps into a landfill creates methane, a greenhouse gas which contributes to climate change. The Quantum BioPower anaerobic digester in Southington is able to use the methane to create renewable energy while also making compost.

You can help! The more Preston residents that participate in this program, the more pounds we will remove from the municipal waste stream. We hope to see this program grow with more and more bins being filled. **Transfer Station stickers are available at the Transfer Station with proof of residency.**

THANK YOU for participating in Preston's Food Scrap Composting Program!

For more information visit:

<https://www.preston-ct.org> or call (860) 887-5581

IT'S SO EASY!

1. **Collect** your food scraps in a BPI Certified compostable bag or a container of your choosing. If using a bag, when full, close off the bag by tying a knot at the open end. Please don't use twist ties or rubber bands.
2. **Bring** your food scraps to the Transfer Station at 108 Ross Road and dump them into the larger bins supplied by Blue Earth Compost. It's important to completely fill one bin before moving on to the next.
3. **Repeat!** You can go to the Transfer Station at any point during operating hours. They are:
 - 🕒 Friday and Saturday - 8AM-4:15PM

All food scraps will be picked up by Blue Earth Compost and composted at an anaerobic digestion facility in Southington, CT. They'll be turned into nutrient rich soil and renewable energy!

Free starter kits are available while supplies last. You may pick up these free kits by visiting the Transfer Station or the Planning Dept., lower level of Town Hall during business hours. If you pick up a kit at the Town Hall, proof of residency is required (current driver's license or government issued photo ID and tax or utility bill showing Preston residency).

The starter kit includes:

- One 6 gallon transport bin and
- One roll of 25 compostable bags for the counter top bin

You can use any bins that you like, but these are available. PLEASE NO PLASTIC BAGS. ONLY BPI CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE (NOT BIODEGRADABLE) BAGS ARE ALLOWED.

COMPOST



MEAT & BONES



SHELLFISH & FISH PRODUCTS



EGG SHELLS & DAIRY



FRUITS & VEGETABLE SCRAPS



BREADS & CEREALS



COFFEE GROUNDS, FILTERS, & TEA BAGS

OTHER THINGS TO COMPOST:

CONDIMENTS & SPICES | PITS & PEELS
FOOD SOILED PAPER | UNCOATED PAPER PLATES
PAPER TOWELS | PLANTS & HERBS | INCIDENTAL OILS & FATS



DON'T COMPOST



CORKS



PLASTIC



CANDLES



METAL / ALUMINUM FOIL



STYROFOAM



GLASS OF ANY KIND



GUM

OTHER THINGS TO NOT COMPOST:

TWIST TIES | RUBBER BANDS | DISPOSABLE MOPS / CLEANING SHEETS
FIREPLACE OR BARBECUE ASHES | HOT LIQUIDS | PLASTIC GLOVES
ENGLISH MUFFIN CARTONS | WAXY CARDBOARD | MILK CARTONS
CLEAN PIZZA BOXES (RECYCLE) | COFFEE PODS



HAVE QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US: (860) 266-7346
INFO@BLUEEARTHCOMPOST.COM

