Food Scrap Collection: Feed The Green Bin

HOWARD COUNTY, MD
Curbside Collection Services:

- Weekly collection of trash and recycling provided to 87,000 households (HH)
- Weekly Yard Trim collection provided to 66,000 HH
- Weekly FS collection offered to 25,000 HH by end of 2019
  - Opt-in
  - No additional charge
  - Co-collected with Yard Trim

Bureau of Environmental Services
Howard County, Maryland
Feed The Green Bin: program timeline

• ‘Mini’ Pilot August 2010 (6 month)
• ‘Full scale’ Pilot – Sept 2011
• Collection routes added in 2013, 2014, 2019
• As of today –
  • 20,000 HH eligible (~9,000 signed up)
  • 7 schools
  • 10lbs/HH/week
• One route to be added this fall
Joining the program:

- Opt in program, residents select cart size
- Signup online, by calling/emailing or by mail
- Participants receive
  - Cart
  - Countertop container
    - Compostable bags – sample
    - Compost sample (or coupon)
    - Brochure
Accepted items:

‘If it grows, it goes’

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Bread, pasta, rice & baked goods
- Coffee grounds, tea bags
- Paper products (pizza boxes, napkins, egg cartons, shredded paper)
- Meat, fish, egg shells, dairy (small amounts)
- Yard Trim
Feed the Green Bin!

If it grows, it goes!

Accepted

Fruits & Vegetables
Meat, Fish, Egg Shells, Dairy
Bread, Pasta, Rice, Baked Goods
Coffee Grounds, Tea Bags no foil

Not Accepted

Fats, Oils, Grease, Liquids
Plastic Plates, Cups, Cutlery
Facial Tissues, Diapers, Pet Waste, Plastic Bags
Grass, Leaves, Yard Trim, Cut Flowers
Paper Products napkins, plates, egg cartons, pizza boxes, toothpicks

FeedTheGreenBin.org
410-313-6444
Program Expansion – March 2019

- Two collection routes added
- Mailings sent directly to eligible households
  - Tear off, postage paid return postcard
  - Preprinted with their address
  - Check box for preferred cart size, drop in mail
2019 Program Expansion cont’d

• Cart delivered
  • March 2019: 3,345 carts delivered by contractor
  • Another 1,000+ delivered since
  • Receive cart, kitchen container, sample compostable bags, brochures (Do’s & Don’ts, FAQs, tips)

• Residents collect food scrap, roll out to the curb for weekly pickup
What changed this time?

- Two collection routes added same time
- Provided Countertop container
- Revised brochure – used icons, less text
- Huge increase in request for 12gal
- Compost sample Coupon
Expanded Compost Facility

Ribbon Cutting October 2018

[Images of people cutting the ribbon and a construction site]
Thank you!

Gemma Evans
410-313-6434
gevans@howardcountymd.gov

FeedTheGreenBin.org