



## The TOWN OF NORWOOD

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

GENERAL MANAGER

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### PRESS RELEASE

# The Town of Norwood Launches Curbside Compost Pilot Program

The Town of Norwood is pleased to announce a town-sponsored food compost pilot program in partnership with Black Earth Compost.

Residents can enroll now in the curbside compost pilot program that will run from May 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The pilot program provides free weekly curbside collection of food scraps and other organic materials. As part of the program, residents will receive a starter kit, including curbside bin and compostable bin liners, and an online account to manage service.

To be eligible for the pilot program you must be a resident that participates in Norwood's curbside collection of trash and recycling. If your residence does not have waste removal and recycling bins from the town contract with Waste Management, Inc., you are not eligible for the pilot program. If you are not eligible, Norwood provides free drop-off collection of food scraps at the Winter Street Recycling Center, DPW Yard, Prescott School and Cleveland School. That option is open to all Norwood residents. If you have questions about eligibility please email the town at [compost@norwoodma.gov](mailto:compost@norwoodma.gov).

Black Earth Compost accepts a variety of materials, including meat, bones, and dairy, which are not allowed in backyard piles, food soiled paper products, like napkins and certified compostable serveware. A full list of compostable materials can be found [here](#). Black Earth mixes the material with leaves and sticks and turns it into a compost that can be returned to your garden. Participants will receive a cubic foot bag of finished compost in spring 2025.

"Diverting food waste from the waste stream and composting food as an alternative is a very effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Mark Ryan, Norwood's Director of Public Works explains. "Our goal is to have a program that accelerates food composting on a scale that helps us reduce the amount of food waste that goes into weekly trash collection."

According to Robert Donnelly, Vice Chair of Norwood's Board of Selectmen, in November, Town Meeting approved \$150,000 to fund the pilot curbside food compost program for upwards of 500

residences. "I am very pleased that Norwood is able to offer this pilot program to encourage curbside food composting," said Selectman Donnelly. "Norwood, like other municipalities in Massachusetts, is facing unprecedented increases in the cost of our solid waste removal. Diverting food waste is an important part of that effort. Norwood pays for waste removal by the ton, so programs that help reduce solid waste tonnage result in savings and they also benefit the environment."

To sign up for the pilot program, complete the Sign Up form on the Black Earth Compost website at <https://blackearthcompost.com/residential-curbside-compost-pickup/?town=Norwood,%20MA>.

You'll also find more information on how to curbside compost.



Link to Norwood Black Earth Compost page.