



Recycling Authority May 2025

20000 West Eight Mile Road | Southfield
248-208-2270 | www.rrrasoc.org



May: All About Organics!

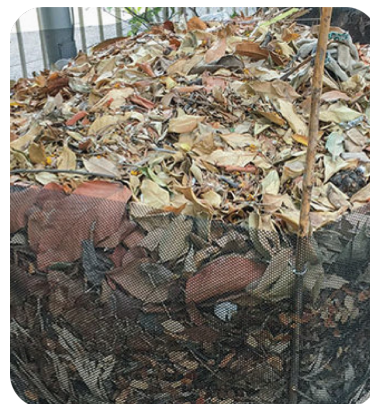


This month, we're talking about organics management in RRRASOC communities! Whether you're interested in composting, reducing your food waste, or simply looking to find more info regarding your community's yard waste guidelines, we're covering it all in this informative e-newsletter.

Composting at Home

Composting is the result of aerobic bacteria, fungi, and other micro-organisms breaking down organic materials. When you compost your organics in a bin or pile, you're creating a nutrient-rich mix that can be combined with soil to help plants thrive. This could include your yard waste, garden waste, or food scraps - all which contain the appropriate **browns** and **greens** needed to create a healthy compost.

Remember to check locally for any potential regulations on composting. Some cities do not allow wooden bins or food scraps to be added to the compost!



Getting Started

Choose a location. You'll want your compost pile to be easily accessible and near your garden. Avoid low-lying areas.

Build a bin out of chicken wire, old pallets, or buy one from a landscape supply store.



Basic Formula

50% Brown (Carbon)
Materials: dried leaves, twigs, straw.

25% Green (Nitrogen)
Materials: Fresh grass, green leaves, fruit and veggies, coffee grounds.

25% Soil: Introduces the decomposing organisms to



Assembly

Layer the **Brown**, **Green**, and **Soil**. Add **Water** to dampen as you build your pile. Continue layering to build your pile until it is 3-4ft. high.

Turn your compost pile once a week to speed up the decomposition process. It should have an earthy smell

Whatever container you choose, make sure it has plenty of holes for aeration.

the compost pile.

Water: Keep the pile moist.

when done properly. If your pile is creating odors, add more **Brown** material.

For more information on composting in RRRASOC communities, visit our [Composting page](#) or check out our [Healthy Lawn & Garden Flyer](#).



Vermicomposting

Vermicomposting utilizes worms to break down your compost even faster. But not just any worms - composting worms! This species dwells near the surface, breaking down leaves and decaying matter in the wild, as opposed to nightcrawlers who stay deep beneath the soil.

Keeping worms to break down your compost requires more than just digging them out of the dirt - they have to be cared for as well. Worms need the appropriate conditions in order to perform their job, which means mild temperatures, appropriate moisture content, and a steady influx of food.

However, with great effort comes a high reward: **worm castings!** This nitrogen-rich product naturally enhances soil without the use of any artificial chemicals. By utilizing vermicomposting to manage your organics, you're closing the loop to allow nutrients to return to your soil.

Want to learn more? **Contact us** to get in touch with our vermicomposting expert!

Grasscycling

Grasscycling, a simple and natural approach to lawn care, is the practice of leaving grass clippings on the lawn or using them as mulch - no raking or bagging involved. Through decomposition, grass clippings release nitrogen and other valuable nutrients into the soil, resulting in a greener, healthier lawn without the use of fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides. Plus, grass clippings are composed of *85% water!*



In order to grasscycle, mow no more than 1 inch off your lawn when it is dry by using a mulching blade. Leave the grass clippings where they fall and allow them to decompose. Any clippings that blow onto sidewalks or driveways can be swept back onto the lawn to prevent them from ending up in surface water or drains.

Interested in grasscycling and want to learn more? View our [Healthy Lawn & Garden Flyer!](#)

Reducing Your Food Waste

Food scraps and leftovers are often one of the more difficult forms of waste to dispose of properly. When it gets put in the garbage, it goes to a landfill where it will create methane, a harmful, potent greenhouse gas. And we definitely don't want them tossed in with your recyclables! While many community members are moving toward composting their food scraps in their backyard (see the article above), not everyone has the



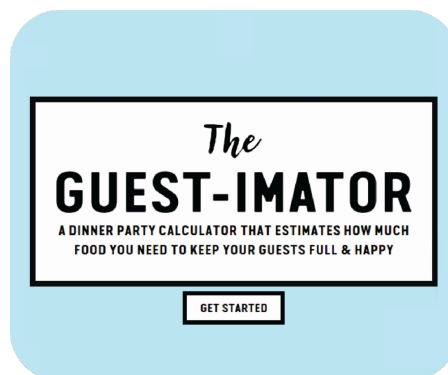
time or space to do so. That leaves many of us with a big question: **"Where should it go?"**

Read on to learn how to reduce food waste before it enters your kitchen, as well as how to properly divert it from the landfill as a mindful RRRASOC community member.

Before You Buy



Make a list of the groceries you're shopping for, and stick to that list as you go. Avoid buying extra food that may not be eaten in your household, as perishables such as meat, fruit, and veggies can only be stored in the refrigerator for a certain amount of time before they spoil.



If you're planning for a large dinner (such as a cookout, Thanksgiving, a family reunion, etc.), be sure to utilize one of our favorite food calculators: [the Guestimator!](#) This handy web tool provides accurate information regarding how much food you should prepare depending on the type and quantity of guests you're expecting.

Donations & Drop-Offs



Some food can be donated to a local charitable cause, such as a food pantry or community kitchen, where it is dispersed to those in need. These types of food normally involve boxed, canned, or dry goods. There is a growing list of local organizations who accept excess food on the [Recycling Directory, available at RRRASOC.org](#). Simply type in "food scraps" to find one near you!



Leftovers, food waste, and food scraps can be dropped off at certain composting facilities to be properly diverted from the landfill and turned into beneficial compost. These facilities include [Spurt Industries](#) and [Tuthill Farms](#). Businesses are also encouraged to explore plans through [MyGreenMI](#), [Make Food Not Waste](#), and [CoSustainability](#) for food scraps management.

Food Scrap Recycling for Wixom Residents

Between the beginning of April and the end of November, Wixom residents can place food scraps with their yard waste to be collected weekly at curbside. These scraps will be composted and used in gardens and city projects, thus creating healthy, nutrient-rich soil and cleaner air.

Learn how to get started with the **Wixom Food Scrap Program** [here!](#)



Yard Waste in RRRASOC Communities



In 1995, Michigan banned yard waste from entering landfills. Now, when yard waste trucks collect your grass trimmings, sticks, and leaves from the curb, they are delivered to a local site where they're composted into a beneficial resource and used for landscaping projects. Your yard waste needs oxygen in order to decompose, so large machines at the composting sites turn the compost piles to ensure proper air circulation.

The following yard waste set-out rules apply to all

RRRASOC communities:

- Grass and leaves should be put into paper yard waste bags or trash cans labeled with a yard waste sticker.
- Branches may be no longer than 4' and no thicker than 6" in diameter and must be bundled.
- No logs, stumps, dirt, or rocks will be accepted.

You can find links to your specific community's yard waste pickup schedule on our [FAQ page](#). For more yard waste information, visit our [Yard Waste page](#).

2025 HHW Collection Event Dates

During the following HHW Collection Events, all residents of RRRASOC member communities are welcome to bring household hazardous waste for an opportunity to safely discard their hazardous items and e-waste. *Simple Recycling* and paper shredding services will also be available*.

July 12, 2025 ☐

Wixom Dept. of Public Works
2041 Charms Rd., Wixom
9:00am - 2:00pm

October 25, 2025 ☐

RRRASOC MRF - Truck Entrance
20875 Mapleridge Ave., Southfield
9:00am - 2:00pm

October 4, 2025

Novi Dept. of Public Works
26300 Lee BeGole Dr., Novi
9:00am - 2:00pm

*The T-shirt icon indicates an HHW Collection Event during which clothing, shoes, accessories, and small household items will be accepted by **Simple Recycling**.

For more information about HHW events and how to prepare your items, please visit our [HHW page](#).

HHW Drop-Off at ERG Environmental Services

If you have HHW that you'd like to properly dispose of between collection events, you're in luck! Drop off your HHW without a fee at ERG Environmental Services during the following hours:

Monday - Friday:
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

HHW pickup from your home is also available for a fee of \$135 per stop plus \$0.75 per pound of material collected. This fee is paid directly by the resident to ERG Environmental Services.

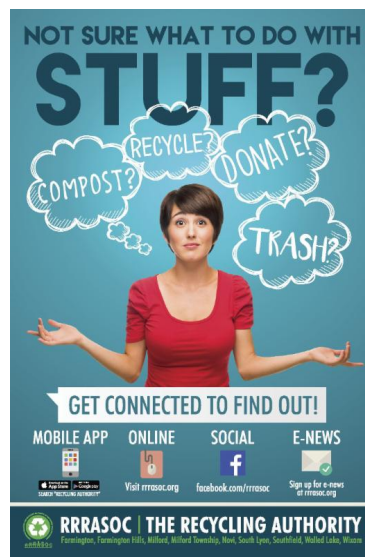
To confirm drop-off times and/or to schedule a pickup, please contact:

ERG Environmental Services
13040 Merriman Road, Livonia
(734) 437-9650



For more info, visit the [ERG HHW Drop-Off page](#) or our [HHW page](#).

RRRASOC Recycling Directory



Not sure what to do with stuff?

Visit rrrasoc.org and use the Recycling Directory search bar to type in keywords and get recycling, composting, reuse or disposal instructions.

The searchable, intuitive format of the Recycling Directory provides RRRASOC specific information.

Also Available:

Mobile App

- From your App Store or Google Play, search for "Recycling Authority"



Directory



Game



Calendar



Drop-Off Centers



Simple Recycling



Need help?

Type the name of an item and we'll tell you how to recycle or dispose of it.

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Want more tips, tricks, and updates about recycling? We have a Facebook page where we can reach each other to make recycling easier. You can also reach us via RRRASOC.org and email at education@rrrasoc.org!



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