

Where Does Our Organic Waste Go?



Our city's organic waste (yard trimmings and food scraps) are transported to a Cedar Grove facility for processing into compost.

Statewide, more than 1.2 million tons of organic materials (food scraps, leaves, grass, etc.) are composted each year, preventing 500,000 tons of carbon emissions. Organic waste in a landfill, in the absence of oxygen, produces the potent greenhouse gas, methane, which is up to thirty-four times more powerful than carbon dioxide over one hundred years. So our city's organics recycling program is an important piece of protecting our climate and planet.

Cedar Grove Composting is a local, family-owned business with deep roots in the Seattle area dating back to 1938. Cedar Grove plays a critical role in the Puget Sound's recycling infrastructure and sustainability efforts, diverting more than 350,000 tons of yard waste and food scraps from landfills annually. With two processing facilities in Maple Valley and Everett, Cedar Grove is a local manufacturer providing green, living wage jobs in King and Snohomish Counties. Cedar Grove produces wholesome, nutrient-rich compost that is sold to businesses, governments and residents, ensuring consumers have access to locally produced, recycled products. You can learn more at cgcompost.com.

How Can You Use Compost?

Using compost has tremendous environmental benefits including reducing water needs, storing carbon in the soil and closing the loop on the organics recycling process by reusing those resources.

Composting food and organic waste is just the beginning; using compost in your garden can do lots of great things including:

- ▶ Replenish soil, adding nutrients
- ▶ Increase soil's water holding capacity, decreasing water needs
- ▶ Displace the need for synthetic fertilizers
- ▶ Prevent soil erosion
- ▶ Improve aesthetics in your landscape

Some of the ways you can use compost in your home or community garden include:

- ▶ Topdressing your lawn
- ▶ Building a raised bed/urban garden
- ▶ Mulching flower/landscape beds
- ▶ Slope/erosion control

When you use compost in your garden, you are supporting a recycling system that helps our region avoid generation by diverting organics from the landfill. You are reusing the organic materials, a valuable resource, from your house hold and community and closing the loop on organics recycling in your city. Perhaps most importantly, you are allowing carbon to be stored in the compost once applied.



Cedar Grove, Long Live the Kings, Washington State University and the Nisqually Tribe Use Compost to Protect Salmon

Did you know that compost is a proven solution for filtering toxic vehicle impacted stormwater runoff?

Cedar Grove is actively participating in research projects to filter stormwater runoff that protect salmon from 6PPD-q—a toxin now known to be killing fish in our region's waterways.

One project is along Highway 7 where a compost-based biofiltration system is being used to collect and clean vehicle impacted stormwater before it reaches Ohop Creek. Because tire dust and other chemicals in roadway runoff (i.e., 6PPD-q) are deadly to salmon and tire dust is especially harmful to coho salmon with high rates of mortality even at low levels, this is important work as Long Live the Kings, Cedar Grove, the Nisqually Tribe, WSU, the Washington State Department of Transportation and others work to find viable solutions before it's too late.



Learn more

► Do You Want to Use Compost in your Garden?

Cedar Grove has retail locations in Everett, Seattle, Woodinville, Redmond, Bellevue, Maple Valley & Tacoma. For locations & hours, please visit cgcompost.com.

► Did You Know that We Have a Farm in Redmond Where We're Growing Produce with Compost Created from Your City's Organics Recycling Program?

Please visit soundsfarms.com to learn more. You can order fresh, organic produce delivered from the farm to your door at soundbitesdelivers.com.

► Donations

Cedar Grove has robust community giving program with compost donations available for schools, non-profits and more.

That information can be found at:
cedar-grove.com/about-us/grants-donations



Cedar Grove has a partnership with YouthCare to provide exposure to careers at Cedar Grove and to support the youth they serve as they navigate their futures. YouthCare works to end youth homelessness and to ensure that young people are valued for who they are and empowered to achieve their potential. Cedar Grove is proud to partner with YouthCare in that mission.

Cedar Grove's partnership with YouthCare includes regular tours at Cedar Grove's Maple Valley facility for students to learn about the benefits of diverting organic materials from the landfill, how the compost they use at their school garden in Seattle is made and about living wage jobs available in the composting industry right here in their backyard.



Local. Organic.

