

Frequently Asked Questions

Sun Prairie Residential Compost Pilot

GENERAL PROGRAM & PARTICIPATION QUESTIONS

How is this program funded? The residential compost pilot is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant award the city received in late 2024, as well as a generous contribution by Green Box Compost.

What are the dates of the pilot program? The pilot officially kicks off in July of 2025 and runs through December of 2026.

How long is registration open? Registration is open May 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025. However, if there are still open spots by this date, registration will remain open until all 150 spots are filled.

How many households can participate? A total of 150 Sun Prairie households can participate. Both single-family and multi-family households are invited to participate.

I live in an apartment. Can I participate? Yes! The pilot is open to all Sun Prairie residents, including those living in apartments. Green Box will work with you to determine an appropriate bucket swap location at your apartment complex.

I'm an existing Green Box customer. Can I participate in the pilot and receive the discounted rate? Yes! Existing Sun Prairie Green Box customers are invited to participate in the pilot. Please reach out to Green Box at compost@withgreenbox.com to request that your existing service be transferred to the Sun Prairie residential pilot program.

I'm a Sun Prairie business. Can I participate in the pilot? Unfortunately no. The project funding will only cover residential food waste composting. The city hopes to pilot commercial composting in the future.

COST

What is the cost to participate? The cost to participate is \$10/month, or \$180 for the entire 18-month pilot. Included in this cost is a 4-gallon bucket to fill with food scraps, biweekly curbside pickup of your food scraps, and distribution of nutrient-rich compost to your household twice during the program.

My household is unable to afford the monthly cost. Can I still participate? Yes! There are a limited number of fully subsidized program opportunities available for any households facing financial insecurities. To learn more about this fully subsidized option, please email Rose Daily at rdaily@cityofsunprairie.com

BUCKET & ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

How do I get my food scrap bucket? There are two ways to get your food scrap bucket once you're registered. Option 1: pickup your bucket at the June 28th Sun Prairie Farmers' Market held in Cannery Square from 7AM to 12PM. Option 2: wait for your bucket to be delivered to your home on or around July 1st.

When will the first bucket swap occur? The first bucket swap will occur the morning of Tuesday July 8th. Your exact swap time will be communicated to you by Green Box. Bucket swaps will continue on a biweekly basis (i.e. July 22nd, August 5th, August 19th, etc.)

What items can I put in my bucket? Acceptable items include fruits, vegetables, nuts, pits, seeds, dairy products, meat (including skin and bones), bread, pastries, pasta, rice, other grains, coffee grounds, tea leaves, coffee filters, yard waste, plant trimmings, cardboard egg cartons, non-waxy pizza boxes, and soiled paper products (paper towel).

What items should I avoid putting in my bucket? Unacceptable items include plastics, metals, liquids, excessive oils and fats, pet droppings, produce stickers, twist ties, and garbage.

Are compostable cups, containers, and other foodware items acceptable? Only BPI-certified compostable containers and TUV Austria certified containers are acceptable. Please avoid putting other containers in your bucket, even if they are labeled as "compostable" or "biodegradable." Green Box's composting system can only effectively break down containers with the BPI and TUV certifications.

FINISHED COMPOST

What will happen to my food scraps? All food scraps collected in this pilot will be composted by Green Box in their in-vessel aerobic composting system.

Will I receive finished compost? Yes! All participants will receive finished compost twice throughout the 18-month pilot. Participants can request their compost be delivered directly to their home, or they can choose to pick it up in person at the Green Box facility.

How much compost will I receive? Participants that request compost be delivered to their home will receive 4-gallons of compost. The compost will be delivered in their 4-gallon food scrap bucket during the biweekly swap. Participants that opt to pick up their compost in person will have the opportunity to take home up to 5 gallons of compost.

I don't have a use for compost. Can I decline receiving compost? Yes, for those that do not wish to receive finished compost, you can request that your compost be donated to a local garden or farm on your behalf. All participants will be asked to fill out a brief form indicating if they would like to receive compost during the pilot, or if they would like it donated.

FEEDBACK SURVEYS

Why are participants required to complete feedback surveys? In order for the city to gather valuable feedback on the success of the pilot, all participating households will be required to fill out feedback surveys twice during the pilot. The feedback gathered through these surveys will inform whether or not the city will continue the program after the pilot period.

How will I receive the feedback surveys? You will receive the feedback surveys via email. If you do not have access to email or if a paper copy is preferred, please contact Rose Daily at rdaily@cityofsunprairie.com

POST PILOT

What will happen after the pilot concludes? This is to be determined. The city will use information gathered in the feedback surveys to inform how to move forward with residential composting at the conclusion of the pilot.