

Food Scraps Pickup Program Pilot Report

Beginning in April of 2023, Ramsey and Washington counties conducted a pilot of the Food Scraps Pickup Program in select areas of Cottage Grove, Maplewood, Newport and North St. Paul. Of the approximate 2,200 eligible households, 248 households participated, exceeding 10% participation.

To participate in the Food Scraps Pickup Program, residents ordered their free supply of food scrap bags, collected food scraps in their homes and then placed the food scrap bags in their trash cart or dumpster for collection. Pilot participants tested this process and were surveyed on their experience.



What pilot participants liked most

"So easy!"

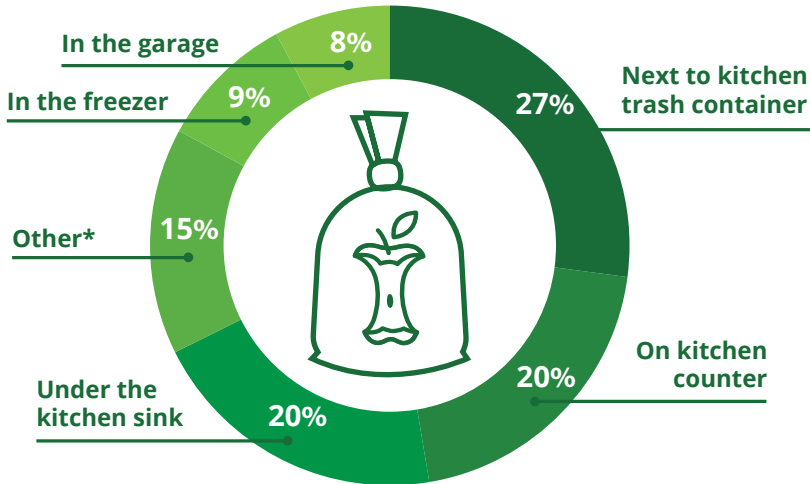
"It's a no-brainer"

"The bags showed up quickly at my door"

"Loved the instructions right on the bag"

- 1 The ease of participating.
- 2 It offers a chance to help the environment.
- 3 More items are accepted than when composting at home.

Where participants stored their food scraps at home



*Other includes refrigerator, alternative spots in kitchen, and alternative rooms in home such as laundry room or basement.



Types of food scrap collection containers used

Garbage/waste bins and cans	28%
Bag-only solutions (no containers)	22%
Buckets and pails	14%
Specialized or varied containers/bins	14%
Plastic containers; nondescript	11%
Metal containers	6%
Food scraps or compost-specific containers	5%

What motivated residents to participate in the Food Scraps Pickup Program

Producing compost instead of waste	77%
Environmental benefits	75%
Providing economic benefits to the community	35%
Convenience	32%



Advice for future Food Scraps Pickup Program participants

“Use the bags carefully – they may get moist through condensation or tear if overfilled.”

“Take time to find the receptacle and storage location that works best for you.”

“The bags are free – just give it a try!”

“By participating, you turn your food scraps into compost that can get reused by cities and residents at no charge.”

“If you are worried about smells, you can use a receptacle with a lid, store in the freezer, or change the bag out more frequently.”

Learn more at FoodScrapsPickup.com