

CRSB MEETING | MAY 14, 2026

Scraps to Soil: Growing a Greener Spokane

Connecting Community through Composting



Jill Reeves | Waste Reduction Education Programs | City of Spokane | Spokane County Regional Solid Waste System



Compost 101

Definition: natural process of organic materials breaking down into nutrient-rich soil

Key Ingredients

- **Carbon** (brown):leaves, cardboard, paper
- **Nitrogen** (green):food scraps, grass clippings
- **Water + Oxygen**



Reduces waste sent for disposal  Returns nutrients to the soil



Backyard Composting Basics



Ideal materials:

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds, eggshells
- Yard trimmings

Best practices:

- Maintain carbon-to-nitrogen balance 3:1
- Keep moisture like a damp sponge
- Turn regularly for airflow



Avoid:

- Meat, dairy, oily foods
- Pet waste
- Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticide
- Diseased or insect ridden plants

Why:

- Can attract raccoons, rodents, pets
- Can create odors and slow decomposition

Curbside Green Cart Service



Accepted materials:

- Food scraps: dairy, meat, bread, fruit, vegetables, pasta, coffee grounds
- Food soiled paper
- Yard debris

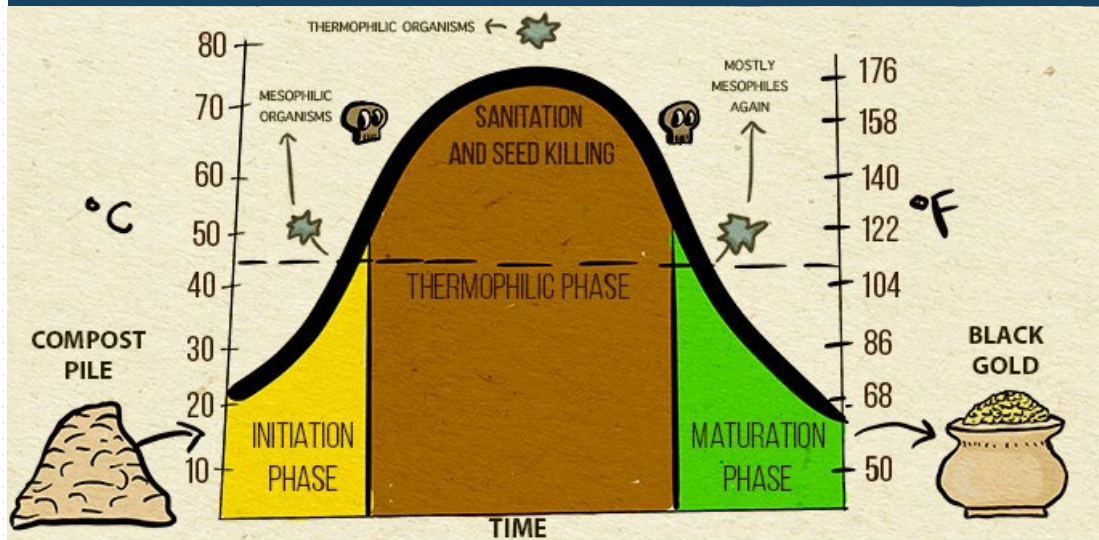


Not Accepted:

- Animal/pet waste
- Litter/garbage *plastic
- Dirt/rocks/gravel/concrete



Active Composting



Minimum size:3x3x3

Active pile 130 degrees Fahrenheit



Outreach and Education

Strong community interest in composting education

Solid Waste Outreach efforts include:

- Youth education (Pre-K–middle school)
- Adult education through Waste Ambassador program
- Free composting classes (4x per year)
- Compost facility tours
- Public events focused on food waste diversion and composting



Community Engagement Highlights

Annual Compost Fair at Finch Arboretum:

- 600 residents reached
- 70 outdoor compost bins distributed
- 145 countertop food waste containers distributed

Event outreach – markets and community events:

- Interactive education booths
- Free composting supplies



Partnerships & Food Waste Reduction

Collaboration with food rescue organizations:

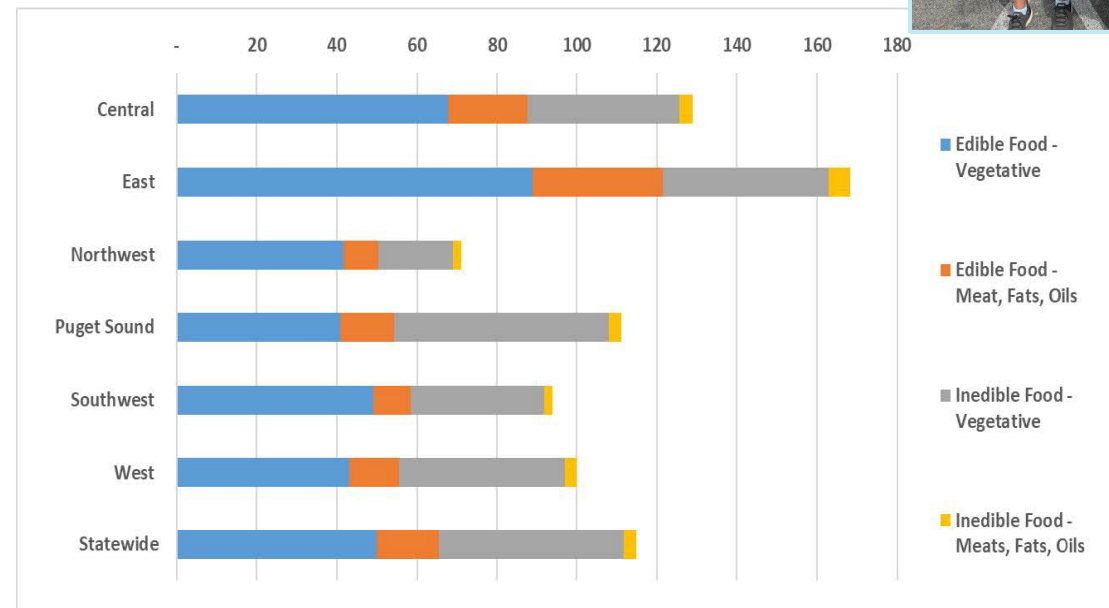
- Increased visibility and connecting resources

Partnership Examples:

- Our Place Community Outreach Center
- Feed Spokane

Food rescue efforts critical to State Food Waste Reduction goals to **Reduce total food waste generated by 50% by 2030** (from 2015 levels)

Residential Food Disposed by Waste Generation Area, 2020-21 per capita



Green Cart Service

More convenient than backyard composting for many

Cost-savings:

- Smaller trash cart + organics service = lower monthly rates

Environmental benefits:

- Reducing reliance on waste-to-energy disposal
- Lowering greenhouse gas emissions associated with organic waste decomposition
- Supporting soil health and local environmental quality
- Advancing state and regional food waste reduction targets

Curbside Service is Sustainable Service



Curbside organic service accepts more than just yard waste - all food scraps can go in your green cart too!



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Looking ahead

- Increase public education through event outreach and communications channels
- Grow Waste Ambassador program and continue to develop meaningful engagement opportunities
- Strengthen youth education programs
- Strengthen community partnerships
- Support community events focused on waste reduction

BECOME A WASTE AMBASSADOR!

Join passionate community members and be part of waste reduction efforts in our region!



Scan for more information



Questions?

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