



## **Recycling and Composting in Northeast Ohio Restaurants**

Restaurants are responsible for contracting for their own waste, recycling and composting services. Cities do not provide these services to businesses. There are numerous drop off locations for cardboard, paper, cans, plastic and glass:

- For drop off locations in the City of Cleveland, visit <http://www.cuyahogaswd.org/en-US/apartment-recycling-guide.aspx> and click on “The City of Cleveland has recycling drop-offs located throughout the municipality” toward the bottom of the page.
- For suburban drop off locations in Cuyahoga County, visit <http://www.cuyahogaswd.org/en-US/community-recycling.aspx>.

### **Tips on Establishing a Recycling and Composting Program in a Restaurant**

While drop offs are an option, recycling needs to be convenient in order to increase participation and divert valuable resources from our landfills. It is generally better to get a recycling contract for your restaurant. Property managers and property owners will benefit from a recycling program by paying less for waste disposal and being able to offer an additional amenity to tenants. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District has developed the following step-by-step process to help property managers and restaurant managers start recycling and composting.

#### **STEP 1: Add Up Your Waste Disposal Costs**

A good way to start is to add up a year’s worth of trash bills to determine what you currently pay to landfill your waste. In addition, estimate the amount of waste currently produced. Ask your hauler to calculate this figure for you. They should be able to do this. Next, review your current contract to see if there are any restrictions to hiring another hauler to provide recycling if your current hauler does not.

#### **STEP 2: Contact Your Waste Hauler**

Contact your current waste hauler to see what recycling and composting services they are able to provide and what they charge. They may be able to offer recycling and composting at the same or at a lower cost than waste disposal. While there is typically an additional cost for recycling and composting dumpsters or cart services, a good recycling and composting program could reduce the number of weekly trash pulls by 40% or more. These reduced dumpster pulls will lower waste disposal costs. If your current waste hauler does not offer recycling services, consider contacting one of the following waste haulers that does provide recycling:

- **City of Cleveland**, Commercial Waste Division, contact: Victor Rucker (216) 664-2333 / [vrucker@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto:vrucker@city.cleveland.oh.us).
- **J&J Refuse**, contact: Don Johnson (330) 963-5493 / [djohnson@jandjrefuse.com](mailto:djohnson@jandjrefuse.com)
- **Landmark**, contact: Mark Frank (330) 802-2237 / [trashdr1@yahoo.com](mailto:trashdr1@yahoo.com)
- **Republic Waste Services**, contact: Neil Carlson (440) 458-3102 / [NCarlson@republicservices.com](mailto:NCarlson@republicservices.com)
- **Rumpke Waste**, contact: Shane Leftridge, (888) 786-7531 / [shane.leftridge@rumpke.com](mailto:shane.leftridge@rumpke.com)
- **Waste Management Inc.**, contact: Joe Mistretta (440) 343-8319 / [jmistretta@wm.com](mailto:jmistretta@wm.com)

Consider these composters:

- **Rosby Resource Recovery**, contact: Ian Rosby (216) 739-2220 / [irosby@rosbycompanies.com](mailto:irosby@rosbycompanies.com)
- **Waste Management**, contact: Tom Farnsworth (330) 204-4244 / [tfarnswo@wm.com](mailto:tfarnswo@wm.com)

### **STEP 3: Evaluate Costs by Projecting Recycling**

Once you have obtained prices for recycling and composting services, estimate how much recycling and composting your restaurant produces, then calculate your waste disposal savings. The District has a calculator that can help you with this. See the District's *Less is More: A Guide to Recycling in the Workplace* (Appendix A: Waste Collection Worksheet), available online: <http://www.cuyahogasd.org/en-US/recycle-at-work.aspx>

### **STEP 4: Set up Your Recycling and Composting Collection System**

You will need to determine what type of container(s) your facility has space for and what works best for your employees. Possible choices are additional dumpsters in a central location and/or wheeled 96-gallon carts. The key is to make it easy for your employees. Once you establish your collection infrastructure, start service!

### **STEP 5: Educate Your Staff**

Education is key to making sure employees and custodians alike understand what is recyclable and compostable and how the recycling and composting system works. Make sure your employees and custodians know what is expected of them and how to use the new system so that separated recyclables and food waste do not end up in your trash dumpster.

### **STEP 6: Expand Your Program**

Non-traditional materials like fluorescent bulbs, electronic waste, furniture, appliances and yard trimmings can also be recycled. For assistance, call the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District's Business Recycling Specialist at 216-443-3749.

### **STEP 7: Track Your Success**

Monitor your progress and share your results. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District has an annual awards program to recognize outstanding waste reduction, recycling and composting programs – let us know what you are doing so that we can celebrate your success!

**For help with restaurant recycling and composting, contact the  
Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District's  
Business Recycling Specialist at 216-443-3749**

