

FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

Food loss and waste in the United States accounts for approximately 30 percent of the overall food supply available to retailers and consumers. So please assist and work to reduce food waste.

Food Waste generally comes in two basic categories:

- 1) Food that can be used by others (re-purposed);
- 2) Food that needs to be thrown away.

RE-PURPOSING: In Mecklenburg County, you have options for both of those food categories. For food that can be re-purposed, please consider donating usable food that you have to an organization that can get it to those in need. Please pre-plan this for any events that you might have, anticipate where usable left-over food can be taken. Usually, this has critical timing so that you can get the food to a donation location before it spoils or becomes un-usable. Attached are a few of the locations in the Mecklenburg area that have indicated they will accept usable foods. This list is not meant to endorse any particular group, but to assist you with a starting point to consider. We suggest using your search engine to learn more about these and other groups.

Re-purposed/Usable Food Donation Groups:

- Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
- Urban Ministry Center

FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING: Composting Food Waste is an acceptable mechanism to process food materials that require disposal.

There are limitations on the types of foods (primarily meats) that may or may not be acceptable. In Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte is piloting separate food waste collection in specific areas of the City. The collected food waste is then transported to a certified facility that processes the food waste in a composting process.

At this time, Mecklenburg County is aware of only one private vendor that services the residential community for collection of food waste, this is Crown Town Compost. They offer their services for separate fees and they are not associated with municipal collection. Crown Town collects the food waste, and then will transport the materials to a facility located outside of Mecklenburg County for processing. If you desire their services, please use your search engine to explore their services. Mecklenburg County cannot endorse any particular vendor, however we provide information to the community on these types of specialized services when we are aware.

Yard Waste Composting – Special Note: Mecklenburg County operates yard waste composting facilities in the County, but these sites are NOT allowed or permitted to accept food wastes.

