

Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin – Onward Organics

There's a big change going into effect January 1, 2022, that may make it easier for you to reduce your waste. Food scraps and non-recyclable papers such as napkins make up the biggest category of material that's in your trash. We trash talkers call these organics, and we've come up with a plan to get them out of your garbage.

Garbage haulers are now required to offer you curbside organics recycling service. Like yard waste service it will be an optional, opt-in service that your hauler will most likely charge a fee for. How haulers will provide the service and how much they'll charge will be determined by each hauler. So, check with your hauler for details. Or you can continue to bring your organics to the [Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility](#) and get rid of them there for free.



Right now, organics are composted and turned into a nutrient rich soil amendment. However, Hennepin County is planning to add an anaerobic digestion facility on the west side of Brooklyn Park. We trash talkers call this AD. Unfortunately, you can't find trash talk translations on the Babel app, so I try my best to explain these words in plain English.

The AD facility will capture the naturally occurring gas given off when organics decompose. That gas can be refined into natural gas – the same type of gas used to produce energy for our homes and to power certain big vehicles. Look for the AD facility to be online sometime in 2025.

For those of you who want to compost organics in your backyard, we'll be hosting an online compost bin and rain barrel sale again. Ordering begins in March at www.RecycleMinnesota.org and pick up day will be Saturday, May 7. A big difference between backyard composting and organics recycling is that organics recycling accepts meat scraps and dairy products – items you don't put in your backyard compost bin.

Until next time, onward with organics recycling my friends.