

# Scarsdale Food Scrap Recycling Program Serves as Model to Other Municipalities

**Submitted by  
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The Scarsdale Food Scrap Recycling Program started in Jan 2017 as a drop-off program where Scarsdale residents could come and drop their food scraps off into designated bins at our town recycling center. Once a week those bins are emptied and taken to a commercial composting facility and turned into compost. This program was the first of its kind in Westchester County and right from the start was a success with high community participation and an extremely clean stream of organics. Since it's beginning in Jan 2017 over 496,000 pounds of food scraps have been collected and composted through the program.

In June 2018 Scarsdale approved the first curbside pickup program for food scraps in Westchester County. Now every Scarsdale resident can have their food scraps bin picked up weekly at their home. The home pickup program has been extremely successful and participation in the food scrap recycling program has greatly increased with the addition of this new service.

The program has had a dramatic effective outside of Scarsdale as well. Many municipalities throughout Westchester (and outside of Westchester) have visited the drop-off site in order to set up a similar program in their town. Since Scarsdale started the program, 12 municipalities have started their own food scrap recycling programs based on the Scarsdale model. Following is the current list of Westchester municipalities that now have a food scrap recycling program in place: Scarsdale, New Castle, Larchmont, Town of Mamaroneck, Village of Mamaroneck, Bedford, Greenburgh, Rye Brook, Hastings, Tarrytown, Irvington, Rye.

Most recently, Rye has just approved a curbside food scrap pickup program. We are confident that other towns will soon follow!

If you are interested in starting a food scrap recycling program in your town, Ron and Michelle are happy to share their model and help get you started. They can be reached at [composting@scarsdale.com](mailto:composting@scarsdale.com)