

# Look Who's Composting!

## Apartment and Condo Food Waste Collection

March 2010



**Composting!**

**Good for  
the Earth.**

**Good for  
Business.**



**Why Waste a  
Good Thing?**

**Sign Up Today!**

**206-684-7665**

**Seattle  
Public  
Utilities**



Would you like to reduce your trash, help the environment, and potentially reduce repair costs associated with garbage disposals? Join other properties doing just that through the City of Seattle's food waste collection program.

In 2007-2009, more than 40 properties participated in a food waste test project. Every week 2,000 pounds of food waste were diverted from the landfill. Instead of throwing food into the garbage, residents sorted food and food-soiled paper (such as pizza boxes) into carts. The material was collected weekly and delivered to a local facility where it was processed into compost for local parks and gardens. Below are examples of results.

### **Epicenter Apartments**

This mixed-use building is located in Fremont, with retail at street level and 130 apartment units above. The Epicenter's manager and tenants were excited to start collecting food waste, and continue to be enthusiastic. For tenant convenience, food collection carts are located in the garage. A maintenance staffperson moves the containers outside each week for pickup. Michelle Casebeer, Assistant Community Manager, said, "**Residents love this program and feel it is extremely important.**"

### **Amesbury Court Apartments**

This 114-unit north Seattle complex has an ethnically diverse population, so Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) created **educational materials in six languages**. Carts for these tenants were located outside, next to the garbage and recycling dumpsters, at opposite ends of the 3-building complex. Manager Michael Bue said, "**I would absolutely recommend this program – it saves money for the property because of the reduced wear and tear on garbage disposals.**"



### **Imperial Crown Apartments**

Since the Imperial Crown had a history of illegal dumping, the manager was concerned about contamination in the food waste cart. However, he and his supportive tenants sent 440 gallons of food waste to be composted with **no instances of contamination during the four months of participation!** This building was provided with educational materials in English and Spanish, because the manager estimated that almost half of the tenants were Spanish-speaking. Manager Andy Zavada said, "**The program is great! It was never a burden for me as property manager.**"

### **Guinevere Apartments**

Tenants at this multi-use building in Greenwood asked for food waste collection, so the manager was happy to learn of this City program. The Guinevere promoted the new food waste collection service to tenants through their building newsletter. The manager was **especially excited about getting the "many" pizza boxes out of the garbage**. Of all the test project properties, the 139-unit Guinevere collected the most — an average of 125 gallons per week. Manager Julia Welch said, "**The tenants are extremely happy with the program and relieved that it is finally available to apartments and condos.**"



## SCIDPA

The Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA) manages a variety of commercial and multi-family tenant buildings in the International District. Through a combination of internal trash room containers and curb-alley collection service at the Bush Hotel, New Central, DVA, Eastern Hotel, NP Hotel, NT and Jackson buildings, **more than 350 families participate in food waste collection programs, diverting an average of two tons of food waste each month.** Free trainings and educational handouts were provided in multiple languages for the ethnically diverse community that makes up this neighborhood.

## Bagley Lofts Condominiums

Residents of this Wallingford condominium building asked to be included in this program as soon as they heard about it. **One tenant is a diligent on-site "champion," distributing educational materials, watching for problems, and encouraging participation.** On pick-up day, the food material collector uses a security card to access the carts that are located in the indoor parking garage.



**More than 160 multi-family properties in Seattle are now offering food waste collection!**

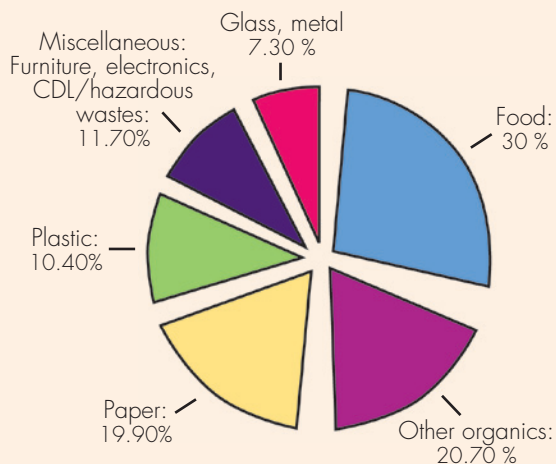


## Benefits

- ✓ Sign up a FORC for a \$100 credit toward service
- ✓ Free liner bags for the cart
- ✓ Free translated materials
- ✓ Free compostable bag samples for residents (limited quantity)
- ✓ Free technical assistance
- ✓ Meet residents' recycling desires
- ✓ Keep food out of the landfill
- ✓ Sign up for a free e-newsletter

Food waste makes up more than 30% of residential multi-family garbage. Greg Conner, the manager of Pinehurst Apartments said, **"The amount of garbage that we produce is frightening. It is much better to compost it than to send it to the landfill."**

## MULTI-FAMILY GARBAGE COMPOSITION



## What goes in the cart?

All food waste including food-soiled paper, such as:

- ✓ Fruit and vegetable scraps
- ✓ Meat, chicken, fish, shell fish, bones
- ✓ Eggs, cheese, all dairy products
- ✓ Grains, breads, pasta
- ✓ Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- ✓ Pizza boxes, food soiled paper
- ✓ Waxed cardboard
- ✓ Uncoated paper plates (such as Chinex; thin ruffle edged), paper napkins
- ✓ House plants (no pots)
- ✓ No fat, oil, or grease

Instead of being hauled 310 miles by train to a landfill, collected food waste is delivered to a local facility where it is processed into compost. This compost is used on local parks and gardens: good for the Earth, good for the environment, and the right thing to do. "Why waste a good thing?"