

Somers Food Waste Questions & Answers (Q&A)

Why is the Town of Somers doing this? *Connecticut is facing a waste crisis: waste disposal capacity is decreasing, hauling fees are increasing, and municipalities need a sustainable solution to manage and reduce waste. The General Assembly raised bill No. 191 during this past February. On or before January 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall require each municipality to establish a program requiring residents to separate food scraps and food processing residues from other solid waste to ensure that such residentially generated source-separated organic material is recycled.*

Can all Somers Residents participate? *Yes. All Somers residents can participate. Each resident must register for the Food Waste Program.*

What is the benefit of doing this? *Your participation in this effort will reduce methane emission from landfills, decreases our hauling and disposal fees, and produce clean and renewable energy.*

I backyard compost, do I have to participate? *We encourage you to continue composting, but all non-composted food waste items, such as meat bones, baked goods, snacks, and nuts and shells are recyclable through this program. Also, if you do not compost in the winter, you can use the program to divert your food waste from your waste stream.*

Who Collects the material (food waste) and where does it go? *The food waste collected at the Recycling Center is picked up on Tuesdays by USA Hauling and then delivered to Vanguard Renewables or Quantum Biopower where all the food waste is converted into clean energy.*

Who should I contact for questions or concerns? *The Somers Recycling Coordinator at (860) 763-8234 or email: kowren@somersct.gov.*

Can bones go in with food scraps? *Yes. Poultry, pork, beef, shellfish, and fish bones can go in with your food scraps. Please NO deceased animals or carcasses.*

Can nut shells go with my food scraps? *Yes, all nut shells like pistachio, walnut, peanut, hazelnut, chestnut, etc. are acceptable to go into your food scraps bin.*

Can place a DD paper coffee container in the bag with coffee grounds? *Only the coffee grounds. No paper, plates, plastics, filters, or tissues.*

Can I put paper products like tissue (Kleenex) and paper napkins in the bag? *No. Paper, plastic, metal, glass, trash, any foreign object is not acceptable.*

Do I tie the bag up while in the container with waste it in and then close the lid ? Or can I just leave the top open with the lid closed? *I would suggest leaving the bag open like you would your garbage bag in your trash can. You can close the lid once you place something in it or it is not in use. If you shut the bag, it will start creating heat. You want air to flow so it will not start the decomposing process.*

Do I need to remove coffee grounds from the paper filter before adding them to the food waste? *Yes. You will have to remove the coffee ground from the filter. If you can let it dry for a little while, the ground will come much easier.*

What can I do with my coffee pods? *If you wish to take the coffee grounds from your pods, cut the lid open and let the grounds dry. Once dry, empty the grounds into your bin. Dispose of the pod.*