

# HARWICH GOES GREEN(ER)!



The Garden Club of Harwich’s mission is to educate and beautify Harwich. The GCH’s Conservation Committee chooses to focus on the education component of our mission. To that end, we take on a new initiative annually. This year, we’re all about COMPOSTING.

As we researched the benefits of composting, we learned that the Mass DEP has set a goal to reduce food waste going to landfills by 30% by 2030 and 90% by 2050. Food waste is the single most common material sent to landfills and is responsible for 58% of landfill methane emissions. A town foodscrap collection program would significantly reduce methane and carbon dioxide from landfills, which in turn helps with climate change. A town wide program diverting foodscraps from the waste stream could also lengthen the lifespan of our landfill. The resulting compost would make the soil more resilient. It could capture more carbon and help retain moisture and improve soil health. Win-win-win for Cape Cod!

We’ve partnered with the Harwich DPW in designing a foodscrap collection program that debuted as of 7/1/2024 to widespread enthusiasm from residents. Folks may bring their foodscraps to the Transfer Station where it is collected by Black Earth Composting. To date, we’ve diverted over 10 tons of foodscraps from the waste stream and it is returned to the earth as rich, healthy compost.

**LEARN MORE!** To see what items are accepted in Harwich’s town foodscraps program, go to <http://www.harwichhighway.com/>. To chat about how to start a program in your town, touch base with Diane DiGennaro, HGC Conservation Chair at [riodd@comcast.net](mailto:riodd@comcast.net).



**Harwich Food Waste Disposal**

| WHAT CAN GO IN? YES    | NO! NO! NO!                  |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Coffee grounds/filters | No human or pet waste        |
| Non-synthetic tea bags | No kitty litter              |
| (with staples)         | No produce stickers          |
| Fruits and veggies     | No produce bags/plastic wrap |
| Meat and seafood       | No paper/cardboard           |
| (bones, shells & raw)  | No packaging                 |
| Dairy Products         | No automotive fuel           |
| Eggs/shells            | No aerosols                  |
| Pasta, grains, breads  | No plastics                  |
| Custard/ice/lemony     | No compostable diapers       |
| Milk                   | No tires or rubber bands     |
| Food Soiled Paper      |                              |
| Tissue/wipers          |                              |
| Pet food               |                              |

See full list at <http://www.harwichhighway.com>

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