

Mayor's Update



Compost, Grow, Eat, Repeat

Cucumber peels, chicken bones, lobster shells, even paper napkins – it's all food waste. It's also heavy. Food waste makes up 26 percent of the weight of the trash in Massachusetts, filling landfills and costing us a lot of money in waste disposal fees.

Most important, if we compost our food waste we create dirt that can grow more food.

Food waste doesn't have to be thrown out with the garbage.

The City of Newton is partnering with Black Earth Compost to offer a once-a-week household curbside food waste collection service for your meat, dairy, fruits & veggies, and coffee grounds,

tea bags and more.

The City went out to bid to vet a vendor on behalf of Newton residents. The service will cost Newtonians \$59.99 for six months, plus a one-time start-up fee of \$34 to pay for a 13-gallon lockable bin to collect food waste for weekly pick-up on the curb by Black Earth Compost.

Black Earth Composting is already giving Newton a volume discount. The cost per Newton household will go down even more as more people sign up. When 3,000 households are enrolled in the program the price will fall to \$49.99 for six months. It will fall to \$44.99 for six months once there are 5,000 households enrolled, and to \$39.99 for six months once 7,500 or more households are enrolled in the curbside composting program.

The City's Five-Year Climate Action Plan motto is "Use Less and Green the Rest." This is an exciting opportunity for Newton to partner with this Massachusetts company to help those who sign-up "Green the Rest."

It's no secret recycling costs are increasing dramatically, and the City's next contract with Waste Management (our waste and recycling contractor) reflects that as well as increases in salaries and other costs. In the coming year, Newton will have to pay approximately \$1 million more for our recycling and trash collection. Every bit we can reuse and green instead of throwing out will help the planet and our wallets.

Get more information about composting and sign up for Black Earth Compost at www.blackearthcompost.com.

Watch a short video and learn more [here](#).

Don't Trash Your

Halloween Pumpkin, Smash It - And donate your Treats to Troops

Want to start composting and have some fun? Start with your Halloween pumpkin – don't trash it, come with the whole family and smash it.

You can also donate your leftover Halloween candy to Treats for Troops to let our deployed service members feel connected to home.

Bring your pumpkin and candy to the War Memorial Circle behind City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave. on Nov. 2, the Saturday after Halloween, from 11:00 a.m.

to 2:00 p.m. and have some fun smashing it before it goes off to the compost pile and becomes dirt to grow next year's patch.




BRING UNWANTED CANDY TO BE
DONATED TO TREATS FOR TROOPS

**TREATS
FOR
TROOPS**

PUMPKIN SMASH 2019


GREEN YOUR HALLOWEEN

COMPOST YOUR PUMPKIN
AT THIS LOCATION:

 1000 COMMONWEALTH
AVE
**NEWTON CITY HALL
WAR MEMORIAL CIRCLE**

*Remove candles and decorations.

DON'T TRASH IT,
SMASH
IT!!

 Saturday, November 2nd

 11 am - 2 pm

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 5 City election for City Council and School Committee is Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 8:00 p.m. You can register in person in the City Clerk's office at City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave., online [here](#), or by mail postmarked no later than Oct. 16. Not sure if you're registered? Check [here](#).

