

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



PRESS RELEASE

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RELEASE**

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Public Works continues to offer composting assistance to residents

PORTSMOUTH, NH – Last summer, the Portsmouth Department of Public Works made available a food waste drop-off at the Recycling Center to provide an outlet to residents in more urban areas who wish to compost their food waste but do not have adequate outdoor space to do it themselves. To continue their promotion of composting food waste, Public Works will be purchasing backyard compost bins to sell to residents at a 50% discount.

Providing discounted compost bins to residents will encourage homeowners to start or continue their own backyard composting efforts and further reduce food waste going to the landfill. Earth Machine compost bins will be made available to residents for \$50, normally a \$100 retail value. Earth Machines are made of at least 50% post-consumer recycled polyethylene, come with a ten year warranty and provide a large, 80-gallon capacity. Residents will be able to purchase the compost bins, available at the end of May, at the Department of Public Works on Peverly Hill Road.

“Since adding a food waste drop-off location at the Recycling Center, we are pleased to see resident participation and ongoing conversations of interest in expanding these efforts,” said Jacob Levenson, Solid Waste Sustainability Coordinator for Portsmouth. “This community continues to maintain an impressive 55% average landfill diversion rate and I am hopeful to see that trend continue.”

The food waste drop-off is available to Portsmouth residents during normal operational hours and maintained by local company Mr. Fox Composting. Acceptable items to compost include:

- food scraps: vegetables, fruit & meat (please remove any stickers from vegetables or fruit);
- eggshells;

- coffee grounds & filters;
- paper napkins, plates, and towels;
- tea bags (please remove staples);
- muffin wax wrappers;
- flowers & floral trimmings;
- wooden corks; and
- all corn-based cups and utensils.

For more information, please:

- contact Jacob Levenson at 766-1412 or jalevenson@cityofportsmouth.com;
- follow [@PortsmouthDPW](https://twitter.com/PortsmouthDPW) on Twitter; and
- visit www.cityofportsmouth.com.