

Current topics:

Keeping Organic Materials out of Landfills – Why?

Much is being written currently about diverting organic materials from landfills. What is included in this category? Food waste is at the top of the list, followed by yard waste such as leaves and brush.

Why are these materials a problem in landfills? Because they emit methane gas as they decompose within the layers of waste without oxygen being available. **Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere.** Even though CO₂ has a longer-lasting effect, methane sets the pace for warming in the near term. At least 25% of today's global warming is driven by methane from human actions.

So what other options are available to residents?

1. During spring and fall, the Town of Henrietta schedules dates for residents to take yard waste to the drop-off site on Martin Road. These dates are published each year in Henrietta Happenings.
2. Grass clippings are not a problem if you use a mulching mower. The clippings decompose on your lawn and provide fertilizer for the grass.
3. If you are able, a composter in your yard will take care of most of your food scraps (but not meat or fat). You will get wonderful compost which can be spread on your lawn or gardens. Composters are easy to maintain and information is readily available on-line.
4. You can subscribe to Impact Earth Composting and have all of your compostable materials (food scraps, including meat, and paper products) picked up at your home – or you can take them to a drop-off location. Once a year you will receive compost back for use in your garden. For more information go to IMPACTEARTHROC.COM.
5. If you buy a live Christmas tree, you can take it to Tinker Park in January, where it will be turned into chipped mulch for the park trails.
6. And looking ahead, the Town of Henrietta is planning a vermiculture food composting site (using worms that do all the work) that will provide a local site for composting of organic materials. Stay tuned for more details to come.