

Don't let the pandemic sink sustainability - Staying Green During COVID-19): The Pandemic Guide to Recycling & Waste Reduction

The most important & effective thing we can all do is Reduce Our Use by buying only what we need including food, clothing & other consumer goods & look for alternatives to plastic in all our purchases.

Food Scraps/Composting

Sadly with the city's suspension of organics recycling we no longer have brown bin pick up however there are other sustainable options for those of us who can't manage do-it-yourself composting.

Food Scrap Drop off sites

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/services/food-scraps-and-yard-waste-page/nyc-food-scrap-drop-off-locations>

Food scrap drop off sites can accept:

- Fruits, vegetables, eggshells
- Coffee, tea, nuts
- Bread, grains, pasta
- Dried flowers, houseplants, and leaves

Bronx:

- **Riverdale Sunday Market** – Parking lot at 4545 Independence Ave (at 246th Street) – Sundays from 11:30-12:30
- Lehman College Security Booth at Paul Ave & Bedford Pk Blvd *Mondays 8-10am*
- **Kingsbridge Heights Community Center** 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace #5900 *Wednesdays*
Phone: (718) 884-0700 contact: Gerry Sherman
- **Church of the Mediator Composting Initiative** 260 W 231st St *Saturdays 10-12 AM*
- **Meg's Community Garden @ DeWitt Clinton High School Campus**, 100 W Mosholu Pkwy S (facing Sedgwick Ave) *Saturdays 10am to 2pm* <https://www.jamesbaldwinoutdoorlearningcenter.org/>

If you are interested in starting your own food scrap drop off site, contact the NYC Compost Project hosted by the New York Botanical Garden at (718) 817-8543 and compost@nybg.org.

Compost Pick-Up Services

(fees based on frequency of pick up & quantity of food waste)

- **Vokashi** (NYC and Westchester), www.vokashi.com, (718) 623-2515, cell (718) 623-1911
- **BK ROT's Rabbit Roots** (North & Central Brooklyn ONLY), <https://www.bkrot.org/home-pick-up>

- **GreenFeen Organix** (Northwest Bronx, Morris Park, Parkchester, Upper Manhattan), www.greenfeenorganix.com, info@greenfeenotganix.com, (917) 727-4453. GreenFeen Organix is a women led, worker-owned, cooperative business.
- **Reclaimed Organics** (Manhattan ONLY, south of 100th Street and all the way south to Battery Park, east to west), www.reclaimedorganics.org, info@reclaimedorganics.org, (347) 395-6377. Reclaimed Organics is a bike-powered compost pickup service.

Other Resources:

Clothing/Textiles

Green Tree Recycling leaves a collection bin at the Riverdale Y Sunday Market every Sunday that the market is open (generally May through November). You can find out more by going to their website at www.greentreetextiles.org, including where to find them during the winter. They accept textiles in any condition, shoes, and accessories. The Riverdale Y Sunday Market is at 4545 Independence Avenue, just south of 246th Street.

The clothing retailer **H & M** also accepts textiles in any condition. Every store has a recycling bin. Go to <https://hmgroupp.com/sustainability/circular-and-climate-positive/recycling.html> to find out more.

Recycling

TerraCycle (<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US>) offers a range of national, easy-to-use recycling platforms allowing everyone to #RecycleEverything

Key Food (540 W 235th St), **Stop & Shop** (5716 Broadway) & **Target** stores are still collecting plastic bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags and other plastic film for recycling

Getting Rid of Junk Mail

Junk mail generates a huge amount of waste. Here are some tips to stop the stream once and for all: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-to-stop-junk-mail_n_5b27beb7e4b056b2263c5b54

Better Buying

WHOGIVESACRAP.ORG sustainably produced, plastic-free toilet paper & paper towels plus they donate 50% of profits to help build toilets to provide proper sanitation for the 2 billion people in need

ThriveMarket.com membership-based online market for healthy food & household goods; “A better market is one that’s better for people and for the planet...our mission is to make healthy living easy and affordable”; 100% carbon-neutral company, partnering to protect nearly 500,000 acres of rainforest in the Amazon; every paid membership to Thrive Market is matched with a free one for someone in need

Plastic-free, Zero-waste Gift Guide 10 tips to help you skip the plastic, reduce waste and give green - <https://www.beyondplastics.org/green-gifts>

Reduce Your Use

Ordering Take Out; hold the plastic - When placing your to go order, opt out of single-use cutlery and other single-use items such as condiment packets. Disposable forks, knives and spoons are really not necessary if you are eating at home.

Replace Disposable with Reusable – Water bottles, plastic food storage bags, paper napkins have reusable options that will save you money over time; try stainless steel water bottles, washable silicone storage bags (<https://www.stasherbag.com/>); cloth napkins