



SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FOR  
RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING EDUCATION  
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BUILDING 2, SUITE 108  
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

Greetings,

Thank you for your interest in participating in SCARCE's third annual pumpkin collection. This year's event will be held on **Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm**. Last year was a great success with twelve sites collecting a total of 26.5 tons of pumpkins for composting. Think of all the water and nutrients that were sent back to Illinois' soil! This year we look forward to expanding the collection by working with more locations and helping more residents green their Halloween.

Significant progress has been made in our state to facilitate collections of food scraps for composting. Illinois House Bill 437 – Organic Composting drop offs - was signed into law by Governor Rauner on July 10, 2015 allowing temporary and permanent sites to collect organics for composting. Thanks to this success, our pumpkin collection can continue with the support of the Illinois government. Showing our state's love of all things pumpkin, Gov. Rauner signed off on pumpkin pie as our official state pie in January 2016.

Our goal for this event, besides reducing valuable resources from being sent to the landfill, is to *educate residents about composting and how to do it correctly*. This means teaching residents about removing contaminants before composting, such as candles, stickers and any sort of decorations on their pumpkins. We hope this event will provide education to help pave the way for successful municipal curbside composting programs.

Thank you again for helping us to expand this important work in our county. We look forward to your participation.

Regards,

The SCARCE Team





## 2016 Pumpkin Collection Guide

This guide was created to help Illinois city administrators organize and hold a 1-day pumpkin collection event after Halloween to collect Jack-o-Lanterns from residents. Along with this guide you should receive:

Intro letter  
Mini-fliers (8/sheet)  
Half sheet & full sheet sample fliers  
Pumpkin Factsheet  
IEPA Conditions for One-Day Pumpkin collection events

### **Event Coordination: Approval, Haulers, Pick-up**

1. Determine a visible location with good entrance and exit paths
2. Obtain written approval from city or county (if unincorporated) for event. *No permit is required for this event.* Details below
3. Submit approval letter your county's recycling coordinator.
4. Work with your hauler to arrange for a roll-off container, with tarp. \* Drop off time is the afternoon before, if possible. Arrange a Monday morning pick up. *Depending on the size of your community you may need two roll-offs.*
5. Hauler must provide the destination for pumpkin composting.
6. Hauler must provide weight of pumpkins collected from event.
7. Let SCARCE know of your participation so that we can help promote the event.

Contact SCARCE [info@scarce.org](mailto:info@scarce.org) or 630.545-9710 with any questions.

\*Haulers have provided this service free-of-charge for many locations. Some are required to do "x" # of special collection events each year as part of their contract with the municipality.

### **Approval Letter & Notification**

All hosts must obtain a written letter from their city or county (if event location is unincorporated). The letter must include the date of the event, location, and time. It must also list the types of compostable waste being collected ("pumpkins", in this case).

A copy of the approval must be sent to the county recycling coordinator **30 days prior** to the event if it is to be held in a county with a population greater than 400,000 and less than 2,000,000.

### **Promotion**

Included with this guide are samples of fliers and a factsheet that can be used in promotion. *Update the fliers with your location and any other pertinent information.*

There is a mini-flier sheet (double sided) that is used for promoting the event to trick-or-treaters. Encourage people to hand them out with their treats on Halloween.

Get fliers or notices in your city newsletter, on the city website, in school newsletters, anywhere you can! If a local business or city has a scrolling outdoor message board, try to get it on there.

*Make large signs for the event to direct cars to the location.*

### **Staffing & Volunteers**

On the day of the event, make sure to have a couple adults present at all times and 5-10 volunteers depending on the size of your event.

Recruit volunteers from high school or college environmental clubs, honors societies, volunteer clubs etc. It's a fun event where they get to smash pumpkins!

This event can be a bit messy so volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing. Some volunteers may want to bring work gloves as well.

### **Day of the Event**

Arrive early to place signs, some residents may show up early.

Remember the goal is to educate! When resident drop off pumpkins, be sure to explain to them the importance of contaminant-free food scrap composting.

This means **NO**:

- **candles**
- **yarn hair**
- **stickers**
- **googly eyes**
- **plastic ears**

In other words, only the pumpkins themselves can be composted!

Try to engage residents: check for and remove any contaminants in/on the pumpkin. If delivered in a garbage bag, remove the pumpkin from the bag. You can offer them the opportunity to smash their own pumpkin in the dumpster (it can be fun!). Return usable decorations or candles to residents.

### ***Painted pumpkins***

Some residents may bring painted pumpkins, especially blue (it's a way to designate their house as peanut free). Most of this will be acrylic paint and is fully compostable.

### **Supplies:**

- Signs!
- Something to secure signs
- scissors
- Work gloves or plastic gloves (some pumpkins will arrive in a messy state)
- trash bin and/or recycling bin for contaminants from pumpkins

### **Fun Ideas:**

**TAKE PICTURES! Email them to [info@scarce.org](mailto:info@scarce.org) & to city newsletter staff**

Play music from Smashing Pumpkins!

Dress up! Encourage staff and volunteers to wear green, orange or even pumpkin costumes!

Have pumpkin-toss themed games. Get creative with it.

**Event Follow Up**

Send photos from the event and weight of pumpkins collected to city newsletter staff & SCARCE at [info@scarce.org](mailto:info@scarce.org).

## 415 ILCS 5/22.55

(d-5) One-day compostable waste collection event. To further aid in the collection and composting of compostable waste, as defined in subsection (b), a municipality may approve the operation of one-day compostable waste collection events at any site or facility within its territorial jurisdiction, and a county may approve the operation of one-day compostable waste collection events at any site or facility in any unincorporated area within its territorial jurisdiction. The approval granted under this subsection (d-5) must be in writing; must specify the date, location, and time of the event; and must list the types of compostable waste that will be collected at the event. If the one-day compostable waste collection event is to be operated at a location within a county with a population of more than 400,000 but less than 2,000,000 inhabitants, according to the 2010 decennial census, then the operator of the event shall, at least 30 days before the event, provide a copy of the approval to the recycling coordinator designated by that county. The approval granted under this subsection (d-5) may include conditions imposed by the county or municipality as necessary to protect public health and prevent odors, vectors, and other nuisances. A one-day compostable waste collection event approved under this subsection (d-5) must be operated in accordance with the approval, including all conditions contained in the approval. The following requirements shall apply to the one-day compostable waste collection event, in addition to the conditions contained in the approval:

(1) Waste accepted at the event must be limited to the types of compostable waste authorized to be accepted under the approval.

(2) Information promoting the event and signs at the event must clearly indicate the types of compostable waste approved for collection. To discourage the receipt of other waste, information promoting the event and signs at the event must also include:

(A) examples of compostable waste being collected; and

(B) examples of waste that is not being collected.

(3) Compostable waste must be accepted only from private individuals. It may not be accepted from other persons, including, but not limited to, owners and operators of rented or leased residences where it was generated, commercial haulers, and other commercial, industrial, agricultural, and government operations or entities.

(4) Compostable waste must be managed in a manner that protects against releases of the waste, prevents nuisances, and otherwise protects human health and the environment. Compostable waste must be properly secured to prevent it from being accessed by the public at any time, including, but not limited to, during the collection event's non-operating hours. One-day compostable waste collection events must be adequately supervised during their operating hours.

(5) Compostable waste must be secured in non-porous, rigid, leak-proof containers that:

(A) are covered, except when the compostable waste is being added to or removed from the containers or it is otherwise necessary to access the compostable waste;

(B) prevent precipitation from draining through the compostable waste;

(C) prevent dispersion of the compostable waste by wind;

(D) contain spills or releases that could create nuisances or otherwise harm human health or the environment;

(E) limit access to the compostable waste by vectors;

(F) control odors and other nuisances; and

(G) provide for storage, removal, and off-site transfer of the compostable waste in a manner that protects its ability to be composted.

(6) No more than a total of 40 cubic yards of compostable waste shall be located at the collection site at any one time.

(7) Management of the compostable waste must be limited to the following: (A) acceptance, (B) temporary storage before transfer, and (C) off-site transfer.

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(8) All compostable waste received at the event must be transferred off-site to a permitted compost facility by no later than 48 hours after the event ends or by the end of the first business day after the event ends, whichever is sooner.

(9) If waste other than compostable waste is received at the event, then that waste must be disposed of within 48 hours after the event ends or by the end of the first business day after the event ends, whichever is sooner.

(d-6) Permanent compostable waste collection points. To further aid in the collection and composting of compostable waste, as defined in subsection (b), a municipality may approve the operation of permanent compostable waste collection points at any site or facility within its territorial jurisdiction, and a county may approve the operation of permanent compostable waste collection points at any site or facility in any unincorporated area within its territorial jurisdiction. The approval granted pursuant to this subsection (d-6) must be in writing; must specify the location, operating days, and operating hours of the collection point; must list the types of compostable waste that will be collected at the collection point; and must specify a term of not more than 365 calendar days during which the approval will be effective. In addition, if the permanent compostable waste collection point is to be operated at a location within a county with a population of more than 400,000 but less than 2,000,000 inhabitants, according to the 2010 federal decennial census, then the operator of the collection point shall, at least 30 days before the collection point begins operation, provide a copy of the approval to the recycling coordinator designated by that county. The approval may include conditions imposed by the county or municipality as necessary to protect public health and prevent odors, vectors, and other nuisances. A permanent compostable waste collection point approved pursuant to this subsection (d-6) must be operated in accordance with the approval, including all conditions contained in the approval. The following requirements apply to the permanent compostable waste collection point, in addition to the conditions contained in the approval:

(1) Waste accepted at the collection point must be limited to the types of compostable waste authorized to be accepted under the approval.

(2) Information promoting the collection point and signs at the collection point must clearly indicate the types of compostable waste approved for collection. To discourage the receipt of other waste, information promoting the collection point and signs at the collection point must also include (A) examples of compostable waste being collected and (B) examples of waste that is not being collected.

(3) Compostable waste must be accepted only from private individuals. It may not be accepted from other persons, including, but not limited to, owners and operators of rented or leased residences where it was generated, commercial haulers, and other commercial, industrial, agricultural, and government operations or entities.

(4) Compostable waste must be managed in a manner that protects against releases of the waste, prevents nuisances, and otherwise protects human health and the environment. Compostable waste must be properly secured to prevent it from being accessed by the public at any time, including, but not limited to, during the collection point's non-operating hours. Permanent compostable waste collection points must be adequately supervised during their operating hours.

(5) Compostable waste must be secured in non-porous, rigid, leak-proof containers that:

(A) are no larger than 10 cubic yards in size;

(B) are covered, except when the compostable waste is being added to or removed from the container or it is otherwise necessary to access the compostable waste;

(C) prevent precipitation from draining through the compostable waste;

(D) prevent dispersion of the compostable waste by wind;

(E) contain spills or releases that could create nuisances or otherwise harm human health or the environment;

(F) limit access to the compostable waste by vectors;

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(G) control odors and other nuisances; and

(H) provide for storage, removal, and off-site transfer of the compostable waste in a manner that protects its ability to be composted.

(6) No more than a total of 10 cubic yards of compostable waste shall be located at the permanent compostable waste collection site at any one time.

(7) Management of the compostable waste must be limited to the following: (A) acceptance, (B) temporary storage before transfer, and (C) off-site transfer.

(8) All compostable waste received at the permanent compostable waste collection point must be transferred off-site to a permitted compost facility not less frequently than once every 7 days.

(9) If a permanent compostable waste collection point receives waste other than compostable waste, then that waste must be disposed of not less frequently than once every 7 days.



# Pumpkins

## The Fruit of North America

- Native to North America – earliest traced to Mexico
  - They ARE a Fruit
  - Made 90% of water
- Main Nutrients are
- Lutein
  - Alpha Carotene
  - Beta Carotene – generates Vitamin A
- Pumpkins can literally grow all over the world – EVEN ALASKA! The only place they cannot grow is Antarctica due to the extreme cold.
- To grow, Pumpkins need:
- Warm weather
  - Rain – lots of it
  - Soil that can hold water – doesn't drain immediately. The pumpkin needs to soak up the water.
  - Honey Bees – play a significant role in fertilization. If inadequately pollinated, pumpkins will grow, but abort before full development.
- 50 varieties – Most commonly used is the Connecticut Field
- Used for:
- Bread
  - Soup
  - Pies
  - Custard
  - Butter
  - Cookies
  - Animal Feed
  - Seeds
    - Snacks
    - Pumpkin seed oil
  - Paper
  - Phytochemical research
  - Veterinary practices



Native Americans used pumpkins to make mats, food and medicine

#### Biggest Producers

- Worldwide:
    - USA - produces 1.5 billion lbs (680.000.000 kilos) a year
    - Canada
    - Mexico
    - India
    - China
  - In the USA
    - Illinois
    - Indiana
    - Ohio
    - Pennsylvania
    - California
  - Top producing Counties in Illinois
    - Tazewell
    - Mason
    - Will
    - Marshall
    - Logan
    - Kankakee
    - Kane
    - Pike
    - Carroll
    - Woodford
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- Over 85% of pumpkins produced worldwide are canned in Morton, IL at the Libby's/Nestlé processing plant
  - 90% of the pumpkins grown in the United States are raised within a 90-mile radius of Peoria, **Illinois**.
  - Pumpkin Pie was declared the Illinois State Pie in April 2015