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March 2015 EcoFacts



## Commercial Composting

### Why compost?

Composting is as old as dirt, literally! It's the natural process where once-living things break down and release nutrients that feed following generations. Most of the food we throw out today ends up in the landfill. When food and other organics, like paper, decompose in landfills, it create methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

### What's going on today?

Nebraskans have been composting yard waste since the 1990s, but it's only been a couple years since commercial composting operations have incorporated food waste into the mix. In southeast Nebraska, [PrairieLand Dairy](#), [Soil Dynamics](#), and [weCompost](#), are working with businesses, schools and residences to collect and compost their organics. Compostable single use dinnerware and take-out containers are now widely available, making it easier than ever to compost food waste with their containers. Google in Omaha has composted almost 20,000 lbs so far this year under this model!



### What can you do?

Support local composting operations!

- Purchase locally produced bagged compost instead of potting soil
- Sign your business up for food waste collection
- Buy compostable single-use service ware
- Show support for new composting startups

### Policy

In Nebraska, composting facilities fall under the same rules and regulations as landfills in the siting and permitting process. This is deterring the widespread development of new compost facilities in

the state, and contributing to the negative impacts of organics in our landfills. Share these concerns with your state senator, and with local governments in charge of zoning.

Visit [www.wastecapne.org](http://www.wastecapne.org) for all the information you need for recycling in Nebraska.



WasteCap Nebraska  
402-436-2384  
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