Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
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April 2, 2014

You recently received a letter from Metro notifying you of two important changes in the region's commercial food scraps program:

- **As of November 1, 2014, regular or waxed cardboard will no longer be allowed as part of the commercial compost collection.**
- **As of March 1, 2015, only food scraps will be accepted.** Items such as compostable serviceware, napkins and other paper products will not be accepted. Transparent and semi-transparent BPI-certified compostable bags will be the only non-food accepted items.

The facilities processing food scraps from businesses cannot effectively handle cardboard, packaging or other non-food material. Continuing to include non-food items puts the entire commercial composting program at risk.

Moving to a food-only program is a significant shift from the previous list of accepted items on the Cedar Grove website and could be a challenge for some businesses. The City of Portland has resources to assist with the transition.

Resources and assistance available include:

- Updated posters and stickers to label containers and educate employees and customers.
- Informational talking points to communicate changes to employees and customers.
- On-site training for your staff.
- Extensive FAQs.
- List of approved bags and liners on BPI's website: http://products.bpiworld.org/companies/category/bags (must be transparent or semi-transparent and BPI certified).

Contact the City of Portland's Sustainability at Work program for resources and assistance or to provide feedback on how we can support you during the transition.

Phone: 503-823-7037
Email: sustainabilityatwork@portlandoregon.gov
Web: www.portlandoregon.gov/sustainabilityatwork/compost

Collecting commercial food scraps will continue to provide our community the important benefits of generating electricity, creating compost for farms and gardens and reducing greenhouse gases. Your ongoing participation in the food scraps program is appreciated and critical to maintain a stable regional commercial food scraps program that we can all count on for years to come.

To request changes to your service level, contact your garbage and recycling company.