



Compost Up, Downtown Program Application

The City of Bloomington's Department of Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD) is partnering with EarthKeepers to offer a three-month composting trial period for 16 restaurants and retail food establishments through the *Compost Up, Downtown* program.

Through this initiative, eligible food service businesses will receive a waste audit, assistance in setting up compost collections, and three months of compost collection through EarthKeepers, a trial valued at \$5,000. Restaurants will participate as a cohort of four businesses. Program participants will receive customized, discounted quotes for continuing service by the end of the trial period. The purpose of the *Compost Up, Downtown* program is to incentivize businesses in downtown Bloomington to reduce food waste generation and increase diversion from the landfill.

Program Eligibility:

- Retail food establishments must be located in the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (Downtown Bloomington) to be eligible for this program. Please email Lauren Clemens at lauren.clemens@bloomington.in.gov if you have questions about whether your business is eligible.
- Businesses must also hold a valid Monroe County Health Department permanent retail food establishment license.
- Mobile food vendors are not eligible for this program at this point in time.

Program Incentive:

Participating restaurant and retail food establishments in the program will receive the following during the three-month trial:

- Weekly collection of hot-stamped rollers (32-gallons each) and delivery of sanitized replacement rollers. Rollers may be collected two or three times per week, depending on assessed needs.
- 5-gallon buckets and 1.5-gallon pails, with lids, for internal use.
- Waste audit, including presentation and Q&A for owners and staff, a staff training session, discussions with staff to identify common composting contaminants, and custom signage and bin placement.
- Window decals for participants.
- Personalized web-profile on the EarthKeepers website.
- Mixed-media promotions of participating restaurants as EarthKeepers partners.

The program incentive is valued at \$5,000 per participating establishment.

How to Apply:

To apply for the *Compost Up, Downtown*, please complete and send the application form below, either as an online PDF or a printed form, along with an attached copy of your Monroe County Health Department permanent retail food establishment license to Lauren Clemens at lauren.clemens@bloomington.in.gov. Applications must be returned by the dates listed below. When participation is confirmed, a participation agreement must be signed by your organization's on-site manager and designated contact person, if different. The contact person will be the primary point of contact with EarthKeepers during the course of the trial period.

Completion of the application form does not guarantee participation in the program and applications will be received until the intake form submission date for each cohort (see dates below). Applicants will receive confirmation of participation on the dates listed below.

Interested participants can attend an online informational webinar on March 7th, 2022 at 4 PM.

Cohort Dates:

Cohort 1: April 2022 - July 2022

Application due date: March 25th
Confirmation of participation: March 31st
Program prep and waste audit: April 4th - April 18th
12-week trial period: April 18th - July 17th

Cohort 2: June 2022 - October 2022

Application due date: June 10th
Confirmation of participation: June 17th
Program prep and waste audit: June 27th - July 11th
12-week trial period: September 16th

Cohort 3: September 2022 - January 2023

Application due date: September 9th
Confirmation of participation: September 16th
Program prep and waste audit: September 26th - October 10th
12-week trial period: October 10th - January 8th, 2023

Cohort 4: January 2023 - May 2023

Application due date: January 13, 2023
Confirmation of participation: January 20, 2023
Program prep and waste audit: January 30, 2023 - February 12, 2023
12-week trial period: February 12, 2023 - May 14th, 2023

Email Lauren Clemens, Assistant Director of Sustainability, at lauren.clemens@bloomington.in.gov if you have questions related to the program or application process for this program.

Selection Criteria:

Participation in this pilot program will be capped at 16 restaurants in the Bloomington Arts and Entertainment District. Establishments must demonstrate a willingness to actively participate in composting and remain responsive to contact from EarthKeepers throughout the trial period.

Any questions can be directed to Lauren Clemens, Assistant Director of Sustainability at lauren.clemens@bloomington.in.gov.

Application

Applicant Contact Information

Applicant Name:

Applicant Title:

Phone Number:

Email:

Preferred contact method:

Restaurant Information

Business Owner Name:

Restaurant Site Manager (if different from applicant):

Food Establishment Name:

Food Establishment Address:

If multiple addresses, please list all sites that would participate:

Mailing Address (if different from site address):

Email a valid Monroe County Health Department [Permanent Retail Food Establishment License](#) along with your completed application to Lauren Clemens at lauren.clemens@bloomington.in.gov.

General Questions

1. Which cohort would you like to be a part of?

Please rank your cohort preference from 1 most preferred to 4 least preferred. If your business is not interested in a set of cohort dates, please note that next to the cohort with a X.

Note: We cannot guarantee that cohort assignments will match cohort preferences, but care will be taken to sort participating establishments along indicated preferences.

Cohort 1: April 2022 - July 2022

Cohort 2: June 2022 - October 2022

Cohort 3: September 2022 - January 2023

Cohort 4: January 2023 - May 2023

2. How does this program help you fulfill your business mission and values?

3. Is your establishment a part of the [Monroe County Green Business Network](#)?

4. EarthKeepers asks that the business identify a contact person to maintain communication with EarthKeepers throughout the trial period. Ideally, this point of contact is a kitchen manager or someone who is on-site throughout the day.

Name of Point Person:

Job Position:

Phone Number:

Email:

Waste Management Questions

5. Compost Collection Space:

- Is there space in your business' kitchen for a 1 gallon or a 5 gallon bucket for kitchen scraps? (If unknown, please mark unknown.)
- Is there space outside your business for a 32-gallon compost roller? (If unknown, please mark unknown.)

6. **Waste Services and Estimations:** What kind of waste services do you have? (Check all that apply.) If answers are unknown, please mark unknown.

☐ **Garbage:**

- Who is your current waste provider?
- What is the size of your waste collection receptacle (in gallons or yards)?
- How many times a week do you fill the receptacle?
- How much does your business pay per month for waste collection (garbage) services?

☐ **Recycling:**

- If yes, who is your current recycling provider?
- If no, has your business considered starting recycling services?

☐ **Composting:**

- Do you currently have a composting service?
- What is the most per month your business would be willing to pay for composting service after the trial period? (EarthKeepers will provide a customized quote based on your needs.)

Other Questions

7. **Would you prefer to receive assistance and staff education materials in a language other than English?**

If yes, please list your preferred language or languages:

8. **How did you hear about the program?** (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ City Website
- ☐ City Press Release
- ☐ Direct Email
- ☐ Other: