

# What is the value of compostable packaging?



Capturing and diverting food waste



Compost supports soils as a carbon sink



Simplified consumer experience and a cleaner recycling stream



Supplementing carbon sources in the composting process



A solution for non-recyclable packaging



Supporting biological cycles of the circular economy



## Collection

Think there's no composting in the United States?

*Take a closer look.*

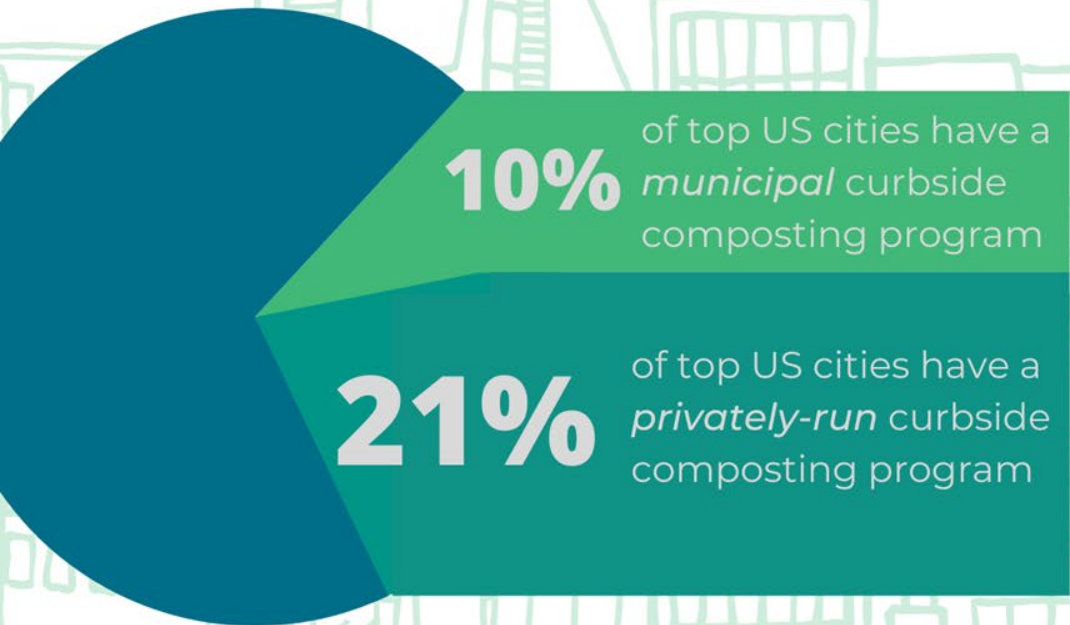
### Resources:

- [Infrastructure maps](#)
- [Residential composting access maps](#)



# COMPOSTING PROGRAMS IN THE US

A LOOK AT THE 1,000 LARGEST US CITIES



Of cities have *food waste only* compostable programs

16%

19%

Of cities have *food waste & compostable packaging* programs

# What is contamination, and how do we tackle it?

Not made of 100%  
compostable  
materials



Certified  
compostable



- Packaging that is **not designed** to be compostable  
EX: conventional plastic bags, produce stickers, and glass bottles
- Packaging that is certified compostable but is **not accepted** by the facility  
EX: because the facility only accepts food waste or green waste)



Fruits



Food Court



Vegetables

### Best fit

Packaging with food scraps (e.g. food serviceware)  
Packaging with wet food residue (e.g. salad bags)



E-commerce



Meat Department



Dairy Products, Eggs



Tea, Coffee/  
Outer Packaging



Breads, Bakery

### May be a fit

Food-contact packaging with moist, sticky, gooey, or oily residue

Food-contact packaging with dry food residue

Food-contact packaging with no food residue



Bulk



Confectionery



Pet Food



Cannabis & CBD



Seafood, Fish



Dressings, Sauces



Cosmetics



Alcoholic Beverages



Furniture &  
Household Goods



Cleaning Products



Clothing

### Not a good fit

Packaging that is not in contact with food  
Personal care/cosmetics/cleaning products



# Understanding the Role of Compostable Packaging in North America



SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING  
COALITION®

Available here: <https://sustainablepackaging.org/understanding-the-role-of-compostable-packaging/>