



**WAKE COUNTY**  
Solid Waste Management

## OUTREACH & EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



### Wasteless Wisdom

#### Tips for reducing, reusing, recycling & composting

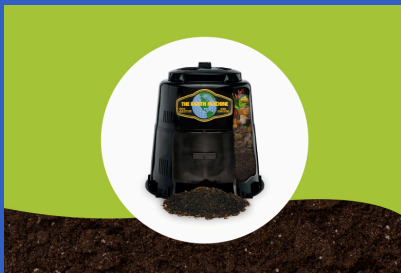
International Compost Awareness Week is May 3-9 and our annual compost bin sale starts May 1! To get you prepared, here are a few tips from our [free online Backyard Composting Guide](#) you can use:

1. Mix in more browns/carbon-rich materials to prevent/reduce odors from your compost bin.
2. Avoid adding protein-rich foods, such as meat and dairy items. They take longer to break down, can emit odors, and attract larger critters.
3. Water your bin until moist. Water is a key ingredient in composting! A dry pile will remain dormant and will not break down.
4. Always bury your food scraps under a layer of yard waste to prevent flies.



[See the Backyard Composting Guide](#)

### Sustainable Spotlight



#### Annual compost bin sale starts Friday

From May 1-31, we'll be hosting our annual compost bin sale, allowing anyone, whether you live in Wake County or not, to purchase a compost bin at half the regular price! This year, Earth Machines will be sold for \$60. Other accessories are available for purchase to help simplify your composting journey, including the rodent screen, aerator and kitchen collector.

Composting is an environmentally-conscious way to dispose of organic waste that can provide multiple benefits for both people and the environment.

[Check out the sale](#)

## Residents step up to combat roadside litter

On March 21, Wake County Solid Waste Management and volunteers from the community joined forces to combat roadside litter on Rogers Lane in Raleigh during the Greatest American Cleanup event. The cleanup, hosted in partnership with [Keep America Beautiful](#), was one of 20 coordinated by organizations across North Carolina. Among the Wake County volunteers was Gus Vandermeeren, also known as "Gus the Garbage Guy."



[Read more](#)



## Wake County Awards \$34,000 in Waste Prevention Grant funds

In its ongoing work to reduce waste, the Wake County Division of Solid Waste Management has awarded four local organizations with grant funding through the [Waste Prevention Grant Program](#). The program provides financial assistance to businesses, educational organizations and nonprofits based in Wake County to support projects that help to divert waste from the landfill.

[Read more](#)

PLEASE DON'T  
REJECT THE  
REALITY OF THE  
WORLD TO  
SUBSTITUTE YOUR  
OWN.



## [Wake Waste MythBusters](#)

**MYTH:** "Batteries are recyclable, so they can go into my recycling bin or I can just throw them away in the regular garbage."

**TRUTH:** Batteries should **NOT** go in the garbage or recycling bin because they pose serious fire hazards to waste management systems and contain harmful metals that can leak. Lithium-ion batteries especially can be crushed in garbage trucks, dumpsters, recycling centers and landfills, causing fires and millions of dollars in damages.

To **properly dispose of batteries** you should:

1. Tape the terminals.
2. Collect the batteries in a leakproof container with no lid.
3. Store in a cool, dry place.
4. Drop them off at your nearest household hazardous waste facility. (Check out [wake.gov/hhw](http://wake.gov/hhw).)



## [Upcoming Events & Ways to Get Involved](#)

Our Outreach and Marketing team members are always active in the community. Here are some of the upcoming events where you can engage with them, learn and actively help us protect the environmental health of Wake County!

**[Compost Awareness Week Pop-Up](#):** The Wake County Cooperative Extension will be hosting a free event at Moore Square on May 3 from 1-4 p.m. Discover how simple, everyday choices can help reduce food waste and turn discarded scraps into valuable resources for the community! Prize giveaways, a live cooking demonstration and a vermicomposting demonstration will be taking place.

**Volunteer Opportunity:** [Partners for Environmental Justice](#) is in need of volunteers for several compost system expansion events at the Crosslink Community Garden. Check the calendar on their Volunteer page to sign up:

- May 1, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- May 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- May 20, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Backyard Composting Classes:** This spring, we're offering several FREE classes at local libraries to teach you how to compost in your own backyard and give you the chance to win a FREE compost bin! You can check out the [event calendar](#) for all dates and locations.

**[Sonoco Recycling Tours](#):** Unsure of what should and shouldn't go into your recycling bin? Our experts can help and show you how your recyclables are processed for FREE! Contact [chelsea.arey@wake.gov](mailto:chelsea.arey@wake.gov) to reserve your spot for one of the dates below! Private tours are also available.

- May 19, 11 a.m.-noon, floor tour
- June 9, 11 a.m.-noon, floor tour
- July 8, 11 a.m.-noon, floor tour
- Aug. 12, 11 a.m.-noon, floor tour

**[South Wake Landfill Tours](#):** If you want to learn what happens to your trash when it leaves your curb, a FREE landfill tour with our environmental educators could help answer that and more! Contact [sara.davarbakhsh@wake.gov](mailto:sara.davarbakhsh@wake.gov) to reserve your spot or click the link to see availability for a date below! Private and virtual tours are also available.

- [May 1, 10 a.m.](#)
- [June 12, 10 a.m.](#)



Wake County is preparing for the future of Solid Waste with the Beyond the South Wake Landfill Study and we need your input!

[Visit our website](#)



Tons of litter are left on our roads, but dedicated environmental champions like you can make a difference! Organize a group, grab a free litter kit and be a part of the solution!

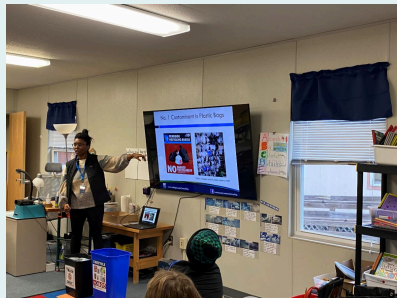
[Borrow a litter kit](#)



Hosting an outdoor event and need trash, compost or recycling receptacles? We've got you covered!

[Get an event bin](#)

**SHARE Program Donations:** SHARE aims to feed children, not landfills. You can help by giving a monetary donation today! Visit [our partner's webpage](#) to learn more.



Would you like an insightful presentation from one of our environmental educators? Contact us and tell us what you want to know!

**Request a presentation**

**Learn more about our waste management programs at our [Outreach & Education page](#) →**

Our goal is to educate Wake County residents about practices that will help us to protect the environmental health of the places they live, work and play. We welcome all feedback. If you have questions or concerns, please contact [Marcus Thompson](#).

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to sign up to receive it, please [visit our website](#).

**Wake County Solid Waste Management**

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**Outreach and Marketing Supervisor:** [Bianca Howard](#)

**Website:** [wake.gov/recycling](http://wake.gov/recycling)



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