

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

***Organics Ban, Mandatory Compost Program
December 21, 2020***

Whereas, since April 1, 2012, the Town of Hamilton (the "Town") has provided each residential household with:

- a 13 gallon green compost toter, and
- free weekly curbside compost collection;

Whereas, the Town, the State, the country, and the world is facing a global climate crisis caused by human behavior that now requires mitigating actions be taken at every level of human existence;

Whereas, removing organics from the waste cycle is one simple action that Hamilton residents can take to mitigate the increased carbon emissions caused by burning it with our trash, and to sequester that carbon by locking it into the ground while replenishing the earth and reversing the serious trend of fertile topsoil loss;

Therefore, the Board of Selectmen choses to ban all food waste and compostable paper from the Town's residential solid waste trash stream.

To implement this ban, and in recognition that all the components to carry out town-wide residential curbside composting have been in place for a number of years, the start date for the ban shall be the week of February 1, 2021. This should give households that are missing their green compost bin time to replace it. (To do so, please visit or call the DPW office (978) 626-5227.)

Residents who compost food scraps on their premises may apply to the DPW for an exemption from the ban. The DPW Director or his designee shall determine if an exemption is warranted, and, if so, shall issue an exemption sticker to the household. The exemption sticker must be affixed to that household's solid waste bin. The DPW Director can revoke the exemption at any time if he determines that it is no longer justified.

At this time, no fines shall be imposed. However, the trash haulers will be instructed not to pick up the black trash bin from a household that does not have either a green bin curbside next to their trash bin, or have a valid DPW issued exemption sticker affixed to their trash bin. Residents that share a driveway with other households are advised to paint their house number on both their black trash bin and their green compost bin.

The Board of Selectmen shall monitor the monthly tonnages of residential solid waste and organics collected by the haulers and may take further action as it deems appropriate to increase the amount of organics composted by Hamilton residents.