



## Public Works

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **City of Chattanooga Launches Pilot Program to Divert Food and Glass Waste from Landfills**

CHATTANOOGA, TN – Beginning October 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, the City of Chattanooga will launch two new recycle pilot programs aimed at reducing landfill waste and promoting responsible recycling. In partnership with NewTerra Composting and Overlooked Materials, the city will offer curbside food waste composting and glass recycling collection to select residents, with the initial rollout focused primarily in the Brainerd area.

These pilot programs are designed to address two major contributors to landfill waste:

- **Food waste**, which accounts for almost **25% of landfill content** and is the **third largest source of methane emissions** nationwide. ([source](#))
- **Glass, 90% of which ends up in landfills**, despite being fully recyclable and locally reusable in construction, stormwater management, tile production, and more. [The-50-States-of-Recycling-2.pdf](#)

## **About the Programs**

The program's partners, NewTerra Compost and Overlooked Materials, will play key roles in these pilots and all materials will be processed locally. Food scraps collected through the program will be processed by NewTerra Compost, creating healthy, nutrient-rich soil that can be used by local farms, community gardens, and schools. Overlooked Materials will recycle the glass, converting the glass to sand and gravel which can be used locally. These local uses reduce our need to mine our region's mountains, create more circular products, and reduce the burden on our landfills.

**New Terra Compost**, a locally owned and operated business, will lead the food waste collection program. The company specializes in turning food scraps into nutrient-rich compost, helping to divert organic material from landfills while enriching local soil. To sign up for the curbside composting program, visit the following link: [Curbside Trial](#)

In addition to curbside pickup in the pilot area, a drop-off kiosk will also be installed at each of Chattanooga's five recycling centers, accessible to all residents within city limits. Residents interested in dropping their own compostable materials off at one of the City's [recycling centers](#) may sign up here: [City Kiosk Trial](#)

**Overlooked Materials**, a Chattanooga-based recycling and circular products company, will lead the curbside glass recycling program. They specialize in recycling hard-to-process materials like glass and transforming them into useful products. To sign up for the curbside glass recycling program, visit the following link: [Curbside Glass Pilot](#)

The composting program is being funded through a Organics Management grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)'s Division of Solid Waste Management.

## **How to Participate**

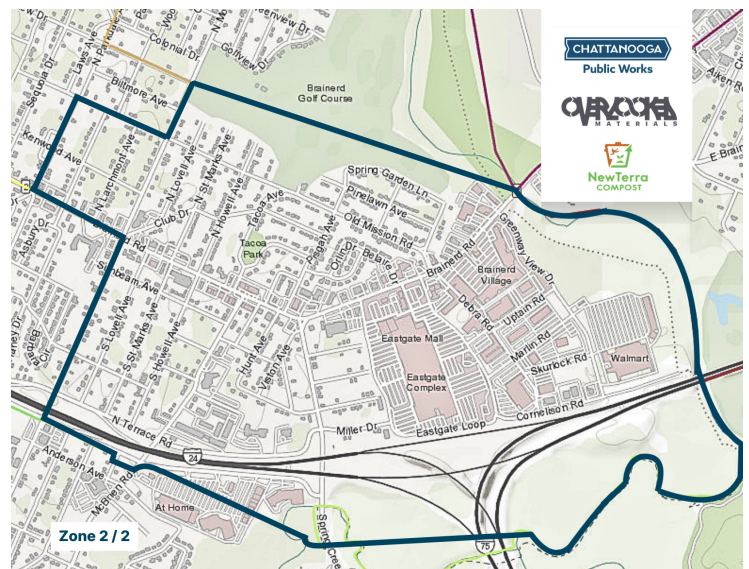
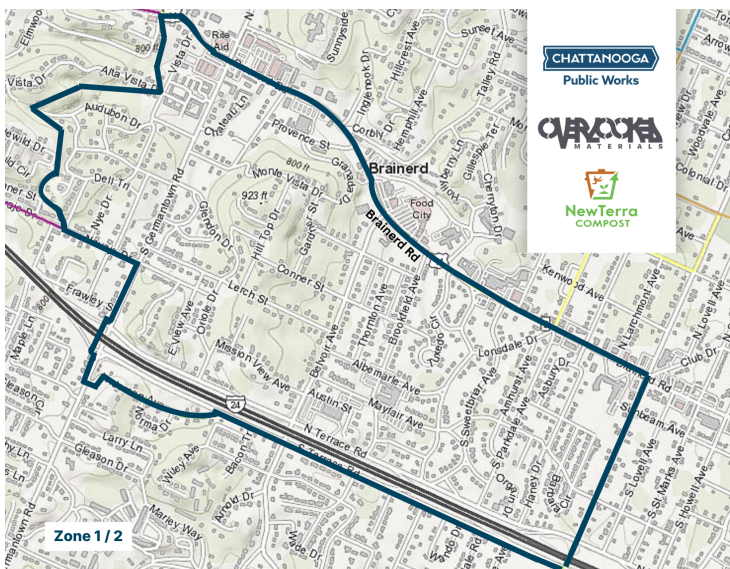
Participation in both pilot programs is voluntary and requires sign-up directly through the partner organizations' websites. Participation is only open to residents. Businesses are not eligible.

- **New Terra Composting:** Learn more about the curbside program and sign up at this link: <https://www.newterracompost.com/chattanooga-curbside-compost-trial>
- **Overlooked Materials:** Learn more about the program and sign up at <https://overlookedmaterials.com/pilot>. For questions, email [chattanoogapilot@overlookedmaterials.com](mailto:chattanoogapilot@overlookedmaterials.com)

Participants in the program will receive specific instructions and dedicated containers for separating their food and glass waste upon enrollment. This effort highlights how local solutions and partnerships can have a powerful, positive impact on our community, our economy, and our environment.

The pilot programs will initially serve residents in the following neighborhoods:

- Zone 1 - [Within Belvoir Neighborhood Area]
- Zone 2 - [Within Brainerd Neighborhood Area]
- Kiosk Composting - [Citywide]



### **About Department of Public Works:**

The Department of Public Works delivers a variety of services that Chattanooga's citizens rely on daily. Responsibilities include the design, construction and maintenance of the City's infrastructure; the interceptor sewer system; the City's stormwater system; the collection and disposal of garbage, brush, recycling, and household hazardous waste; parks maintenance, programming and operations. Follow @CHAPublicWorks on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).