



Community Composting in Charleston: Food Scraps Drop Off Program


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City of Charleston Food Scraps Drop Off Community Compost Initiative

- Origin -> Implementation
- Education/Outreach
- Trainings
- Contamination
- Partnerships
- Replicability – Expansion
- Data
- Lessons learned





*We work to protect the health
of the natural resources of the
South Carolina coastal plain &
ensure a high quality of life
for all of the people who live in
and love this special place.*

Sustainable Communities



GrowFood Carolina



Energy



Land, Water, & Wildlife



Education



Climate Ambassador Program

Request a Speaker to Present at Your Next Event

You may request a speaker attend your next meeting or event who will share more information about climate impacts in Charleston, the new Climate Action Plan and what the City is doing, and some tips for how you can help be part of a community-wide solution!

[Request a Speaker](#)

Climate Leaders in Our Community

The program launched in fall 2021 to build climate leaders within our community who are certified to share information about Charleston's newly adopted Climate Action Plan (May 2021) and inspire its implementation.

Meet Your Ambassadors!

All ambassadors have been trained and certified and are eager to present at events throughout fall 2021- winter 2022.

CITY OF CHARLESTON

Mayer's Office of Resilience and Sustainability

IS YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP CONCERNED ABOUT FLOODING,
EXTREME HEAT AND OTHER IMPACTS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE?

REQUEST A SPEAKER
TO PRESENT AT YOUR NEXT MEETING OR EVENT!

LEARN HOW THE CITY IS ADDRESSING THE CAUSES OF THESE
CONCERNS THROUGH OUR NEW **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**, AND
WHAT YOUR GROUP CAN DO TO HELP!

Speakers are certified Climate Ambassadors. Request online:

CHARLESTON-SC.GOV/SUSTAINABILITY



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

AN EQUITABLE STRATEGY FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE



Charleston
SOUTH CAROLINA

MAY 2021

Composting implements
local climate action plans
and priorities
to reduce carbon pollution

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING?

- **It reduces trash and expenses.** The Charleston region throws away more than 30,000 tons of food each year – and food makes up one quarter of the collected garbage. Composting saves taxpayer money and landfill space.
- **It combats climate change.** Composting will help meet area Climate Action Plan goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from landfills as well as protecting air and water resources from pollution.
- **It protects against flooding.** Compost nourishes the soil for healthier parks and gardens and increases stormwater absorption capacity to help reduce flooding.
- **It saves plants and animals.** Compost reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and makes plants healthier. It can be used without harming wildlife or ecosystems.



Composting has multiple benefits!



Reduce Your Waste

Composting is CLIMATE ACTION

Collecting food scraps for compost is something we can all do daily to mitigate climate change.





Food Scrap Drop Off Program

Team Effort, with partners!



...and more!

Food Scrap Drop Off

Corrine Jones Park



FOOD SCRAP DROP OFF



ITEMS ACCEPTED:



ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:



To sign up, and for more information, visit charleston-sc.gov/compost

Please report any issues or maintenance concerns to the Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability via the Citizen Services Desk at (843) 724-7211 or citizenservices@charleston-sc.gov

City of Charleston

FUNDED BY



CHARLESTON IS NOW COMPOSTING FOOD SCRAPS! SIGN UP TODAY!

City of Charleston residents can take their food scraps to designated drop sites for **FREE** beginning January 23. Drop-off locations include:

- **Ackerman Park** (West Ashley)
- **Corrine Jones Park** (Peninsula)
- **Medway Park** (James Island)

To sign up for the service, see a list of items accepted, and learn about **free workshops** to help get you started, visit charleston-sc.gov/compost.



FUNDED BY



LEARN ABOUT COMPOSTING HOME FOOD SCRAPS AT A FREE WORKSHOP!

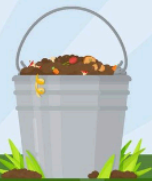
Charleston is composting food scraps through a new drop-site program! Participants can pick-up a **FREE** reusable kitchen compost caddy by attending one of these events, while supplies last.

Residents are invited to join one of two **FREE** workshops:

- **Saturday, January 22**, 11 AM to 12 PM at Frothy Beard's outdoor patio; or
- **Tuesday, January 25**, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM virtually via Zoom.

The workshops will provide the following tools and resources to help residents start composting – composting program overview, accepted items and backyard composting instructions and tips.

Space is limited. RSVP and learn more about the new program at charleston-sc.gov/compost.



FUNDED BY



Training & Education



Free SWAG, While Supplies Last

To Help You Get Started!



**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**

Sample of Compostable Liner Bags (BPI Certified)



Kitchen Compost Caddy (with sticker on it)



Magnets and Stickers

**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**

ITEMS ACCEPTED	ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED
✓ Fruits & Vegetables	✗ Raw Meat (e.g., beef, poultry, pork, seafood)
✓ Bread, Dough, Bakery Items, Pasta & Grain	✗ Plastic Items (e.g., bags, dishes, utensils, cups, Styrofoam)
✓ Coffee Grounds & Tea Filters	✗ Small Items (e.g., rubber bands, twist ties)
✓ Compostable Liquids (e.g., water, juices in small amounts)	✗ Chemical Cleaners
✓ Cooked Meats, Fish, Bones & Shells*	✗ Non-Food Items (e.g., wood, metal, glass, ceramics, pet droppings, yard debris)
✓ Dairy Products* (e.g., milk, cheese, yogurt)	✗ Fats, Oils, Grease or Non-Compostable Liquids (e.g., vegetable oil, lard)
✓ Food-Soiled Paper (e.g., paper bags, paper towels, napkins, waxed cardboard boxes*)	
✓ Processed Foods (e.g., pizza, cereal, chips, crackers, cookies, cakes, plate scrapings)	

* These items are accepted in this program, but **ARE NOT RECOMMENDED** for backyard composting.

To learn more, visit charleston-sc.gov/compost or scdhec.gov/compost.

FUNDED BY   



COLLECT



DROP OFF



Compost Life Cycle



HAUL



PROCESS



COMPOST



GROW



Items Accepted in the Charleston Regional Residential Drop-off Program

ITEMS ACCEPTED:



Fruits



Dairy Products
(e.g., milk, cheese, yogurt)



Vegetables



Small Amounts of Compostable Liquids
(e.g., water, juices)



Processed Foods
(e.g., pizza, cereal, chips, crackers, cookies, cakes, plate scrappings)



Bread, Dough, Bakery Items, Pasta and Grain



Food-Soiled Paper
(e.g., paper bags, paper towels, paper napkins, waxed cardboard boxes)



Coffee Grounds and Tea Filters



Eggs and Shells



Cooked Meats, Fish, Bones and Shells

*Composting meat, fish, dairy & BPI compostable materials is not recommended in backyard composting but is acceptable in this commercial setting.



ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:



NO Raw Meat
(e.g., beef, poultry,
pork, seafood)



**NO Fats, Oils,
Grease or Non-
Compostable Liquids**
(e.g., vegetable oil, lard)



NO Non-Food Items
(e.g., wood, metal,
glass, ceramics, pet
droppings, yard debris)



NO Plastic Items
(e.g., bags, dishes, cups,
utensils, styrofoam)
and Other Small Items
(e.g., rubber bands, twist ties)



**NO Chemical
Cleaners***

Unacceptable Items



Here's a few simple rules to help you remember the basics:

- ❑ Is it edible?
 - ❑ If you can eat it, it can be composted!
- ❑ Did it come from the Earth?
 - ❑ If it came FROM the Earth, it can go BACK to the Earth by composting!
- ❑ **When in doubt, throw it out!**

*You can deodorize your compost bin with natural deodorizers such as baking soda or cinnamon.

Addressing Contamination



20



Contaminated food scrap carts must be landfilled.

Carts are locked!

Lock Code

To obtain code, sign up and complete training. Please do not share.

No yard debris!

21

LOCKS

ON FOOD SCRAP CARTS HELP
PREVENT CONTAMINATION!



TO OBTAIN CODE:

Sign up for the
program at

charleston-sc.gov/compost

Sign-up includes a short
training about accepted
items.



Putting Food Scraps in Carts



**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**

Pour loose food
scraps into cart

or

Bin liner bag ok if
certified BPI
Compostable





SUMMER COMPOST TIP!

USE YOUR FREEZER

for short-term storage in between visits to a drop site and to prevent bugs!



Heading on vacation and there's not enough time to drop off your food scraps before you leave?

FREEZE THEM!

Freezing your food scraps prevents any bad smells and won't attract insects, mold, or fungi.

Try freezing in *BPI Certified Compostable Bags* for easy transfer, no need to thaw them out!



SUMMER COMPOST TIP!

MANAGING FRUIT FLIES in your KITCHEN COMPOST BIN

Fruit flies are attracted to all produce, even fresh produce! Try storing produce in your fridge and wash it first to remove any eggs.

View more tips on how to manage and prevent fruit flies in your kitchen at:

www.charleston-sc.gov/2658/Updates-for-Drop-Off-Pilot-Project



Managing Fruit Fly Flyer Available



MANAGING FRUIT FLIES IN YOUR KITCHEN COMPOST BIN

Female fruit flies lay hundreds of eggs in a very short time.

Below are some tips to prevent a fruit fly infestation in your kitchen and tips on how to manage existing fruit flies.

TIPS TO HANDLE A FRUIT FLY INFESTATION

1. Make vinegar cups to trap the flies.

If you already have a fruit fly issue, this very simple method of catching them should help get rid of them in no time. The scent of the vinegar attracts the flies and the soap cuts the surface tension of the vinegar so they sink and drown.

You need:

- A small bowl or cup.
- Add equal parts water and vinegar (best is apple cider vinegar or balsamic vinegar) so the container is about 1/4 - 1/2 full.
- Add three drops of dish soap on top and gently swirl.



Leave uncovered, or to catch even more flies, cover with one of the following:

- Plastic wrap, secure it with an elastic band or string, and poke a few holes in the wrap with a toothpick or fork.
- Roll a sheet of paper into a funnel shape, tape it closed and put it on top of the container so the opening is above the liquid line.



Consider making a couple and leave the cup(s) near an area with the most activity from fruit flies for a few days. Clean out and replenish cups as needed all summer.

2. Clean your garbage disposal.

Fruit flies can also inhabit and lay eggs in garbage disposals if sufficient food is present. Run your disposal often to cycle out food particles and keep your disposal clean. You can pour boiling water down the drain weekly to help keep it clear of residue and below is a recipe you could try that will kill fruit fly eggs:

- Pour a half cup of baking soda onto the bottom of the sink and into the disposal area.
- Then pour a cup of white or apple cider vinegar on top, and it should bubble up.
- Let it sit for a few minutes then run the water and turn the unit on to clear it.

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS!

SIGN UP TODAY!

Charleston region residents can take their food scraps to designated drop sites for composting. This service is **FREE**.

Drop-off locations include:

- **Ackerman Park** (West Ashley)
including West Ashley Farmers Market
- **Bees Ferry Convenience Center** (West Ashley)
- **Corrine Jones Park** (Peninsula)
- **Elliotborough Park** (Peninsula)
- **Medway Park** (James Island)
- **James Island Recreation Complex** (James Island)
- **Governors Park** (Daniel Island)
- **Folly Beach Community Center** (Folly Beach)
- **Carmen R. Bunch Park** (Isle of Palms)
- **IOP Marina** (Isle of Palms)

To sign up, visit charleston-sc.gov/compost



**2022 Pilot Project
was a success!**

5 new drop sites
opened March 1!



Interactive Map of Drop Sites



Governors Park

165 Fairbanks Oak Alley,
Charleston, SC 29492
Hours: Daily, Dawn to Dusk

Access from Seven Farms Drive, parking is available in the lot on the southwestern side of the park. The food scrap drop site is located at the south end of the parking lot, near the dog park entrance and the I-526 overpass.



🔍 Zoom to



**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**

Map Includes:

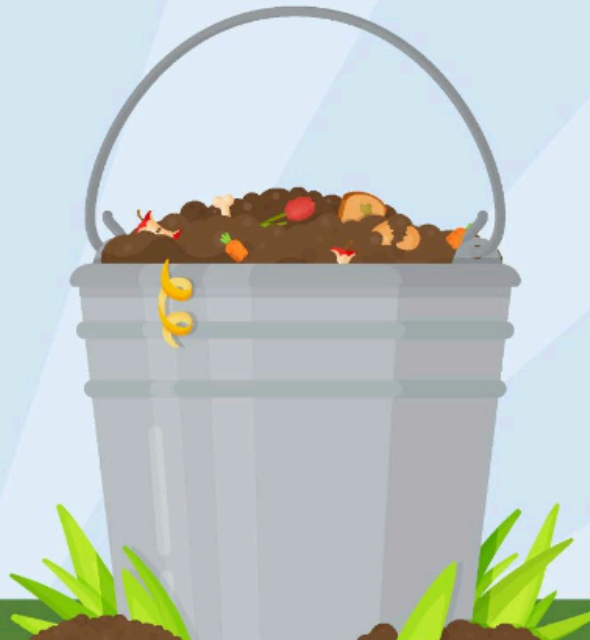
- Address
- Directions
- Hours Open
- Contact Info
- Picture

Zoom in!

DROP OFF FOOD SCRAPS AT THE FARMERS MARKET!

Bring your food scraps with you the next time you shop at the **West Ashley Farmers Market**! A drop-off site is available at Ackerman Park.

To sign up for this **FREE** service and for a list of items accepted, please visit charleston-sc.gov/compost.



**West Ashley
Farmers Market**

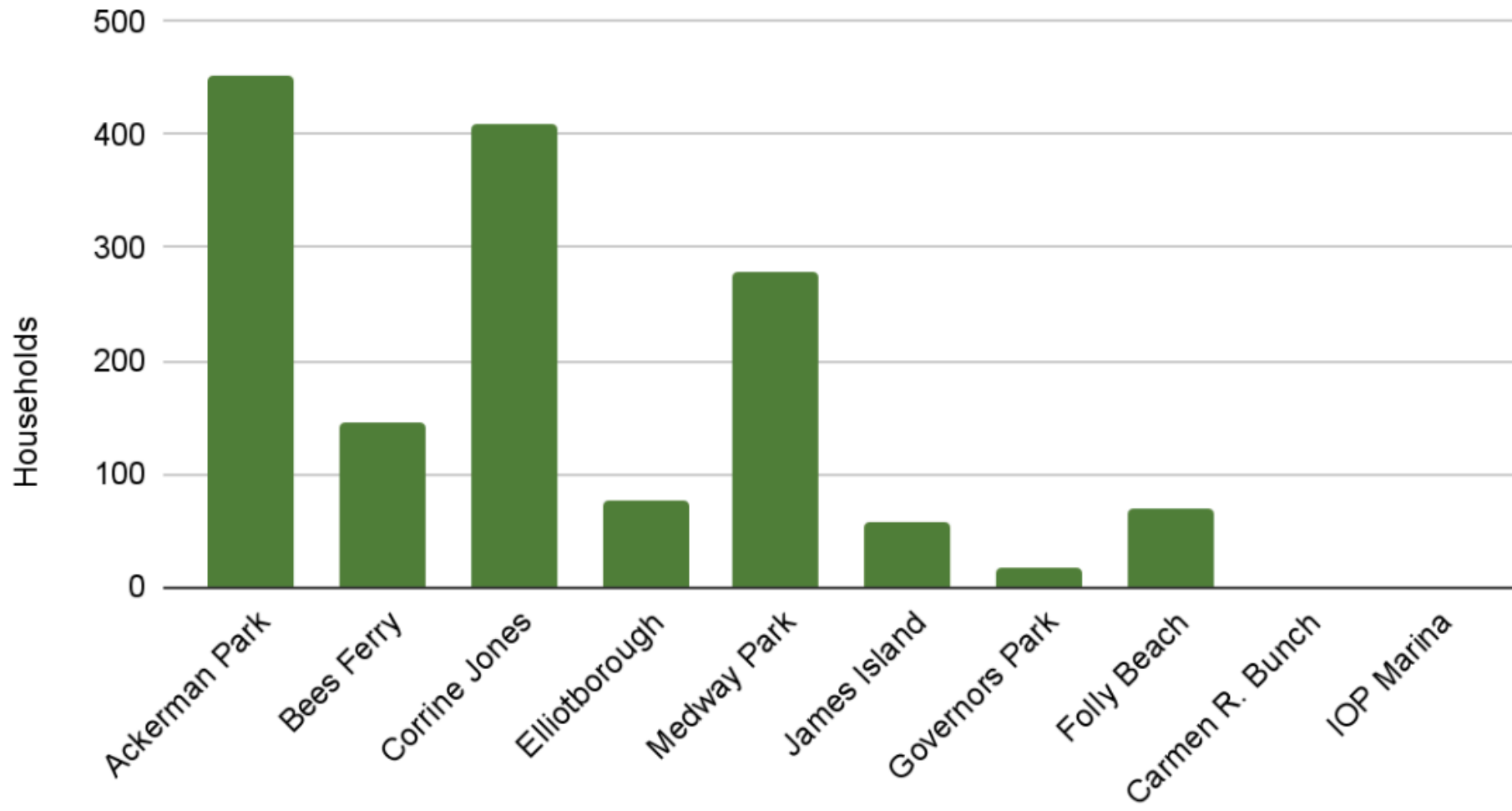
Drop off your food
scraps before you
shop!

Data To Date



**CHARLESTON
COMPOSTS**

Participation Per Drop Site



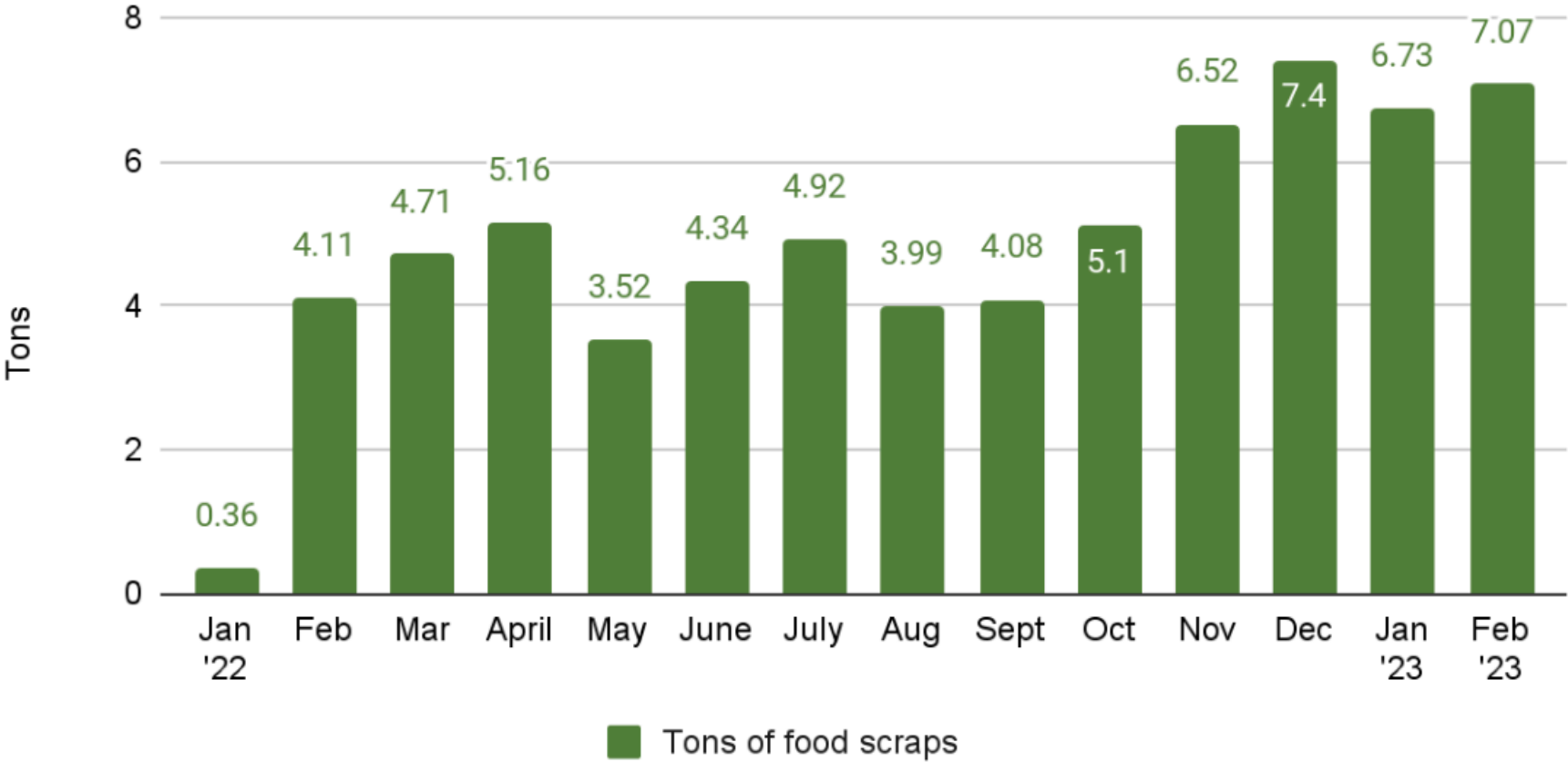
Over 1,500
Households
participating!

Data To Date



Charleston Composts

Residential Food Scraps Diverted from the Landfill and Composted

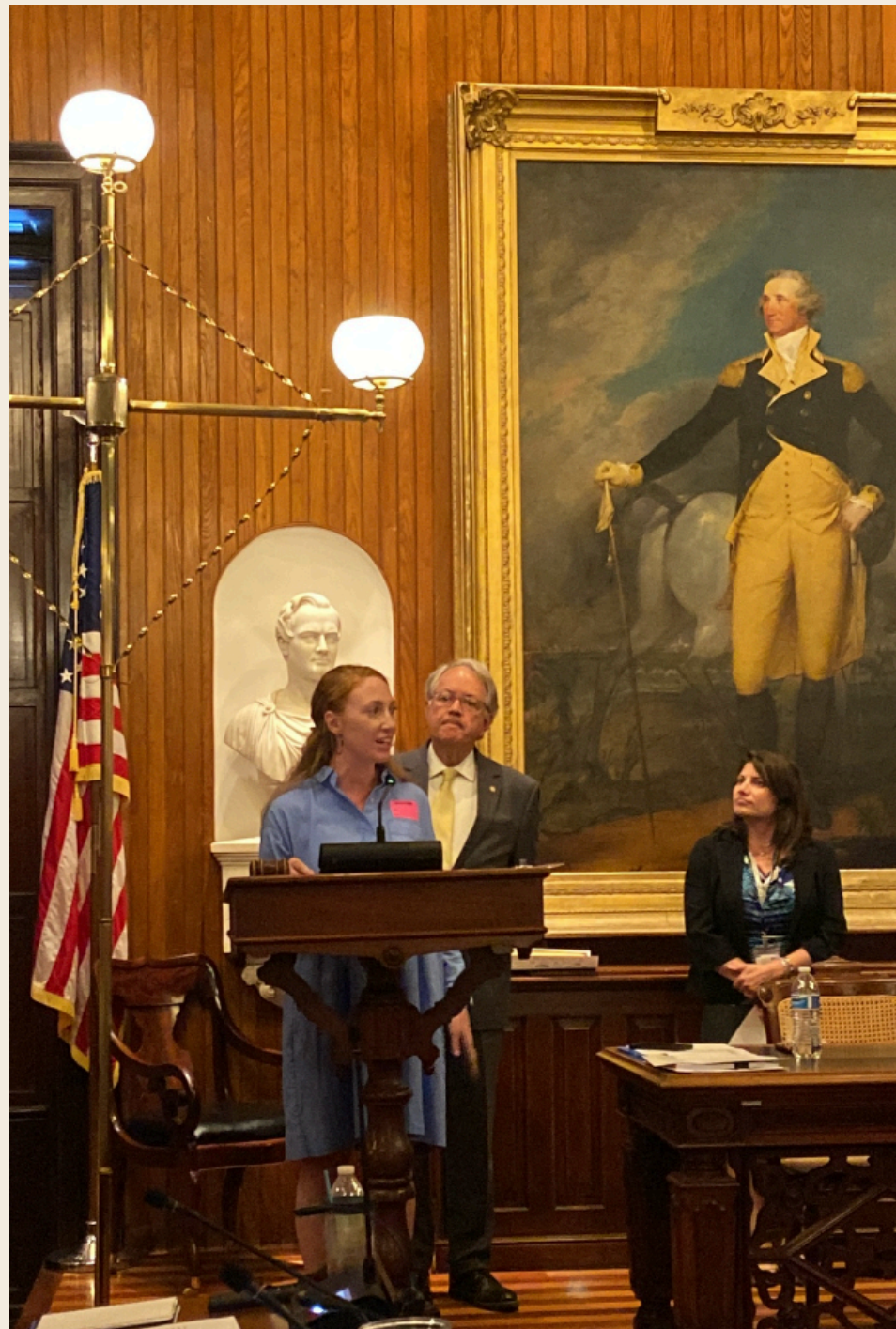


Over 50 tons
diverted in 2022!



To sign up and get lock code, visit:

charleston-sc.gov/compost





Thank you

Betsy La Force

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