

Henderson County Local Government Public Information Office www.hendersoncountync.gov Contact: Kathryn Finotti, PIO (828) 694-5003 (O) (828) 989-4737 (C) pio@hendersoncountync.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Green Your Halloween at the Convenience Center this Fall HC-2022-30 Hendersonville, NC – October 28, 2022

Between Halloween and Thanksgiving, there will be plenty of jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins, and fall squash left over. Don't let them meet a spooky end in the landfill- instead, compost them with Henderson County Solid Waste!

From November 1st to December 3rd, residents may bring leftover pumpkins and decorative squash to a special dumpster at the Henderson County Convenience Center. Since the start of the program in September 2018, County residents have deposited over 138 tons of food waste into the bins at the convenience center as part of the Food Waste pilot program. Previously, this material has been taken to a private compost facility in Spartanburg, SC but now the collected food waste and pumpkins are being composted on-site at the County's Compost Facility pilot, the first municipal Type 3 compost facility in Western North Carolina! The pumpkins will be mixed with other organic materials, and eventually, become a valuable soil amendment. Providing this voluntary collection option is part of the Solid Waste Division's long-term waste reduction strategy.

The food waste and pumpkin collection program is for use by Henderson County residents. No household trash or recycling is acceptable in the food waste collection bins or pumpkin dumpster. Only organic materials are acceptable, please remove any candles or other decorative items. The Convenience Center is located at 265 Convenience Center Drive, Hendersonville NC 28791, and is open Monday through Saturday from 7:00 am until 4:00 pm.

For additional information on this and other recycling programs, visit <u>hcrecycles.org</u> or call Environmental Programs at (828) 694-6524.

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