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Recently, I relocated from the borders of the City of Bothell to the City of Edmonds. In my former residence, we maintained a gargantuan yard waste container which was used for that primary purpose, but also absorbed a few small compost bags a week along with food-soiled cardboard (usually pizza boxes) and whatever commercially compostable materials we had taken on, be they cutlery or take-away containers. This was a good arrangement and we felt like we were doing our part. However, since moving to the Bowl of Edmonds, we've changed waste services and at our present residence, a condo in a larger building, there is no yard waste (for there is scarcely a yard) nor means of disposing of organics.

While I could provide a whole argument in favor of the updated efforts to divert organic waste, I'll instead include an article and recap a few of the salient points:

<https://www.environmentenergyleader.com/stories/epa-unveils-food-waste-landfill-emissions-management-recommendations,4883> At present, more than half of the methane emissions from landfills is from decaying food waste, while at large, the total amount of waste going into landfills has decreased thanks to recycling efforts. While decaying faster than CO₂, methane is 80 times more potent in the short term. Reducing the methane burden on the atmosphere is vital in achieving our climate goals.

This is not to say that this is all we need. Particularly in a nation where so many go hungry and where school lunches are in an abysmal state, there's no logical reason why so much food should be wasted in the first place. Where scraps are necessarily produced, it must be noted that the larger ecosystem has evolved around the basic principles that organic waste and excess decay are used to feed the next cycle of development. By relegating organics to the larger trash heap, we gain nothing from the transaction, exacerbate warming, and pin our hopes on still abstract and hard-to-achieve programs like carbon capture. Organic waste diversion won't get us out of this crisis on its own, but it is an achievable, measurable effort that will help contribute in the long run as we continue to develop other approaches.