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## Don't Trash Your Pumpkin!

According to the USDA, we grow more than 2 billion pounds of pumpkins every year in the U.S. Most of those pumpkins end up in the trash at the end of the season. In CT, this contributes to our waste disposal crisis, emits greenhouse emissions, and is an incredible waste of resources. Here's some ideas of what else you can do with those rotten, unpainted, pumpkins.

### **Share It**

Pumpkin flesh and seeds are a delicious and healthy snack for wildlife. Place your pumpkin in a spot where you don't mind a little wildlife activity and let the animals enjoy!

### **Compost It**

Pumpkins are full of nutrients, which makes them a great fertilizer. Just make sure you remove the seeds before you add them to your compost pile (unless you want baby pumpkins cropping up in your garden next year). No compost pile? No problem. Simply bury your pumpkin in your winter garden. It will decay quickly and enrich the soil. The smaller the pieces, the quicker the decomposition. If you can't compost in your backyard, in Middletown, residents can bring it to one of the food scrap drop off locations – at the Recycling Center or at the Emergency Management Garage, 675 Randolph Road where it will be turned into clean energy and compost.

### **Smash It!**

The Middletown Recreation Department is holding a Pumpkin Smash event on Saturday Nov. 5 from 12 – 3 at Veterans Park in Middletown. Bring your old pumpkins and smash or toss them into the compost! This is a fun activity for the whole family and will allow you to dispose of your rotten pumpkins in an environmentally sustainable way! Details on the Pumpkin Smash are here

[Middletown CT Recreation & Parks Division: Pumpkin Smash](#)

For more information on composting or recycling in Middletown, contact the Middletown Recycling Coordinator at [Recycling@Middletownct.Gov](mailto:Recycling@Middletownct.Gov) or 860-638-4855.