

## Organics & Food Waste **Diagnostic Checklist**

Are Your Drop-Offs and Composting Programs Designed to Succeed?

### Access & Convenience

- Residents lack convenient organics access
- Drop-off sites are poorly located or hard to find
- Participation depends on limited opening hours

### Design & Containment

- Food waste is exposed or poorly enclosed
- Sites attract pests or misuse
- Containers are frequently contaminated

### Control & Accountability

- No access control or user accountability
- Non-organics regularly enter the system
- Monitoring relies on manual checks

### Operational Reality

- Sites overflow between collections
- Staff intervene frequently
- Drop-offs are closed or removed due to problems

### Community Engagement

- Education efforts don't translate to clean streams
- Participation drops after initial launch
- Volunteers or staff burn out managing sites

#### Scoring:

**0–4 checks:** Strong infrastructure foundation

**5–8 checks:** Moderate risk to program success

**9+ checks:** High likelihood of participation and contamination failure

**High scores** usually indicate an infrastructure gap - not a community engagement problem.