

City of Lakewood

SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

2016

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Leaf Composting Project

Sustainable Southern Gables



In 2014, the newly formed Southern Gables Sustainable Neighborhood group along with the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association teamed up to provide compost collection for leaves and other yard waste in an effort to reduce the volume of organic waste going to local landfills. The project funded a large dumpster for a one-day collection event where residents could deposit their yard waste so that it could be hauled to a regional composting facility.

In 2015, building off of the success of the previous year, the neighborhood held their second annual leaf collection composting day. This time, they expanded their operation by providing volunteers who made themselves available to assist neighbors that couldn't easily rake, collect, and transport the leaves themselves to the collection site.

More than 40 volunteers from Sustainable Southern Gables, Westwoods Church and the DU Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity raked leaves for 14 neighbors in need of help. An additional 44 neighbors brought their own leaves, resulting in more than 4.7 tons of waste diverted from the landfill. This project shows how one neighborhood can make a big difference, and provides a model for waste diversion that can be replicated by neighborhoods across the City.



Achievement Areas

- Climate Change & Energy Conservation
- Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Community Health & Engagement

