

A photograph of a white bucket with a green logo sitting on a concrete step in front of a brick wall and a doorway. The bucket has a green logo that looks like a stylized 'A' with a loop. The background shows a brick wall, a doorway with a red door, and some ivy on the left.

Afterlife

Urban Composting

Nick Mason – Senior Thesis

Afterlife

A composting system for the beginner composter. Targeted at urban areas, Afterlife empowers people and communities to love their scraps.



Products



Services



Programming

Afterlife

Products are used to collect organic waste in the home. A weekly collection service picks up scraps by bicycle. Programming fosters a culture around environmental stewardship.



Products



Services



Programming

The food we eat gives us life



but what's the **afterlife** of the food we ***don't*** eat?



40% of all food in the US each year is wasted

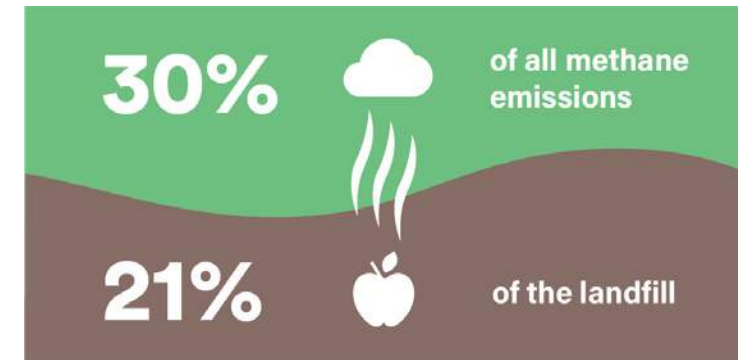
Approximately 133 billion pounds of food

About one pound per person per day

Roughly \$161 billion worth

Landfilled food waste has a harmful impact

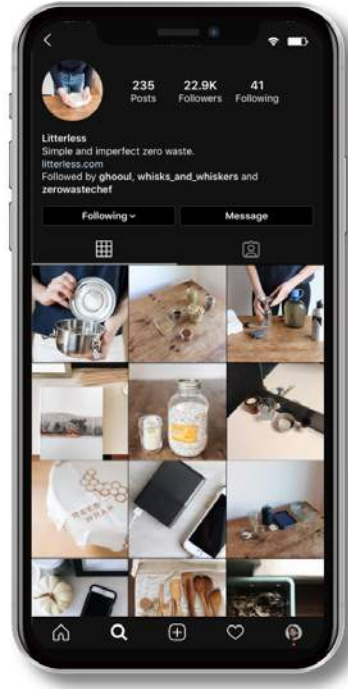
30% of all methane emissions stem from landfilled organic waste
21% of municipal solid waste landfills is food waste





Food waste is better served breaking down
as compost to create nutrient-rich soil



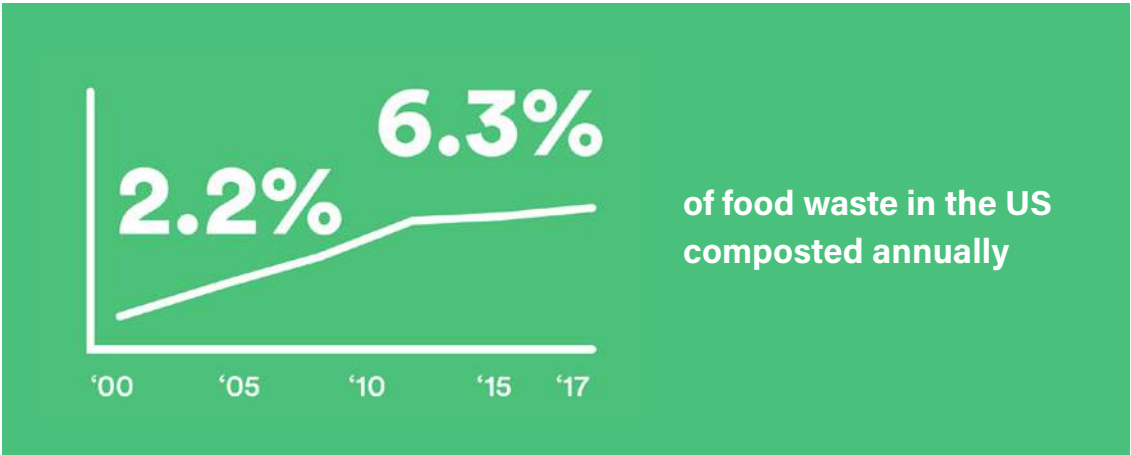


Trends in Scrap

Composting, gardening and zero-waste lifestyles are gaining popularity. Health, wellness, and plant-based diets are also trending. Online, sustainable “eco-influencers” are going viral.

According to IKEA’s 2016 Life at Home Report, six out of ten people are growing something indoors. One third of this is food.

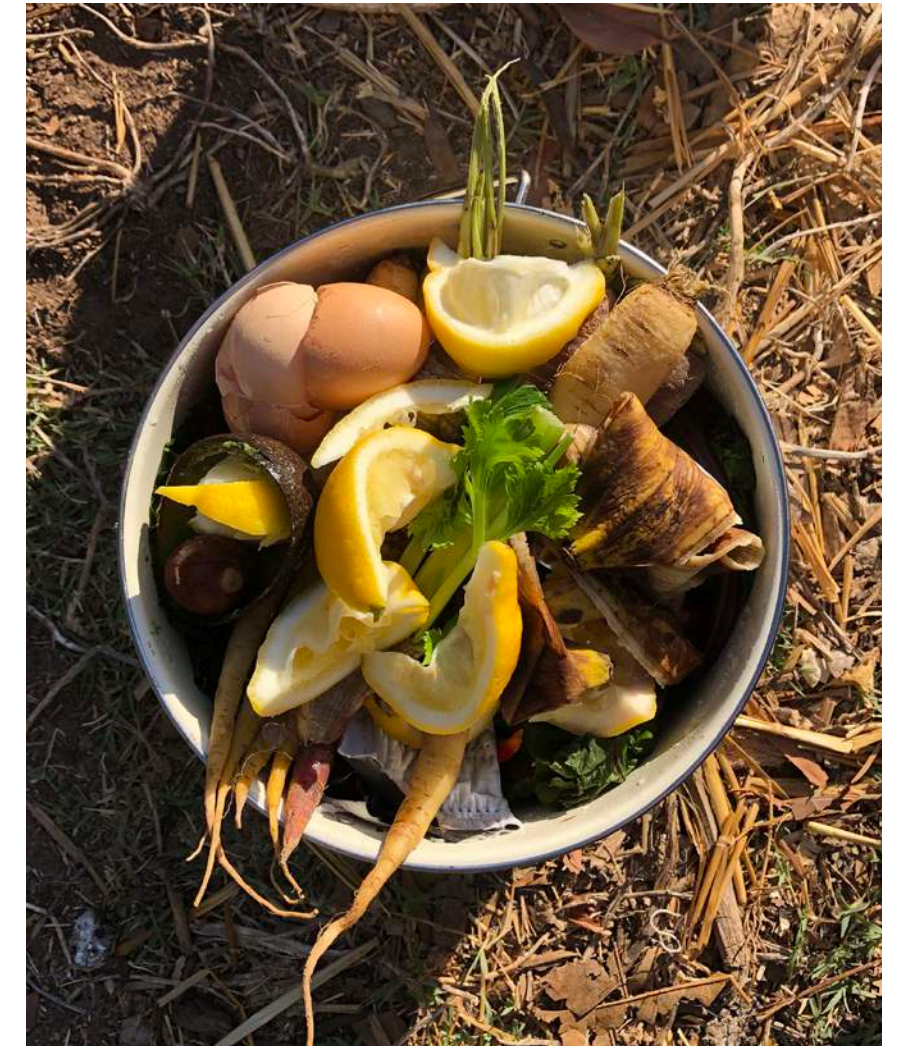
The amount of food waste composted in the US has **risen 4% since 2000.**



Composting Market

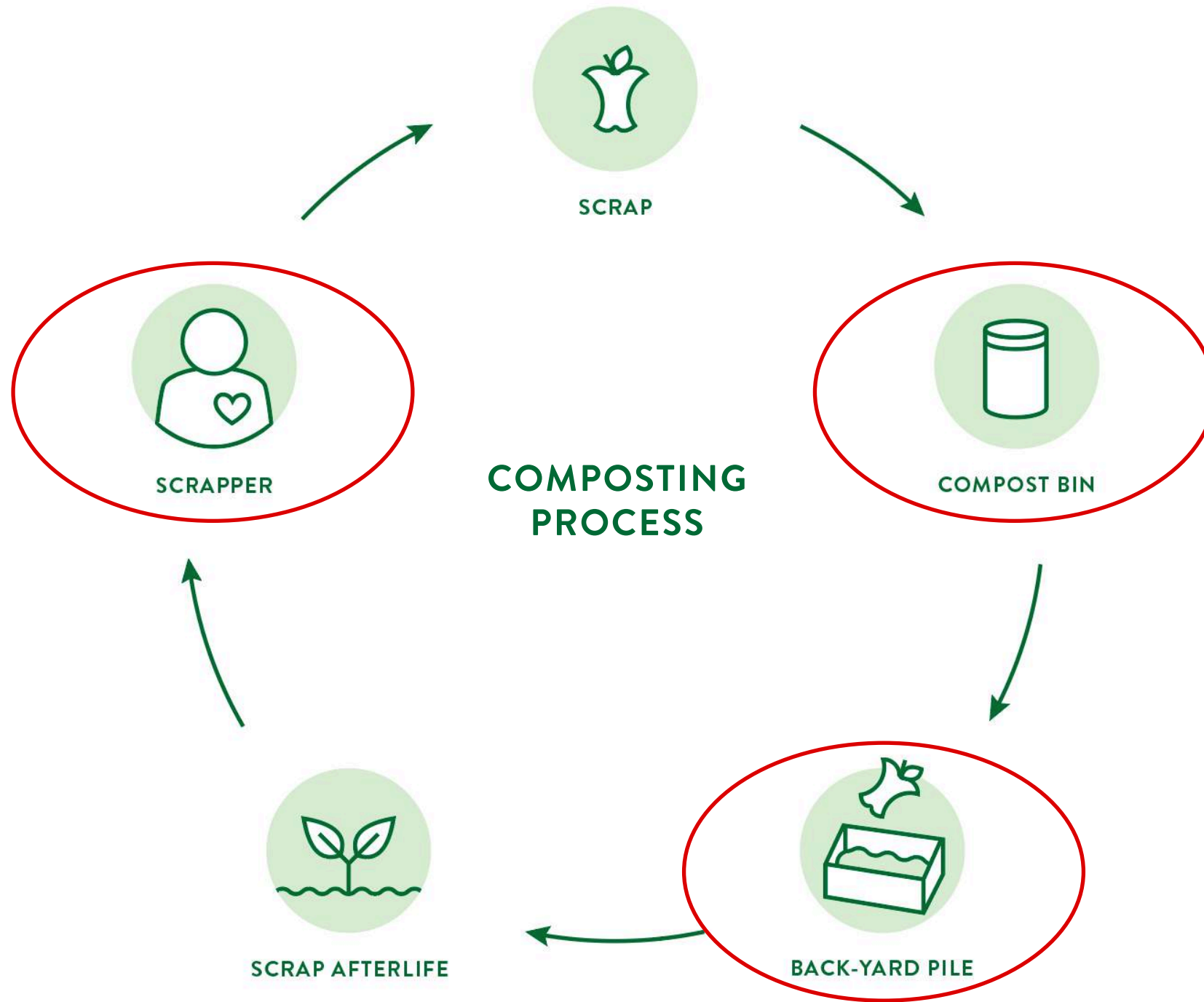
Composting is evolving, as are market opportunities. **Growing interest** coupled with a rising global awareness of the food waste crisis is serving up an **untapped space for a complete designer package.**

There are few options for composting products that overlap with the home goods/kitchenware market. The solutions that do exist are **incomplete**, lacking elements of service or community.





Composting is a way to **love our scraps.**

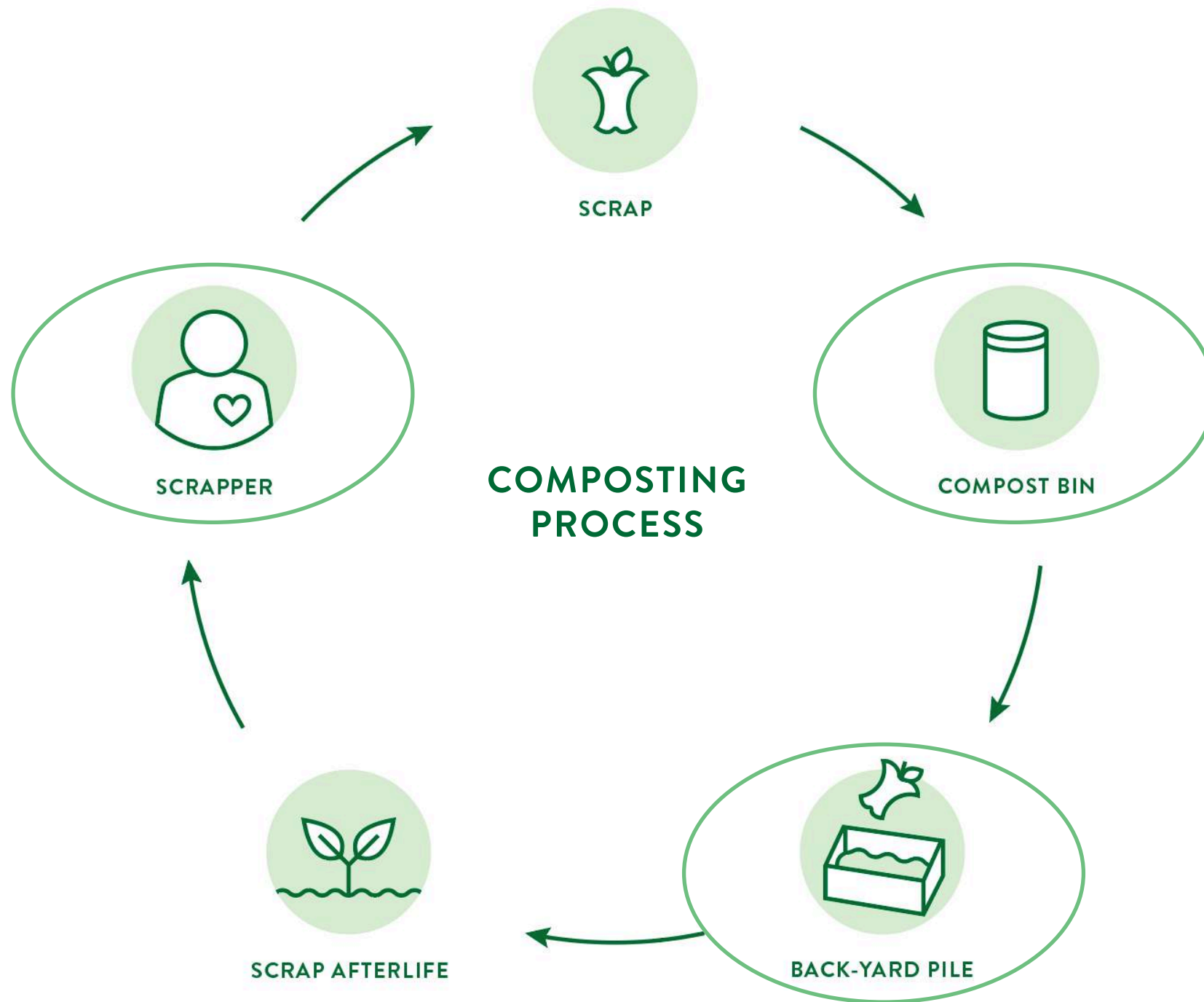


Road-blocks to composting:

"Most compost bins are ugly."
"I don't want to keep this in my kitchen."

"I don't have a backyard."
"I don't want to go through the *entire* composting process."

"I don't know how to compost."
"I don't know anyone who composts."

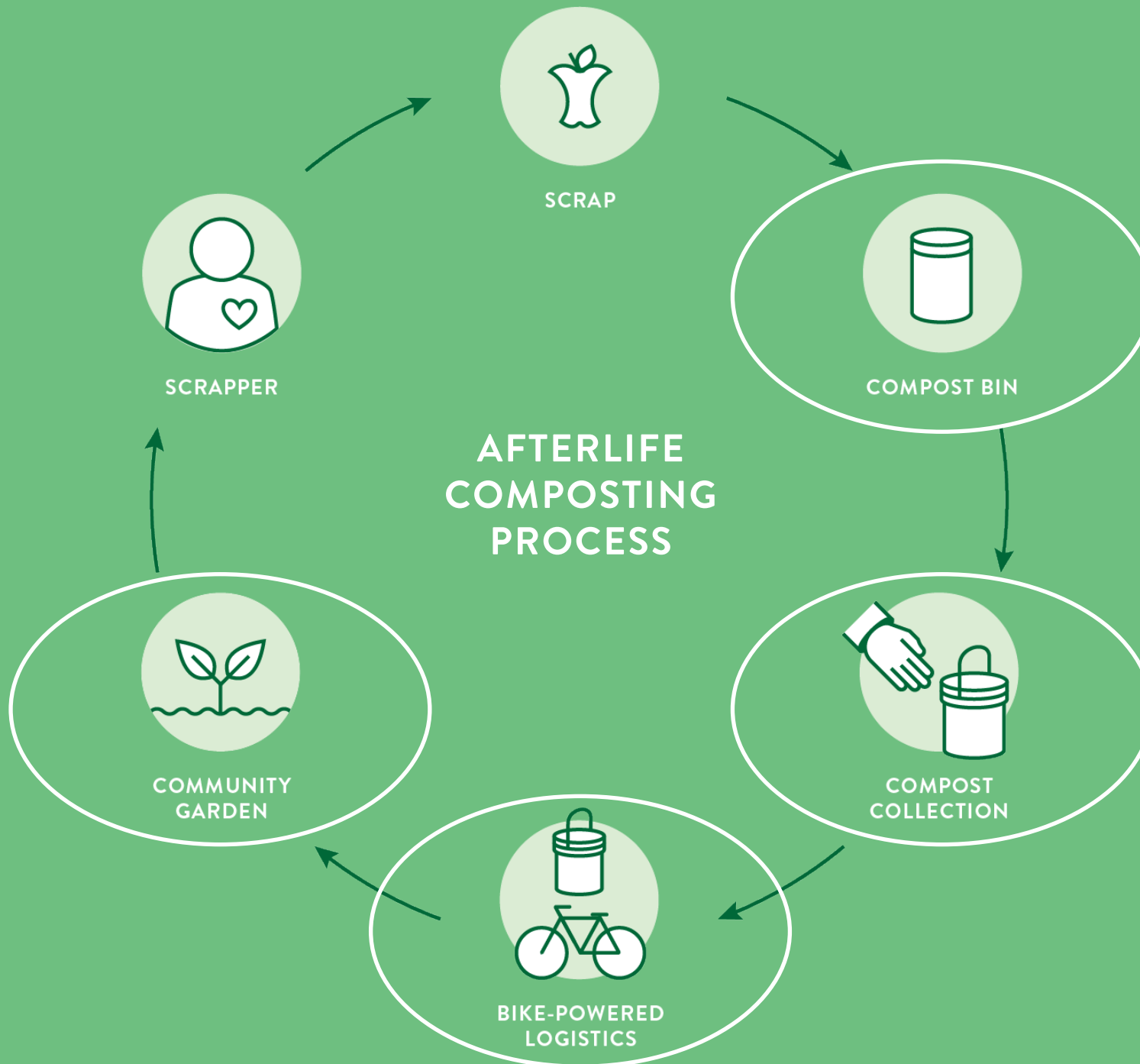


Keys to a successful compost operation:

Better products

Better services

Education and Community



Afterlife is a complete package:

Products

Services

Programming

Afterlife

Urban Composting

Products



Economy Line

Plastic buckets



Boutique Line

Stainless steel vessels



Artist Series

Sculptures by local artists

Services



Compost Collection

Curbside pick-up



Drop-off Sites

Centralized locations



Compost Guide

Booklet

Programming



Community Garden

Food afterlife



Workshops

Education



Events

Community

Products



Economy Line



Boutique Line



Artist Series



Economy Line

Plastic bucket – minimum viable product. Accessible and affordable option. Available in three sizes: 1, 3.5, or 5 gallon.





Boutique Line

Stainless steel vessel – higher-end item. Falls into the kitchenware/home good product market. Available in two sizes: Travel and Kitchen.





Boutique Line

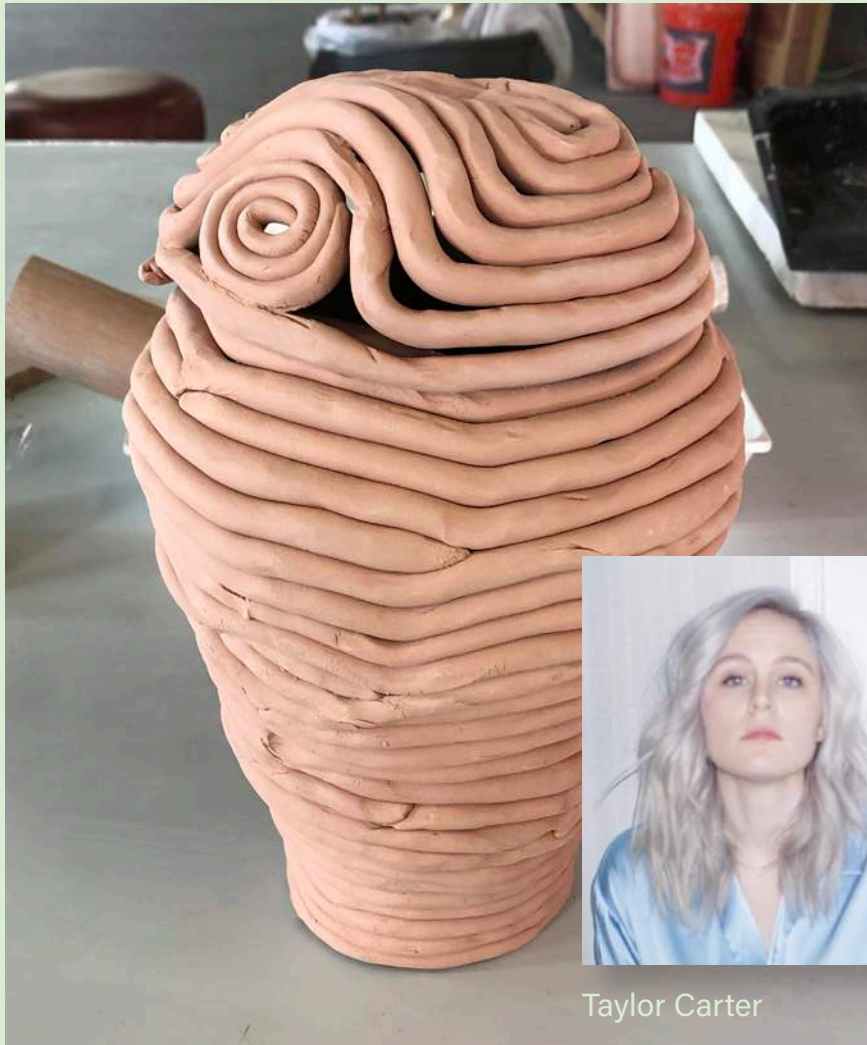
The Travel vessel collects your scraps while you're away from home.
The Kitchen vessel has a washable charcoal filter placed in the lid.





Artist Series

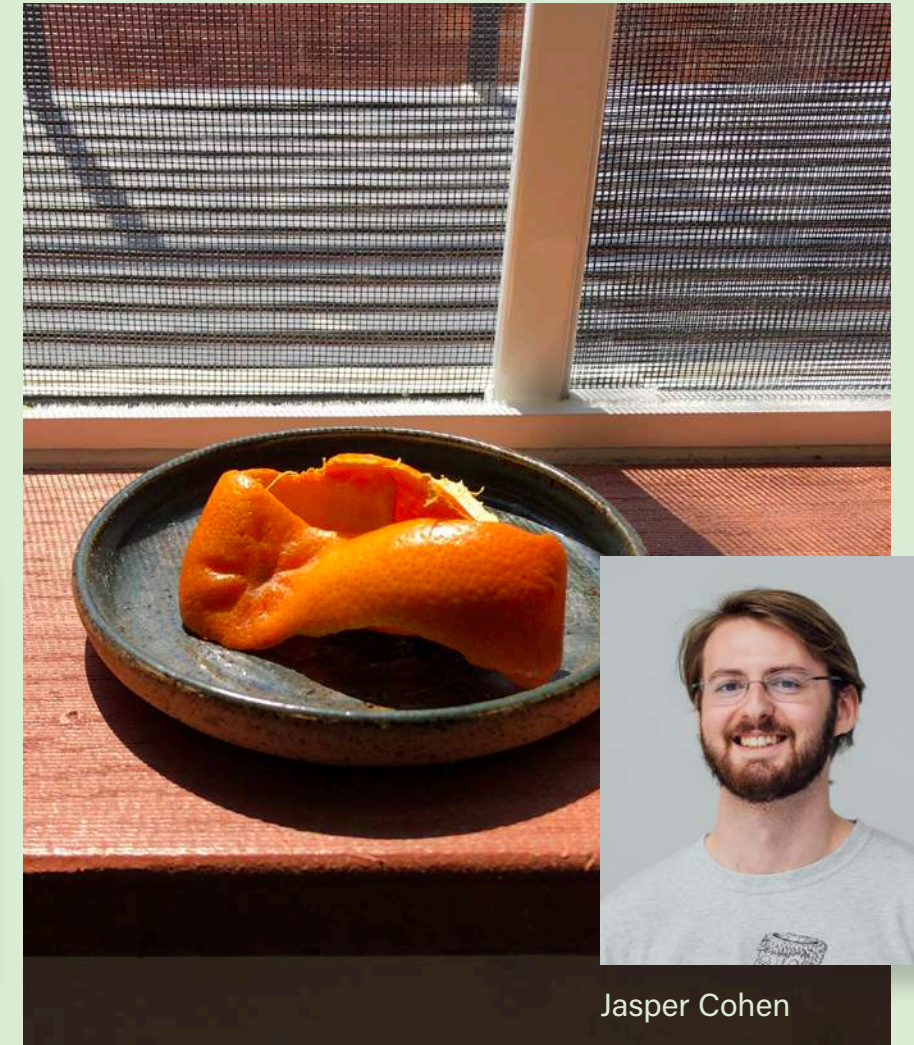
Custom small-batch run of vessels by local artists – a conversation piece. Blurs the line between functional product and sculptural object.



Taylor Carter



Sam Brockman



Jasper Cohen

Services



Compost Collection



Drop-off Sites

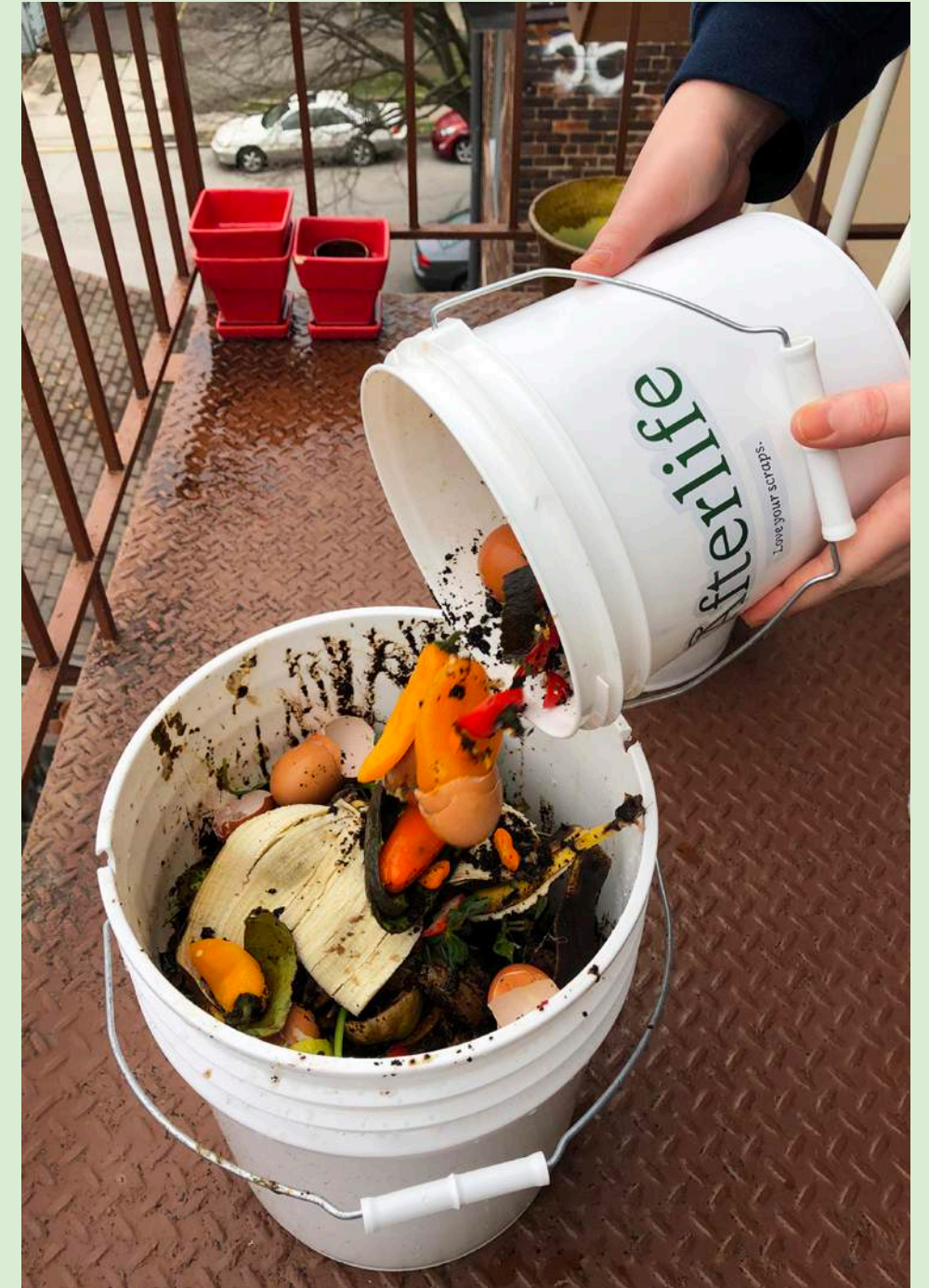
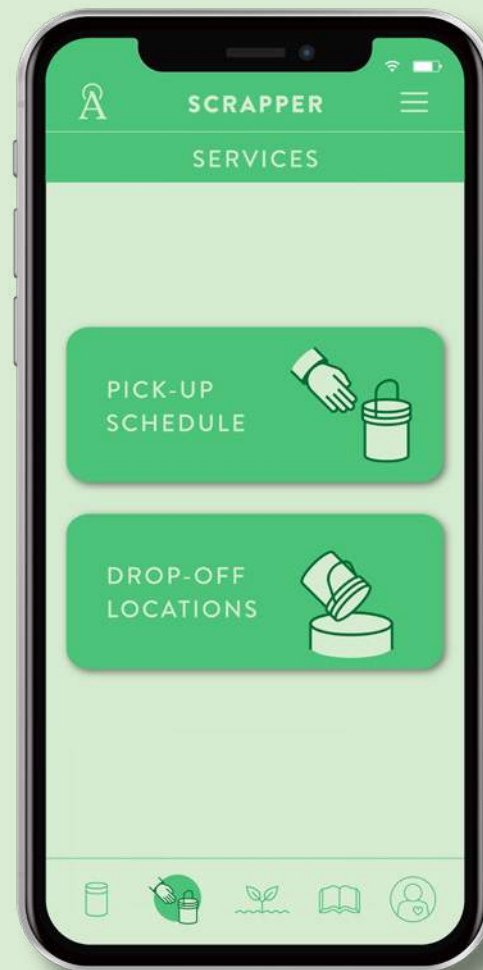
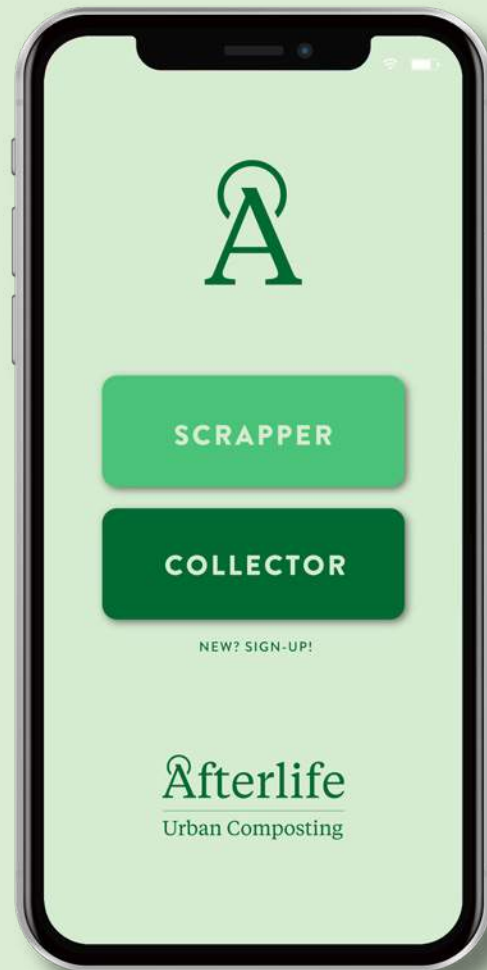


Compost Guide



Compost Collection

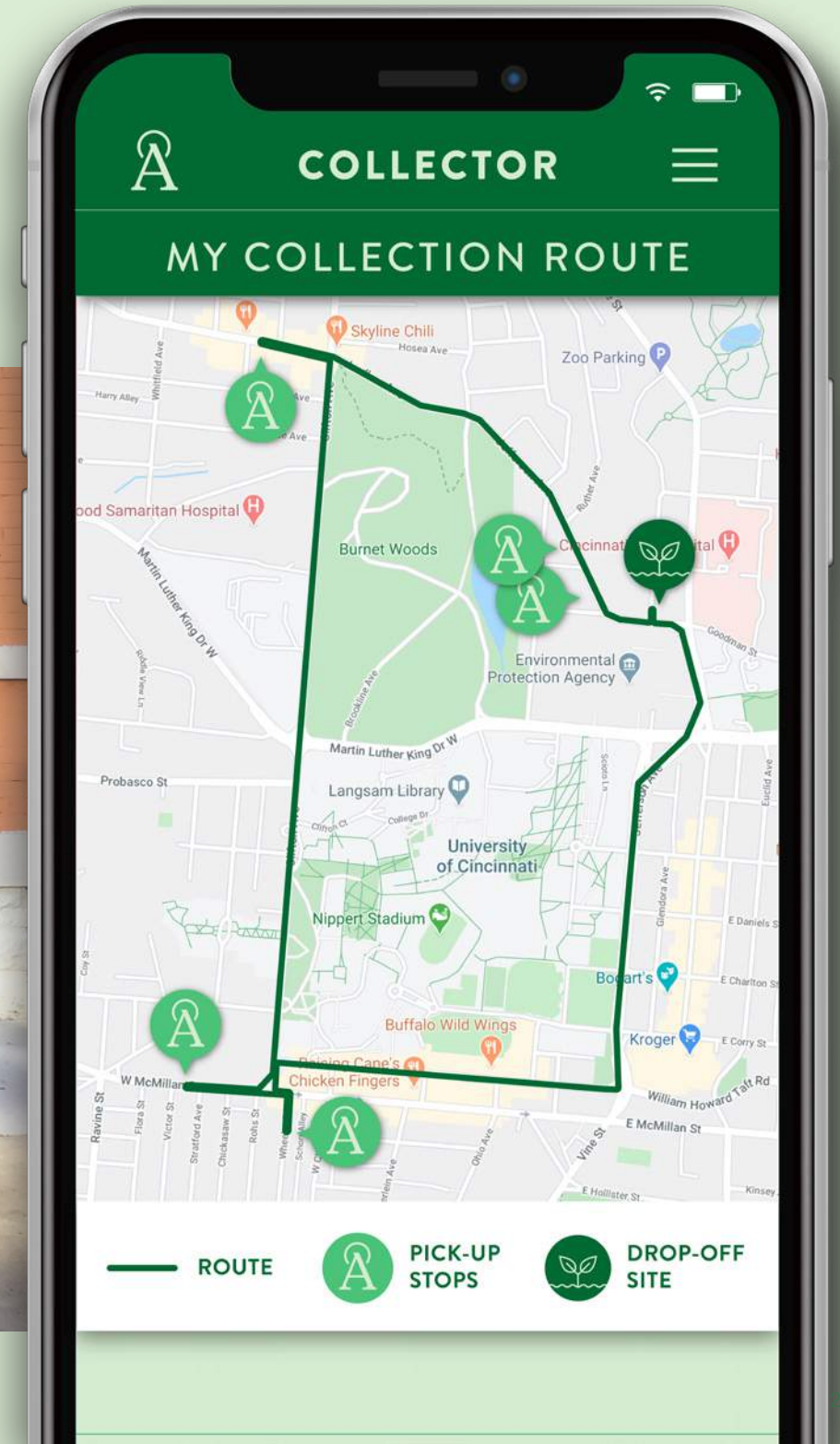
Weekly curb-side compost collection. Pick-up is coordinated through the Afterlife app. \$20 monthly fee or \$200 annual fee.





Pedal-Powered Logistics

Zero-emissions! Collectors pick up compost from Scrappers. Feeding off the “gig economy,” the app is modeled like Uber or AirBnB.





Two-Month Trial Run

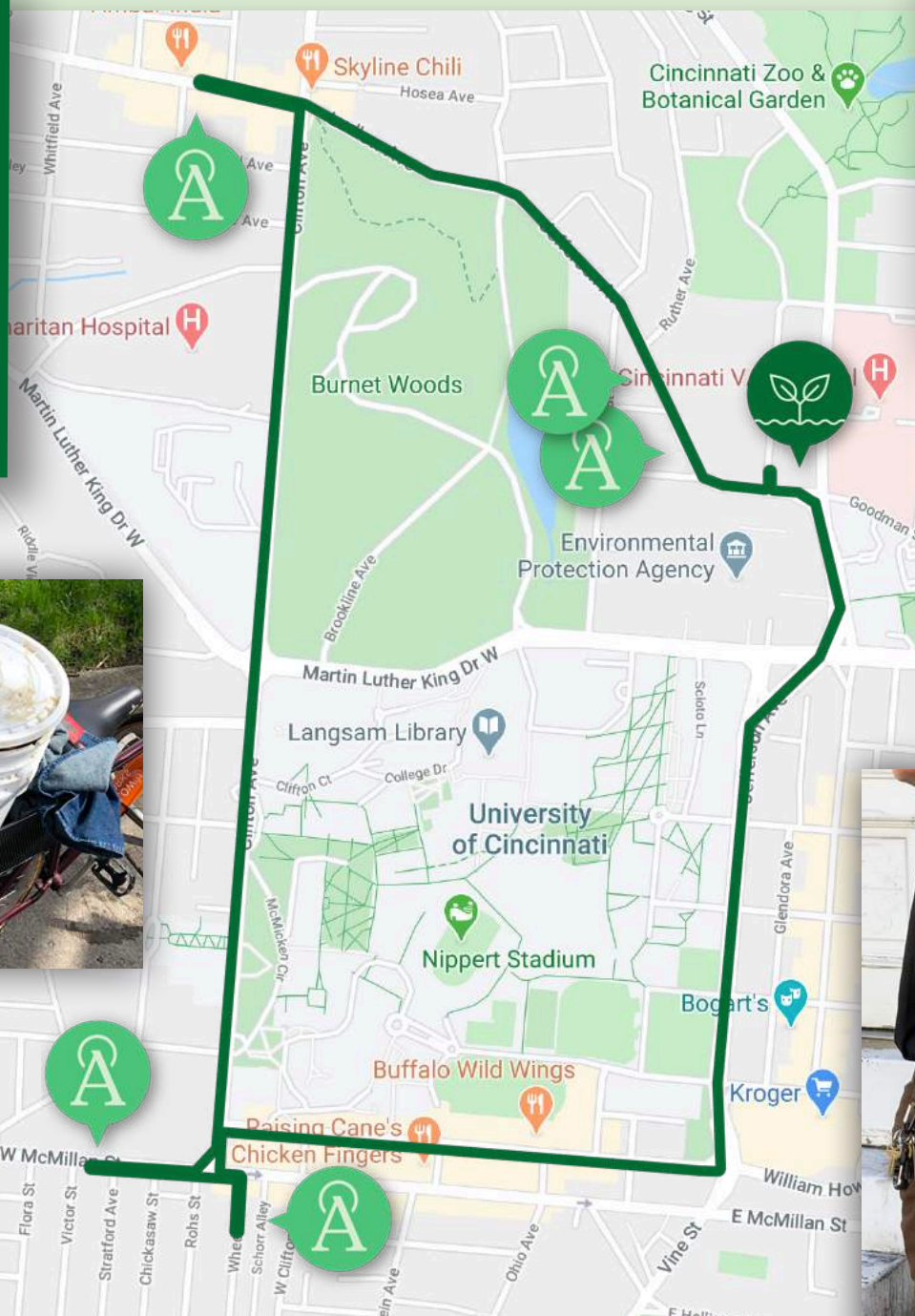
COLLECTION METRICS

5 clients – 4 residences, 1 coffee shop

42 gallons – scrap diverted from landfill

26.4 miles – biked

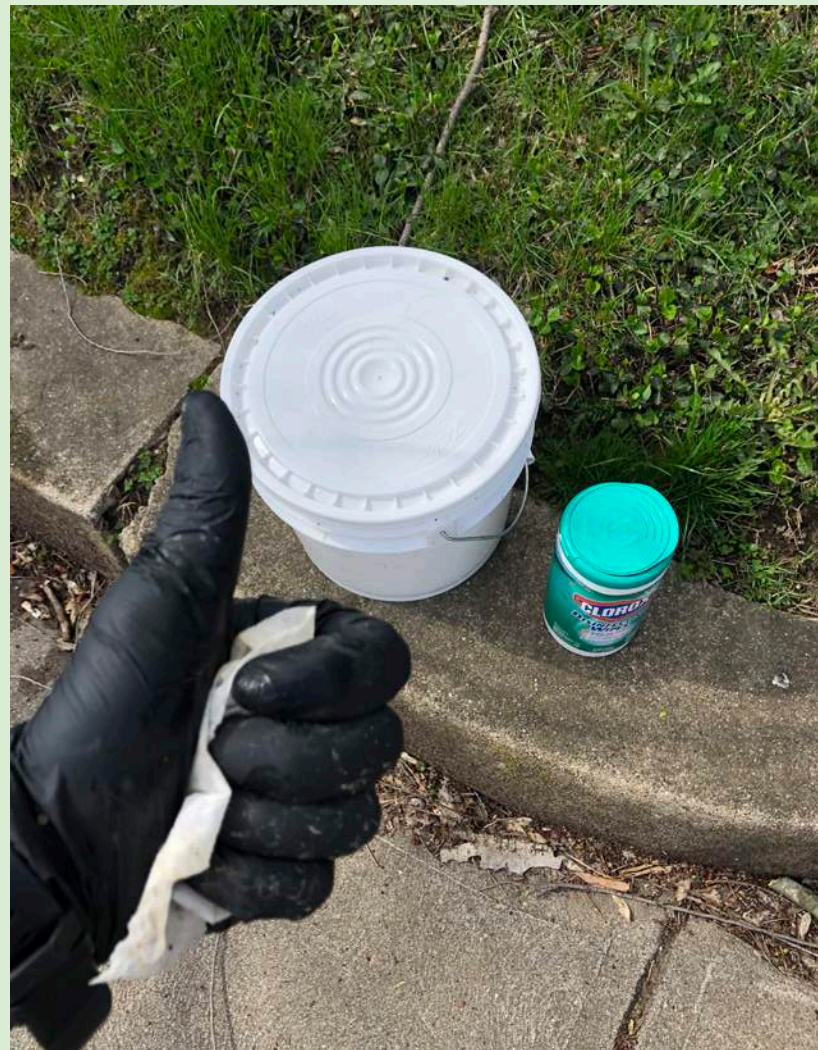
1 wipeout





Adapting to the Pandemic

Amidst the outbreak of COVID-19, collection services continued with adjustments to maintain social distancing and overall cleanliness.





Drop-off Sites

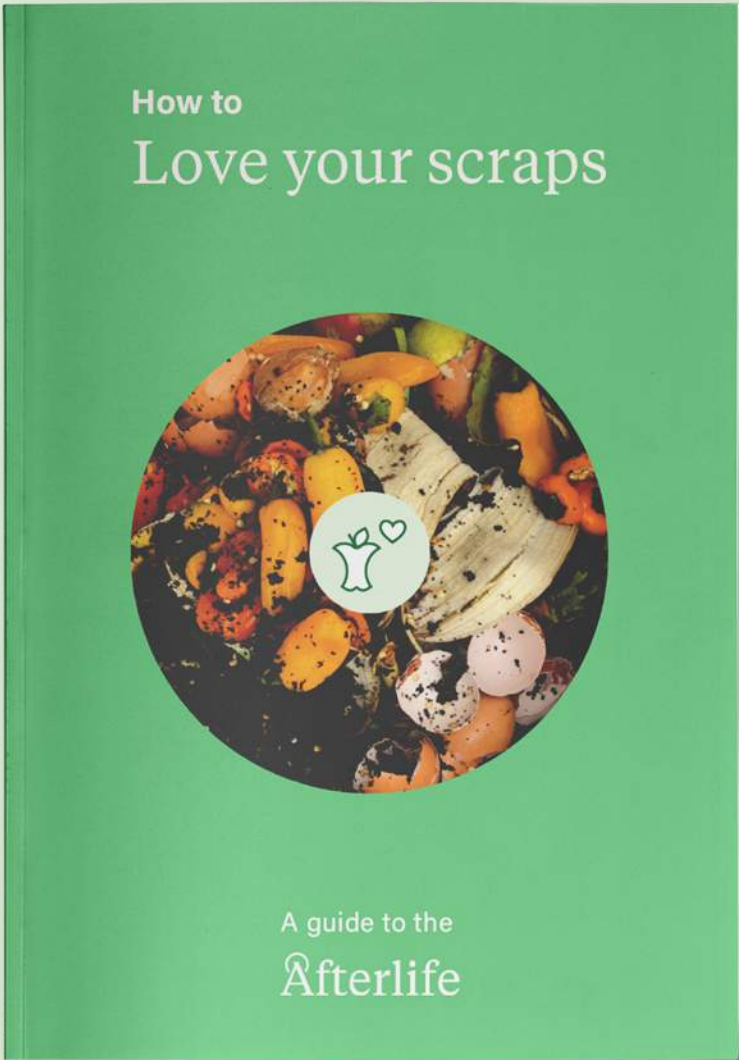
Centralized locations consolidate pick-up routes for Collectors. Third-party partners like Kroger offer participants store credit on produce.





Compost Guide

How-to compost booklet with educational guides, tips, and recipes.



Programming



Community Garden



Workshops



Events



Community Garden

Local hub for scrap drop-off and ecological socializing. Through the app, Scrappers and Collectors can manage the garden together.



Workshops

Workshops provide education on composting, gardening, and food waste, while facilitating community-building.





Events

The Afterlife Dinner Party is a meal made from food grown in the community garden that used soil enriched with compost collected from all of the dinner party guests over the summer prior to the event.



You're invited to the afterlife

a dinner party
on saturday august 15
from 6:00 until 11:00
at the glendora house
rsvp by august 1



Menu

Kale and Roasted Tempeh Salad w/ Lemon Tahini Dressing

Kale, roasted tempeh sauteed in soy sauce, diced tomato, carrot,
chopped almonds, and lemon tahini dressing

Beet Hummus w/ Vegetables

Beet, lemon, dill hummus served with
chopped carrots and cucumbers

Another menu item

Ingredient, ingredient, ingredient, ingredient,
ingredient, ingredient, ingredient,



The Afterlife Dinner Party is a meal made
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Love your scraps.

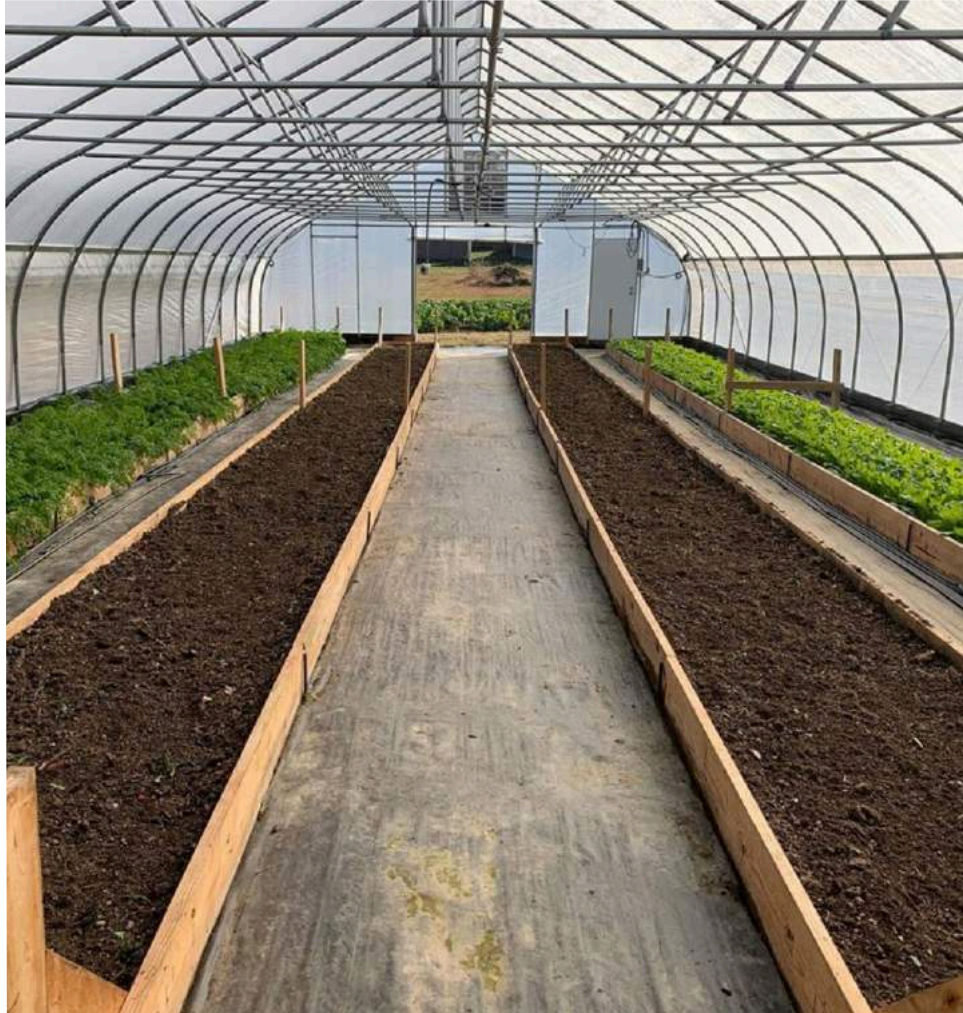
A SIGHTS&SOUNDS PRODUCTION



Where does it go?

The compost, soil, and food produced could have a massive outreach.

Beyond Afterlife-sponsored community gardens, **compost and soil** will be **sold to partnering businesses** including local farms, green-houses, landscapers, and gardeners.



Potential local business partners:



The Bigger Picture

Afterlife can foster a **healthy, responsible, and self-sufficient** culture built around **environmental stewardship**.



The Bigger Picture

It's a way to **connect urban and rural communities** which seem to only be getting further away from each other.



The Bigger Picture

It's **giving new life** to what was once considered "trash," and can serve as a model to **re-evaluate our relationship with *all* types of waste.**





Love your scraps

Afterlife
Urban Composting

An ongoing project by Nick Mason
nickbmason.com/afterlife