

## Household waste minimization

This is personally: I strongly believe that garbage, litter, and waste became a problem because we invented them. Mother Nature does not have any **garbage, litter, or waste problem**. Any “garbage”, “litter” or waste from one process in nature is the resource for another one. In society similar trend has already appeared: second hand stores, garage sales, composting of organic wastes and food leftovers, recycling, reusing... The right process is going on and on and is getting stronger and stronger. The wrong one creates environmental and health & safety problems: pollution, disasters, climate change, diseases, epidemics, extinction, etc.

Two years ago I decided to start controlling my own waste (see [the municipal activities in waste management](#)). I took the motto: no more organic waste in my garbage! Composting and sharing food with natural consumers: animals, birds, insects, and bacteria. Who is the best food waste manager in our neighborhood? Raccoon is. Why this animal has created a garbage problem? **Because it does not have the free access to the eatable part of our garbage.** I decided to grant raccoons the free access: I put my food leftovers, when I have them, on a plate near compost bin. I was surprised how neatly and quietly everything was consumed! I do not feed them like pets: if I do not have leftovers I do not feel responsible. When I buy food, I only think how much I need. I simply have granted them free access to my leftovers: no bags or papers, no boxes or containers, just eatable leftovers. Not-eatable (from my point of view) stuff, I place inside the compost bin, which is located in the backyard (see the picture). If I make mistake with my assessment, raccoons fix it very easy: there is no any difficulty for them to get their food from the bin.



What are advantages and disadvantages of such relationship? I see only advantages:

1. I do not have any smelly garbage inside and outside the house, and I do not put anything like that on a curb as well.
2. There is no need to feed them like pets: raccoons do not create food storages like squirrels, rats or mice: they only eat as much as they need. Therefore, large amount of leftovers (after a party, or because of any occasional reason) can be placed into the compost bin and will be eventually consumed as well (raccoons are not the only consumers of our leftovers: birds, insects and bacteria are also).
3. My knowledge of their behavior, habits, lifecycle grows everyday: they are omnivores (they eat everything), they are not hunters – they are collectors. They prefer fish rather than meat, fruits, especially grapes, plums (they collect them in my garden) rather than vegetables. I do not afraid to buy whole fish or shrimps because of their stinky waste: I have the permanent consumers for that.
4. Our mutual trust to each other growth every day as well. Making measurements at the Fletcher's Creek I saw crawfish's leftovers after raccoons: for some reason they eat only heads (may be they took me into account?).
5. Watching and communication with wild animals makes us think globally. We pay more for houses located in vicinity of any parks, lakes, rivers, adjoined to any tiny piece of nature in a city. We cannot be separated from nature without any damage to ourselves. Why we don't create our own piece of "natural heaven" in our backyard, garden, and neighborhood? We have to find these ways of integration into nature. Why? Like all other creatures we are a part of the global bio-diversity. Dislike all others creatures we are creators as well. We have body and soul. Our bodies are sensors of the global prosperity: our blood has the same chemical composition as the ocean water has. Our sole and brain have to integrate our industrial and techno structures as a harmonious component of the global bio-chemical cycles to sustain bio-diversity.

**I believe we are on the right way!**

