

Food Scrap Composting At Community Gardens

Tips for Good Neighbor Contacts

- Practice transparency at all times—communicating early and often will help your neighbors understand what you are doing and why. If you are approachable, neighbors are more likely to come to you with questions before misunderstandings or misinformation take hold.
- Our community garden has been invited to participate in a pilot food scrap community composting effort initiated by the Compost Association of Vermont and the Vermont Community Garden Network. If we join the pilot we will receive funding to improve our existing compost site and create a valuable soil amendment for our gardens.
 - Our garden space will remain the same; we are not expanding our area. We will make minor improvements to the composting area.
- Describe your system: We will be using an enclosed compost tumbler or enclosed compost bins to fully compost food scraps. Once composted the materials will be transferred to our compost bins for curing.
 - Compost tumblers are vector resistant; fully enclosed to be odor proof; and designed to fully decompose food scraps within a couple weeks.
 - We will not have any motorized equipment onsite for our compost system.
- Materials being accepted: food scraps, but NO meat will be accepted. Food scraps will be incorporated into a metal container and covered with a layer of sawdust or placed directly into the enclosed compost tumbler.
- Our tumbler and compost bins will be enclosed by a fence.
- Our compost team will be fully trained by compost professionals and will have ongoing support and technical assistance, as needed from the team of experts.
- Our collection will start small—with just our community garden members. If the compost system works well and there are no issues we will consider adding additional participants.
- We will keep a log book of our materials composted, compost temperatures and other system metrics.
- We invite all of our neighbors to give us feedback, let us know if there are issues, or answer any questions.