

# Community Composting Success

a two-part webinar series brought to you by the Northeast Recycling Council

## PART 1: Best Management Practices for Community Composting Team Building



# Today's Presenters



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# How Do You Get Started?

Keeping it local:  
home & community composting

## Getting started

- Clarifying goals
- Identifying needs
- Building partnerships



# Worksheets to Help You Get Started

- Local Opportunities, Issues and Priorities Evaluation
- SMART Goal Setting
- ABCD Toolkit (Asset Based Community Development)
- Mapping Reciprocal Partnerships Exercise
- Volunteer Engagement & Retention Guide



# Inputs & Outputs



**PEOPLE'S TIME**



**MATERIALS**



**FEEDSTOCKS**



**FINISHED  
COMPOST**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDSHIP**



**EDUCATION**



**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT/  
VOLUNTEERISM**

# Roles & Tasks: Who do you need on your team?

## **Compost Site Manager(s)**

One or more people overseeing site and work

## **Compost Team/Helpers**

Supporting the work of the Site Manager(s)

## **Compost Generators/Users**

Contribute food scraps & other materials to compost  
(can also play a role in supporting the work of composting)



Compost project with the help of Vermont



Photos: upper: Calahan  
Garden Coordinators;  
lower: The Garden at 485  
Compost Steward

# COMPOST SITE MANAGERS

- Overall management of the operation
  - Ensure system maintenance
  - Source materials as needed
- Recruits & trains compost team volunteers
- Creates & knows the volunteer schedule
  - Delegates tasks effectively
- Ongoing Communication





Photos: upper L: Ludlow Area Community Garden; upper R: Champlain Valley Co-housing; lower L: Quarry Hill senior apartments; lower R: condo association



# COMPOST TEAM/ HELPERS

- Monitoring food scraps/other feedstocks
- Layering & turning compost piles
- Sifting compost
- Distributing finished compost
- Providing education & outreach

Photos: top: Charlotte Central School;  
bottom: Red Hook Community Farm







Photos: upper L: BK Rot, Brooklyn; upper R: DC Parks & Rec Community Compost Cooperative Network; lower L: Ludlow Area Community Garden; lower R: Franklin St. Homeowners Association





WELCOME TO LA PLAZA CULTURAL COMPOST SITE

REMEMBER!  
CHECK WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED AT THIS SITE

YES	NO
- Fruit and Vegetables	- Meat or Fish Scraps
- Coffee Grounds and Tea Bags	- Cheese or Dairy Products
- Leaf-lowers that are not so greasy	- Fats, Grease or Oils
- Egg Shells (Crushed)	- Cat or Dog Feces
- Animal Manure and Bedding from a Herbivore/Pet	- Kitty Litter
- Spiced Paper Napkins	- Coal or Charcoal
- Bread and Grains	- Plastic Bags or Plastic Products
- Shells and Corncobs	- Compostable Plastics
	- Glass or Metal



- # COMPOST GENERATORS & USERS
- Contribute materials to compost piles
  - Layering & turning compost piles
  - Spreading finished compost

Photos: left: La Plaza Cultural Community Garden; middle: Fort Ethan Allen Community Garden; right: Bakersfield Elementary Middle School





# Training & Retaining: Keep in mind...

## Interest and commitment

- \* start small
- \* unique character of site

## Time available

- \* variety of tasks
- \* seasonal availability

## Knowledge/skills/comfort level

- \* training, education & signage needed



Photos: Upper: Composter Coordinator, Abby Fouik with student volunteers; Lower: Ruby & Andy, Co-coordinators & Master Composters at Callahan Community Garden

Photos: left & middle: The Garden at 485 Elm; top right: Thetford Elementary School; bottom right: La Plaza Cultural Community Garden



**INSTRUCTIONS  
VISUALS  
TIPS  
TRAINING  
COMMUNICATIONS**

**COMPOST INSTRUCTIONS**  
PLEASE FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS WHEN COMPOSTING WITH US

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR HOUSE CHOP YOUR FOOD SCRAPS</p> <p>BETWEEN 1 TO 3 INCHES</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>DUMP YOUR FOOD SCRAPS INSIDE METAL CAN</p> <p>PICK THE ONE THAT IS THE FULLEST</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>COVER YOUR SCRAPS WITH BROWNS</p> <p>BROWNS ARE FOUND IN ADJACENT PLASTIC BINS</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>MIX SCRAPS AND BROWNS WELL TOGETHER</p> <p>MIXER IS HUNG IN FENCE MAKE MIX FLUFFY</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>TOP WITH A FINE LAYER OF BROWNS</p> <p>NO FOOD SHOULD BE EXPOSED</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>REPLACE LIDS ON METAL CAN AND PLASTIC BIN</p> <p>ENJOY THE GARDEN!</p>





- Acceptable Materials
- ✓ Grass clippings
  - ✓ Leaf scraps, weeds
  - ✓ Yard debris
  - ✓ Coffee grounds/filters & tea bags
  - ✓ Leaves, garden trimmings
  - ✓ Newspaper, paper towels
  - ✓ Bread/crust
  - ✓ Livestock bedding/manure
  - ✓ Straw



# What to do when problems arise... Life happens



# Creating Sustainable Sites

- **Strong partnerships** = strong community
- **Technical assistance** = training
- **Regular communication** = in ways that work for those involved
- **Redundancy** = shared leadership, good records, buddy system
- **“Succession” plans** = be prepared

# Resources

- **Northeast Recycling Council ([nerc.org/nerc-resources/search-for-resources/](http://nerc.org/nerc-resources/search-for-resources/))**
- **Composting Association of Vermont**  
([CompostingVermont.org/community-food-scrap-composting-resources](http://CompostingVermont.org/community-food-scrap-composting-resources))
- **Institute for Local Self-Reliance ([ilsr.org/composting/rg/composting](http://ilsr.org/composting/rg/composting))**
- **Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District**  
([cvswmd.org/uploads/6/1/2/6/6126179/cvswmd-compostbooklet-2019-final.pdf](http://cvswmd.org/uploads/6/1/2/6/6126179/cvswmd-compostbooklet-2019-final.pdf))
- **Master Composter Programs**



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