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 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
COMPOST TEAM/ HELPERS

- Monitoring food scraps/other feedstocks
- Layering & turning compost piles
- Sifting compost
- Distributing finished compost
- Providing education & outreach
● Contribute materials to compost piles
● Layering & turning compost piles
● Spreading finished compost

COMPOST GENERATORS & USERS

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
INSTRUCTIONS

Put food scraps into the plastic buckets in bin.

Wood Shavings
Add 3 scoops of wood shavings over each gallon of food scraps.

Food Scaps you can add to the compost bin:
- Meat scraps
- Fish
- Dairy products
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Leftovers
- Bread
- Pastries
- Coffee grounds
- Tea leaves
- Paper towels
- Paper napkins
- Newspapers
- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Flowers

Do NOT add these to the bin:
- Meat
- Fish
- Dairy products
- Fruits
- Vegetables

COMPOST INSTRUCTIONS

Before you leave your house, chop your food scraps.

Dump your food scraps inside metal can.

Cover your scraps with browns.

Between 1 to 3 inches.

Pick the one that is the fullest.

Brown are found in adjacent plastic bin.

Mix scraps and browns well together.

Top with a fine layer of browns.

Mixers is hung on fence make mix fluffy.

No food should be exposed.

Enjoy the garden.

Photos: left & middle: The Garden at 485 Elm; top right: Thetford Elementary School; bottom right: La Plaza Cultural Community Garden
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/)
- Composting Association of Vermont (CompostingVermont.org/community-food-scrap-composting-resources)
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ilsr.org/composting/rg/composting)
- Master Composter Programs
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