## **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**



**Natasha Duarte**, Director Composting Association of Vermont



**Libby Weiland**, Statewide Network Coordinator, Vermont Community Gardens Network



Cassandra Hemenway, Outreach Manager, Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District





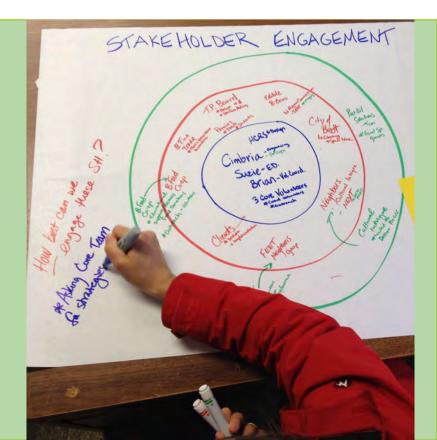


## How Do You Get Started?

Keeping it local: home & community composting

#### **Getting started**

Clarifying goalsIdentifying needsBuilding 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**



## 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)



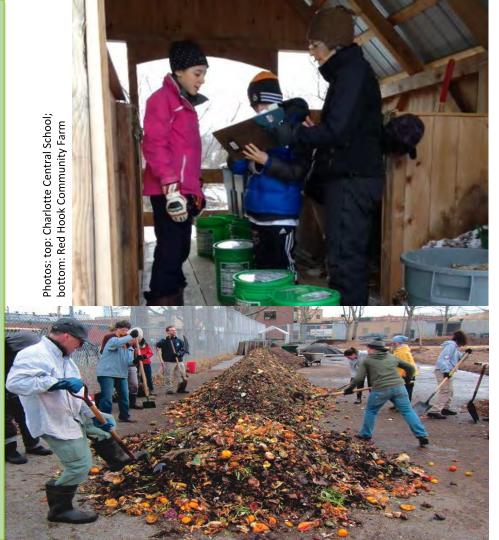
## **COMPOST SITE MANAGERS**

- 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

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: 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

1.1



## COMPOST GENERATORS & USERS

- Contribute materials to compost piles
- Layering & turning compost piles
- Spreading finished compost



## Training & Retaining: Keep in mind...

#### Interest and commitment

\*unique character of site

#### Time available

\*start small

\*variety of tasks

\*seasonal availability Knowledge/skills/comfort level

\*training, education & signage needed

hotos: Upper: Composter Coordinator, Abby Foull vith student volunteers; Lower: Ruby & Andy, :o-coordinators & Master Composters at Callahan :ommunity Garden

#### KITCHEN WASTE

Put food scraps into the plastic buckets in bin.

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

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#### FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF TIPS

ermont's Universal Recycling Law, Act 148, bans organics lieal and yard waste and food scraps) from the landfill by 2020. Residents will have the choice to drop food scraps at drop-off locations (for a fee), get a curbside pickup (for a fee), or manage their organics as animal food or backyard composting. Your local transfer station is interesting food scraps, which will be recycled into compost at interesting should be and dropping off food scraps should be interesting are recycling. Read on for tios to keen it clean and emotion

INSTRUCTIONS

VISUALS

TIPS

TRAINING

COMMUNICATIONS

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

COMPOST INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS WHEN COMPOSTING WITH US

DUMP YOUR FOOD SCRAPS INSIDE

METAL CAN

PICK THE ONE THAT IS THE

FULLEST

TOP WITH A FINE LAYER OF

BROWNS

NO FOOD SHOULD BE EXPOSED

COVER YOUR SCRAPS WITH

BROWNS

**BROWNS ARE FOUND IN ADJACENT** 

PLASTIC BINS

REPLACE LIDS ON METAL CAN

AND PLASTIC BIN

ENJOY THE GARDEN

BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR HOUSE

CHOP YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

**BETWEEN 1 TO 3 INCHES** 

MIX SCRAPS AND BROWNS WELL

TOGETHER

MIXER IS HUNG IN FENCE

MAKE MIX FLUFFY



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





Photos: left: North Branch Nature Center; right: Quarry Hill Apartments

## **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)
- Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (cvswmd.org/uploads/6/1/2/6/6126179/cvswmd-compostbooklet-2019-final.pdf)
- Master Composter Programs

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