



Lower East Side
Ecology Center

WORKING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE NYC SINCE 1987

Community Composting in the New York City

September 16, 2014



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Mission

recycling and composting programs
local stewardship of green space
environmental education programs





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The Lower East Side Ecology Center started in 1987 by offering a free drop-off program for recyclables prior to City-wide curbside program.



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Composting Program started in 1990 to transform a vacant lot into an attractive open space.





1994 – Farmer’s Market Drop off
Union Square Greenmarket

Currently serves over 1,500
households, averaging 4 tons/wk of
source separated food-waste

Outlet to sell compost and potting
soil to cover operating expenses





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Operations moved to the East River
Park in 1998

First in-vessel compost system in
Manhattan

Managed leave composting for
59 acre East River Park



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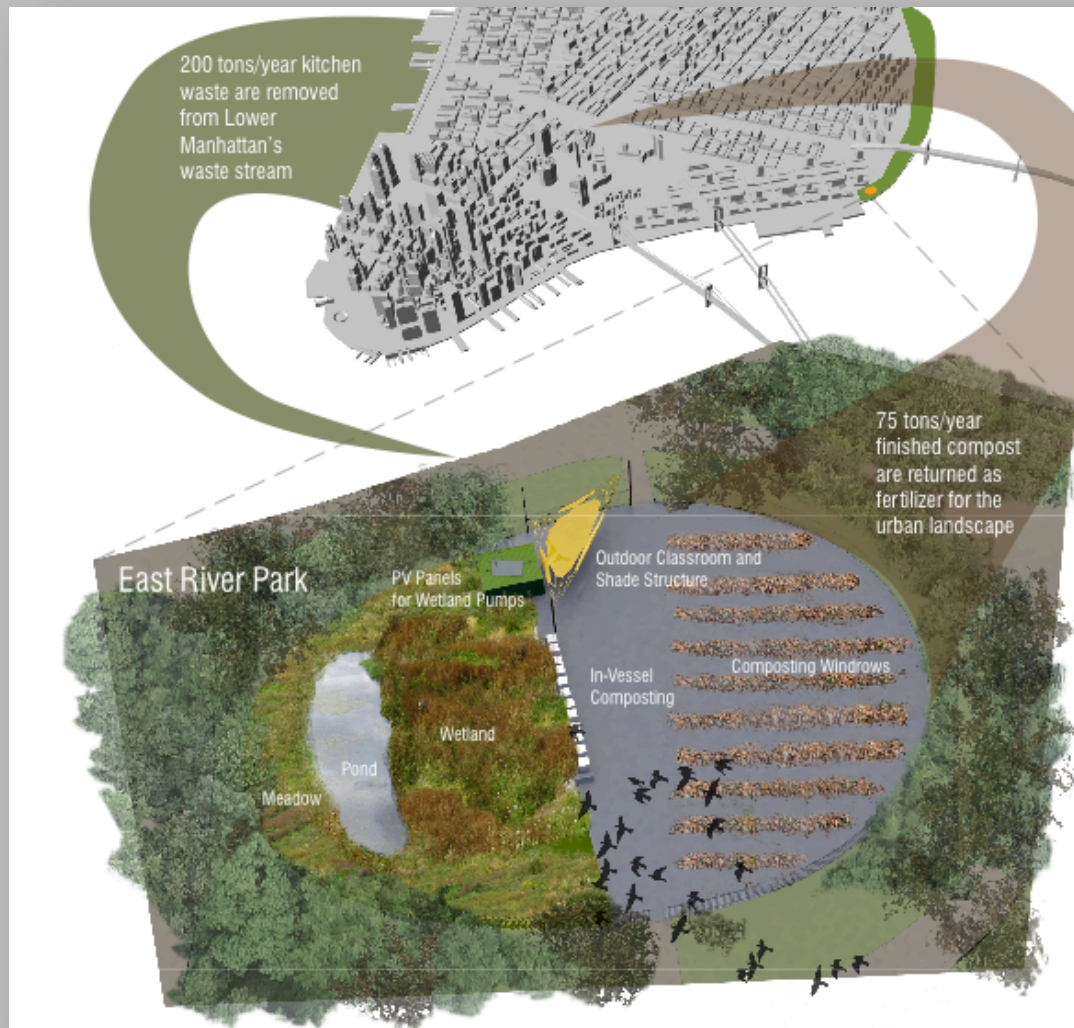
Compost Yard in East River Park





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The Ecology Center will redevelop the compost yard by constructing an artificial wetland to manage leachate, address storm water management and resiliency along the waterfront.



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Screened compost is bagged and sold, also used to make potting soil mix.

The entire cycle, collection to processing, takes 3 months

Hyper-local 2 mile radius





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The Ecology Center also provides compost education, outreach, and additional food waste collection through the NYC Compost Project, a program funded by the NYC Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse, and Recycling.

NYCTM
Compost Project

Hosted by



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NYC Compost Project has catalyzed local efforts to process organics by training volunteers and committed citizens

- Master Composter Training Certification
- Indoor and outdoor compost workshops
- Technical assistance, trainings, and apprenticeships
- School and teacher trainings





- Worked with over 45 community compost sites
- Trained 20 Master Composters who performed 400 hours of community service
- Lead 4 compost bin builds and provided technical assistance to over 25 sites





- Established 2 commuter compost drop-off sites
- Collected 60,000 lbs of food-waste from October - December
- Distributed over 13,000 lbs of compost and mulch during street tree stewardship events





- Open 3 additional commuter compost drop-off sites
- Increase partnership with Parks Department to compost leaves
- Develop best management practices for community compost sites





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