

10 steps for community composting

1

Find a suitable space

A level area, ideally in partial shade, near a tree or fence, where the composter will not be obstructed and will be accessible to composters, is suitable for the location of the composter. We recommend finding a vegetated area such as a lawn or bare soil where excess moisture or compost leachate can naturally soak in.



2

Find a community

Find out if other people in the area would welcome a community composter. A three-compartment composter can serve 35 to 50 households. A like-minded group of people is key, and already verified interest of the neighborhood can bring plus points when communicating with the landowner.



3

Contact the landowner

Contact the landowner or Environmental Department of your municipality. Describe your plan and put together a case for why they should support the project and how it will benefit them.



4

Identify the source of funding

It takes time and money to acquire a community composter and to organize the whole thing. You can take a pledge with the community, ask for support from the district or municipality, use grants, etc.



5

Choose a suitable composter

A multi-chamber composter made of wood, with a lockable lid and rodent protection is just the thing. You could find a local carpenter to build a set of composters or you could build them within the community.



6

Inform your neighbourhood

Put up a signpost to let people know what happens here and give them the opportunity to join. Use multiple channels like social media, local newspapers or community centers.



7

Appoint a compost caring team

Elect a compost caring team who keeps a protective hand over the running of the community composting, convenes composting activities and checks if the composition and condition of the composter are fine.



8

Cultivate compost

Only plant residues belong in the compost. The key is to mix brown with green to ensure the correct carbon to nitrogen ratio. Therefore, don't forget to add the brown ones - dry, carbonaceous materials such as wood chips, wood shavings, herbivore bedding, shredder paper, toilet paper rolls or egg liners.



9

Take care regularly

Composting is an aerobic process. You can ensure oxygen supply by regularly turning the compost. Do this whenever the chamber is full. Then the very important maturation process takes place. Multi-chamber composters help you to naturally follow regime.



10

Harvest compost

The volume of bio-waste is significantly reduced to 1/3 of the original amount by composting. The resulting compost is destined for the community members who contributed to its creation. They can use it for their indoor plants, in a garden or for their boxes on the balcony. The rest can be used on site, e.g. for shrubs and trees.



Community composting. What is it?

Neighbourhood composting, community supported composting

- A solution for more people, i.e. a community united by a common space and a desire to compost in a common composter.
- Community composting is one of the ways how to prevent the organic waste ending up in landfills.
- This could be, for example, neighbours in a shared courtyard or residents of the same neighbourhood.
- The aim is to divert tonnes of bio-waste from mixed municipal waste, use it as a valuable raw material for organic fertiliser and return nutrients to the soil. At the same time, participants learn about composting, natural cycles and the joy of producing your own fertiliser.



Co-funded by
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Urban
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