

COMPOSTING



What is composting ?

Compost is created from the decomposition of matter, traditionally yard and food wastes. In the final stages of decomposition compost resembles soil. The finished product makes an excellent fertilizer and is often sold for profit.

Why Compost?

Like recycling, composting effectively reduces solid waste output in the workplace. Composting in state agencies is supported by the following legislation:

[Executive Order No. 156](#)

- Demands a reduction of solid waste for state agencies

[Senate Bill 634](#)

- Financial grants will be provided to encourage the development of a green economy.

[Local Government Solid Waste Responsibilities 130A-309.09A](#)

- Units of local government shall achieve a 40% municipal solid waste reduction goal.



1) Learn a little about composting

www.p2pays.org/compost

- general information on composting

www.carolinascompostingcouncil.org

- composting news and workshop information

[EPA Food Scraps Resources Web site](#)

- food composting

www.p2pays.org/ref/02/01372.pdf

- large-scale composting in NC

2) Make composting contacts

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Rhonda Sherman, Extension Specialist

Biological & Agricultural Engineering, NCSU

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3) Notify building occupants

A memo will allow you to gauge the support of your co-workers and is an opportune way to establish a composting committee.

4) Conduct a waste assessment

Every 2-3 days separate and weigh compostable material. This will allow you to estimate the scale of the composting system. To learn more about waste assessments:

www.p2pays.org/ref/01/00707.pdf

5) Choose a composting system

There are multiple forms of composting including vermicomposting, bin composting and tub composting. Select a system that matches the waste assessment and level of support from other occupants and maintenance staff. To learn more about different composting systems:

<http://p2pays.org/compost/commercial.asp>

6) Contact the property manager

Be sure to identify the waste-reducing intentions of the composting program and highlight any support received following the memo. Discuss possible system locations and collection practices.

7) Consider contracting a local hauler

Most compost systems must be emptied periodically to make room for new compost. Finished compost may be used on building grounds and/or be distributed among employees. Haulers may also be hired to remove finished compost. City waste collection services and private haulers are both options. Contact your local waste management program and/or research nearby private haulers on the p2pays recycling markets directory:

www.p2pays.org/dmrm

8) Acquire a permit

Contact Michael Scott, NC Div. of Waste Mgt.

Phone: 919.733.0692

E-mail: michael.scott@ncmail.net

9) Purchase a container

Depending on the your chosen composting system, research container manufacturers and select a bin. DPPEA's suggested commercial composting systems Web page is a good place to begin your investigation:

http://www.p2pays.org/ref/12/11443_files/frame.htm

10) Develop a collection strategy

Define collection practices by identifying receptacle locations and maintenance. Assign monitoring and collection duties. Post signs to inform occupants of collection practices and (un)acceptable compostable materials.

11) Define collection practices

Write a memo and/or hold a meeting explaining the established collection strategy. This is a good way to clarify the intentions of the project and receive additional support from interested occupants.

12) Maintain support for the program

Maintain program visibility. Keep your composting program strong and healthy. Update building occupants on a continuous basis on the success of the project by highlighting waste reduction figures. Encourage occupants to take finished compost home.