



The Composting Association

INFORMATION SHEET 36

HOME COMPOSTING

INTRODUCTION

There is currently a significant interest in topics associated with composting with particular reference to home composting. This is due in part to green environmental issues coming to the forefront of the political agenda and also as a result of a genuine interest by informed individuals to think and act in an environmentally friendly manner.

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide a list of useful, informative web links to anyone wishing to find key information about home composting. Home composting can involve as much or as little, time and effort as you are prepared to put in.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY OWN COMPOST?

Regardless of the size of your garden, or even window box, there is always an opportunity for you to make your own compost. There are different home composting techniques you can follow, according to what suits you.

If you have a large garden and are keen to make significant quantities of compost, then your approach to composting will be different to that of someone who does not have a garden but wishes to compost food and compostable packaging waste from the kitchen. Composting bins, usually made from plastic or wood, are available in different sizes and can be bought from garden product retailers or by mail order. Increasing numbers of local authorities offer composting bins for residents, at reduced prices. The organisations below provide information about the types of organic waste suitable for composting at home and different techniques you can use to make it.

Whichever technique you choose, it should result in a beneficial compost which will help your garden grow, save you money and bring you pleasure! Choose an approach that suits you and you will find home composting an interesting and compelling activity to be involved in.

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS AND WEBSITES

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING NETWORK

The Community Composting Network supports and promotes the community management and use of waste bio-degradable resources. It is a member's organisation, self-managed by an elected committee of members.

CONTACT DETAILS

<http://www.communitycompost.org/info>

The CCN's main office is at Heeley City Farm in Sheffield but mailing address is: Community Composting Network, 67 Alexandra Rd, Sheffield, S2 3EE.

Telephone: 0114 2580483 or 0114 2553720

CORNELL WASTE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

This U.S.A. based organisation provides details of information resources on a wide variety of composting subjects, including home composting.

CONTACT DETAILS

http://compost.css.cornell.edu/Compost_Resources.html

Cornell University Resource Centre, PO Box 3884, Ithaca, NY, 14850-3884, USA.

Phone: 607-225-2080, Fax: 607-255-9946

E-mail: tomresetr@cornell.edu

GARDEN ORGANIC (FORMERLY HDRA)

'Garden Organic' is the working name of HDRA, the national charity for organic growing.

CONTACT DETAILS

<http://www.organicgardening.org.uk/index.php>

Tel: +44 (0) 24 7630 3517 Fax: +44 (0) 24 7663 9229 Email: enquiry@hdra.org.uk

RECYCLE NOW

On this website, you'll find all the information you need to start composting. It includes tips on how to get the most from your compost, how to tackle common composting problems and how to use your compost to help your garden bloom.

CONTACT DETAILS

http://www.recyclenow.com/home_composting/welcome.html

ROTWEB

This U.S.A. based website displays resources and information about education and composting. It is a useful reference site introducing composting, advice on how to make compost and sources of composting equipment.

CONTACT DETAILS

<http://www.rotweb.com/>

THE ROUGH GUIDE TO COMPOSTING AT HOME

This site is run by Leicestershire County Council, and provides some useful tips on home composting. Many local authorities now promote home composting via their websites, so check your own local authority's website for information and promotions.

CONTACT DETAILS

http://www.leics.gov.uk/home_composting

HOW TO COMPOST.ORG

This U.S.A. based website is designed to be a hub for all composting information, whether you are a beginner, expert or somewhere in between. The articles and links cover all topics about home composting and organic gardening. The goal of the specialists who develop and maintain this website is to be the best resource on the internet for composting information.

CONTACT DETAILS

<http://www.howtocompost.org>

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

This U.S.A. based website contains numerous useful documents relating organic materials management strategies and the production and use of composts. In particular interest to home composters, it includes a description of 'yard waste' composting and 'backyard composting'

CONTACT DETAILS

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/composting/index.htm>

WASTE AND RESOURCES ACTION PROGRAMME (WRAP)

Key to WRAP's Home Composting Scheme, this government funded organisation is working with selected partners to promote home composting and runs a Home Composting Hotline (see below for number).

WRAP has a target to divert 400,000 tonnes of waste from landfill by the end of April 2006. This organisation is encouraging people to purchase compost bins at a subsidized price and to compost their kitchen waste as well as their garden waste.

WRAP has already sold 500,000 bins and throughout 2006 will be working with 56 partners in England and 11 in Scotland to sell an additional 500,000 bins.

CONTACT DETAILS

http://www.wrap.org.uk/waste_minimisation/the_wrap_home.html

Home Composting Hotline: 0845 600 0323.

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