

# Food Scrap Management

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[www.NERC.org](http://www.NERC.org)

Rwaste  
Rescue  
Reduction  
food Composting  
scraps

# or•gan•ics

## noun

1. Of, relating to, or derived from living organisms: organic matter
2. Yard & landscape trimmings—leaves, grass clippings, tree & brush
3. Agricultural and land-clearing/forestry debris
4. Manures & biosolids
5. Food scraps & food processing residues
6. Non-recyclable/soiled paper—napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes & other paper products
7. Items manufactured from organics—compostable bags, utensils, plates, cups and bowls made from corn and potato starch, bagasse, PLA, etc.

# Recycle = Composting

- Backyard Composting
- Home Digester
- Vermicomposting
- Neighborhood Composting
- School & Special Events Composting
- Centralized Composting
- Anaerobic Digestion



# What is Compost?

- Stable, soil/humus-like material
- Rich in organic matter & organisms
- Free of unpleasant odors
- Easy to handle
- Can be stored for long periods
- Valuable soil & potting media amendment

# What is Compost, cont.?

- Value-added product
- It is not: mulch, fertilizer, manure, peat moss, topsoil
- It is not just one product!
- A manufacturing process

# COMPOST



**REDUCTIONS IN  
DISPOSAL NEEDS**



**REDUCED GREENHOUSE  
GAS EMISSIONS**



**HEALTHIER SOIL &  
PLANTS**



**BETTER NUTRIENT CYCLING**



**STIMULATES THE LOCAL  
ECONOMY**



**EROSION CONTROL & STORM  
WATER MANAGEMENT**



# Benefits of Compost on Soil

- **Improves Physical Properties:** Increases water retention; improves soil aeration and structural stability; resistance to water and wind erosion; root penetration; soil temperature stabilization.
- **Enhances Chemical Properties:** Increases macro- and micronutrient content; availability of beneficial minerals; pH stability; converts nutrients to a more stable form, reducing fertilizer requirements.
- **Improves Biological Properties:** Increases the activity of beneficial micro-organisms; promotes root development; can increase agricultural crop yields; suppresses certain plant diseases; acts as biofilter, bonding heavy metals.

# Backyard Composting





# Promoting Home Composting of Food Scraps

- Provide tips on how to compost food scraps
  - Adequate carbon (leaves, soiled paper, straw, etc.)
  - Always cover food scraps with carbon & soil
  - Cover with lime to deter fruit flies & vermin
  - Line bottoms of compost bins with thin wire mesh
- Promote and sell compost digesters, such as the Green Cone™

# Home Digester







# Community Composting

- Community gardens
- Low cost option for any community
- Benefits the elderly & multi-family residents
- Households share the experience of composting & the benefits



# Community/Neighborhood



**Carter's and Oryana's  
Ceremonial Compost  
Turning Celebration**  
Oryana's East Parking Lot  
Saturday October 26, 2013  
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Come Celebrate  
First Neighbor  
Compost Station  
Compost Station  
Pile Turning, A  
Dirt Cake, Gide  
Screening, Kite  
Drop-Off! You



# Who's Doing It?

## Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

- Promotes onsite management of home generated organics
  - Educational outreach
  - Sales of compost bins & the Green Cone digester

# Who's Doing It?

## Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

- Zero waste goal
- Biweekly curbside collection for recyclables & trash
- Promotes onsite management of all household
  - Home composting
  - Green Cones for food scraps & grease
  - Neighborhood Composters –large wooden composters
    - Built & maintained by the town for residents