



# What is Community Composting?

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Rooting DC 2015

# Why compost?



**ILSR**

INSTITUTE FOR  
Local Self-Reliance

Photos: Eco City Farms

# Where do your food scraps go?

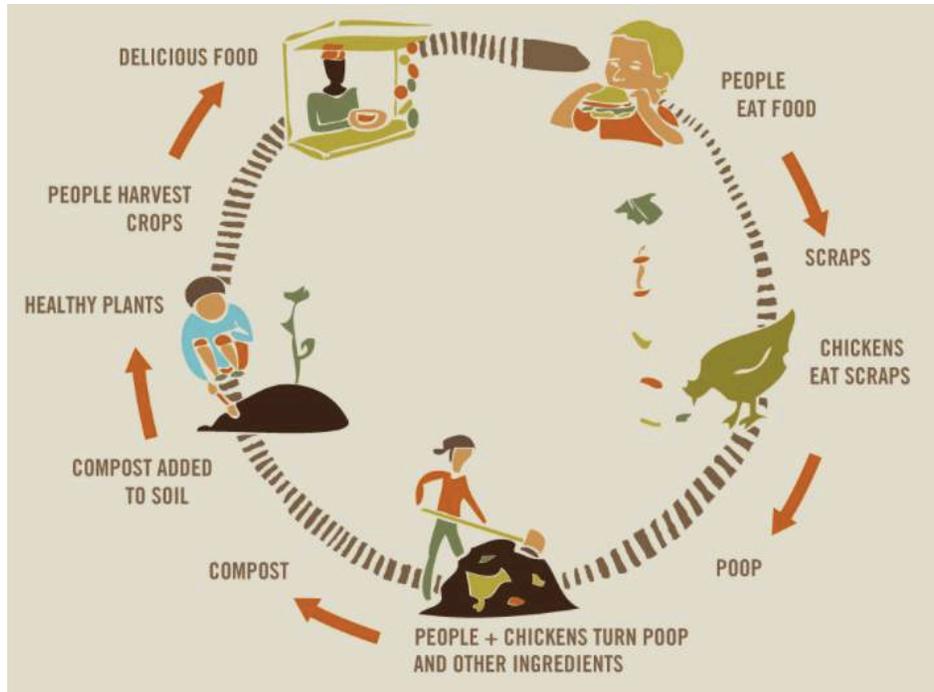


Diagram: Earth Matter



From ILSR's Growing Local Fertility:  
A Guide to Community Composting

# Trend toward the large-scale & far-away



Remind you of anything else that's big and far-away?

*There is another way...*

# Why compost in your community?



Fall 2014  
Neighborhood Soil  
Rebuilders:  
A Community  
Composter Training  
in DC/MD

# What is community-based composting?

Community composting keeps the process and product **as local as possible** while **engaging the community** through participation and education



Building a windrow by hand at Red Hook Community Farm in Brooklyn, NY

*“What does ‘compost’ mean to you?”*

Fall 2014 Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders: A Community Composter Training in DC/MD



# Principles of Community Composting

- ✓ Resources are recovered
- ✓ Organic materials are returned to soils
- ✓ Locally-based, locally-used
- ✓ Community-scaled and community-appropriate
- ✓ Engage, empower, and educate the community
- ✓ Community-supported community support



The NYC Compost Project's Master Composter Certificate Course trains community leaders to start community compost sites. (Photo: NYC Compost Project)



A school group learns about compost, worms, and growing food at ECO City Farms at Edmonston

# Types of Community Composting Programs

1. Community gardens
2. Farms
3. Schools
4. Drop-off networks
5. Collection entrepreneurs
6. On-site composters
7. Off-site composters
8. Demonstration and community leader training sites
9. Worker-owned cooperatives
10. Home-based or homesteader hubs



Philly Compost offers pedal-powered collection service to neighboring restaurants within a 2-mile radius



North Carolina Community Garden Partners is a network of statewide community gardens, some of which compost on-site

# Community Gardens



## WANGARI GARDENS

A garden park designed, created, and sustained by the community

Washington, DC



Brooklyn, NYC



# Urban Farms

Red Hook Community Farm  
Brooklyn, NYC



Growing Power  
Milwaukee, WI



ECO City Farms  
Edmonston/Bladensburg, MD



# Collection Entrepreneurs



Philly Compost  
Philadelphia, PA



Compost Cab  
Washington, DC



East Side Compost Pedallers  
Austin, TX

# Want to be a community composter?

- **Volunteer** at a community, school or educational garden!
- **Get trained!**

Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders:

A Community Composter Training Program

- » A partnership with ECO City Farms
- » Advanced & Master levels

For more information: [www.neighborhoodsoilrebuilders.org](http://www.neighborhoodsoilrebuilders.org)

*Or grab a flyer at ECO City Farms' table in the foyer!*



# NSR Advanced Composter Course

## Curriculum:

- Composting 101
- The science of composting
- Lab testing
- Pile building
- Bin design
- Vermicomposting
- Soil biology
- Community engagement



## Requirements:

- 40 hours of instruction:
  - ½ in classroom, ½ hands-on
  - Learn how to build a compost bin
  - Tour compost sites around DC & beyond
- 30 hours of community composting service
- Build a capstone project in your community

# How can you participate?

- ✓ **Don't throw out your food scraps!** Find someone to compost them!
- ✓ **Volunteer & support** composting initiatives in your community:



DPR: <http://dpr.dc.gov/page/dpr-community-gardens>

DGS: <http://dgs.dc.gov/page/healthy-schools>

Washington Youth Garden: <http://www.washingtonyouthgarden.org>

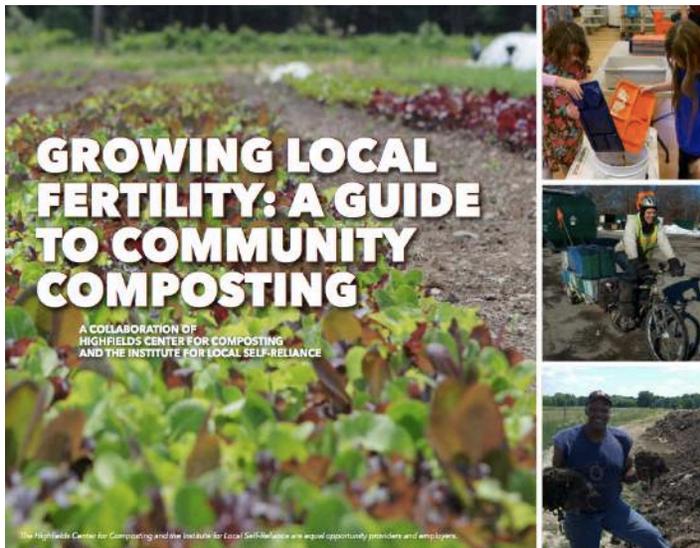
Wangari Gardens: <https://wargarigardens.wordpress.com>

# How can you participate?

## ✓ Learn more about the movement:

Check out ILSR's *"Growing Local Fertility: A Guide to Community Composting"* at

<http://ilsr.org/growing-local-fertility/>



Read the NYC Compost Project's 2014 Report :

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dsny/resources/initiatives/nyc-compost-project.page>

*Come build community with us!*



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