

Why Compost in NYC?

It's nature's way of recycling! Compost forms when biodegradable matter (listed below) decomposes. The result is a dark, crumbly material that looks and feels like soil and has an earthy smell. It's much more! Mixed with soil, compost slowly releases organic nutrients and improves water retention, benefiting houseplants, window boxes, gardens, parks and street trees.

The average NYC household discards two pounds of organic waste each day. Citywide, that's 1,000,000 tons a year! Composting turns this mountain of material into a renewable resource that helps green up NYC, indoors and out. Composting is the most energy efficient kind of recycling, and helps reduce the number of stinky garbage truck trips, too!



9. As seen in Central Park

Getting Started!

It's easy! Separate your food waste (see below) from the rest of your garbage in a recycled plastic shopping bag. You can store it in the freezer (no smell!). If you can't have your own worm bin indoors or outside, bring it to a public food waste composting site on this map in your tote bag, bike basket or rolling suitcase. Or join a community garden!

Go further! **Lower East Side Ecology Center** offers free workshops: backyard composting, indoor vermicomposting, composting for the classroom, "leave it on the lawn" yard care and master composter certification courses. Free compost givebacks, too! Get details on making or using compost on the Rot Line: 212-477-3155 or email: info@leseecologycenter.org



18. Drop compostables any time

Online Resources

Department of Sanitation

nyc.gov/wasteless

Reuse, reduction and recycling resources for home, work or school. Or call 311.

Industrial & Technology Assistance Corp.

itac.org

Helps businesses with waste reduction.

NYC Compost Project

nyccompost.org

City-wide workshops and compost givebacks in 5 boroughs, funded by NYC Dept. of Sanitation.

Lower East Side Ecology Center

LESecologycenter.org

Waste education, environmental education and open space stewardship; eWaste (computers, etc.) recycling schedule.

Council on the Environment of NYC

cenyc.org

Click Recycling for Composting Coordinators or Open Space for their Plant a Lot program.

Green Map System

GreenAppleMap.org/page/compost

Case studies, links and updates. New Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Module, too.

NYC's Sustainability Plan

nyc.gov/2030

link to Our Mayor's greener, greater NYC plan includes some composting for organic waste.

Freegans

Freegan.info

Offers a fresh approach to waste reduction.

What can I compost?

GREENS

MATERIALS THAT ARE RICH IN NITROGEN

- Fruit and Vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds and Filters
- Tea bags
- Fresh leaves
- Green plants
- Prunings and Hedge trimmings
- Grass clippings
- Weeds
- Flower bouquets
- Seaweed
- Feathers
- Cornstarch
- Organic packing materials
- Spoiled juice

BROWNS

MATERIALS THAT ARE RICH IN CARBON

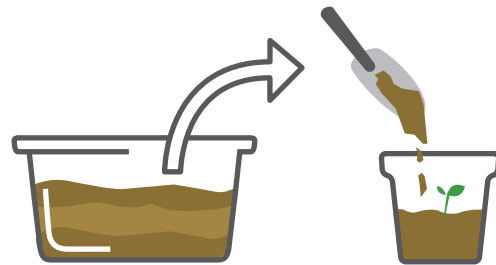
- Fall leaves
- Spent plants
- Small twigs and Wood chips
- Sawdust & Wood shavings (hardwood only)
- Shredded Newspaper
- Egg shells and Nutshells
- Corncobs
- Bread and grains
- Wood ashes
- Old potting soil
- Food-soiled Paper towels & Napkins
- Dried flowers
- Food-soiled Cardboard (recycle if clean)
- Stale flour, Cereal, Spices, Beans

WHAT TO AVOID

- Meat and Fish scraps
- Cheese and Dairy products
- Fats, Oils and Grease
- Dog, Cat waste and Cat litter
- Large branches
- Pressure-treated Lumber
- Invasive Weeds
- Weeds with seeds
- Pesticide-treated and Diseased plants
- Clippings
- Sand
- Coal and Charcoal ashes
- Colored or glossy paper
- Non-compostable materials such as:
 - Plastics, metals and glass
 - Anything with glue

note:

Make sure all materials are in small pieces to speed the decomposition process.



Step 1.
Add items continually.

Step 2.
Layer the bin with green & brown waste.

Step 3.
Dampen each layer.

Step 4.
To speed decomposition, turn the heap every so often.

Step 5.
Use the compost!

Worms in the Green Apple: Vermicomposting

Worm composting (vermicomposting) is an indoor method for recycling food waste into rich compost. In your apartment, basement, office or classroom, fill a container with moistened newspaper and red worms, then continually add food and plant waste. Excitingly, red wiggler worms eat half their weight in food each day and leave worm castings (a.k.a. compost) behind, so it's extremely effective, even for busy New Yorkers! Free workshops are held in every borough, year round – check out nyccompost.org for the schedule.



Red wiggler worms



Produced by Green Map System

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Contact us at 212.674.1631 or apple@greenmap.org

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NYC would be so much greener if we all composted our food and yard waste!
This map will give you great ideas about how and where to compost in Manhattan along with a connection to the pioneers who will help you turn waste into rich new soil with minimum fuss and mess.

This second edition of Worms in the Green Apple was produced by Green Map® System in autumn 2007. It's our seventh Green Apple Map since 1992 and our first created with partners at the Lower East Side Ecology Center. At GreenAppleMap.org, find composting case studies, education resources and a wealth of citywide, youth and energy-themed Green Maps of NYC.

Think Global, Map Local!

As seen at GreenMap.org, we also energize hundreds of communities worldwide to chart a sustainable future.



Compost Green Map of Manhattan

Worms in the Green Apple

GREEN MAP LEGEND

- Public Composting Site
- School with Composting
- Environmental Center
- Greenmarket
- Great Views
- Parklands/Recreation Area
- Community Garden
- Rooftop Garden
- Native Plants
- Solar Energy
- Special Household Waste Station
- Info Resources Online



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1 Inwood Hill Park Nature Center

218th & Indian Rd.
Large-scale worm bin for community & Center's food waste. Educational portable worm bin, too.

2 Riverside-Inwood Neighborhood Garden (RING)

Dyckman, Riverside & Broadway triangle
3 compost bins, 2 wire holding pens & worm bin. Schools program, butterflies and more.

3 Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School

71 Arden St.
Composting cafeteria waste in rooftop garden.

4 Riley-Levin Children's Garden Swindler Cove Park

Harlem River Drive & Dyckman St.
Compost bin in children's garden.

5 West 181st Street Beautification Project

880 W. 181st St.
Public drop off. Compost in beautiful community garden with youth leadership program.

6 West 124th Street Community Garden

Between Lenox & Fifth Aves.
Small but growing bin system and workshops in Spanish & English!

7 PS 76 A.P. Randolph School

220 W. 121st St.
Fun Roly Pig compost bin and yard waste system.

8 Pleasant Park Garden

437 E. 114th St.
Three bin composter for yard and members' food waste built by NY Restoration Project, with rainwater recycling and straw-bale shed!

9 Central Park Conservancy

Compost Drive, near E. 105th St. behind Conservatory Garden
CPC composts all the Park's yard waste in windrows. Everything from fallen leaves to algae from the ponds!

10 High School for Environmental Studies

444 W. 56th St.
Worm bins in classrooms, garden waste composting on the green roof & even a composting club.

11 Clinton Community Garden

West 48th St. btw 9th and 10th Aves.
A "green sanctuary" since 1978 with composting, bee hives and flowery rock, shade, native plant and vegetable gardens.

12 NYC Department of Sanitation Special Waste Collection

605 W. 30th St. btw 11 & 12 Aves
Public drop-off open 10am to 5pm, last Friday of each month & first 3 Saturdays. Bring batteries, fluorescent bulbs, paint, etc. No compost! Electronic waste (eWaste) and gently used clothes don't belong in the trash. Find recycling/reuse info at nyc.gov/wasteless

13 The School of the Future

127 E. 22nd St.
Vermicomposting of local business waste and green roof!

14 Solar One

E. 23rd St. & FDR Drive
Educational worm bin for food waste. Green building and arts, too!

15 Stuyvesant Cove Park

E. 18th - 23rd St. & FDR Drive
3-bin compost system for yard waste, mid-park. Riverside refreshment!



ABOUT THIS MAP:

Since most Manhattanites don't have a backyard community gardens are a great place to start composting. Manhattan has almost 200 ! Most compost their yard waste and members' food waste to improve the soil and help plants thrive.

This map features with compost and education programs and introduces many more. are a wonderful way to create community, clean air and compost, all at once!

Citywide, find the closest at OasisNYC.net.

To grow or know more, GreenThumbNYC.org NYRP.org GreenGuerillas.org TPL.org MoreGardens.org

Only Sites welcome public drop offs! Indoors, compost can be made in a worm bin (details on reverse). Offices (including our own!), schools, cafés and food shops are composting, why not you? Find businesses and case studies at GreenAppleMap.org

16 Union Square Greenmarket

17th St. & Park Ave. South
Public drop off & compost outreach at LESEC's stand, every MWF & Saturday, 8am to 5pm. Get this map here!

17 Lower East Side Garden

E. 11th St. east of 1st Ave.
Composting in Open Road's student-designed garden.

18 Lower East Side Ecology Center Garden

E. 7th St. btw Aves. B & C (north side)
Public drop off, any time through gate opening. Community garden open year-round: Sundays 8am to 5pm.

19 Franklin Roosevelt PS 34

730 E. 12th St.
Educational composting in historical garden setting.

20 6B Garden & 6BC Garden

E. 6th St. & Ave. B, corner & mid-block
Composting their own yard waste and garden members' food waste.

21 Earth School

600 E. 6th St.
Outdoor bins in school's garden for yard waste & students' food waste.

22 East River Park

Delancey St. & FDR Drive
LESEC's custom-built in-vessel food waste system composts waste collected from their public drop off sites.

23 Grand St. Fireboat House

Grand St. & FDR Drive
LESEC's East River Park Environmental Learning Center. Compost & ecology workshops & events, year-round!

24 PS 134

293 East Broadway
Classroom worm bins & garden compost site in development.

25 PS 2

122 Henry St.
Classroom worm bins.

26 City As School

16 Clarkson St.
Project Grow composting entrepreneurship program.

27 Battery Park City Parks Conservancy

Battery Park Pl. & Thames St.
Advanced compost systems for office & supermarket food waste. Eco-smart "Leave it on the Lawn" policy & windrows for yard waste.