

Regenerating NYC's Natural Environment with Compost

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Background: Green Map System's own Local Green Apple Map Project

The New York City Green Apple Map project is the original Green Map. The fifth citywide edition was published, in early 2006 with energy as its theme. A casual discussion about everyday efficiency led to the co-creation of the Compost Green Map of Manhattan in partnership with Lower East Side Ecology Center (LESEC). LESEC runs the island's oldest composting program, providing education and collecting the public's kitchen scraps and plant waste at Union Square Greenmarket, NYC's busiest farmers market.

Together, the two organizations put composting on the map because it is a great way for New Yorkers to save energy, reduce waste and help the environment. Compostables are naturally pro-

cessed nearby, and the resulting rich soil helps to beautify green spaces. The map charted drop-off sites and places to learn about composting at schools, community gardens and other public locations. Side two introduces waste separation and worm bin composting at home, work, school or outdoors.

The map's compost-colored design includes an interesting fact - it's 100% wind powered! Green Map System's office, the printer and the paper company all chose wind as their energy source. Both a PDF and 100% recycled paper editions were created. A Green Apple composting cycling tour and events with LESEC introduced this small but surprising map to New Yorkers.



Compost Green Map of Manhattan, first edition, 2006

Impacts: Changing Waste Reduction's Status

Composting gained respect and the map was in demand. By the time the second edition was published in 2007, the amount of compostable food scraps collected at LESEC's Greenmarket stand had tripled! The third edition includes a link to OpenGreenMap.org/compostnyc where an interactive citywide edition

is taking shape on Green Map System's new social mapping platform. 30,000 printed copies have been distributed, and thousands of people have downloaded the PDF and visited online composting case studies.

Because of this map, staff at Green Map System put a worm composting bin in the closet to reduce waste every day! The organization has found that this narrowly focused Green Map is ideal for explaining the concept of mapping sustainability to beginners, and have shared the map's graphics and lessons learned though partnering with the global Green Map movement.

