

We Compost Collective Program Member Agreement

We Compost Collective is a program that offers hands-on educational opportunities for nearby residents or frequent visitors of the site. Participating individuals and families are expected to be those that live in apartments who do not have approval to compost or those living in homes with limited backyard space or are unable to manage a pile. Assistance in managing the pile will be shared by volunteering members, the Environment Program staff and Master Composters. This program is designed to foster a community around composting to where members will be more likely to compost in the future.

Requirements to join the program:

- Attend a short (30-60 minute) compost training/orientation
- Sign an agreement to follow rules and meet the minimal program service requirements
- Provide a designated form of communication that can be checked weekly

Service Requirements

- Participate in at least one We Compost event for at least an hour per year
- Requirement is subject to change by the compost manager to adapt to the needs of the compost system

Member Expectations:

- Check designated communication contact at least once a week and respond to We Compost Collective manager requests
- Follow the guidelines for browns and greens at all times
- Practice “lasagna layering” technique when adding food scraps so that NO FOOD SHOWS from the top of the bin, bottom, or sides (refer to Lasagna Layering handout)
- Add at least twice as much brown material as green material every drop-off
- Keep added food materials added to ~2” pieces or smaller
- Lock-up bin when done
- Members cannot share the combination with anyone
- Enter the weight of added food scraps or yard waste in log sheet, along with any maintenance events to the pile or site

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

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Browns and Greens Guideline

Acceptable Brown (High in Carbon) Materials

- Dry leaves
- Woodchips (if possible, avoid woods with natural herbicides such as walnut, cypress, and cedar)
- Sawdust and wood shavings (avoid pressure treated wood and toxic glues)
- Straw (avoid hay which has more seeds)
- Dried plant waste with no diseases
- Newspaper and office paper (no ads or heavily dyed paper)
- Pine needles (no more than 25% by volume)

Acceptable Green (High Nitrogen) Materials

- Veggie or fruit scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags (remove staple)
- Egg shells (please crush first)
- Fresh leaves or garden weeds (that have not gone to seed)

Materials to Avoid

- Plants with diseases or pests
- Any plants/weeds that have seeds
- Meat, fat, bones
- Dairy
- Excessive oil
- Poison ivy
- Colored paper (anything darker than “pastels”)
- Anything that has been exposed to pesticides or herbicides
- Anything toxic or non-biodegradable
- Pet waste from carnivores or omnivores (dog, cat, rat, etc.)
- Compostable bags or dishware (they don’t compost and are often coated with plastic)

Solarization

One way to destroy weed seeds, diseases or pests is to bake them on the blacktop in the sun for several weeks. This can be particularly helpful to stop the spread of bindweed, or other pernicious weeds. The following can be composted after 30 days of solarization. (such materials added must be recorded in the logbook)

- Anything gone to seed
- Diseased plants
- Plants with pest or pest eggs on them

I, _____, agree to all requirements and expectations included in this document and understand if I fail to meet any of these requirements and expectations I may be removed from the Compost Learning Collaborative.

Signature _____

Date _____

Email _____

Josh Enderle

he/him

Recycling and Composting Educator

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Broome County

840 Upper Front St. Ste 1., Binghamton, NY 13905

jse67@cornell.edu | 607-772-8953