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# Seeds

## FOR ECO COMMUNITIES



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## URBAN COMPOSTING

There are many benefits to composting, as opposed to popular belief that it does not really do much in the grand scheme of saving our environment. These benefits include but are not limited to: contributing to greener communities, improving local soil, better preserving food, making for fruit and vegetable that is more nutrient rich, preventing erosion, and improving air quality. Although many may think it is disgusting or even difficult to carry out, composting material is simpler than ever and you can implement it in many forms. These can include:

### 1. BACKYARD COMPOSTING

For backyard composting, you can use a garbage bin or even an area in your backyard to do the job. The size of the area you create your compost in is quite important for maintaining microbial activity and allowing enough air to reach the microbes at the center. Ensure a two to one ratio of browns (e.g., small twigs, dry leaves) to greens (e.g., grass clippings, food scraps) to create the optimal mix of carbon. Chop down your browns and greens to increase their rate of breakdown as their surface area increases, while making sure to water your compost and maintain its moisture. Keep turning your compost and it should look like soil within a couple of weeks time if carried out properly.



## 2. COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPOSTING

Other than its obvious social benefits, community garden composting is able to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions produced by increased rotting vegetation in landfills. Collectively, any given community's garden will have left-over vegetation during the growing season, particularly things like trimmings, grass clippings, pulled weeds, and leaves from trees. Instead of throwing all these things out in the garbage where a lack of sufficient air will not be able to process it, compost these things instead in your local community garden!

## 3. KITCHEN COMPOSTING

You can build your own DIY kitchen composter or an indoor urban composter, but you don't have to spend that much money on composting at all! To create your own DIY composter, you can grab an old bucket or even garbage bins and use your food scraps and garden leaves to get it started. Make sure to have a one to two ratio of foods like fruits and vegetables to carbon sources like leaves and wood. This compost, if created properly, should look like soil in about three months time. Overall, just make sure you keep a good mixture of brown and green material to ensure no pungent odors.



## SOURCES

<https://ecocycle.org/backyard-composting>

<https://unclejimswormfarm.com/community-garden-composting/>

<https://greenhouseemporium.com/blogs/greenhouse-gardening/start-composting-in-urban-areas/>