

# The Magic of Composting

Turning Trash To Trees



# Composting creates better soil and reduces climate change

What would you like to happen to things you throw away?

- Compost – boosts soil health to help grow plants and provide food security
- Incineration – releases substantially more CO<sub>2</sub> for every kWh exported to the electricity grid than conventional use of fossil fuels
- Landfill – biodegradables produce methane, a more powerful global warming gas than CO<sub>2</sub>

Workplace waste management  
should include composting,  
to reduce landfill and incineration

- Some of our workplaces collect food waste for composting
- If yours doesn't then FDA can help via our seat on Building Committees

# You can reduce landfill and incineration by composting

- Many councils collect food and garden waste
- These collections do not accept compostable packaging e.g. takeaway food containers, because these would contaminate the industrial composting process used (anaerobic digestion)
- You can compost coffee cups and food packaging at home, along with fruit and vegetable scraps and garden waste, saving money and global warming gases as well as improving your environment

# Compost happens

- Biodegradable stuff will biodegrade, and reduce in weight and volume
- We can help biodegradables turn to trees rather than greenhouse gases
- Options:

Pile



Container



Wormery



# The Science Bit

Compost has four ingredients – carbon, nitrogen, air and moisture

- Greens provide nitrogen and moisture – grass, fruit and vegetable scraps – compost quicker and wetter
- Browns provide carbon and air pockets – paper, cardboard, egg shells – compost slower and drier

Aspire to Goldilocks - just right!

# Using compost - magnificent mulch

- Your (communal) garden, borders and pots
- Your (communal) hedge and trees
- Contribution to community – local greenery, gardeners and allotments



# First Steps

- Paul has separate bins in his kitchen for glass & tins, paper & card, non-recyclable and vegetation food waste.
- This helps when transferring the recyclables the Council takes away.
- The flower, fruit & vegetable waste goes to the Compost Bin.
- Egg shells and corks help to create air spaces in the compost.





# In the garden



# Other help



# Compost management

- Paul has 2 bins. Bin 1 receives all the new disposals. Bin 2 is more mature compost.
- The compost bins mustn't be too dry, or too wet. Remember to stir it up and add browns.
- When Bin 2 is ready to spread (looks like compost / soil) empty it out into your garden.
- Your old Bin 1 is now Bin 2. Start a new Bin 1 using the empty container you just took the compost out of.

Can we compost?

Yes we can!

- Any other questions or top tips?