

HOME COMPOSTER

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CONTACTS & INFO

HOME COMPOSTER

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COMPOST BINS

Norfolk residents can order subsidised compost bins from as little as £8 by calling **0845 077 0757** and quoting reference **HCA1 VOL**, or by visiting www.recyclenow.com/compost

Bins are delivered free and are available in 220, 250 and 330 litre capacities.

WELCOME TO YOUR FREE HOME COMPOSTING NEWSLETTER!

Thanks for taking the time to pick up and read this **FREE** copy of the Home Composter—packed full of composting news and views from across Norfolk.

We've put the **Home Composter** together to bring you advice and information on how to go about composting your organic waste at home, and the benefits of doing so.

In this inaugural copy, you'll find information on just how easy it is to start home composting; there's plenty of information on the Master Composter scheme, which is proving extremely popular in Norfolk; we look at the problems faced by continually sending bio-degradable waste to landfill sites; composting on a larger scale gets a mention as we visit Compo, a composting in the community initiative; a quick guide to what you can and can't put in your compost bin also features; and there's information on where you



HOME COMPOSTING: great for the garden, great for your pocket and great for the environment!

can purchase compost bins and other composting accessories. And all that in just four pages!

Home composting is extremely rewarding, as you'll find out from our articles. In this first edition of the Home Composter, we've provided all the information you need to get started—such as where to get compost bins and what to put in them—but, probably more importantly, we've supplied you with names and contact details of the people who can help you when, or if, things go wrong!

produce great garden compost very easily.

But what if you haven't got a garden or have no use for compost? Well, you'll still be helping the environment by cutting down on the amount of organic waste which goes into landfill sites (see page

From questions about which size or type of bin to purchase, which materials you can add and in which quantities (and you'll be surprised just how many materials are suitable for composting) to what you can do with the

finished product—we can't promise we'll know the all the answers, but we will try to find out!

The Home Composter is designed to be a one-off newsletter, but if there's enough interest—and if our Com-Post Bag is bulging—we'll produce another copy in the autumn.

So, it's down to you! If enough of you contact us with queries, comments or feedback, we'll be back - in the meantime, good luck with your home composting projects!

2) and you might have some pot plants or window boxes that could benefit from some compost-based TLC.

And the chances are you've got friends or relatives would be extremely grateful for some free, home-made, Norfolk compost!

HOME COMPOSTING—IT'S SO EASY!

Can I home compost? That's the question posed by most potential composters—and the answer is a resounding yes!

Of course, you'll need certain essential items to begin, but on the whole everyone can

MASTER COMPOSTERS ON COURSE FOR SUCCESS!

...“our role now is to explain to households and local communities just how simple and inexpensive it can be to start composting at home”...

I'm well on the way to becoming a compost ambassador for Norfolk, following my successful completion of the latest Master Composter training course.

The Master Composter scheme is the result of a partnership between Norfolk County Council's Waste Management Team, the WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) Home Composting Programme and Garden Organic - formerly the HDRA and now the UK's leading charity based organic movement.

With such a strong hierarchy,

the course is destined to succeed and that's exactly what it does. The syllabus basically covers the importance of home composting in waste minimisation, the benefits to the individual and the environment, types of bin, materials you can use and the process of composting itself. And, of course, what to do with the end product - most important!



BECOME A MASTER: the scheme is an excellent introduction to composting

But that's just a brief description of the subjects covered. When you consider we packed in all the above (all in much finer detail), visited a landfill site and a community composting scheme, made up and filled some compost bins and took part in a quiz all in the two

days, you'll realise it's quite a comprehensive programme!

There are now 60 Master Composters across Norfolk - with many more spread around the country - and our role is to explain to households and local communities just how simple and inexpensive it can be to start composting at home. This information can be imparted through demonstrations at shows or fetes, by giving talks at local schools or gardening clubs and by writing articles for publication in local newspapers and topical magazines. The organisations involved in delivering the training encourage novice Master Composters to clock up 30 volunteer hours to complete the qualification, but in reality this figure is nearly always exceeded.

For details on future Master Composter courses in Norfolk, contact David Hawkyard on 01603 223328.

LANDFILL STATISTICS

- Over 35% of rubbish in Norfolk is recycled, compared to the UK average of 27%
- It costs £80 per year to process the waste from each Norfolk household
- Norfolk County Council are charged £24 per ton of waste sent to landfill
- The UK target for recycling and composting in 2010 is 40%
- 12.4 million tonnes of bio-degradable municipal waste ended up in UK landfill sites last year

KEEPING LANDFILL IN OUR SIGHTS!

Compostable household waste could hold the key to one of the UK's biggest problems—landfill sites.

These dumping grounds for general household rubbish can be described as blights on the landscape and eyesores at best, whilst at worse they are methane-producing timebombs with the potential to change our climate irreversibly.

That's because the organic—and compostable—waste sent along with general household rubbish to landfill

sites decomposes without oxygen, and as a result produces methane. This gas is up to three times more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide; this statistic, coupled with the fact that we are fast running out of space for further landfill sites,

gives a clear indication that something must be done.

And that's where home composting comes in.



LANDFILL: organic waste decomposes and creates methane gas

It's been calculated that a single, average sized home compost bin can divert up to 220kg of waste per year from going to landfill, and that 45% of the average household bin can be composted at home. And with figures like that,

it's easy to see why local councils are keen for us to get composting!

COMPOST BENEFITS BOTH PLANTS AND PEOPLE!

Residents in the Norfolk village of Narborough are benefiting in more ways than one from an award-winning green waste collection project.

For the village is served by the Compo Community Composting Scheme, which, for an annual fee of £20, enables most of the villagers' green and garden waste to be collected and then composted down into a rich garden soil improver – which they can then buy back!

And it's not only the Narborough inhabitants who benefit, as the scheme is run by King's Lynn-based charity Future + Futures, which is committed to supporting people with learning difficulties. The site at Narborough, along with the other Compo depot at King's Lynn, is a valuable resource for enabling people to become more independent and trainees can work towards a City and Guilds qualification. The service that Compo provides has been recognised with an East of England Community Award and a National Resource Award from the Community Recycling Network, as well as a Norfolk bio-diversity partnership commendation.

Part of the appeal of the Compo scheme is its simplic-

ity. Villagers who subscribe get their garden waste – including grass cuttings, leaves, weeds and prunings – collected weekly and the potato sack-sized bags returned. The organic matter is then taken to a composting area and shredded before being placed into a series of large composting bins, where, eight to ten weeks later, it is sifted and re-bagged as an ideal soil improver.

Master Composter Colin West established Compo two years ago and is responsible for the smooth running of the scheme across the two sites. "We collect from 150 homes in Narborough - 300 in all across the two sites - and compost around 60 tonnes of material

each year on this site alone. Most of that organic matter would end up in landfill, producing methane as it decomposes," he said. "This way everyone benefits; the villagers enjoy a reliable service and of course their gardens are happy with the composted material; and the Compo trainees get to experience independence, fulfilment and work in a real situation. The Compo model is very simple, effective and



READY FOR THE HEAP: material is composted for 8 to 10 weeks

readily adaptable to other communities," he added.

Norfolk in general is a real composting hotbed, with 60 Master Composters acting as volunteer ambassadors for home composting across the county. Norfolk County Council are justifiably proud of the amount of refuse they compost and recycle – over 35% against the national average of 27% - but this still means that 65% ends up in potentially environment-damaging landfill sites countywide, so the importance of schemes such as Compo cannot be underestimated in trying to reduce this figure still further.

Full details of how to begin composting at home – or even set up a project like Compo – can be obtained from the Norfolk County Council Waste Management Team - call David Hawkyard on 01603 223328 or Jenny Cross (01603 223829), or e-mail david.hawkyard@norfolk.gov.uk or jenny.cross@norfolk.gov.uk. For more information on the Compo Community Composting Scheme, call Colin on **01553 770570**.

... "This way everyone benefits; the villagers enjoy a reliable service and of course their gardens are happy with the composted material; and the Compo trainees get to experience independence, fulfilment and work in a real situation."...



SHREDDED: waste collected from the villagers' gardens is prepared for composting

FIT FOR THE HEAP – GREENS!

- * Annual weeds
- * Grass cuttings
- * Vegetable peelings
- * Old bunches of flowers
- * Tea bags
- * Fruit peelings
- * Bedding plants
- * Seaweed

FIT FOR THE HEAP – BROWNS!

- * Woody prunings
- * Dry leaves
- * Cardboard
- * Cereal boxes
- * Twigs
- * Straw and hay
- * Toilet roll
- * This newsletter!

FURTHER INFO

Want to know more about Home Composting? Please contact the following;

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COM-POST BAG

HOME COMPOSTER

As this is the first newsletter, we'd really appreciate your feedback and comments.

Please tell us what you think by contacting us (details on front cover) if you've got any compost questions, queries, tips or advice—or any features you'd like to see in the future. Thanks!

... "Just one home composting bin can keep 220kg of waste from being buried in landfill sites each year", said Martin, "with as much as 45% of the average household bin suitable for the heap"....

COMPOSTING ACCESSORIES (all available from www.harrodhorticultural.com)

Here's a selection of products that although not essential, certainly make life with a compost bin that much easier!



COMPOST TUMBLER...A Compost Tumbler can achieve a nutrient rich compost in just 14 days, depending on the time of year. Simple to use; just fill it and effortlessly turn it and you can use the resulting compost to nourish your soil within 2 weeks!



KITCHEN CADDY...This Kitchen Compost Caddy has an activated carbon filter which lasts 3 to 4 months and is housed in the lid to contain any unpleasant odours. It's ideal for collecting scraps and peelings and then carrying them to the compost bin or heap in just one trip.



COMPOST THERMOMETER...Creating and monitoring a hot inner core of decomposing material – a process known as 'hot composting' – is simple with the help of the 52cm long probe of the Compost Thermometer. The dial records the temperature in both Centigrade and Fahrenheit.

COMPOST ADVICE TO ORDER FROM HARROD HORTICULTURAL

Leading horticultural mail order company Harrod Horticultural can now boast a Master Composter within their ranks, following the latest Norfolk County Council training course.

Company horticulturalist Martin Fiddes successfully completed the two day introduction to home composting and can now offer expert support to customers, along with advising local communities of the benefits of making their own compost.

Managing director of the Lowestoft-based company, Stephanie Harrod, was delighted that they could back up sales of composting products with additional knowledge. "Composting is proving a very popular gardening activity but we are well aware of the need to educate people, as it's easy to become disillusioned if things don't turn out as you expected", she commented. "Martin can now advise customers how to make good quality compost and encourage households in Norfolk to start producing their own too."



COMPOST ADVICE: leading mail order company Harrod Horticultural are on hand with information

With Norfolk County Council sending 35% of rubbish each year for recycling and composting – way above the Government target of 30% – it's essential that the county's 60 Master Composters continue their volunteer work within the community promoting home composting, and therefore help divert compostable refuse from landfill sites.

"Just one home composting bin can keep 220kg of waste from being buried in landfill sites each year", said Martin, "with as much as 45% of the average household bin suitable for the heap." He continued; "gardeners – and gardens – benefit from the free compost produced and the environment also gets a

helping hand, as sending organic waste to landfill produces methane, more harmful than carbon dioxide."

The Master Composter scheme is the result of a partnership between Norfolk County Council, the UK's leading

organic charitable organisation Garden Organic and the WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) Home Composting Programme. For further information of how to get involved with home composting in Norfolk, please contact David Hawkyard on 01603 223328 or Jenny Cross (01603 223829) or e-mail

david.hawkyard@norfolk.gov.uk or

jenny.cross@norfolk.gov.uk.

Details of Harrod Horticultural can be found at

www.harrodhorticultural.com

DON'T FORGET!

Once you've read your

HOME COMPOSTER...

compost it!