

Why Compost?

Reduces overall waste.

- Composting can reduce your waste by up to 50% making a dramatic impact on our landfills.
- It reduces landfill and extends the life of landfills.
- There are over 1,500 landfill sites in the UK and, in 2001, these sites produced a quarter of the UK's emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that is released as the biodegradable waste (such as food and paper) decomposes. Existing landfill sites are filling up fast and there is very limited space for new ones.

It helps you reduce carbon emissions/reduce fossil fuel use protecting the environment

- Organic waste that is not composted ends up in the landfill where it produces harmful greenhouse gasses (especially methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more harmful than CO₂.)
- Composting reduces the impact of chemical fertilizers. These provide a quick burst of a limited number of nutrients that can wash away into our rivers, lakes and streams. These are toxic materials that leaches into the ground and can pollute groundwater.
- Buried organics can also react with metals in the landfill to produce toxic leachate, a potential source of groundwater pollution.
- Composting helps reduce Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from vehicles used to transport waste to landfill
- It saves energy – using recycled materials in the manufacturing process uses considerably less energy than that required for producing new products from raw materials.

It conserves raw materials –

- Making new products out of recycled materials reduces the need to consume precious resources. So recycling helps protect raw materials and protect natural habitats for future generations.
- Recycling reduces the need for extracting (mining, quarrying and logging), refining and processing raw materials to make chemical fertilisers, all of which create substantial air and water pollution
- Reduces the need for synthetic chemicals and fertilizers. In fact, compost contains numerous nutrients not found in synthetic products

It improves your soil

- Composted soil is sustainable on its own. Compost returns valuable nutrients to the soil to help maintain soil quality and fertility.
- Compost is a mild, slow release, natural fertilizer that won't burn plants like chemical fertilizers.
- Overall it increases soil stability, improves drainage and helps retain moisture
- It also improves texture and air circulation for heavier soils and helps to increase the water retention of sandy soils
- Adding compost to soil prevents it from eroding. This is an important fact, considering that much of the earth's soil has been depleted of nutrients.
- Compost increases the soils ability to harbour root systems that prevent this runoff, as well as the overall ability to hold in water. In fact, a 5% increase in organic material (compost) can increase the amount of water absorption capacity by four times.
- Compost has the ability to stimulate soil particle clusters, which make for healthy soil structure. When we add compost to soils, we also increase the amount of air pockets and channels between individual soil structures, allowing the soil to hold air, water and important nutrients. This also powerfully aids in the soil's ability to support root structures of plants, and makes it easier to work with for gardeners.

Promotes diversity

- Using compost in our soils adds to the diversification and sustainability of many life forms. When there are more life forms living in the soil, plants grow healthier and happier, as the soil becomes more aerated with more accessible nutrients.

Saves Money

- No need to buy chemical fertilizers. Compost is free!
- Reduce civic costs for waste collection and thereby reduce fuel use.
- Keeps a valuable resource out of the landfill.

Makes you feel good

- Feel good knowing you're making a real positive impact on our community and environment.
- By composting you complete the cycle by returning what you grow back to the soil to help you grow
- Composting helps you to embrace the natural cycle of life and decay.