

COMPOSTING

The Recycling Connection



COMPOST REDUCES GLOBAL WARMING

In the year 2006, Washington Residents recycled 665,902 Tons of yard trimmings. This equals 209 pounds per person.

Recycling these yard trimmings reduced greenhouse gas emissions by **14, 850 tons.**

Source: Washington Department of Ecology 2006 Recycling Commodity Summary and Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM estimated 6,375.600 people on April 1, 2006).

COMPOST CREATES HEALTHY SOILS

Every person in Washington could potentially create **2 bags** of compost per year by recycling his/her yard and food trimmings.

This means 6 people could create enough compost to fill up a 90-gal curbside toter.

Source: Cedar Grove Compost (1 ton of recycled yard trimmings can create 1 cubic yard of compost).



Washington Family of 4



CAN CREATE



8 bags of Compost per year
(1 bag = 1 cubic ft.)

Approximately 40% (2 million tons*) of the Washington waste stream could be composted, producing a valuable product for use in agricultural & landscape applications.

*Source: Washington Department of Ecology 2003 Waste Composition Analysis for the State of Washington (*includes: food soiled and uncoated unrecyclable paper, yard trimmings, food scraps, clean wood and other organic materials).*



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What are the Benefits of Using Compost?

Compost-enriched soil can reduce erosion, alleviate soil compaction and help control diseases and pest infestation in plants. Compost can increase plant production, reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, and conserve natural resources.

(Check with your local authority for more information on **HOW** to compost and what collection programs are available in your area.)



Soil Enrichment:

- Helps suppress plant diseases and pests.
- Increases soil nutrients and improves water retention/movement in sandy and clay soils.
- Reduces the need for fertilizer.

Pollution Remediation:

- Binds some heavy metals, preventing them from migrating to water resources.
- Degrades, and sometimes completely eliminates, some chemicals in contaminated soils.

Pollution Prevention:

- Prevents erosion and silting on embankments along creeks, lakes, and rivers.
- Prevents erosion and turf loss on roadsides, playing fields, and golf courses.



Useful Conversions:

1 cubic yd.=27 cubic ft

1 ton = 2000 lbs

12 cubic ft = Size of 90-gal toter

Visit these websites for more information on Composting

- Washington Organic Recycling Council — www.compostwashington.org
- Soils for Salmon — www.soilsforsalmon.org
- U.S. Composting Council — www.compostingcouncil.org
- EPA Composting Site — www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/rrr/composting/index.htm
- WSU Cooperative Extension — <http://gardening.wsu.edu/>

