

# Composting training



The introduction of **home or community composting** and encouraging as well as teaching your family, neighbourhood or work colleagues to participate in this composting activity on a regular basis is a very effective measure to divert organic waste going to incinerators or landfills. If composted, unavoidable food waste (e.g. banana peelings, egg shells<sup>1</sup>, etc.) and green waste (grass, leaves, and small branches) is recirculated in a closed loop system close to the place where the waste was generated. This results directly in budget savings and prevents resources from being wasted. Ranging from Vermicompost in a tray on your balcony to individual and collective composting for citizens living in apartments or in detached housings to community composting in private and public organisations such as schools, cribs and social centres; composting activities can have a broad range of scales, sizes, and users. Whatever type the composting that you set up is, it will for sure provide you with a **high-quality soil conditioner** after a while: compost = humus, a nutrient rich soil conditioner!

A EWWR action on composting consists of a **workshop or training** that educates the target audience about the **usage and benefit of composting**. In addition to this it can also include the launch of community composting and the promotion of starting home composting.

## Objectives

- ▶ Make European citizens aware that actions to reduce food waste can be taken on a daily basis; even for supposedly unavoidable food waste
- ▶ Raise awareness among European citizens about good habits for food waste reduction
- ▶ Show family members, colleagues, neighbours and others how easy composting is and what advantages it has

## What you need

- ▶ A **location** where to implement your workshop
- ▶ **Information and communication material:** Advertise for your composting workshop by putting up promotional posters on strategic points or via other communication means. Inform target group about the action by giving out information on [why food waste reduction is important](#) and on [how to compost](#) before the event
- ▶ **Composting facilities:** If you are setting up a new composting facility/site you'll need to get your tools ready before the launch and the workshop. Depending on scale and size of your new composting area, you can choose between several options. Please find out more in the [EWWR composting manual](#). If you want to set-up a new community composting facility: Get the support of your local administration, house owners, employer and other people concerned.

## Preparing the action

### **Before the EWWR (at least one month beforehand)**

- ▶ Learn as much as possible about home and community composting to get a clear idea of what you want to set up

<sup>1</sup> Depending on the area you live in. Check with your local administration for concrete advice on what can be composted.



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- ▶ Share your ideas and seek out others who may be supportive of the idea and find allies
- ▶ Prepare a poster to advertise for your composting workshop
- ▶ Get the information material about [why food waste reduction is important](#) and [how to compost](#) from the EWWR website or similar information from compost masters in your neighbourhood and send the information per mail to your target group or print it and give it out to them
- ▶ Try to involve civil society organisations to reach your target groups
- ▶ If needed, ask the help of a compost master in your neighbourhood
- ▶ Invite people personally to participate in your event
- ▶ If you are setting up a new composting facility: get your tools ready
- ▶ For community composting:
  - Research what is involved in a community composting operation
  - Clearly define the scope of the project (it's okay to start small)
  - Get support from all components of the community (neighbourhood, work place, school) and ask for their input/opinion

## Pre-EWWR (one or two weeks beforehand)

- ▶ Enhance advertisement of your event, remind people about the event and invite them again to take part
- ▶ Give clear instructions to participants what types of organic waste can be composted ([see here](#))
- ▶ Invite participants to collect their organic wastes separately and to bring it with them on the day of the EWWR action

## Implementing the action = day of the action!

- ▶ Prepare setting-up your composting facility
- ▶ Implement your composting training/workshop
- ▶ Use the event to inform about the problematic of food waste and to give out tips and tricks to participants on how to reduce food waste in everyday life, distribute the information material
- ▶ Take pictures and videos
- ▶ **Conduct a food waste trash audit** ([EWWR food waste calculator](#)) to evaluate the amount of organic waste brought to the event by the participants: This is the amount of waste avoided thanks to your EWWR action!
- ▶ Ask participants for their **contact details** in order to be able to evaluate the action with a second food waste audit afterwards. Find out **who of the participants plans** setting up home **composting** or participating in community composting. Report this information back to your Coordinator.
- ▶ Encourage participants to use the community compost in the future or to set up their own home compost!

## Evaluation and feedback

### After the EWWR

- ▶ Give feedback to your Coordinator: number of participants, amount of waste avoided, etc.
- ▶ Send back pictures and videos of your action to your Coordinator
- ▶ **Conduct another food waste trash audit** ([EWWR food waste calculator](#)) 2 weeks after the EWWR action, measuring how much organic waste the participants are composting. You can thus evaluate the average waste avoided thanks to your EWWR action on composting and see if the event had an on-going impact. Find also out whom of the participants has set up home composting or is participating in community composting and who still plans to start doing this. **Send the results** to your EWWR Coordinator.

### Medium and long-term impact



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► If you would like to achieve a lasting impact of your EWWR composting action, you will probably have to repeat your training after a certain time (once or twice after 3-6 months, depending on your audience).

## More information

### ► Information material

- Food waste and its impact: [Do you dare to be aware?](#)
- Practical guide: [Home and community composting](#)
- Tips to reduce food waste:
  - [Shopping & Planning](#)
  - [Storing](#)
  - [Cooking & Eating](#)
  - [Use-by / best-before dates](#)
- Composting guides in other languages:
  - [Composter Pour Réduire Ses Déchets](#), Brussels Environment (FR)
  - [Composteren om mijn afval te verminderen – Praktische gids](#), Leefmilieu Brussel (NL)

### ► Examples of actions

- Composting in school (ES):  
[http://www.ewwr.eu/docs/case\\_studies/EWWR\\_2011-Case%20studies\\_School\\_Mallorca-Spain.pdf](http://www.ewwr.eu/docs/case_studies/EWWR_2011-Case%20studies_School_Mallorca-Spain.pdf)
- The zoo improves the Earth (ES):  
[http://www.ewwr.eu/docs/case\\_studies/EWWR\\_2012\\_Case%20Studies\\_Others\\_Catalonia.pdf](http://www.ewwr.eu/docs/case_studies/EWWR_2012_Case%20Studies_Others_Catalonia.pdf)
- “eRRRe al cubo”, Ribadedeva Reduce y Recupera - Composting action at school (ES):  
[http://www.ewwr.eu/docs/case\\_studies/EWWR\\_2011-Case%20studies\\_Administracion\\_Asturias.pdf](http://www.ewwr.eu/docs/case_studies/EWWR_2011-Case%20studies_Administracion_Asturias.pdf)
- “Compost a gonfie vele” (IT):  
[http://www.comune.bra.cn.it/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14596:bra-partecipa-alla-settimana-europea-per-la-riduzione-dei-rifiuti-2012&catid=1&Itemid=108](http://www.comune.bra.cn.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14596:bra-partecipa-alla-settimana-europea-per-la-riduzione-dei-rifiuti-2012&catid=1&Itemid=108)
- Good practices of home composting and community composting: Inventory of good practices regarding (bio-)waste minimization in , MINIWaste project, pp. 9-109:  
[http://www.miniwaste.eu/mediastore/fckEditor/file/Miniwaste\\_good\\_practices\\_inventory.pdf](http://www.miniwaste.eu/mediastore/fckEditor/file/Miniwaste_good_practices_inventory.pdf)

► EWWR Coordinator’s website/contact: [www.ewwr.eu/list-organisers](http://www.ewwr.eu/list-organisers)

► European Week for Waste Reduction: [www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu) [contact@ewwr.eu](mailto:contact@ewwr.eu)

### ► Relevant stakeholders:

- European Compost Network (ECN): [www.compostnetwork.info](http://www.compostnetwork.info)
- Composta en Red (ES): [www.compostaenred.org](http://www.compostaenred.org)
- Composting Network (UK) : [www.communitycompost.org](http://www.communitycompost.org)
- Consorzio Italiano Compostatori (IT): [www.compost.it](http://www.compost.it)
- The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC): [www.beuc.org/food](http://www.beuc.org/food)
- Worms ASBL (BE): [www.wormsasbl.org](http://www.wormsasbl.org)
- Vlaco, Flemish Compost Organisation: <http://www.vlaco.be/en/vlaco-vzw/info>

### ► Interesting links

- European Commission: [Stop Food Waste](#)
- [European Environment Agency](#) (EEA)
- [European Environmental Bureau](#) (EEB)
- [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO)
- [Love Food Hate Waste](#)
- Love Food Hate Waste: [Food waste recycling - What to do with the food you can't eat?](#)



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- OECD [Food Chain Network](#)
- [SAVE FOOD initiative](#)
- Slow Food Movement: [www.slowfood.com](http://www.slowfood.com)
- [Think.Eat.Save.](#)
- Zero Waste Europe: [International compost awareness week and Reasons to do composting](#)
- Zero Waste Alliance: [Learn how to start a simple compost system](#)

## ► Publications

- [Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management](#) (ACR+): Bio-waste composting. Management options for 6 composting strategies.
- [Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management](#) (ACR+): Organic Waste Composting. Technical Factsheet, Biological Waste Treatment.
- Eunomia: [Economic Analysis of Options for Managing Biodegradable Municipal Waste](#). Final Report to the European Commission.
- European Commission: [Green Paper on the Management of Bio-waste in the EU](#).
- Favoino, Enzo/ Hogg, Dominic on behalf of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA): [The potential role of compost in reducing greenhouse gases](#). Waste Management & Research, 2008.



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