

From kitchen to garden: everything on the compost heap!

Peelings, coffee grounds, apple cores, wilted flowers... everyday organic waste accounts for one-third of our bins. Now, when properly processed, three kilos of organic waste can produce one kilo of compost, which can feed the soil in the garden long term. Which means it's doubly worthwhile. So all together, get composting!

General information



reduce



difficulty

Waste stream



reuse



environmental
impact



paper



packaging



recycle



cost



WEEE



organic

Objectives

- ▶ To encourage composting at home, in the community (district, street, etc.), in the office,...

What you need

Collective composting site

- ▶ What is it? A place where participants can gather their biodegradable kitchen and garden waste for composting.
- ▶ How is it used? Join forces to create a new collective composting site or encourage your neighbours/colleagues to add to an existing composting site.
- ▶ What to evaluate? The quantity of organic waste that will be composted during the EWWR instead of being thrown away with residual waste.

A compost workshop

- ▶ What is it? An information session on the advantages of composting. The advantages and basic principles of composting are explained.
- ▶ How is it used? Invite your neighbours/colleagues to the workshop to encourage them to start composting and talk about it to others around them.
- ▶ What to evaluate? The number of people who start to compost at home or in the office.

Preparing the action: initial assessment of the situation

1 month before the EWWR

Collective composting site

- ▶ If there is already an initiative in your area, ask those who run it to weigh the organic waste brought to the composting site in one week.

Preparing the action: development and production

1 month before the EWWR

Collective composting site

- ▶ If there already is one: contact those who run it to collect relevant information that you can use to raise awareness, inform your neighbours/colleagues and promote the initiative.
- ▶ If you do not yet have one: gather together those who are interested to form a working group.
- ▶ Find a site (private or public) and plan an agreement with the owner to make it available.
- ▶ Draw up good management rules: appoint a site head, organise a procedure for bringing compostable material, define compost distribution terms, etc.
- ▶ Inform your neighbours/colleagues and other potential participants of the action.
- ▶ Prepare the place where the compost site is to be established. Provide weighing scales and possibly a panel on the site, on which participants can note down the weight of the organic matter brought along.

Compost workshop

- ▶ Find someone to lead the information session or follow a short course yourself so that you can provide the explanations.
- ▶ Decide on a place, a date and a time to hold the session.
- ▶ Broadcast your initiative. Pass on practical details about the information session (date, place, time, contact person, registration, etc.). Give priority to paperless communication (e.g. via the social networks) and if necessary, make a few posters and flyers to be displayed in strategic places.
- ▶ Prepare a list to note down the names and number of people who undertake to start composting at home
- ▶ Obtain the required equipment.

Implementing the action

During the EWWR

Collective composting site

- ▶ Gather the participants together at the composting site. Show them what to do and explain the good management rules to be followed when setting up a new collective composting site. Remember to lend a festive note to the opening of a new collective composting site (e.g.: organise drinks).
- ▶ Ask participants to weigh the organic waste deposited during the EWWR and to note down the weight on the panel.

Compost workshop

- ▶ Give the information session and at the end, ask each participant who declares to start composting to sign a register.

Evaluation methodology

Collective composting site

- ▶ If a project already exists, compare the weight measured during the reference week before the EWWR and the weight measured during the EWWR. The difference represents the organic waste that has not been put in the bin thanks to your action.
- ▶ If you are setting up a new collective composting site, the weight measured during the EWWR corresponds to the weight of organic waste that has not been put in the bin.

Compost workshop

- ▶ Count the number of people whose awareness has been increased (i.e. those who are present) and those who started to compost at home or in the office.

More information

- ▶ General information on individual and collective composting sites and list of initiatives (Brussels, Belgium):
<http://www.wormsasbl.org/>
- ▶ Examples of actions (more examples on www.ewwr.eu):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHeez6fWabU>
<http://vimeo.com/45184347>
- ▶ European Week for Waste Reduction: www.ewwr.eu contact@ewwr.eu