



## Kids Newsletter

Winter 2025



## COMPOSTING: Giving Food a Second Chance

### HOW DOES IT HELP?

Composting is a mixture of decayed organic matter. It is easy to turn waste into valuable soil and fertilizer. It provides organic material for gardening and farming. Composting improves the quality of soil and protects our environment by recycling and reducing waste.

Composting reduces waste, making us less dependent on landfills. Many items that would usually be thrown away can be composted instead.

Compost can be added to gardens to enrich the soil. This adds more nutrients to the crops, resulting in healthier food.

## WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED?

Two types of materials, **browns** and **greens** can be composted.

**GREENS** you might have in your house include fruit and vegetable scraps, grass coffee grounds and paper filters.

**BROWNS** include dry leaves, wilting flowers, plants and twigs, shredded paper (not glossy or colored) banana peels, egg shell, paper towels, brown bags and bread.



Things you **CANNOT** compost include any vegetation that has been treated with insecticide, diseased plants, dog or cat poop, meat or fish scraps, and dryer sheets.

## HOW TO COMPOST

There are several ways a community can compost.

At home a household can collect scraps in a can, zip bag or plastic ware. These can be transferred to a large 5 gallon bucket. At home services will pick up the bucket and empty it, usually for a fee. There are also drop off sites . Currently compost materials are not collected at curbside in NJ.



Compost piles can be placed beside your house or garage.



You can also use a barrel or drum composter with a secure lid.



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Browns and greens combine with air and heat that create an environment for the materials to break down. In a pile or barrel the materials need to be turned regularly. Sometimes water is needed. Organisms like earthworms and insects help the process.



**Nature does the rest.**

