

What Is Community Composting?

COMMUNITY composting is an environmental movement involving initiatives in a wide range of communities to close the loop on organics recovery. At its core, community composting is on a scale bigger than household composting and smaller than typical commercial composting, and seeks to keep organics in a loop as local as resources allow. But otherwise community composting can be defined in many ways.

Community Composting Network, United Kingdom

In the UK, the leading group is the Community Composting Network, a national organization that “supports and promotes community groups, social enterprises and individuals which are involved in producing compost from green/food waste and using it in their local communities.” <http://www.communitycompost.org/>

The UK’s Community Composting Network uses this definition:

Community composting happens when a group of people, small or large, compost material that isn’t just theirs. If you were to take your green waste from your garden to a shared compost heap at your allotment then this is considered community com-

posting. If you have a compost bin at work that a few colleagues add to then that would be considered community composting too. Along with larger, more organized schemes that have, for example, a bring site for the public to take green waste to in order to compost on their site. Community composters are a diverse bunch!

www.communitycompost.org/CCfLF/CCfLF_Supporting_Info.pdf

New York City’s Community Compost Roundtable

In the U.S., one of many community composting groups is in New York City, known as the Roundtable. The Roundtable has a working definition of community composting for urban contexts, which adds an educational component:

The first goal for community composting is that organic material flows the shortest possible distance in a cycle internal to a community, from the sources to a composting site and then, in a new form as mature compost, to greening projects in that same community. The second goal is to maximize participation of community members, both to help sustain the operation but also to foster individuals’ education about and commitment to sustainable practice.