

March 2015 EcoFacts



Community Composting

In Nebraska, about 17% of what's filling up our landfills is food. In landfills, food and other organic matter break down into methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. All of the damage associated with placing organic materials in our landfills could be turned into a benefit if it were used as a soil amendment. Organic matter in compost can restore the soil's water retention, fertility and carbon sequestration capacity. What a rich resource for an agricultural state such as Nebraska!

Community gardens and small organic farms have sprung up all around the country as a response to food insecurity, nutrition, connecting with nature, and the growing local food movement. Some schools, colleges, hospitals and office buildings have started to compost on their property. These food centers use compost to improve their soil, and also produce residual plant materials to dispose of. They are the perfect example of a closed the loop system, using food "waste" as a resource for next year's crop.



What you can do:

1. Support local foods by buying at the [Farmers' Market](#).
2. Look for [community gardens](#) in your neighborhood to support.
3. WasteCap is holding a composting training for community gardeners and farmers. You can support this training and the associated materials needed by [donating to WasteCap](#).

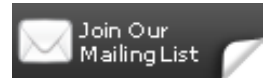
Policy:

Make sure that your local government representative understands the benefits of compost and the importance of restoring and protecting the soil, one of our state's most important resources. Policies that encourage and support community gardening, composting and small farming enterprises increase the health and well-being of the community and improve the local economy.

Visit www.wastecapne.org for all the information you need for recycling in Nebraska.



WasteCap Nebraska
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