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March 2015 EcoFacts



Home Composting

2015 is the International Year of Soils. Celebrate by composting! Composting garden and food waste is a simple, inexpensive and ecologically sound way to restore fertility to your soil and feed the plants in your lawn and garden. Food scraps can account for **up to 25% of your home's waste**. In the landfill, organic materials feed methane-producing bacteria that contribute to **10% of greenhouse gas emissions** in the US. Whether you live in the country or in a small apartment, there are ways you can compost your own organic waste.



What you can do:

1. Start your own HOME composting project.
 - o **Backyard Composting Methods:** You can compost in your yard by incorporating food waste into your soil, making a heap, making your own container or purchasing a composting bin. Get the details from [UNL Extension](#) and [Missouri Extension](#) offices.
 - o **Apartment living:** Vermicomposting. You can compost in small indoor areas using worms! Vermicomposting is the process of using worms and micro-organisms to turn kitchen waste into a black, earthy-smelling, nutrient-rich humus. Learn How from the [UNL Extension office](#).
2. Ask your employer to sign up for food waste collection from [weCompost](#), [Prairieland Dairy](#) or [Soil Dynamics](#) (in eastern Nebraska).
3. For the boldest of composters, look into [composting toilets](#)!

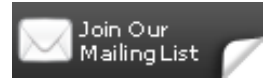
Policy:

Community Zero Waste programs encourage residents to compost their yard and food waste to reduce materials going to the landfill, improve water retention, and reduce run-off and soil erosion. Many cities provide free or reduced price home composting bins for their residents. Ask your local representative if this is possible in your community.

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



WasteCap Nebraska
402-436-2384
www.WasteCapNE.org



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