

Resource Efficiency

Master Composters

Overview

- Objective:**
1. To raise awareness of the benefits of composting.
 2. To encourage more people to compost at home.
 3. to offer support and advice to those already composting.
- Main Partners:** **The Waste and Resource Action Plan (WRAP) Garden Organic**, Warwickshire County Council.
- Audience:** Local Communities.
- Rationale:** Overall around 6.7 million tonnes of food waste is produced by households in the UK, which equates to about a fifth of our domestic waste. In the UK, the vast majority of food waste ends up in landfill. As food rots in landfill it can produce methane, which is not only a potential fire risk but one of the most potent greenhouse gases and a significant contributor to climate change. Around forty percent of household waste can be composted. Composting reduces the amount of waste going to land fill and thus the amount of methane realised into the atmosphere.

Web Link:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/C6E60D10B0D1E5A480256A4D004809CA>

Further info: WCC Waste Minimisation Team, Tel: 01926 41 2458

Master Composters

A partnership project with WRAP and Garden Organic, trains 'master composters' so they can, in turn, help other would-be composters' in their own communities. The scheme has proved popular with 37 trained Masters so far.



During Compost Awareness Week in May 2007, Garden Organic, Ryton hosted a special day dedicated to compost, which included compost-specific tours, a demonstration stand, children's compost trail, a compost giveaway and a compost bin giveaway. Ten Warwickshire Master Composters and Garden Organic home composting experts were on hand to discuss composting issues including how to avoid slimy compost bins and getting the most out of a wormery.

This event was made possible with the help of the Master Composters, who effectively increased the Sustainable Waste Management team by 500%. Despite adverse weather conditions, they shovelled about 150 bags of compost as part of the compost giveaway, found good homes for about 30 compost bins, helped children to find 'Colin the Compost Bin' on the 'Composting Trail' around the gardens and

engaged with many visitors who came to look at the information stand on composting.