

## Compost Learning Collaborative (CLC) Member Agreement

### **Purpose:**

The CLC program offers a hands-on, educational opportunity to area residents and others in the vicinity of the site. Members will receive the support and guidance of Master Composters, and Compost Program staff. The project allows the Compost Program to reach additional residents like renters whose landlord does not permit composting. We anticipate that CLC members will acquire practical compost experience and skills that will make them more likely to compost in the future. This project also helps us understand current perspectives held by residents, and related data (i.e., amounts of food scraps produced).

### **Requirement to join the collaborative:**

- Must take a short (~30 minute) CLC training / orientation
  - o The training will go over basics of composting and operations of the compost system
- Must sign this agreement to follow rules of the collaborative, and meet the service requirement
- Must provide a designated form of communication that will be checked at least once a week

### **Service Requirement:**

- Participate in at least one CLC event for a minimum of one hour every year
- Requirement is subject to change by the compost manager depending on the needs/use of the compost system

### **Member Expectations:**

- All participants must check their designated communication contact at least once a week and respond to CLC manager requests
- All participants must follow the guidelines for acceptable browns and greens
- All participants must practice lasagna layering when adding food scraps so that NO FOOD SHOWS from the top of the bin, bottom or sides
- All participants must add at least twice as much brown material as green material every time they visit
- All participants must keep food materials added to ~2-inch pieces or smaller
- All participants must lock up the bin when done
- Members cannot share the combination with anyone
- Each participant must make a log entry into the notebook for every drop off

**Failure to follow rules or manager requests:**

- If a member fails to follow a rule or respond to a manager's request, they will receive a warning
- If the member continues to fail at following rules or responding to manager requests, they will be removed from the collaborative and the lock combination will be changed by the manager

**Measurement:**

- CLC members are required to track and record certain measurements
  - o Weight of food waste diverted during drop off
  - o Volume of finished compost (usually during work parties)
- CLC staff will provide a scale and logbook

**Pest Management**

- The compost collaborative is responsible for controlling odors that may attract pests by doing the following actions
  - o Immediately turn and add browns to any compost that may smell
  - o Remove any materials that are causing a bad odor
  - o Develop a regular schedule for turning the compost
- If any pests are attracted to the compost bin, but after failing to get in the bins the pests settle on the adjacent garden or housing development, the compost collaborative is responsible for managing and removing these pests
  - o The compost collaborative will coordinate with the Compost Education Program Manager on pest management practices

**Browns and Greens Guideline**

(These guidelines will be posted at each CLC site)

**Acceptable Brown Materials (High in Carbon)**

- Dried leaves
- Woodchips (if possible avoid woods with natural herbicides such as walnut, cypress and cedar)
- Sawdust and wood shavings (avoid pressure treated wood and toxic glues)
- Straw (avoid hay which has more seeds)
- Dried plant waste with no diseases
- Newspaper and office paper (keep out advertisements & heavily dyed paper)
- Pine needles (no more than 25% by volume)

**Acceptable Green Materials (High in Nitrogen)**

- Veggie or fruit scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags (remove the staple)
- Egg shells, please crush first

- Fresh leaves or garden weeds (that have not gone to seed)
- Flowers
- Hair
- Fresh manure from herbivores (cow, horse, guinea pig, rabbit, etc.)
- Fresh grass clippings
- Alfalfa

**Materials to Avoid**

- Plants with diseases or pests
- Any plants/weeds that have seeds
- Meat, fat, bones
- Dairy
- Excessive oil
- Poison ivy
- Colored paper (anything darker than “pastels”)
- Any material that has been exposed to pesticides or herbicides
- Anything toxic or non-biodegradable
- Pet waste from carnivores or omnivores (dog, cat, rat, etc.)
- “Compostable” liner bags or food service ware (they don’t compost and are often coated with plastic)

**Solarization**

One way to destroy weed seeds, diseases or pests is to bake them on the blacktop in the sun for several weeks. This can be particularly helpful to stop the spread of bindweed, or other pernicious weeds. The following can be composted after 30 days of solarization. (Such materials added must be recorded in the logbook.)

- Plants/weeds that have gone to seed
- Diseased plants
- Plants with pests or pest eggs on them

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (*print full name*), agree to all requirements and expectations included in this document and understand if I fail to meet any of these requirements and expectations I may be removed from the Compost Learning Collaborative.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (*please write legibly*)