



How does the Compost Education Program benefit the community?

The Compost Education Program benefits the whole community by furthering the goals of the Tompkins County Department of Recycling and Materials Management to reduce the amount of compostable materials that go to the landfill.

Who is involved in the Compost Learning Collaborative?

- Volunteer community educators - the Tompkins County Master Composters
- The Program Manager of the Compost Education Program at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County
- Leaders from the Ithaca Community Gardens
- Interested gardeners, and others from the community who become members of the collaborative

Got a question? Give us a call...



“The Rotline”  
Composting Hotline  
607-272-2292

To learn more about composting, the Compost Learning Collaborative or the Master Composter Program, contact:

Compost Education Program  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
of Tompkins County

615 Willow Ave  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
[www.ccetompkins.org/compost](http://www.ccetompkins.org/compost)

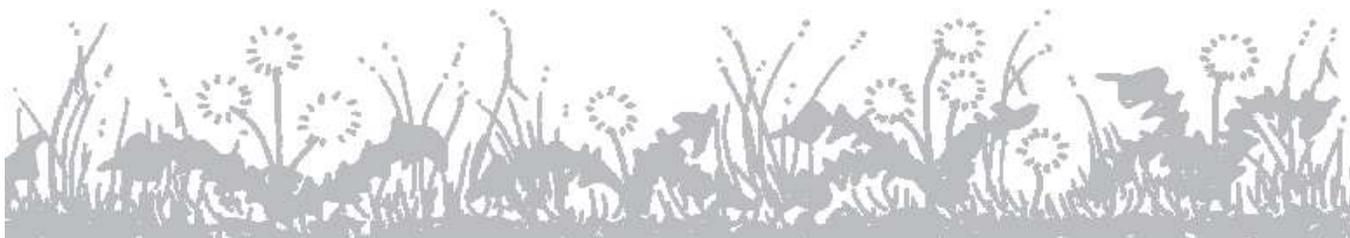
Become a member  
of the Community  
Compost in Freeville  
to Reduce waste and  
and improve gardens

# Compost Learning Collaborative

at the

# Freeville Community Garden

A cooperative project of  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
and the Freeville Community Garden



## What is the Compost Learning Collaborative?

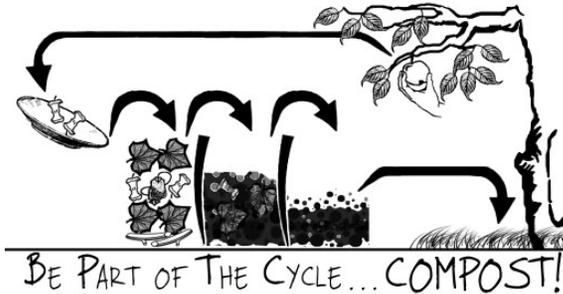
The Compost Learning Collaborative offers another way for residents to divert food, garden and yard discards from the landfill. Participants learn how to compost at a community site from local composting experts. With practice, members become more confident and gain a deeper understanding of the composting process. They contribute food scraps, help manage the material, and harvest the finished product. By locating the site at the Ithaca Community Gardens, we can incorporate their compostable materials, and provide finished compost for use in the garden.

By offering community composting in Ithaca, we make composting more accessible for area residents. Joining the collaborative may be an attractive option for those who rent, or for people who live nearby or visit the Ithaca Farmers Market. Participants benefit from the support available from local compost educators, and the camaraderie of the group.

We aim to further the goal of the Tompkins County Department of Recycling and Materials Management to reduce the amount of compostable materials going into the trash. The Compost Education Program at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County sees the value in bringing people together to learn, and compost together. We hope to continue building skills and enthusiasm for composting in Tompkins County.

## Benefits of the Compost Learning Collaborative

- Provides a site and system for composting food scraps
- Incorporates extra yard and garden debris
- Builds relationships by working together
- Enriches local home and garden soil with nutrients from finished compost
- Improves the structure of clay or sandy soils through the use of compost
- Creating more resilient gardens since compost acts like a sponge to retain water during dry years



## Join the Compost Learning Collaborative

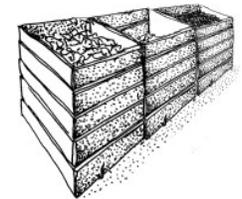
- Attend one 30-minute, on-site orientation
- Provide a designated form of communication that is checked at least once per week
- Contribute appropriate food scraps and yard/garden debris; layer materials in the designated bin
- Weigh food scraps and log data, add any comments
- Volunteer to help with site maintenance and turning and go home with finished compost

## Who is Eligible and How do I Sign Up?

Our program is free and open to anyone in Tompkins County.

Given its location, we expect that members of the Compost Learning Collaborative will be gardeners from the Ithaca Community Gardens, people who visit the Ithaca Farmers Market, neighbors, and other residents.

At the orientation, members will meet one another, learn more about the Compost Learning Collaborative project, and go over guidelines for properly using the site. There will be a demonstration of layering food scraps with 'brown materials' (usually dry leaves). The compost educator leading the orientation will answer any questions about composting and the Compost Learning Collaborative.



For more information and to sign up, call Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County at 607-272-2292.

## Compost Learning Collaborative Website

[www.ccetompkins.org/clc](http://www.ccetompkins.org/clc)

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Ithaca, NY 14850

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