



LEEDS

NAME:

THE HANDBOOK



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THANK YOU FOR TAKING ACTION!

This scheme is part of a wider pilot for Leeds, Compost Collective Leeds (CCL), working with local communities to establish community composting schemes to:

- Help reduce food waste by recycling food scraps
- Make #soilfromscraps for growing local food & flowers
- Collectively #compostforclimate

We are working with pilot sites (including this one!) to better understand how ideas from other UK schemes can work for Leeds communities. We are also developing a community composting toolkit to share across the city and support others to establish their own community composting schemes.

Thank you for being part in this pilot scheme, taking action and joining the good food movement in Leeds! Remember to pledge your action on the FoodWise Leeds website:



foodwiseleeds.org/take-action/individuals/

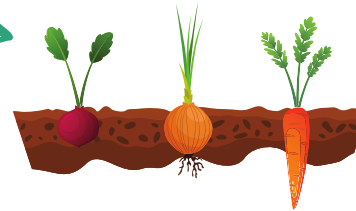
WELCOME TO COMPOST COLLECTIVE LEEDS!

If you're reading this, you have likely signed up to a local Compost Collective Leeds site and we are so happy you did! In this handbook you'll find everything from how composting works to roles & responsibilities for a community composting site. Firstly, a re-cap of what a CCL community composting scheme is all about:

SO WHY COMPOSTING?



Recycle kitchen food scraps that are otherwise discarded.



Come together to make #soilfromscraps for growing local food & flowers.



Collectively #compostforclimate to reduce our local carbon footprint.

OK, WHAT'S ACTUALLY INVOLVED?



for residents who have joined as members.



for members to collect food scraps & empty into the bins.



for members & local community growing spaces.

WHY TACKLE FOOD WASTE WITH COMPOSTING?



A) 100 kilos of food waste are produced by the average Leeds household per year (equal weight to approx. 66 bags of flour).



B) If food waste were a country, it would be the 3rd largest producer of greenhouse gas emissions.



C) Only raw veg food waste can be composted via non-commercial composting (e.g. in home compost bins).



D) 10% of the average households' bin contents is suitable for home composting.

Check out the answers are at the bottom of this page. Did you learn something new?

With this information, we can start to understand why composting kitchen waste can make a big difference to our individual carbon footprint. To learn more, visit: foodwiseleeds.org/project/ccl/.

A) FALSE! It's actually twice as much at 200 kilos per household! That's approximately 133 bags of flour.
B) TRUE! Food waste would rank as the 3rd largest country in terms of it's greenhouse gas emissions, behind China and the US. This is why it is a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to half individual food waste by 2030.
C) FALSE! You can compost much more than just raw veg, including coffee grounds, egg shells, fruit cores and skins. Check out pg.6 for more!
D) FALSE! 40% of the average household's bin contents is suitable for home composting.

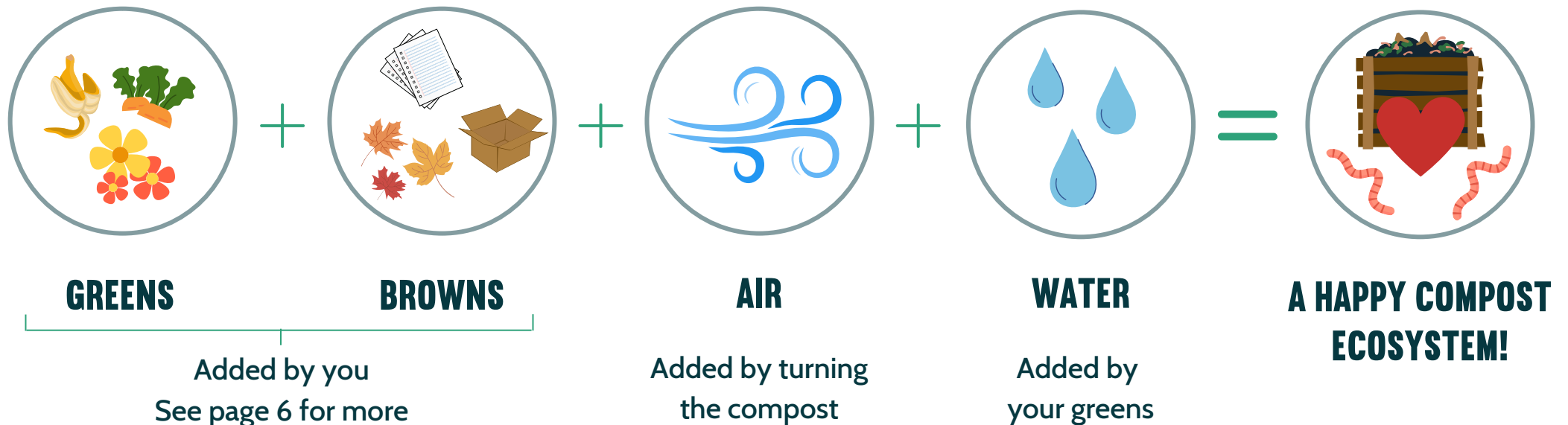
HOW DOES COMPOSTING WORK?

Composting is the process of organic matter (e.g. food scraps, leaves, flowers) and other items being broken down by worms and a whole host of micro organisms. We can use the end product to grow healthier plants by adding the compost to local growing areas. Healthier soils and plants also support birds, bees and other local biodiversity!



Did you know that in 1 GRAM of compost there are over 1 BILLION micro organisms?

They work best at breaking down material when their environment is balanced, this means:



The more balanced your compost bin contents, the quicker kitchen waste can be recycled + the sooner the compost is ready to use! To learn more, visit: foodwiseleeds.org/project/ccl/

WHAT TO PUT IN THE COMPOST BIN

YES,
PUT IN

GREENS (NITROGEN)

- Raw veg & fruit (remove any stickers)
- Tea bags, coffee grounds & filter paper
- Egg shells
- Flowers



BROWNS (CARBON)

- Egg boxes, loo roll tubes, non-shiny paper/cardboard (tear into postcard-size pieces)
- Kitchen Roll
- Sawdust (used or unused)
- Autumn Leaves
- Small sticks/twigs

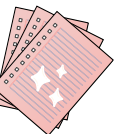


And nowt else! If you're not sure, please don't put it in.

The items below should **NOT** be added as they are not compostable, are unsafe or can attract vermin.

DON'T
PUT IN

- **Cooked food**, including meat, dairy, rice, bread, fish - can increase risk of rats and other vermin.
- **Plastic, glass or metal** - none will compost.
- **Plastic bags from caddy** - the time to breakdown slows the process, during which microbes/worms or air can't get to the materials inside.
- **Glossy paper or card** - might include plastics that won't compost.
- **Dog or cat waste** - unsafe to handle and add to our compost.
- **Materials that include chemicals** (e.g. treated woods or herbicide/pesticide treated greens) - unsafe to handle and add to our compost.



HOW TO USE THE COMPOST BINS

1. FILL YOUR CADDY with scraps from your kitchen and other items (see page 6). Remember to chop large items into smaller pieces to speed up the composting process.



2. BRING FULL CADDY TO SITE and open the active compost bin (i.e. the bin with the combination padlock). Your monitors will tell you the code.



4. CLOSE THE COMPOST BIN, replace the combination lock and scramble the code.



3. EMPTY YOUR CADDY into the compost bin. Add some 'browns' each time you empty your caddy and, if you are able to, turn the compost (see pg.9).

REMEMBER:



- Please clear any litter/items that may have fallen from the compost bins.
- Only use the compost bins during daylight hours.
- Report any damage to the bins to your monitors.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

MEMBERS

Role: To add materials to compost bins, turn the compost and help maintain the site.

Responsibilities:

- To fill and empty caddy into active compost bin (see page 7).
- To turn compost (if able to), as per the agreed rota (see page 9).
- To tidy the immediate areas around the bins as/when needed.
- To report damage or issues with bins and/or site to monitors.

MONITORS

Role: To support and help coordinate the community composting scheme.

Responsibilities:

- PEOPLE:
 - Induct new members and coordinate any departures.
 - Maintain a list of members and their preferred contact details.
 - Keep in touch with members. Sending reminders about what can/can't go in, reflecting what's going on in the active bin (e.g. too wet, remind members about adding browns). Also send updates about repairs when needed.
- COMPOST BIN:
 - Swap the padlocks on bins when one is full and update the members.
 - Organise rota for turning the compost.
 - Inform members and local growing spaces once compost is ready for collection.

Monitor Tool Box:

- Members List
- Compost Turning Rota
- New Starter & Leaver Checklists

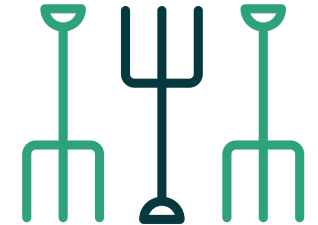


Let the other monitor(s) know if you plan to leave your monitor role (1 months notice is preferred) and the process to recruit a replacement can begin.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

HOW DO I 'TURN' COMPOST?

- Turn compost using a fork or a compost aerator tool to add air to the bin's contents.
- Air is needed to effectively breakdown the material added. The more the compost is turned, the quicker it's ready to use!



WHY IS THE COMPOST VERY DRY?

- Too many browns have been added (e.g. cardboard, sawdust, twigs). Add more greens to restore balance (e.g. food scraps, flowers, coffee grounds). See page 6.

WHY IS THE COMPOST SMELLY AND/OR HAVE FLIES?

- Too many greens have been added, making the compost slimy. Add more browns to restore balance (see page 6).
- Small fruit flies are common in summer. Add a thick layer of shredded paper to help reduce them.



WHEN IS THE COMPOST READY?

- If the bins contents is dark brown and smells earthy, it's ready! Your monitors will let you know once it's ready to collect.
- Don't worry if it's still quite lumpy with twigs and other items, the compost is still usable and can be a sieved if preferred. Larger pieces can be added to the next bin being used.

WHAT IF SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO JOIN OR IF I WANT TO LEAVE THE SCHEME?

- Please speak to you compost monitors. Any new members will need to receive a caddy, handbook and training. If you plan to leave the scheme, your monitors will need to complete a check list and collect your compost caddy.





LEEDS

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Please contact your scheme monitors in the first instance. Contact info@foodwiseleeds.org if this is not possible or if you would like to discuss the wider Compost Collective Leeds programme.

INTERESTED IN STARTING YOUR OWN SITE?

If you are a local organisation, community group or community member interested in setting up a local Compost Collective Leeds site, please get in touch with FoodWise Leeds (info@foodwiseleeds.org) to discuss how we might support you and your community.