



COOPERATIVE ENERGY, RECYCLING, AND ORGANICS

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is a biological process during which naturally occurring microorganisms, (bacteria, fungi, worms) break down organic materials such as food waste into a soil-like product called compost. It is a form of recycling, a natural way of returning needed nutrients to the soil.

SOURCE SEPARATION

Source separation is the separation of compostable materials from other waste streams at the source. It ensures the safety and usability of compost. Separating organic materials reduces the volume of waste sent to landfills. This process is crucial for efficient waste management.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPOSTING

- Reduces methane, a harmful greenhouse gas released when food waste rots in landfills.
- Returns nutrients to the soil and ensures healthy local agriculture and a local food economy.
- Helps close the food loop and foster a circular economy.

THE SCIENCE OF COMPOSTING

- Composting is a process that works to speed up the natural decay of organic material.
- Composting breaks food waste down into organic matter, helping trap carbon in the soil instead of creating methane in landfills. This is called carbon sequestration.