

YCOMP:

Youth Composting
Organization for the
Massachusetts' Populace

sharon.compost@gmail.com

Who are we?

- **We are a group of Juniors at Sharon High School in Sharon, Massachusetts.**

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Mission Statement

- Our goal is to promote and encourage composting and composting education on local and state levels by offering low-cost (potentially subsidized) compost bins for consumers (for individuals or towns) through both the FAC61 MA state contract and by working directly with manufacturers.

Mission Statement: Continued

- Moreover, we would like to organize educational programs and promote state-composting resources. We would like to expand MassDEP's and the Green Team's efforts on an inter-town basis, individual school basis, encourage small businesses to use home-composting bins, and work with colleges, universities, and other organizations and institutions.

Our Focus: Home Composting

- We are primarily promoting “home-composting” to those unfamiliar with it in the first place, by providing them educational opportunities and allowing the purchase of these bins on an individual basis through FAC61. We would also like to encourage schools to start pilot composting programs by experimenting with home-composting bins, and if enough enthusiasm is garnered at a school, they could explore their own options for on-site, large composting containers or coordinating compost pick-up to an off-site location. We would just like to provide resources for individual residents who are not informed about composting by their town.

Our Focus: Home Composting Continued

- In terms of a curbside collection process, we ultimately want to use funds from grants or charge people a fee to participate in a pilot program which would be designed to look similar to that of Canada, where organic material is collected for composting at a commercial composting facility. However, as mentioned before, the majority of composting done at public buildings will be on-site, unlike the pilot programs. These pilot programs will take into account the need to locate a registered commercial composting facility and setting up a collection program. The initial fee will be used to cover the collection fee cost and tipping fee.

Our Focus: Home Composting Continued

- Moreover, in terms of the management differences between on-site and off-site composting, our educational programs will be used to address questions or concerns people may have as well as ensure that the compost is being managed. As far as schools are concerned, we would like to create an educational network and work with schools' Green Teams (or work to establish Green team representatives at each school) to ensure proper management of composting.

The Green Team



View Participating Schools

Number of Participating Teachers:	227
Number of Participating Schools:	177
Number of Participating Students:	46,793

Teachers Sign Up for
THE GREEN TEAM
TODAY!

REGISTER NOW

EMAIL: recycle@THEGREENTEAM.org

GREEN TEAM PHOTO GALLERY!

Home

FAQs

The GREEN TEAM
Kit

Library &
Curricula

Request
Equipment

Recycling
Facts

What's
New?

Links



The Green Team is an interactive educational program that empowers students and teachers to help the environment through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection provides resources to help GREEN TEAM members learn how to reduce waste and rewards classes that successfully complete one or more of the suggested activities...

When we all reduce, reuse and recycle as much as we can, there's very little left to throw away!



Presented by

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts

Department of
Environmental Protection

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BOOKS?**

Examples of Home Composting Bins

"To make it easier for consumers to compost kitchen scraps and yard wastes, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) makes home composting bins available to cities and towns each year through its recycling equipment grant program."

Two styles of compost bins are available through the MassDEP grant program: Earth Machine and New Age Composter. Both are easy to assemble, rodent-resistant and allow for efficient aerobic composting. They are made from a minimum of 50 percent post-consumer recycled plastic collected or processed in Massachusetts.

An average household can compost between 500 and 1,000 pounds of organic material each year in one of these bins, producing a rich soil supplement out of material that would otherwise be thrown away. Bins retail for between \$60 and \$100, but are available to residents of communities that receive grants at subsidized prices of between \$25 and \$35 each."

Earth Machine



New Age Composter



New Age Composter Examples



Timeline of Events

Short Term Goal:
Create a Composting Base in Sharon

1: Promote Home-composting

- provide educational opportunities
 - hands-on seminars for those interested on an inter-town basis in addition to current Mass DEP resources
 - formalized presentations throughout school systems, towns, etc.
 - work with Green Teams to create and endorse presentations in schools

1A: Environmental Benefits

- Keeps plants healthy by controlling weeds, providing a slow release of nutrients, and preventing soil loss through erosion
- Compost has a good balance of nutrients, therefore reducing the need for commercial fertilizer which is fossil fuel based
- Reduces methane produced when organic materials decay in land fills; methane is 23 times worse than carbon dioxide emissions into the environment
- Reduces carbon dioxide emissions from the incineration of waste

1B: Economic Benefits

- Extends current landfill longevity, therefore delaying the construction of a more expensive replacement landfill or incinerator.
- Reduces the need for water, pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, and fertilizers.

1C: Community Benefits

- Promotes town-wide bonding of residents of all ages for a common cause
- Promotes town-pride in a common goal
- Prevents pollution in local and nearby communities and recycles nutrients
- Educates all generations (especially youth) about composting, waste disposal, recycling, and awareness of environmental issues
- Changes cultural attitudes towards garbage and encourages societal awareness
- Promotes the future generation to be conscious of the environment and waste disposal
- Helps schools educate students about environmental sciences

ID: Expand on Mass DEP's Resources

2: Facilitate the Purchase of these Bins on an Individual Basis through FAC61

- all towns may not want to buy bins for their residents
- still prove the subsidized cost available under the state contract to those who are interested

3: Survey by Rina Hoffman (The Binnah School)

- survey used to gain information for future pilot programs (off-site composting)

4. On-Site Composting in Schools

- pilot composting programs by experimenting with home-composting bins
- can be incorporated into earth science classes
- explore the options for on-site, large composting containers or coordinating compost pick-up to an off-site location

Sharon Public School Composting Efforts

Green Team Members

- Sharon High School
- Sharon Middle School
- Cottage Elementary School
- East Elementary School
- Heights Elementary School
- Ms. Rounseville
- Ms. Ordway
- Ms. Mann
- Ms. Murphy
- Ms. Meisner / Ms. Wiseman

We are meeting with Sharon Public School Administrators to discuss Composting Efforts and Composting Education at our schools

5: On-Site Composting in Public Facilities

- possibilities range from using small-scale home-composting or acquiring larger on-site compost management bins (also ranging from processing on-site or collection to be transported to an off-site facility)
- arrange interdependant composting programs between restaurants and town gardens
 - Ward's Berry Farm, Town Gardens
 - Town Restaurants
 - Other Businesses

5: On-Site Composting in Public Facilities Details

- these bins will be acquired in one of two ways:
 - under MA State Contract FAC61
 - By negotiations directly with compost bin manufacturers (Earth Machine, etc.)
- Number of bins implemented will be determined by the usable output at each specific location
 - create and implement a system of collecting and redirecting compost to local farms/ designated areas
 - provide the option and information necessary for buildings to keep compost on site for use

6: Develop a Method of Accessing and Distributing Home Composting Bins to Individuals within Sharon

- creation of a website: online access through the town
- order forms with composting information
- fliers around town
- storage of bins: house, organization, designated location
- organized order and pick-up of bins
- information at town meetings/votes

7: Curbside Collection Process: Pilot Programs

- use funds from grants to charge people a fee to participate in a pilot program
- designed to look similar to that of Canada or other towns within the Commonwealth
 - organic material is collected for composting at a commercial composting facility
- account for the need to locate a registered commercial composting facility and setting up a collection program
- initial fee (or grant money) will be used to cover the collection fee cost and tipping fee
- use a survey to target the area of highest home composting residents or interested residents

Toronto Compost Bins



Long Term: Register as a non-profit
organization and expand throughout
Massachusetts

1: Form an organization that will act as a middle-man between the MassDEP (or compost bin manufacturers) and state residents or towns. This organization will develop composting educational programs for home and town composting and provide access to acquiring low cost (potentially subsidized) composting bins.

1A: Discuss Distribution Options

- Primarily acquire bins through FAC61 (MA State contract)
- Subsidize bin costs through grants and donations
- Work with manufacturers to secure different types of bins

1B: Draft Educational Program

- Synthesize MassDEP and university studies into pamphlets, slide shows, and documents and create formal presentations accessible to all
- Make these materials available to schools, businesses, public institutions, and the general public

1C: Finance

- cost of legal applications and registration
- non-profit bank account
- registering for tax exemption
- legally and financially register as non-profit
- Funds for website, continued legal fees, facilitation of FAC61
- Funds to further defer the cost of the bins as well as to sustain our efforts
- Produce high-quality informational materials

2: Find a lawyer familiar with non-
profits and willing to dedicate time/effort
to the cause

- find a lawyer familiar with dealing with state contracts, preferably if they have any experience dealing with MassDEP contracts
- form a solid financial base (grants) and develop budget

3: Develop an organization constitution that outlines specific roles and responsibilities of members

- the specific delineation of roles
- An adult board will handle the legal/financial matters of the Organization and will act as the incorporating body if minors (under 18) are unable to do so. Executive adult board positions will include President, Vice President, Secretary (Communications), Treasurer (Finance and Fundraising), Composting Education Director, Networking Director, School Liason, among other standard and composting-specific positions. However, a youth board, who will design and carry out the objectives of the organizations, will mirror the adult board. Bylaws should be drafted to allow for standard election procedures and provide for the allowance of a maximum of 2 people to share a position

3 Continued

- Other members of the adult and youth board will be organized in committee underneath their overseeing officer in order to accomplish the objectives mentioned before and after this slide in an orderly manner. Additional general board positions may be assigned for organizational and responsibility purposes. An adult honorary board (for people willing to represent our organization without a large time involvement, such as state senators, business leaders, and other representatives) should also be established.
- A format for the initiation of YCOMP clubs throughout the state should follow a similar board set-up that answers to the Sharon-based Presidents as well as the Adult executive boards. If a “Green-initiative” program already exists, the appropriate representative would also respond to the Sharon-based Youth Presidents and Adult Executive Board.

4: Make Presentations Across the State and Encourage the Following State-Wide Initiatives

- composting bins for all public schools (according to budget, collection of donations, and further discounts from manufacturer or government)
- curbside collection of compost (as first dealt with on a town-to-town basis)

website that provides compost education (including details of available bins)


- possibility of creating online ordering of compost bins (by entering credit card and state resident credentials) if shipping/distribution can be worked out
- state-wide residential application for compost bins

5: Curriculum Shift

- expand the state-wide curriculum to include more information on ecology and soil, an area which MA students typically underperform in the MCAS Science Exams

6: Studies in Universities

- further composting knowledge base, involve youth

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- Thank you for your consideration!
 - Please contact us if you are interested in helping out or if you know anyone who would be interested in aiding us.

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