



Step 7: Summary of the key points for community composting

Step by step summary

Step 1: What are you going to compost?

- Garden waste is the easiest to compost from a regulations perspective
- Keep it simple – if using food waste, only vegetable and fruit waste (peelings, leftovers etc)

Step 2: How much waste do you want to manage?

- Aim to produce less than 10 tonnes of compost from food waste, if this includes animal by-products
- Consider a project with less than 30 participating households if food waste is being collected (or multiple projects with less than 30 households)

Step 3: Who could be involved?

- Householders and local food premises (kitchens/canteens)
- Community composting projects will work best when collaborating with local food growing projects, with complementary skills and opportunities to build skills and save money.

Step 4: Technologies and methods

- Keep it simple unless there is a good reason to invest in more costly equipment
- Build boxes locally to support and encourage the local community to be involved

Step 5: Safe and beneficial use of compost

- Consult with your local environmental health officer to identify and manage risks
- Sell or give away your compost locally, for use in gardens or community growing projects/allotments. If food waste with animal by-products has been used, do not apply compost to smallholdings, farms or land that can be accessed by farm animals

Step 6: How much do community composting projects cost and how to fund them?

- Costs – keep it simple, with equipment costs for a good quality project able to come in at around £1,000 to £3,000
- Funding (sales) - consider the potential for selling compost to householders locally
- Funding (grants) – collaborate with food growing projects to maximise the potential for grant funding support