

## The Research\*:

Junior Environmental Commissioner Nick Rea composted for 1 month with his family of 5. He used the data from that month to discover that:

-The average Wyckoff household could compost 490 pounds 5 ounces of food waste per year

-This translates to 1,669,928.49 tons of food waste compost for the entire town each year

-Wyckoff will pay \$359,590 for garbage disposal next year.

-Save the Township \$54,592 by composting

-Wyckoff will pay just \$304,997.70 if the entire town composted. This will save the Township \$54,592 while keeping 835 ton of garbage out of landfills.

\*all numbers are estimates

### More Information About Composting:

The typical American household disposes of 474 pounds of waste each year

The food scraps generated by US households in a year could be piled on a football field more than 5 miles high!

Of the US waste stream, 10% is food related (compostable!)

It is estimated that 1/2 of all food produced or consumed in the United States is discarded

The US disposes of 26 million tons of food scraps each year



# Composting

How to save money and the environment





## Composting and the Environment



### BENEFITS OF COMPOST

1. Improves soil quality = healthier plants
2. Adds nutrients to slowly feed plants
3. Saves money on fertilisers + mulch.
4. Soil holds more water = less watering
5. Helps reduce pests and disease
6. Assists in balancing soil pH.
7. Improves soil structure.

themicrogardener.com

### How does composting affect me?

Research has been conducted in Wyckoff and found that composting has the potential to save the Township \$54,592 in garbage disposal costs in 2018.

Compost is very helpful for growing healthy and strong plants in your garden.

The Township Committee and the Environmental Commission encourages all folks to remove as many recyclables from their household garbage. Composting and Vegetative Waste collections help the Township reach the Nifty-Fifty; (our goal to reduce our garbage and trash by 50%). For information about Wyckoff Township's vegetative waste collection go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y7s7nwmx>

### How to Compost:

1. Purchase a composter, or make a pile in your backyard with garden clippings and weeds
2. Take organic compounds that are left over from your meals, and rather than throwing them out, take them to the compost
3. Rotate/shuffle the compost around at least once every other week to help the microorganisms do their jobs (make sure to add water too!!)
4. Wait and watch your compost turn into usable soil, "black gold."

### What can I compost?

Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fruit peels and rinds</li> <li>Tea leaves/bags and coffee filters</li> <li>Vegetable scraps</li> <li>Plant trimmings</li> <li>Dried leaves, and grass clippings</li> <li>Egg shells</li> <li>Greenery (sans stems)</li> <li>Shredded paper (news, office, etc.)</li> <li>Straw and small branches and twigs</li> <li>Cardboard (paper rolls, non-shiny)</li> <li>Animal manure from herbivores</li> <li>Natural fibers (100% wool or cotton)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weeds that have gone to seed</li> <li>Meat</li> <li>Large wood pieces</li> <li>Cat litter</li> <li>Coal ash</li> <li>Fish</li> <li>Dairy products</li> <li>Sawdust</li> <li>Walnuts</li> <li>Highly acidic citrus fruit</li> </ul>

www.thetintagem.com.ca

### Compost Do's and Don'ts

If you would like to purchase a composter, the town of Wyckoff sells discounted composters (\$60) through Brian Scanlan, who can be contacted by email at [bdscanlan@gmail.com](mailto:bdscanlan@gmail.com).



### Information About the Project:

This project was completed as part of the Wyckoff Environmental Commission's junior commissioner initiative. Junior Commissioner Nick Rea, a student at Bergen County Academies in the class of 2020, created this brochure and the research for the project.