One Person's Trash is... another's black gold.

Every year, Michigan landfills and trash incinerators receive 16 MILLION TONS of garbage.

COMPOST:

Impacts More Than You Think

Composting is the aerobic decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms. It transforms raw materials—such as leaves, grass clippings, garden trimmings, food scraps, animal manure, and agricultural residues—into compost, a valuable earthy -smelling soil conditioner, teeming with life.

>50% of typical municipal garbage set out at the curb is compostable.

What Can You Do?

Policies to Consider

- ✓ Encourage a decentralized composting infrastructure
- ✓ Establish a local and state food recovery goal
- ✓ Ensure small-scale operators can compete
- ✓ Support composter training programs
- ✓ Require compost-amended soil for development
- ✓ Institute pay-as-you-throw trash fees
- ✓ Implement a healthy and green infrastructure initiative
- ✓ Provide grants, loans, and technical assistance to compost projects
- ✓ Establish performance-based standards for compost sites

ILSR INSTITUTE FOR Local Self-Reliance

To learn more, visit:
ilsr.org/compost-impacts

Recycle, MICHIGAN
NO CITY LIMIT
POP. 9,876,187
™

MICHIGAN organics council

mrc
michiganrecyclingcoalition
www.MichiganRecycles.org

Composting . . . Creates Jobs

Jobs are sustained in each stage of the organics recovery cycle.

PRODUCT UTILIZATION

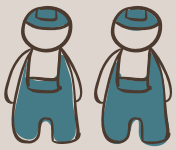
On a per-ton basis, making compost alone, employs 2x more workers than landfills and 4x more than incinerators.

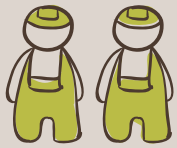
Per 10,000 Tons Waste/Year — Jobs Sustained

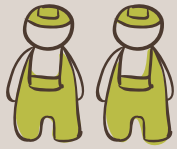
Incineration

Landfilling

Manufacturing Compost

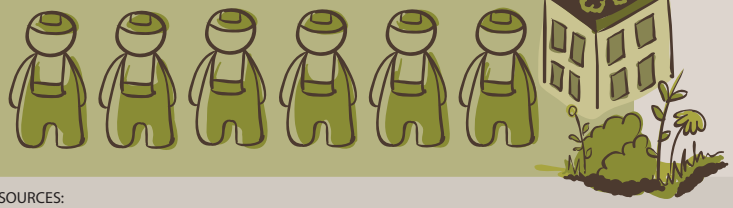






Using Compost in Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure uses compost in rain gardens, green roofs, bioswales, vegetated retaining walls, and on steep highway embankments to control soil erosion and storm water. Using compost in green infrastructure creates even more jobs.



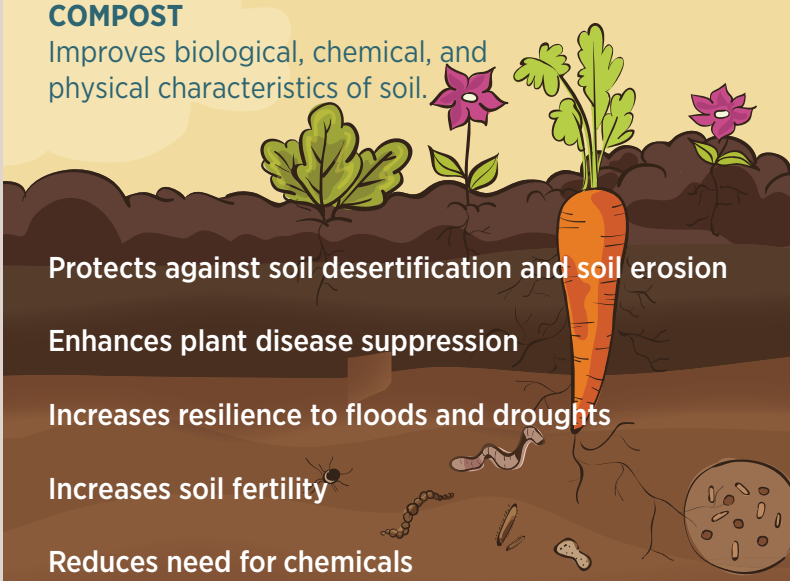
PRODUCT GENERATION

When added to soil, compost can filter out urban stormwater pollutants by an astounding **60-95%**

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SOIL

COMPOST

Improves biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of soil.



- Protects against soil desertification and soil erosion
- Enhances plant disease suppression
- Increases resilience to floods and droughts
- Increases soil fertility
- Reduces need for chemicals
- Converts nitrogen into a more stable and less mobile form and phosphorous into a less soluble form
- Increases microbial activity
- Improves water retention
- Improves soil structure
- Adds humus, keeping soil particles stuck together
- Improves ability to store nutrients (such as cation exchange capacity)
- Compost helps reduce stormwater runoff because it can hold **~5x its weight** in water.
- Compost serves as a filter and sponge. It immobilizes and degrades pollutants, improving water quality.

SOURCES:

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. . . Enhances Soil & Protects Watersheds

Healthy soils are essential for protecting watersheds. Compost is the best way to add organic matter–which is vital–to soils.