Backyard Composting

DFW Area Food Recovery Event
October 21, 2015

Debbie Branch
City of Fort Worth
Resource Recovery Planner

- Establishment of separate yard trimming collection program
- Establishment of centralized composting program
- No mention of food waste, but 66% willing to compost yard trimmings in future
- Only 15% of survey group were currently composting
Fort Worth Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan: 2016–2026

Some have expressed interest for food composting

http://fortworthtexas.gov/swplan
“While municipal composting is a good idea, wouldn’t it be better for households to compost their own organic wastes, eliminating the need for a whole municipal service structure”.

- Compost Demonstration Sites – 1980
- Master Composter Program – 1985
- Low Cost Compost Bin and Info Distributed – 1989
Checking the temperature

Debbie Branch (left), city of Waco Recycling Coordinator, checks the temperature of a compost heap during a backyard composting class Tuesday at Cameron Park Zoo. The city will offer a master composting class Oct. 7-9 for $30. No prior composting experience is needed, and participants will receive 15 hours of formal training as well as materials for the class. To ask questions, call 751-8561.
Target Audience

- Gardeners
- Health Seekers
- Anyone seeking a healthy lawn
- Anyone wanting to save water
- People with an agriculture background
- Pet Groomers
- Vegetarians
- Educators/Green Classroom
Enticements to take class

15 hours sounds like a long time!
Texas has 20/20 Program

20 Training Hours
- 15 classroom hours
- Reading
- Field trips
- Listen to presentations

20 Volunteer Hours
- Teach a neighbor/friend
- Work with a school group
- Booth at a garden show
- Compost Demonstration Site
Rules of Rot

- Mass – At least 3 cubic yards
- Moisture – As wet as a rung out sponge
- Material – (30:1)
- Air & Time
Food Scraps & Backyard Composting

- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Coffee Grounds
- Tea Bags
- Grains

- Meat
- Dairy
- Oil
- Cooked Food
Master Compost Class Partner – Texas AgriLife Extension
Class Presentations

Teach One, Teach Many!
Continuing Ed Hours – Tours

- Recycling Processing Center
- Compost Demonstration Site
- Landfill
- Tree Farm
Worms!

Vermicomposting
Compost Demonstration Site
Recruiting

- Teacher Scholarships
- HOA/Neighborhood Association partnerships
- Host Partners – zoo, botanic garden, YMCA, Church
Recognition!
Results

- Two classes annually since fall of 2008 (15 classes)
- 361 people through class since 2008
- Average 24 people per class
- If each participant taught 3 people about backyard composting that is more than 1083 people composting