



International Composting Awareness Week
2-8 May 2016 Australia



Centre for Organic
Research & Education

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International Composting Awareness Week (ICAW) 2-8 May 2016

What helps the environment, saves you money and feeds the soil at the same time?

May 2nd to 8th marks International Composting Awareness Week in Australia. This is a week during which Australians are invited to pay closer attention to what they put in their rubbish bin and consider than often about half of that could be composted through dedicated organic waste wheelie bin services or at home.

“We want Australians to realise that each time they throw organics such as food scraps and garden waste in the rubbish bin they are contributing to climate change. Most people are unaware of this and we believe that if they knew, they would try to do things differently”, explains Eric Love, Chairman of the Centre for Organic Research & Education (CORE) - the not-for-profit has been running the campaign in Australia for 11 years in an effort to reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill.

“During our event last year in Martin Place, most of the people who talked to us were thinking that organic waste such as fruit and vegetables peelings or garden waste is harmless and will naturally decompose in landfills over time. It is unfortunately not true. In landfills, waste is compacted to save space and decomposes without air (anaerobically), which produces methane, a gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Composting or sorting organic waste correctly is a simple thing Australians can do to help fight climate change, which is the biggest threat of our time.”

Australians of all ages are invited to learn more about composting by taking part in the events organised to celebrate Compost Week or by organising their own: www.compostweek.com.au.

“Organic materials diverted from landfills and properly composted can help in the effort to reverse the effects of climate change. By applying this compost to gardens, farms and other land uses, millions of tonnes of carbon will be stored in the soil. This acts to lower the atmospheric temperatures that lead to changes in our climate.”

Major supporters of this year’s campaign include the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and Penrith City Council.



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Mayor of Penrith, Councillor Karen McKeown, says “Community members are to be congratulated on their actions as Penrith continues to reap the benefits of organic composting.”

Below are the different things that you can do instead of throwing away your organic waste into the bin:

- Compost it using a compost bin or make your own compost heap!
- Feed it to a worm farm – avoid citrus, spicy food, garlic, onions, meat, dairy and processed foods such as bread, pasta...
- Put it in the green bin – food waste is also allowed depending on your Council.
- Feed it to your chooks – if you are lucky enough to have a backyard!
- If you live in an apartment, the Bokashi Bin Bucket might be more suitable or you can also find a community garden near you to give your organic waste to, they usually have a few compost bins and worm farms.

ENDS.

Notes to editors:

It is estimated that about half of the residential bin waste in a household rubbish bin could be composted through dedicated organic waste wheelie bin services or at home. This is based on 25 Council audits conducted by waste consultancy EC Sustainable in 2011 that showed around 33% of the rubbish is food organics (including peelings) and about 10% is garden vegetation.

Talent for interviews:

Eric Love – Chairman, CORE – (02) 9922 1591 or 0419 619 455

Tracy Chalk – Waste & Community Protection Manager, Penrith City Council – (02) 4732 7519

General enquiries:

Cecile Plantade – Marketing & Events Executive, CORE - (02) 9922 1591 or 0419 621 054

Major Supporters

PENRITH
CITY COUNCIL

