Recognizing Best Management Practices for Urban Compost Sites

Renée Crowley | Project Manager
NYC Compost Project hosted by Lower East Side Ecology Center

COMPOST2016 USCC Conference: Soils for a Greener World
Tuesday, January 26th, 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community garden</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GreenThumb garden</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-profit organization</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYC Parks property</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban farm</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private property</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other government-owned property</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment building grounds</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private school</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYRP garden</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYCHA property</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business or office</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages do not add up to 100 because categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, a community garden, a GreenThumb garden (a garden granted support from NYC Parker's property).*
GROUP FIVE: TESTING + USING FINISHED COMPOST

Testing
- Bag Test

GROUP TWO: COMPOST RECIPE AND PILE CONSTRUCTION

At least one compost operator has taken a course w/ the NRC Compost Project on how to create ideal conditions for odor and pest-free composting.

- Porosity should be between 40% - 60%
- Moisture should be like a wrung-out sponge
- Pile size: shape, placement will change with ambient conditions
- In piles with browns or finished compost
  - Seasonal feedstocks will alter your recipe
  - Refer to compost calculators as a tool to better understand your inputs
  - Reduce nuisance-attracting materials
  - Operators understanding of sustainability at an aerobic or "zero odor" pile
Development of the Community Compost Site Recognition Program

- **2013:** NYC Community Composting Council is formed.
- **2014:** NYC Community Composting Council initial concept of Recognition Program
- **January 2016:** Public review of Recognition Program through focus groups.
- **2015:** NYC Compost Project Staff refine Program pieces
- **July 2016:** New Recognition Program will be put into action!
Site & System Design

Site Management

Using Compost

Composting Process

Community Engagement
This site uses NYC Compost or Mulch!

Sanitation’s Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling makes compost and mulch available to city agencies and nonprofit for gardening, soil mitigation, and habitat improvement projects.

compost more, waste less!
nyc.gov/wasteless/compost

For more info, contact the IMPR Compost Unit:
Tel: compost@sanitation.nyc.gov
312-831-8648
Thank you!

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lesecologycenter.org
nyc.gov/compostproject