



Community Composting



 **mmsb**
think green



Why community composting?

Community composting transforms residential organics into nutrient-rich compost to foster resource stewardship, tackle climate change, and support local food production.

Benefits:

- ✓ **Composting that is scaled ‘just right’** for your community.
- ✓ **Reduce waste and recover resources:** food scraps and other organic materials are diverted from disposal and composted – benefitting a community’s bottom line.
- ✓ **Compost is used to enhance local soils,** support local food production, and conserve natural ecology by improving soil structure and maintaining nutrients, carbon, and soil microorganisms.
- ✓ **Low cost, low risk,** low emissions.
- ✓ **Adds value to any shared space** (parks, schools, community gardens, etc.).
- ✓ **Easy to scale:** start small, expand, and learn as you grow.
- ✓ **Get everyone ‘in the mix’.** Composting programs encourage people of all ages to learn from one another, forming social bonds and strengthening connections in your community.

MMSB partners with and supports communities in Newfoundland & Labrador to implement small-scale composting programs.

What is community composting?

It's where groups create and maintain a place for residents to compost their organic material by recovering and processing it locally – using the compost for soil enhancement and food production, closing the food “waste” loop.

Types of bins that can be used for small-scale composting:

Nova 30

7–15 30

**HOUSEHOLD
CAPACITY**

PEOPLE

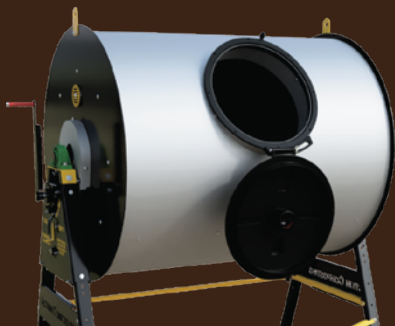


Actium Batch Drum

60 120

**HOUSEHOLD
CAPACITY**

PEOPLE



Design a Community Composting Program



George's Brook-Milton
Community Garden

Build Your Team:

Make sure one person is the agreed upon coordinator and has a detailed project overview.

Communication is vital to ensure people know what to expect and how to help.

There are various roles and duties to consider, including:

- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Brainstorming
- ✓ Looking for funding opportunities
- ✓ Preparing funding proposals
- ✓ Connecting with your town council
- ✓ Recruiting and contacting participants
- ✓ Coordinating with landowners

Ensure your team is well trained in the composting process and the particular composters you are purchasing.

Timeline Milestones:



Funding
Deadlines



Finding
Location



Meet with
Neighbours/
Town Council



Orientation

Location:

Make a list of site needs and, if possible, identify multiple potential sites and their advantages and disadvantages

Considerations: zoning/regulations, size, storage, sun exposure, water access, proximity to residents/users, etc.

*Humber Heights
Community Compost,
Corner Brook*





4 Steps To Launch:

- 1 **Recruit participants:** reach out to family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, anyone!
- 2 **Educate:** Host orientation sessions and provide educational material to get everyone up to speed.
- 3 **Prepare for launch:** You're empowering your community to produce food and fight climate change – get the word out there! (Note: You may want to 'test' the set-up with a small group before hosting a public launch).
- 4 **Manage and maintain:** To get the most out of the program, your bins and compost need continuous attention.

Sustain your program.

5 Questions to answer when getting started:

- What's the long-term vision of your program? (e.g. do you want it for 1, 2, or 5 years?)
- Will it run during the warm months or year-round?
- Will volunteers run it, paid positions, or both?
- Will you create revenue through memberships, pickup services, compost sales, etc.?
- Will your town council contribute in-cash or in-kind to your program?

Estimating your costs:

Make three lists:

- 1 Materials you have
- 2 Materials you need
- 3 Suppliers





If you're interested in learning more about small-scale composting in your community, visit us online for further information.

If you are participating in a community composting program, please contact your community to get a complete list of accepted materials.



mmsb.nl.ca

This guide was developed in collaboration with Viviana Ramírez-Luna of Planeet Consulting.