Breaking It Down: Backyard Composting in Orange County

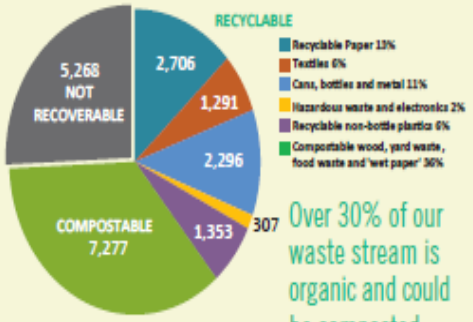
Muriel Williman
Education and Outreach Coordinator

Orange County has two public composting demonstration sites

I teach at least two classes at each of them two times per year, Spring and Fall… Rain or shine.

COMPOSTING

Orange County Waste Assesment Data



20,500 total tons

Over 30% of our waste stream is organic and could be composted

It's nature's way of recycling!

4 COMPONENTS OF COMPOST

1. BROWNS/CARBON
2. GREENS/NITROGEN
3. AIR
4. WATER

BENEFITS

DIVERT WASTE FROM LANDFILLS
REDUCE NEED FOR FERTILIZER
CONSERVE WATER
IMPROVE YOUR SOIL

1.

Dry, Brown Leaves
Straw
Sawdust
Woodchips
Paper Products
Coffee Filters
(2/3 of pile)

2.

Kitchen Scraps
Fruit and Vegtable Waste
Tea Bags
Grass Clippings
Coffee Grounds
(1/3 of pile)

NO!

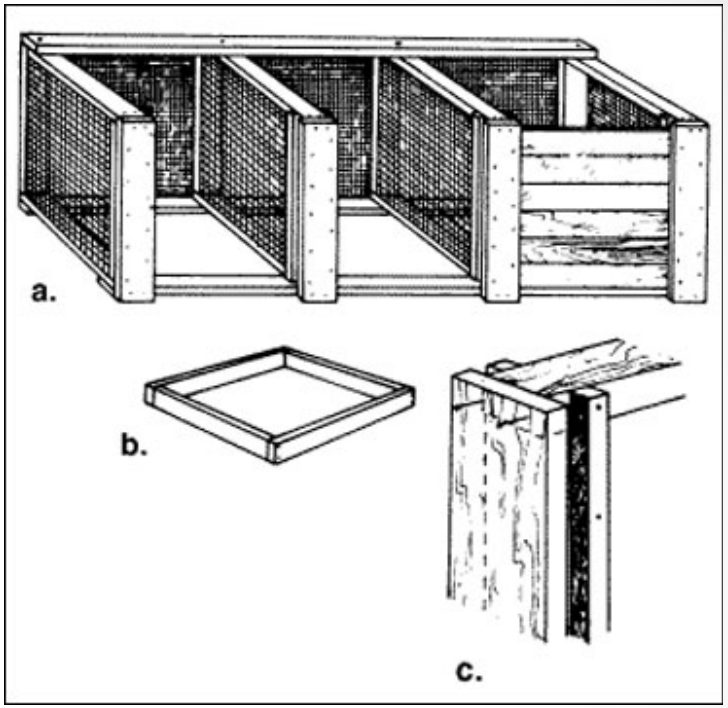
PET OR HUMAN WASTE
WEEDS GONE TO SEED
DISEASED PLANTS
TREATED WOOD
WHOLE EGGS
FATTY FOODS
MEATS
BONES
DAIRY

ORANGE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 17177 • Chapel Hill, NC 27516
www.orangecountync.gov
(919) 968-2788
recycling@orangecountync.gov

Leave lawn clippings where they are; that's grass-cycling!

Orange County staff can teach composting classes to groups of 8 or more. Contact us to schedule!

Wood and wire three-bin turning unit



http://extension.missouri.edu/p/g6957

- Organic Gardening “The Ultimate composter”
- Materials can cost less that $150
- Construction Skills and tools
- Versatile

CURING
COMPOST

Compost Bins for Sale!

Orange County
Solid Waste Management
Administrative Office

1207 Eubanks Rd.
Chapel Hill, 27516
(west of the Orange County Landfill)

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

$50/unit
Includes tax

Visit **earthmachine.com** to learn more about this compost bin!

Kitchen collector buckets $10/each

Cash or check only please.

You do not have to be an Orange County resident to purchase compost bins from us and there are

- no limits on the number you can buy!

Want to learn more about composting?

There are two composting demonstration sites located in Orange County:

- at the Solid Waste Administrative Office, 1207 Eubanks Rd, Chapel Hill 27516
- at the Community Center Learning Garden on Estes Drive in Chapel Hill (behind the rose garden)

Residents are welcome to visit the sites to learn more, and even use the compost bins to deposit fruit and vegetable scraps only if they don't compost at home. *Cover your scraps, and NO plastic bags, not event the "compostable" type please!*

These sites are used to teach composting several times a year.

You can organize your own group of 6 people or more for a free composting class led by Muriel Williman at one of the demonstration sites! Composting classes are **FREE** and children are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

These classes demonstrate **the basics** of indoor composting using worms, and outdoor composting using a variety of containers and recipes.

Anyone can compost, anywhere!

Contact Muriel Williman
Email: muriel@orangecountync.gov
Phone: (919) 968-2788
Or join our listserv!
http://orangecountync.gov/email/subscribeform.asp

THANK YOU FOR USING THIS PUBLIC COMPOSTING SITE
AND FOR FOLLOWING THESE INSTRUCTIONS:
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE WASTES ONLY!
• NO MEAT, BONES OR DAIRY PRODUCTS
• NO BAKED GOODS OR PASTA PRODUCTS
• NO OILS, SYRUP, OR SAUCES
• NO "COMPOSTABLE" PLASTICS
• NO PLASTIC BAGS
• EGGSHELLS ARE OK, JUST CRUSH THEM FIRST
BURY YOUR WASTE IN THE COMPOST!
• DIG A HOLE OR USE THE BROWN LEAVES TO COVER YOUR WASTES
• COVER YOUR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SCRAPS THOROUGHLY
• LEAVING FOOD WASTE UNCOVERED WILL ATTRACT PESTS
• BURYING THE FOOD WASTE WILL HELP IT TO DECOMPOSE
QUESTIONS?
CONTACT MURIEL WILLIMAN
ORANGE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
(919) 968-2788
muriel@orangecountync.gov

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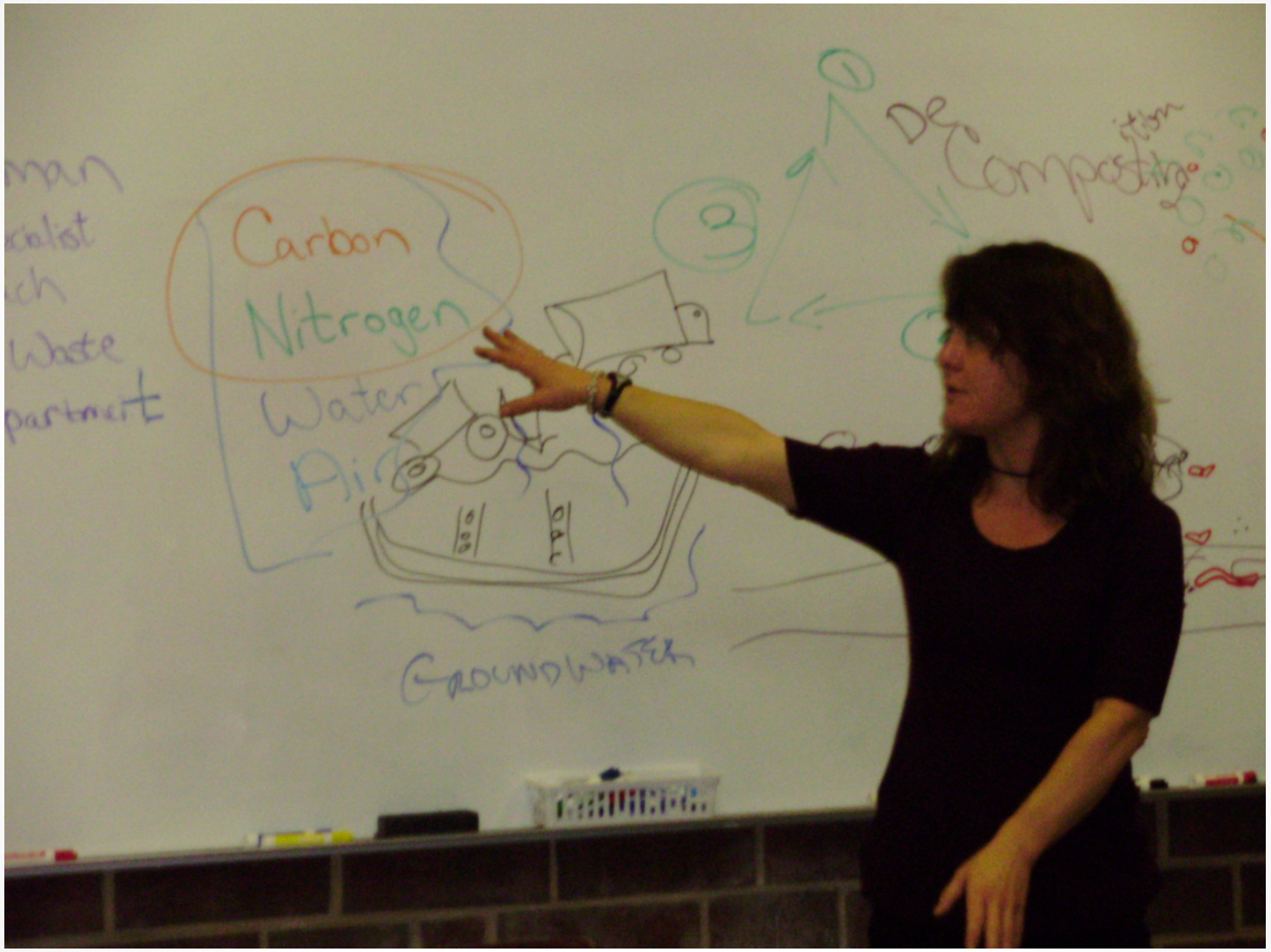
Carbon
Nitrogen
Water
Air
Decomposition
GROUNDWATER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006

THE CHAPEL HILL HERALD | CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

ECO-FRIENDLY TRASH | AS THE WORMS CHURN

THE HERALD-SUN | MARK DOLEJS

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