

HOW DOES COMPOSTING HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?



GREENHOUSE GASES TRAP HEAT IN THE ATMOSPHERE

Greenhouse gases can contribute to the depletion of the protective ozone layer and cause climate change.

HUMAN ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OF:

carbon dioxide (CO₂)
methane (CH₄)
nitrous oxide (N₂O)
fluorinated gases

The best way we can help decrease methane emissions is to compost!

COMPOSTING **DECREASES** THE GREENHOUSE GAS, **METHANE**



Composting = recycling organic, decomposable, biodegradable waste into nutrient-rich fertilizer for our crops.

- + aerobic nature of composting produces very little methane
- + composting decreases the amount of trash that goes into landfills
- + composting decreases methane emissions

Methane is a greenhouse gas that is, over the course of 20 years, **72 times more potent than CO₂**

What are some everyday items that can be composted?

- + Vegetable, fruit scraps
- + Leaves, grass
- + Shredded paper
- + Paper towels
- + Eggshells
- + Coffee grounds, filters
- + Bread, grains, pasta
- + Tea bags

LANDFILLS ARE THE LARGEST HUMAN-MADE CONTRIBUTOR OF METHANE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE



When organic waste is disposed of in the trash, instead of composted, it ends up in a landfill. As the landfill is filled and covered, no air can pass through, causing anaerobic conditions. In these conditions, the decomposition of organic waste produces methane within the landfill that needs to be released.

*aerobic = air
anaerobic = no air*

For more composting and environmental information, visit www.recyclemorenc.org.

