# Compost Resource Toolkit

**Educational Programs!**

**Let's Go Compost**
Audience: Grade K - Grade 12

This website offers free, digital, standards-aligned (NGSS) STEAM curriculum for grades K-12 on composting. The curriculum includes lesson plans, assessments, worksheets, and presentations. They also provide limited numbers of free classroom composting kits (worm bins or compost systems) to qualifying schools.

Link

**Zero Waste Schools Program**
Audience: Grade 2 - Grade 5

Zero Waste Marin has onboarded 40 public schools since 2015 in their Zero Waste Schools Program, which provides zero waste training, containers, signage, Green Team incentives, and helps facilitate tours of local waste management facilities. Their overview of program elements can be helpful for any teacher looking to partner with jurisdictions to develop comprehensive school composting systems and education.

Link

**WWF Food Waste Warrior**
Author: WWF
Audience: Grade K - Grade 12

This toolkit by WWF equips K–12 educators with resources to teach students about the environmental impact of food waste and engage them in reduction efforts. The toolkit includes grade-specific lesson plans, food audit instructions, discussion questions, and student activities. Educators can use these materials to transform school cafeterias into learning environments, empowering students to take action against food waste through creativity, advocacy, and education.

Link

# Compost Resource Toolkit

**Educational Programs!**

**The EcoHero Show**
Audience: Grade  K - Grade 5

The EcoHero Show provides educational assemblies for schools, focusing on empowering students to change the world through environmental learning. They offer revamped show content, including a "Children Rap-Along Book Series" with music videos and dancing. They also provide curriculum for classroom discussions and have a significant reach, having performed for over a million students.

Link

**NGSS Aligned Organic Waste Recycling Lesson Plan**
Audience: Grade  9 - Grade 12

Developed by Dr. Emily Creegan, this NGSS aligned curriculum provides a framework for teaching organic waste recycling through the lens of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Designed for high school students, it aims to foster an understanding of scientific and engineering principles, and societal implications of managing organic waste.

Link


**Regenerative Agriculture Essentials Course**
Author: Kiss The Ground
Audience: Grade 9 - Grade 12

This website offers an on-demand course on Regenerative Agriculture Essentials, designed to educate individuals about soil health and its impact on water, wellness, and climate. It covers principles and practices of regenerative agriculture, the importance of healthy soil as a carbon sink, and how it reduces flooding and replenishes water supplies. The course is aimed at a broad audience, including educators and students.

Link

# Compost Resource Toolkit

**Educational Programs!**


**Climate Change - Reducing Food Waste and Composting as a Solution**
Author: Sustainability For Young Learners
Audience: Grade 4 - Grade 5

A comprehensive educational resource designed for fifth-grade students. Developed by Sydney Lund as part of the Sustainability for Young Learners series, this unit plan integrates environmental science with practical solutions to climate change, focusing on food waste and composting.

Link

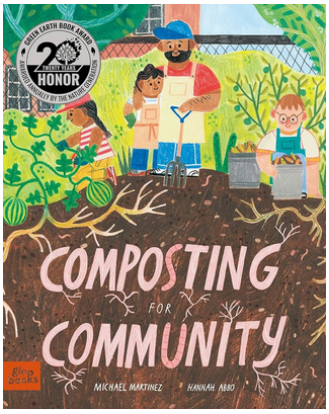

**Institute for Local Self Resilience Curriculum**
Author: Prerana Narahari & Jordan Ashby
Audience: Grade 6 - Grade 8

ILSR's ICAW 2025 guide offers a 7-day composting curriculum for communities, schools, and individuals. It walks learners through the science, practice, social impact, and creativity of composting—empowering them to turn waste into soil, foster equity, and spark environmental action.

Link

# Compost Resource Toolkit

**Books for Kids!**




**Composting for Community**
Author: Michael Martinez
Audience: Preschool - Grade 5

A children's fiction book that tells the story of Mateo and his composter father, exploring the science of composting, interconnectedness, and environmental stewardship. Emphasizes transforming waste into nourishing compost and includes facts about composting science and waste reduction.

Link


**Green Gardening and Composting**
Author: The Green Scene
Audience: Grade K - 3

This informative title will inspire "budding" activists to go green in the garden! Accessible text and engaging photographs introduce composting and Earth-friendly gardening. Readers learn how to build a compost bin, what items to recycle in the bin, and how to use compost to start their own garden.

Link


**Worm Makes A Sandwich**
Author: Brianne Farley
Audience: Grade 2 - Grade 5

Explains the composting process from a worm’s perspective, covering what the worms eat (apple cores, mushy grapes) and how they contribute to creating compost, aim to engage young readers and includes a guide on the importance of composting.

Link

# Compost Resource Toolkit

**Books for Kids!**


**Everybody Eats**
Author: Jasmine Crowe
Audience: Grade 1 - Grade 5

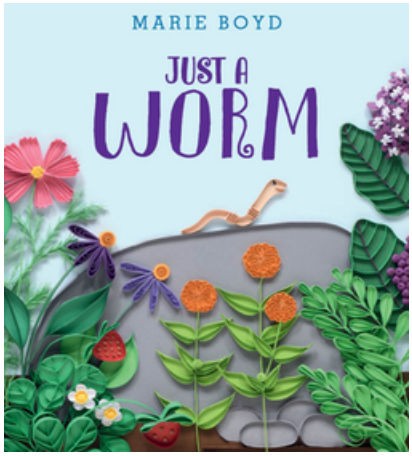
This book focuses on empathy and leadership, while it doesn't directly address organic waste recycling or composting, it touches upon community action and helping others.

Link


**Compost Center Operator**
Author: Gross Jobs
Audience: Grade 2 - Grade 5

Knowledge on about compost center operators, including what they do on a typical day, what the grossest parts of the job are, and what technology they use to stay safe and make the job less gross.

Link



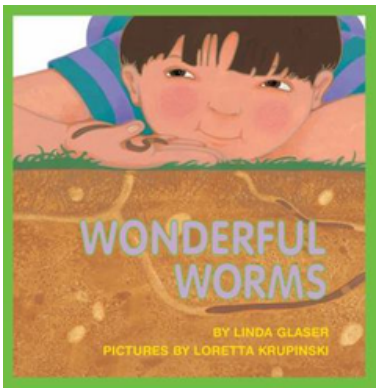

**Just a Worm**
Author: Marie Boyd
Audience: Grade 3 - Grade 4

A picture book exploring the ecological value of worms and their role in keeping gardens healthy, highlighting how worms contribute to the soil by cleaning, casting, feeding, and digging. Book emphasizes importance of decomposers

Link

# Compost Resource Toolkit

**Books for Kids!**




**Wonderful Worms**
Author: Linda Glaser
Audience: Grade K - Grade 3

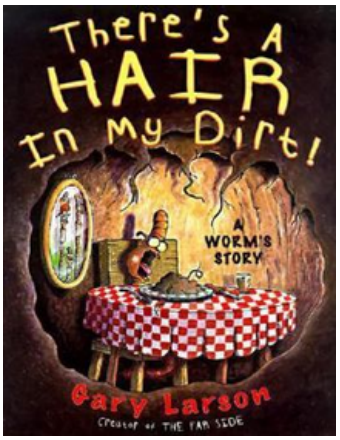
This book introduces young readers to the hidden world of earthworms and their vital role in keeping soil healthy. With simple text and vivid illustrations, the book shows how worms recycle organic matter, aerate soil, and support plant growth. Perfect for connecting composting and soil science, it ties directly into Zero Waste and SoilWise themes of nourishing ecosystems.

Link


**Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth**
Author: Mary McKenna Siddals & Ashley Wolff
Audience: Grade 1 - Grade 6

This charming A–Z picture book describes in simple terms how everyday organic waste becomes rich soil through composting. Perfect for teaching young learners about the link between waste, decomposition, and healthy soil.

Link



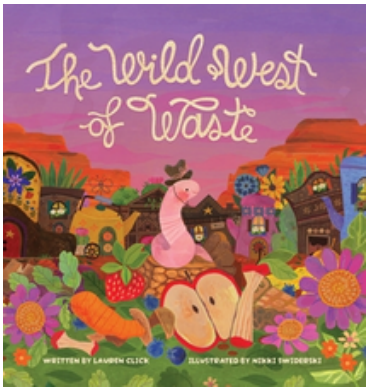

**There's a Hair in my Dirt!**
Author: Gary Larson
Audience: Grade 2 - Grade 5

Once upon a time, in a place far away, lived a man named Gary Larson who used to draw cartoons. There's a Hair in My Dirt: A Worm's Story, begins a few inches underground, when a young worm, during a typical family dinner, discovers there's a hair in his plate of dirt. This, in turn, spurs his father to tell him a story -- a story to inspire the children of invertebrates everywhere...

Link

# Compost Resource Toolkit

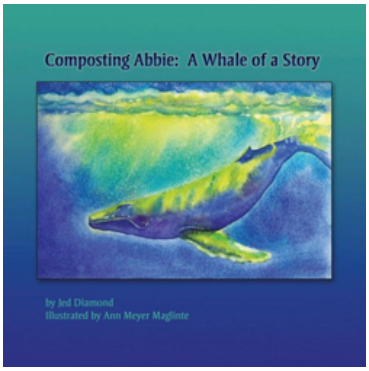
**Books for Kids!**




**The Wild West of Waste**
Author: Lauren Click
Audience: K - Grade 5

Perfect for classrooms, libraries, and families, this engaging picture book makes complex topics like composting and sustainability fun, memorable, and accessible for children. Whether read aloud at story time or explored independently by early readers, Wiletta's adventure encourages kids to think differently about the food they throw away and inspires them to take action in their own homes, schools, and communities.

Link




**Composting Abbie: A Whale of a Story**
Author: Jed Diamond
Audience: Grade 7 - Grade 8

This book tells the true story of composting a whale that washed ashore, transforming a tragedy into an opportunity to create compost for schools and community gardens. It highlights the idea that there is no such thing as waste, only resources out of place.

Link


**Compost This Book**
Author: Cassandra Marketos
Audience: Grade 10 - 12

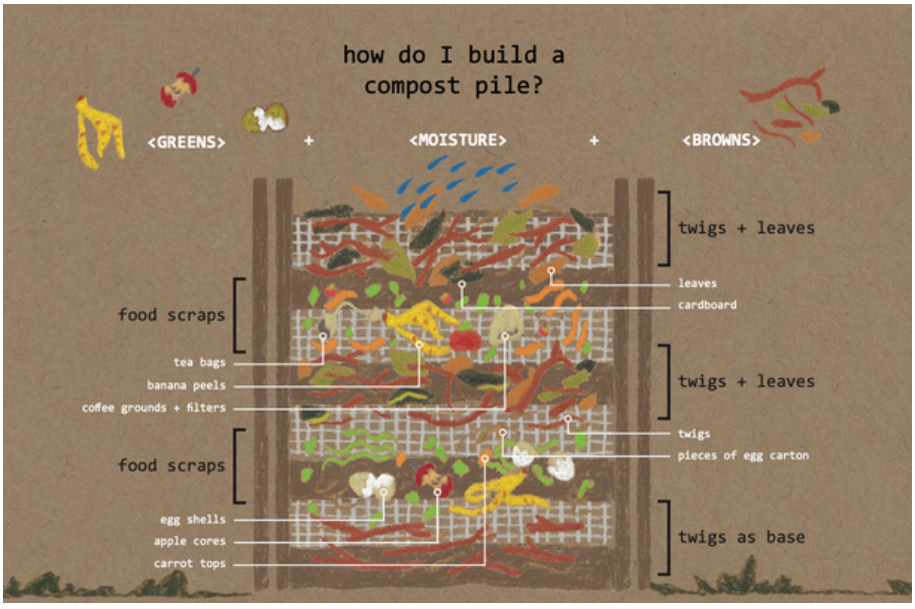
This book is an introduction to composting for beginners, written by Cassandra Marketos, a community composter. It focuses on key components for creating a productive compost pile and even suggests composting the book itself. The author also writes a newsletter, 'The Rot,' which explores the philosophical implications of decomposition.

Link

# Compost Resource Toolkit


**How to Build a Compost PIle**
Author: Cass Marketos & Hannah Pae
Audience: Grade 9 - Grade 12

Link to full graphic

# Compost Resource Toolkit

## Podcasts


**The City Compost Network's Podcast**
Author: City Compost Network
Audience: Grade 10-12

This podcast features interviews with managers of apartment and community food waste recycling facilities. It aims to make community food waste recycling easier by sharing insights on setup and management. Topics include turning residential food waste into compost, school composting initiatives, and community garden composting projects. It also touches on how composting helps sequester carbon.

Link


**Composting for Community Podcast**
Author: Composting for Community
Audience: Grade 6 - Grade 12

This podcast explores the community composting movement, emphasizing its benefits in waste reduction, soil health improvement, job creation, and climate change mitigation. It features interviews with individuals and organizations involved in composting projects, sharing their experiences and lessons learned.

Link

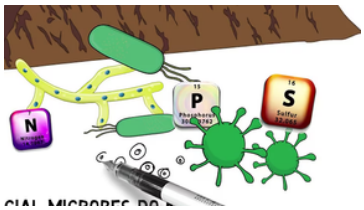

**The Composter Podcast**
Author: Jayne Merner
Audience: Grade 6 - Grade 12

This podcast is geared towards farmers and composters, delving into the science, technology, and art of compost production. It features conversations with industry professionals and farmers, covering topics like compost quality, PFAS in compost, and the business of composting. It aims to help composters produce high-quality compost to enliven soils.

Link

# Compost Resource Toolkit

**Podcasts/Videos**




**COMPOST vs RAW MANURE**
Author: Bio Minerals Technologies, Inc.
Audience: Grade 6 - 12
This video explains the fundamental differences between raw manure and composted manure as soil amendments. It highlights that raw manure is primarily valued for temporary mineral content, while composted manure offers long-term benefits due to its rich biological properties and diverse microbial populations.

Link


**More Than A Fork Podcast**
Author: World Centric
Audience: Grade 6 - Grade 12

This podcast focuses on the relationship between foodware, the environment, and social responsibility, particularly in the context of sustainable packaging and compostable products. It discusses topics like third-party certifications for compostable products, greenwashing, and the journey of sustainable packaging from factory to fork.

Link


**The Compost Story**
Author: Kiss The Ground
Audience: Grade 11-12

A video explaining what would happen if we diverted the 60 billion pounds of mineral-rich food materials that go to landfills each year in the U.S. alone and turned them into compost.

Link

# Compost Resource Toolkit

**Other Resources!**

**Compost and Mulch Use Toolbox**
Author: CalRecycle
Audience: Grade 11 - Grade 12

This toolbox is a comprehensive resource for utilizing compost and mulch across various landscapes and applications. It provides guidance on integrating these materials into systems aimed at carbon sequestration, erosion control, fire remediation, stormwater management, and other environmental enhancements.

Link

**University of Maryland: Composting and Climate Change**
Author: University of Maryland
Audience: Grade 11 - Grade 12
This resource explains how composting fits into climate solutions: diverting organic materials from landfills (where they produce methane), producing mainly biogenic $CO_2$ in well-managed systems, and enhancing soil's carbon storage and resilience. It connects soil health, greenhouse gas mitigation, and sustainable waste practices.

Link

**LA Compost**
Author: LA Compost
Audience: Grade 11 - Grade 12
LA Compost is a community composting organization in Los Angeles. It provides education, drop-off hubs, volunteer programs, and free compost distributions to empower residents to turn organic waste into soil. Their approach bridges waste reduction, food security, soil health, and community resilience.

Link

**Rise N Shine Foundation**
Author: Rise N Shine Foundation, Inc.
Audience: Grade 9 - Grade 12
A youth-led nonprofit transforming schools in Montgomery County, MD, through composting and food recovery programs.

Link