

## The Garden Organic Master Composter Programme



The Garden Organic Master Composter Programme is a flexible list of services and resources that local authorities and/or NGOs wishing to establish a Master Composter Scheme can buy into. Garden Organic provides the technical expertise necessary to the scheme and provides various options for the day-to-day operational support to the volunteers.

Garden Organic can provide introductory and in-service training courses, promotional resources, and a technical support package of information and advice on home composting, thus providing both reactive and proactive support to the volunteer to maintain their enthusiasm for the scheme.

### For more information

To find out more about Master Composter schemes and what Garden Organic can offer you, look at [www.homecomposting.org.uk](http://www.homecomposting.org.uk), telephone the Sustainable Waste Team on 024 7630 3517 or email [info@homecomposting.org.uk](mailto:info@homecomposting.org.uk)



Garden Organic is the working name of the Henry Doubleday Research Association.  
Registered charity number 298107.



Promoting home composting in your community:

# Master Composter Schemes





## What is a Master Composter Scheme?

Master Composters are volunteers who spend time promoting home composting in their local community, encouraging householders to take up composting and ensuring those already composting continue to do so effectively. Master Composters come from many backgrounds

and age groups; their unifying feature is their enthusiasm for encouraging more environmentally friendly waste management practices.

## Why consider a Master Composter Scheme?

The Master Composter idea was initiated in North America over 15 years ago and for over 12 years has become an established method of promoting and supporting home composting in the UK by Garden Organic. Volunteers contribute in many different ways; they give talks to schools and community groups, attend events such as village fetes or school fairs and write articles for their employer newsletters or parish magazines. In this way, they reach an audience that council employees do not always have the resources, time or ability to target. As members of the community in which they are working, their message is well respected and they are an integral part of a successful national and regional recycling campaign.



- Use of a home compost bin diverts approximately 150 kg of waste from landfill each year. Therefore any Master Composter that encourages home composting reduces the amount of waste that is sent to landfill.
- In one county, over 6500 volunteer hours have been spent promoting home composting, 89,000 compost bins sold, and an estimated 13,350 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill.
- Community volunteer work builds social capital and sustainable communities.



## Why Garden Organic?

Garden Organic is one of the UK's longest standing environmental charities and has over 22,000 members interested in more sustainable living and organic growing in particular.

Composting is a cornerstone of sustainable living and thus the Sustainable Waste Management Team at Garden Organic have worked to develop composting techniques and promote home

composting for over 15 years. We strongly feel that people who compost at home should have inspirational support to ensure that they continue to compost successfully throughout their lives.

Our pioneering work in the establishment of Master Composter schemes in the UK and the training of home composting and recycling advisors has helped to bring composting into the mainstream. We are often the first port of call for anyone interested in learning more about home composting or setting up a Master Composter scheme.

- The Norfolk Master Composter Scheme, run by Garden Organic in partnership with Norfolk County Council has won a number of awards including the 'Golden' Green Apple Award for environmental best practice in 2013.
- Garden Organic currently support over 500 volunteer Master Composters nationwide, working in partnership with local authorities and waste management companies.

*"Master Composters encourage more residents to use compost bins and offer advice to keep existing composters going; this is saving us extensive costs in disposal and gate fees each year." Oxfordshire County Council.*