



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost!

*From tackling climate change to increasing food security,
water quality and strengthening biodiversity,
one simple, thoughtful act delivers big, positive impacts – COMPOST!*

May 4–10, 2025 marks this year's **International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW)** — a global celebration of compost and its power to build stronger, healthier, and more sustainable communities.

"Composting organic residuals and creating compost is proven to tackle climate change, while also helping grow nutrient-dense food and support healthy soils," said John McKew at the Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA). Add to this, it can also bring communities together, support local food systems and help achieve sustainability goals.

This year's theme, **"Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost!"** drives home a powerful truth that every banana peel, coffee ground and lawn clipping we compost instead of throwing them in the rubbish delivers great environmental gains by:

1. **Reducing Methane Emissions:** Organic waste in landfills generates methane, a greenhouse gas with 86 times the global warming potential of CO₂ over 20 years. Diverting organic waste to composting or anaerobic digestion can drastically cut these emissions.
2. **Increasing Soil Health:** Compost produced from organic recycling improves soil structure, enriches soil with nutrients, enhances water retention, minimizes soil erosion and strengthens biodiversity.
3. **Fighting Climate Change:** Compost's return to the soil serves as a "carbon bank," helping to store carbon thereby removing it from the atmosphere and mitigating climate change.

Globally, composting is the heart of the circular economy and currently:

- Recycles over 85 million tonnes of biowaste every year.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by more than 9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents a year through storing carbon in soil and offsetting fertilizer use (an equivalent to

driving an average *petrol/gas*-powered car for 36 billion kilometers (23 billion miles); almost 95 thousand times the distance between the earth and the moon!

- Naturally recycles over 1 million tonnes of plant macro nutrients, supporting improved productivity and farm profitability.

And yet, while all this good is well known, landfilling and incineration continue as the main ways to manage unavoidable organic residuals, wasting enormous potential to address global and local sustainability goals and stopping climate change.

"Compost is more than waste management—it's community transformation," remarked John McKew from AORA. "When we compost, we invest in more than soil - we invest in cleaner air, stronger communities, and a healthier planet for future generations. Through International Compost Awareness Week, compost advocates around the world are united in highlighting the immense potential of composting and compost for building sustainable communities."

10 reasons to love Compost!

1. It turns waste into treasure.

Food scraps and yard waste become rich, life-giving soil. It's the ultimate upcycle! Over 30% of what we toss could be composted. Composting lightens the load on our landfills—and our planet.

2. It reduces greenhouse gases.

Composting prevents organic waste from rotting in landfills, where it produces methane—a super potent greenhouse gas.

4. It feeds the soil, not the landfill.

Composting produces compost, the single most important ingredient for healthy and productive soil. Compost contains lots of slowly released plant nutrients.

5. Improve soil structure

Healthy compost not only adds nutrients, but it also improves soil structure reducing erosion and brings life back to tired earth.

6. It supports local food systems.

Compost helps grow more resilient, nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables—right in our communities.

7. It's free and easy to start.

Whether you live in an apartment or on a farm, there's a composting method for you (hello, worm bins!). You can turn your leftover organics into a valuable soil amendment without spending a dime.

8. It saves water.

Compost improves soil's ability to retain moisture, which means less watering and more drought resistance.

9. It builds community.

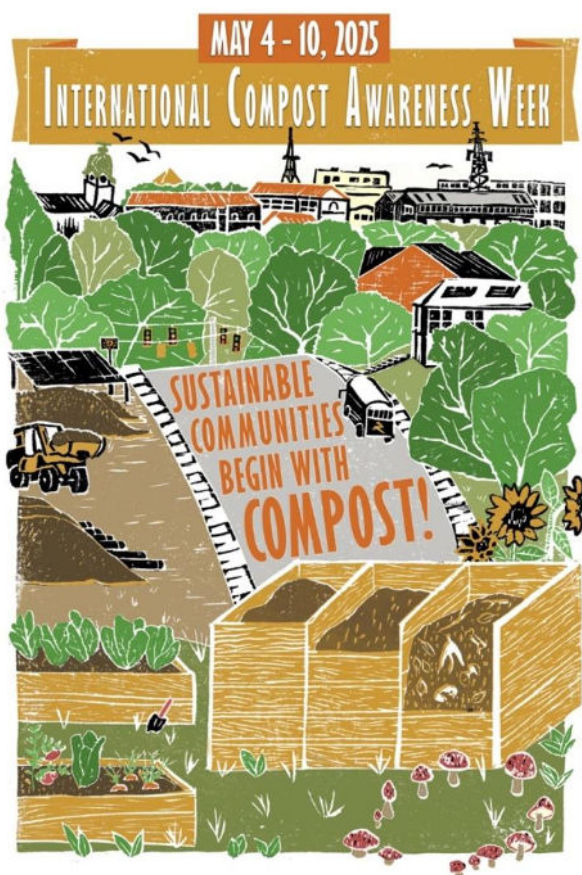
From school gardens to neighbourhood compost hubs, composting brings people together for a common cause.

10. It's the future of sustainable living.

If we're serious about fighting climate change and protecting ecosystems, composting must be part of the solution.

Bonus Reason? It just feels good to know you're making a difference—one banana peel at a time. ♻️ 🌱

Happy International Compost Awareness Week!



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Notes to Editors

The International Compost Alliance is comprised of:

[The Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology \(REA\);](#)

[The Australian Organics Recycling Association \(AORA\);](#)

[Compost Council of Canada \(CCC\);](#)

[European Compost Network \(ECN\);](#)

[International Solid Waste Association \(ISWA\);](#)

[Italian Composting and Biogas Association \(CIC\);](#)

[CRÉ - Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland;](#)

[The Organics Recycling Association of South Africa \(ORASA\);](#)

[WasteMINZ \(Waste Management Institute of New Zealand\);](#)

[The United States Composting Council \(USCC\);](#) and

[The Compost Research & Education Foundation \(CREF\)](#)