

Promoting resource awareness and recycling on the Island of Hawai'i.

YES, I want to be part of a local, grass-roots organization that uses education and community projects to advocate the recycling and reuse of valuable resources.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Email _____

Date _____

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION

- _____ \$10 Student/Senior
- _____ \$20 Single
- _____ \$30 Family

SPONSORING CONTRIBUTION

- _____ \$100 Business*
 - _____ \$ 50 Non-Profit*
- (*Includes one free consultation.)

ADDITIONAL DONATION FOR:

- _____ Backyard Composting Workshops
- _____ Annual Christmas Tree Recycling
- _____ E-Waste Recycling
- _____ School Programs
- _____ DIY Used Motor Oil Program
- _____ Hawai'i Island Recycling Guide
- _____ RH Website Maintenance
- _____ Tutu Hana Hou Memorial Fund

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Please mail to:

Recycle Hawai'i
PO Box 4847
Hilo, HI 96720-0847

or sign up online at:

www.recyclehawaii.org/contribute.htm

A VERY BIG MAHALO!

OPEN BURNING IS RESTRICTED ON HAWAI'I ISLAND

Burning of leaves, grass, weeds & similar material is permissible only under these conditions:

- Burn only 25 lbs. per day, per family unit.
- Burn area must be at least 50 ft from any building.
- Burn only between 9 am & 6 pm.
- Burn must be attended by an adult & must not impact neighboring residences.
- Fire must be contained in an approved waste burner more than 15 ft from any structure.
- No bonfire allowed unless fire is more than 500 ft from any structure.

All open burning is prohibited on "NO BURN DAYS" and may be restricted by other government agencies in times of excessive vog, drought, or fire hazard.

Agricultural burning is restricted to legitimate businesses which have a valid burn permit from the Department of Health.

Violations may result in fines of up to \$10,000 per day for each offense. Persons who own, operate or manage property, premises, business establishments of industries where violation occur will be held responsible.

For more information contact the Clean Air Branch in: **Kona: 322-1507/Hilo: 933-0401**
www.state.hi.us/doh/eh/cab

SOLID WASTE CONTROL

No person shall dump solid waste in an amount greater than one cubic yard anywhere other than a permitted solid waste management system.

In addition, a person who knowingly violates this section shall be subject to one or more penalties:

- (1) **\$25,000 for each separate offense;**
- (2) **Thirty days imprisonment for each offense; or**
- (3) **Revocation or suspension of any contractor's license.**

Each day of a violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Home composting of greenwaste and kitchen scraps does not require a permit. Large-scale composting with greenwaste collected from the community requires a Department of Health permit.



BACKYARD COMPOSTING IN HAWAI'I

What is Compost? Compost is a dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling form of decomposing organic matter. Compost is an essential part of healthy soil.

WHY SHOULD I COMPOST?

About 30% of our trash is yard waste and kitchen scraps. You can keep this organic matter out of the landfill and return it to the soil in a usable form by building a simple compost pile.



Composting:

- helps breakdown heavy clay soils,
- adds water and nutrient-holding capacity to sandy soil,
- builds humus in rocky soils,
- can be used as mulch to control weeds, and,
- returns nutrients to any soil.

DO COMPOST

Green (High Nitrogen) Materials:

- Grass clippings & disease-free plants
- Weeds before they seed
- Farm Manure
- Seaweed (rinse with fresh water)
- Fruits and vegetable matter
- Egg shells and nut shells
- Tea bags, coffee grounds, filters

Brown (High Carbon) Materials:

- Tree and shrub trimmings
- Dry grass clippings and leaves
- Shredded paper plates, paper towels newspaper, cardboard, and office paper.

DON'T COMPOST

- Meat, fat, bones, fish, cooking oil
- Dairy, tofu
- Glossy paper, chemically treated wood
- Pet litter or feces, human waste
- Charcoal ashes, lime, soil, sand

COMPOSTING TIPS

Woody matter is higher in carbon. Manure and kitchen scraps are higher in nitrogen.

Turning the pile (use a pitchfork or shovel) aerates the compost. Aeration opens air channels and speeds up decomposition.

Chop woody matter with a machete, chipper or lawn mower to promote faster decomposition.

Maintain moisture to consistency of a damp sponge. Cover pile to retain moisture in dry areas or keep excess moisture out in wet areas. Bury kitchen scraps within the pile to avoid attracting flies or animals.

Adding old compost between some layers will jump start decomposition in a compost pile.

HOW TO BUILD A PASSIVE COMPOST PILE

Find a convenient spot at least 3-feet long and 3-feet wide. Collect green (high nitrogen) and brown (high carbon) materials which will be added in layers.

For the first layer, stack six inches of small branches, twigs and dry leaves on the ground. Alternate layers of green materials with layers of brown materials on top. Mixing an equal volume of brown and green materials will give the correct balance of nutrients for your compost. Wet each layer. Cover with a 1-inch layer of old compost, or grass clippings to minimize flies.

Keep pile moist, but not soggy. Turning the pile (no more than once a week) will hasten decomposition. Repeat the layering until the pile is about 3 feet tall (at least one cubic yard in size). Start a new pile. When the composting process is working, the pile's center will get REALLY hot: 130° - 150°. The pile will shrink as it decomposes.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COMPOST?

Passive composting will take from two to four months, depending on size of materials (smaller pieces decompose faster than large chunks), moisture content, and outside temperature. Finished compost is called humus, and is crumbly, dark brown or black and sweet smelling.

COMMON COMPOST PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Dry Area Symptoms

- Bad Odor--rotten egg smell
- Bad Odor--ammonia smell
- Pile is not composting
- Pile is damp, but not composting

Wet Area Symptoms

- Bad Odor
- Pile is damp and sweet smelling, but will not heat up

Problems

- Not enough oxygen
- Too much nitrogen
- Pile too dry or too small
- Not enough nitrogen or pile too small

Problems

- Too wet, not enough oxygen
- Not enough nitrogen

Solutions

- Turn (aerate) pile
- Add wood chips/brown leaves
- Add water or material
- Add manure or add material

Solutions

- Turn pile, add straw or woody material, cover with plastic
- Add manure, kitchen scraps or grass clippings

HOW TO USE FINISHED COMPOST

- Spread compost on your flower or vegetable garden before turning the soil. Apply compost around flowers or between garden rows. Broadcast a light layer of compost on grass for a healthy lawn.
- Use as a mulch for bushes, trees, and plants to conserve moisture, control weeds, and insulate plant roots.
- Make a compost tea solution to feed potted plants.
- Mix sifted compost into your potting soil mixture for mature plants.
- Do not use compost to germinate seeds as it may contain a fungus that could kill seedlings.

Happy composting!