

The Dirt on Composting: Everything You Need to Know
About Feeding Your Soil.

Composting makes a lot of sense: it's good for your garden, it helps cutting back on your garbage, and it's easy. You just have to follow a few simple rules, and before you know it you're producing oodles of fertile compost. In this workshop we'll explain what exactly happens in your composter, we'll walk you through what to compost, how to compost it, and what makes a composter work well. The pros and cons of different types of composters will be discussed and construction techniques provided to build your own composter. Problems associated with composting will also be outlined and solutions will be provided. No yard for a composter? Don't despair! We'll help you start your own vermicomposter. For the seriously sustainable types, we will also give you the dirt on "humanure" and take a look at the Eco Centre's composting toilets. That's right: how to compost our own nutrient rich "waste" and why we should embrace it.

Co-ordinators: Lucie Lavoie and Ken Deacon

Lucie Lavoie and Ken Deacon consider themselves 'urban farmers', growing most of their own food using intensive organic gardening techniques on a number of city lots. Intensive gardening is only possible because of high soil fertility, thanks to the mountain of compost that is worked into the garden beds each spring.

Lucie has been working with a number of environmental non-profit organizations over the past twenty years. Her interests include schoolyard greening, school and community food gardens, naturalization of urban greenspaces, and stream stewardship.

Ken has also worked with a number of environmental non-profit organizations, including EcoSuperior and Citizens Concerned About Pesticides in Thunder Bay. He is an entomologist, lecturing at Lakehead University, but prefers to put his education to work in the garden where you will find him happily composting away.