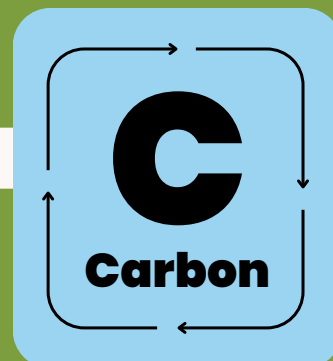
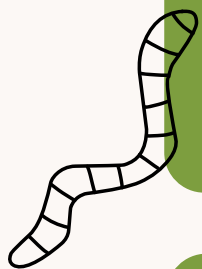


# COMPOSTING

## WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is nature's way of recycling! Composting is the managed, aerobic (oxygen-required) biological decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms. Organic (carbon-based) materials include grass clippings, leaves, yard and tree trimmings, and food scraps. The end product is compost, a biologically stable soil amendment that can be used to build soil health and provide nutrients to plants.



## WHY COMPOST?

More than half of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills come from wasted food. Composting food scraps reduces emissions, and using compost helps build healthy soils!

- **Decreases greenhouse gas emissions.** Composting reduces methane emissions by keeping wasted food out of landfills. Applying compost to the soil reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, avoiding emissions from their manufacture and use.
- **Builds flood & drought resilience.** Compost enables soil to better absorb and hold water, helping to reduce erosion and flooding in heavy rains and retain water during droughts.
- **Sequesters carbon.** When we apply compost to the land, carbon is stored in the soil instead of being released into the atmosphere.
- **Enriches soil** through slowly releasing and retaining nutrients in the soil, reducing nutrient runoff and protecting water.

## WHAT TO COMPOST?



- Food scraps
- Coffee grounds and paper filters
- Eggshells
- Grass clippings
- Dry leaves
- Plant stalks and twigs
- Brown bags and paper (non-glossy, uncolored)
- Cardboard (no wax coating, tape, or glue – pizza boxes are great for this!)

Simply put: anything that was once alive!

## SOURCES + MORE INFO:



EPA



Athens-  
Clarke  
County

