

## MAKING A START

Are you worried about, the state of our planet?, global warming?, or your own carbon footprint?.

Are you struggling to find solutions to headline news concerning human impacts on our environment?

The Winkleigh Environment group have been formed so no one should feel alone in their quest to do something positive to improve our actions locally.

Eco-Anxiety has surfaced, as more facts are released, and we are very concerned on the effect this is having on the young people in our community. It is felt they need not just hope but action!

One of the main problems with modern life is our release of too many greenhouse gasses. Wherever you look it up Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) comes top of the list. All the gasses together form to cause the green house effect so the Earth heats up.

Every litre of diesel used in a car or lorry produces nearly 3kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. The making of two plastic bottles releases 1kg of CO<sub>2</sub> into the air. If nationally we can each reduce our emissions by 1kg the saving adds up to 60 thousand tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. A small act shared can give fantastic results.

We believe the people of Winkleigh can do much better than that and be an inspiration to others.

In our aim to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> we can look for ways to store it. One of the best ways is to lock it up in soil.

The composting system run through the green bin scheme (by TDC) is very convenient to many who pay for it to be collected. However when you map the road miles, with unnecessary CO<sub>2</sub> release, we believe people can achieve much better results by composting at home, saving money and storing carbon where it's most needed, in the soil.

Why compost at home?

It's simple, when organic material is taken away we lose.... No one likes loss! When we compost we gain. In fact the whole area gains. The benefits to wildlife are incredibly diverse, you pile up organic materials and nature moves in!

Everything you need for success exists in your back garden. From micro-organisms to worms and insects, you supply the "greens" and "browns" (with the magic ingredients of air and water) and you will have a round the clock army making your own, unique and valuable compost.

How do you Make a Start?

Research, just as in cooking there are many recipes that all make cake. Find the one that suits you and your likely materials.

## Choose the amount of time you want (or not) to spend on your pile.

It can be as easy to tip on your pile as it is to put it in a green bin.

It's possible to make fast or slow compost, to suit your need. The internet is full of great advice, plus you might have family, friends or neighbours who compost, talk it through, most composters are keen to share experience.

How can I use my compost?

Flowerbeds, Borders, Mulching Trees, Pots, Feeding your Lawn and its greatest return would be to grow your own Fruit and Vegetables.

In the near future we would like to roll out community learning workshops with composting being one of the skill shares so please contact us with your ideas or questions. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you find the links below useful.

[www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk) Follow link: Environment and Landscape and Waste and Recycling.

[www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com) Go to Reduce waste and click on Composting.

[www.greenfacts.org](http://www.greenfacts.org)

[jameskendrew@btinternet.com](mailto:jameskendrew@btinternet.com) with questions