

Starting a New Community Compost Site

If you would like to start a community compost site at a nearby community centre, in a park, or disused green space near you then please get in touch. It's a straightforward process for you and your group and we'll talk you through it.

1. Find a suitable site

Is there a patch of earth near you that could be home to a couple of compost boxes? It needs to be accessible, away from people's homes, offices and open windows.

2. Let us know

We can arrange a meeting to assess the suitability of the site and help you get started.

3. Find others to compost with

To start you need a group of about 10 residents to get going with a least two 'Compost Champions' who will share the responsibility of the scheme. Tasks will involve emailing people with information about the progress of the compost, meeting new members, organising compost turning and monitoring materials going in.

4. Boxes & agreement

Brighton & Hove City Council will provide compost boxes, kitchen caddies and locks for the boxes. We can get these ordered for you, free of charge. New compost sites need to complete an exemption form registering your site with the Environment Agency and a short agreement which is signed by the group, Brighton & Hove City Council and The Food Partnership. This helps make sure we are all clear on how it works and what the expectations are.

5. Start composting

We will provide you with a free training session and information about composting.

6. Monitor boxes

Compost boxes will need monitoring. The compost champions will need to keep an eye on the compost, check for worms and the balance of materials.

7. Using the finished compost

If the compost boxes are situated at or nearby a community garden, the compost could be used to help grow food. Each community compost group will have a different idea about what to do with it and you and the people you compost with may want to take some home. If you don't have somewhere to use the compost we can help you find someone to take it.