



The Compost Education Center (CEC) of Project Grow Community Gardens- CEC Mission and Goals

*Send suggestions to:
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Mission Of CEC

The Compost Education Center (CEC) of Project Grow is charged with managing two composting-related activities, that of producing compost, and using this process for educational purposes - learning how to compost. This mission is based on the appreciation that *composting is essential to community gardening*. Our main task is to encourage all community garden sites to adopt a standard, manageable composting system. Composting is the managed process of creating the ideal conditions for the rapid decomposition of organic waste in order to produce compost. Project Grow encourages all gardeners to use compost. Adding compost to soil is the best way to improve soil texture, suppress plant diseases, provide aeration to plant roots, and the preferred way to provide an organic source of minerals and nutrients for plant health and growth. A community composting system can be designed to serve not only as a means of producing our own compost but also as a learning platform for children and adults to study and practice composting for organic gardening.

Goals Of CEC

1. To help Project Grow members understand the composting process both as a scientific study and as a practical art.
2. To learn a variety of techniques on how we can help accelerate the composting process while minimizing nuisances of composting.
3. To lead the development of a standard composting system that can be implemented and managed by members of Project Grow garden sites.
4. To serve as a learning platform for children and adults to study and practice the art of composting and organic gardening.
5. To encourage members become a master composter so they can help manage the composting systems at various sites and teach compost-making to others.

Long-Term Projects Of CEC

1. Establish a multi-bin composting system (for hot composting and vermiculture) as a demonstration project and as a learning platform at the Leslie Science Center.
2. Establish a Composting Committee that will help plan and manage CEC learning activities and web presence.
3. Produce a *Composting Guide of Project Grow* that will become a standard part of the Project Grow Member's Manual and that can provide management guidelines for a composting system in all Project Grow sites.
4. Create a series of compost education workshops that uses the Composting Guide of Project Grow as the basis for developing curriculum and learning activities.
5. Develop community partnerships with the local compost-learning and compost-making organizations such as, the Washtenaw County Master Composters, recycling centers, organic farms, vermiculture farms, and local vendors and donors.