



## Effective Signage

Communication is fundamental to building partnerships, support, and volunteer involvement in establishing a community compost site. Integral to ensuring that the site runs smoothly is adopting a range of communication techniques, including site signage. Start by posting a “welcome” sign, perhaps with the name of the site. The messaging portrayed on the signage will need to specifically address the site’s compost system (including acceptable feedstocks) and layout. For sites focused on their role as a “compost education center,” further training signage should be adopted. Consider also the need for temporary signs, such as site closure due to weather or unusual events, such as closure or operation changes due to natural disasters or epidemics.

### Elements of Effective Signage:

- ✓ Make signs concise & specific to the message being conveyed
- ✓ Use steps (1, 2, 3...) where appropriate
- ✓ Use pictures to illustrate the message, where possible
- ✓ Make sure that the words & pictures are large enough & easy to read & see from a distance
- ✓ Use clear & simple language (6th grade level)
- ✓ Provide translations or multilingual signs where appropriate; consider adding Braille for sight impaired
- ✓ Use durable sign material; weatherproof signs may be more expensive, but will ultimately last longer. Consider fabric or vinyl banner material, metal, or lamination (or a combination)
- ✓ Locate signage to be appropriate for the message conveyed (e.g., food scrap drop-off, curing, etc.); signage should be at eye level or where it will be most visible
- ✓ Consider including QR codes or other forms of technology to enhance engagement
- ✓ Make inexpensive laminated signs for temporary signage needs, including site closure or temporary changes in site protocols



Photo Cr.: La Plaza Cultural Community Garden Compost Site, Manhattan, NY

FIND MORE RESOURCES ONLINE AT  
[nerc.org/nerc-resources](http://nerc.org/nerc-resources)

PROJECT PARTNERS:



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## Signs with Drop-off Instructions



Photo Cr.: La Plaza Cultural Community Garden Compost Site, Manhattan, NY



Photo Cr.: Champlain Valley Housing Trust Fort Ethan Allen Community Garden and Compost, Colchester, VT



Photo Cr.: The Garden at 485 Elm, Montpelier, VT Collection bin reminder of what materials are allowed.



## Signs Indicating Materials Accepted



Photo Cr.: La Plaza Cultural Community Garden Compost Site, Manhattan, NY

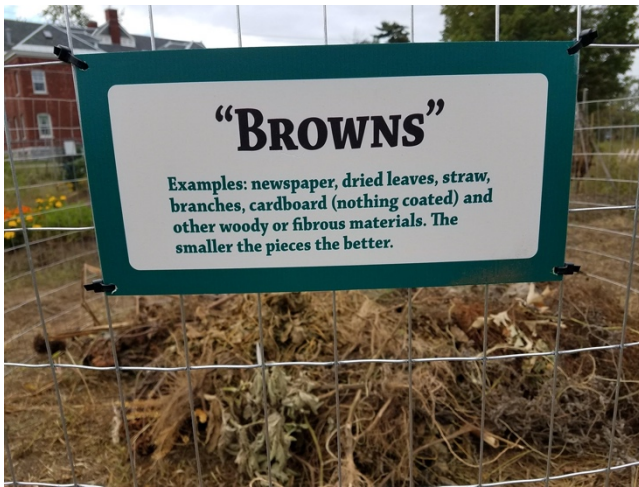


Photo Cr.: Champlain Valley Housing Trust Fort Ethan Allen Community Garden and Compost, Colchester, VT

## FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF

**YES! These go in the bin.**  
 (No plastic bags or containers, please)

- Fruits and vegetables (No PLU stickers!)
- Eggs and eggshells
- Milk, cheese and other dairy
- Meat and bones
- Shells and fish
- Dressing and condiments
- Sauces and soups
- Bread, pasta and pastries
- Nuts (including shells)
- Spices, oils and butter
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags



**KEEP OUT** Paper products • Packaging & containers  
 Florist flowers • PLU stickers • Rubber bands & twist ties • Plastic bags



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## Signs Explaining Compost Processing



Photo Cr.: La Plaza Cultural Community Garden Compost Site, Manhattan, NY



Photo Cr.: The Garden at 485 Elm, Montpelier, VT



Photo Cr.: Vermont Community Gardens Network, or Orleans Elementary School, Barton, VT

Other Community Compost Tip Sheets to consult: [Community Composting Volunteer Training & Orientation](#).

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