

Current Composting Education

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Compost Workshops:

- Four volunteer instructors conducted nine Residential Composting Workshops in FY 2016, with a total attendance of 173 residents. In FY 2017, the City offered eleven composting workshops to educate 242 residents. Program evaluations showed that 83% of workshop attendees were actively composting and diverting kitchen and yard waste from the landfill in FY 2017 (85% in FY 2016). The remaining workshop attendants plan to start composting in the future.
- Workshop attendees, who are residents of the City of Columbia, are eligible for a free GeoBin composter, provided by the City. The bins are offered as an incentive to promote composting. In FY 2017, 141 bins were provided and, FY2016, 98 bins were distributed to eligible workshop participants.
- For FY 2018, there are nine Residential Compost Workshops scheduled to be led by volunteer instructors. More workshops will be added to the schedule, as needed, based on public interest. The inventory of GeoBin composters on hand for distribution in FY18 is 136 units.

Compost Demonstration Site:

- Volunteer Programs, with the support of volunteers, maintains the Compost Demonstration site at Capen Park. The site is an outdoor classroom that has examples of six different types of active residential composting bins.
- There were two demonstration site rehab projects in FY 2017 with 34 volunteers contributing over 66 hours of service installing signage, painting sheds, scrubbing benches, and mulching gardens.
- Volunteers from Missouri Master Naturalist gave 38 hours of service maintaining the native garden at the site and other volunteers contributes 23 hours with mowing and building two compost bins.

Waste Audits and Food Waste Education:

- Volunteer Programs conducts and supports facility waste audits as an education tool to show what materials could be diverted to recycling or composting when disposed properly. It is a hands-on learning experience using volunteers from the school or organization that leaves a lasting impression with all participants.
- In FY 2017, five waste audits were conducted with 37 volunteers contributing over 59 hours.
- Results along with plans for increasing diversion rates are provide to organizations following the waste audit. We recommend that a follow-up waste audits are scheduled annually.