

# COMPOST: Impacts More Than You Think

Composting is the aerobic decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms. It transforms raw materials—such as leaves, grass clippings, garden trimmings, food scraps, animal manure, and agricultural residues—into compost, a valuable earthy-smelling soil conditioner, teeming with life.

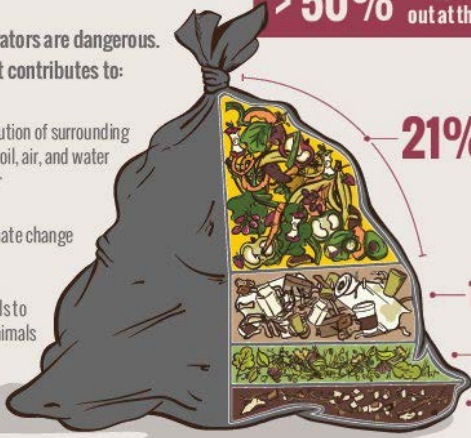
## One Person's Trash is...

...another's black gold.

Every year, U.S. landfills and trash incinerators receive **167 MILLION TONS** of garbage.

**> 50%** of typical municipal garbage set out at the curb is compostable.

Landfills and incinerators are dangerous.  
Every bag thrown out contributes to:



**50 UNCS:**  
Brenda Platt, Nora Goldstein, Craig Coker, and Sally Brown, *The State of Composting in the U.S.: What, Why, Where, & How*. Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), June 2015.  
US EPA, *Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: Facts and Figures 2012*, June 2015, pp. 12-46.  
Brenda Platt, Eric Lombardi, and David Ciplet, *Stop Teaching the Climate*. Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), 2008.  
Brenda Platt, Bobby Bell, and Cameron Hans, *Poy Dirt: Composting in Maryland to Reduce Waste, Create Jobs & Protect the Bay*. Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), May 2013.  
Mikael Ekvall, *Trash Incineration Facilities*, Energy Justice Network web page, <http://www.energyjustice.net>, accessed April 2016.