



GrayIsGreen

Who are we?

Gray Is Green is an online gathering of older adult Americans aspiring to create a green legacy for the future. As environmentally conscious elders, we respond to a generational call: to co-create a future of economic justice, ecological sustainability and social justice.

We hold next generations of humans in mind and consider the future of ecosystems and other species. We are alert to the historic challenges facing our planet. And we are aware of the question arising from descendants generations hence:

What did you do, when you knew?

What do we do?

We aspire to embrace our eldership, living beyond consumerism and ageism. **Our Curriculum for Gray-Green Living** offers a variety of ways to join—and re-engage with—this elder movement.

We offer a periodic newsletter, a speaker's bureau, online resources, a [Facebook page](#) for relevant updates. In partnership with congenial organizations, we serve as a central clearinghouse of ideas and communications for older adults interested in greening their lives, learning about sustainability, advocating for sound public policy, being creative stewards or grandparents, emerging as elders, and mentoring young people.

*We invite **you** to get involved!*

www.grayisgreen.org

Community Resilience Composting in Cities

Composting in cities can be difficult in many ways. Some common challenges include households not having the time or space to actively participate, or municipalities not having compost centers or local compost pick-up services.

Some cities have established either drop-off compost centers or local compost pick-up as part of waste management systems. The idea is very simple: you gather your compostable items throughout the week, place them in the bins provided by the cities, then set them at the curb for pick-up or drop the bins off at your local center.

New York City

Compost collection programs can vary within one large city and from city to city within the same state. New York City¹ for example, hosts different programs in different residential areas with some drop-off sites and some curbside compost collection. Each community has the opportunity to develop their own program that suits their unique needs.

Los Angeles

In California, early involvement in composting programs lowered the state's solid waste tonnage by 50%. The city of Los Angeles² surpassed

the 50% reduction by regulating and collecting their green waste with a system of curbside collection bins, three recycling centers to handle compost, and processing organic materials to make high quality compost for community-wide use.

Earth Day and Composting

While popular in many major cities, such programs are not yet common throughout the United States. Your community's annual Earth Day celebration may provide a good platform for eliciting interest in a community composting program and for asking local leaders to establish a program.

The EPA website has information for participating in Earth Day³ each year on April 22. On this day community members in many places participate in community clean ups—gathering recyclable items such as plastics, glass, and compostable items. This is a great way to move towards establishing community composting in your local area.

- 1 http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/compost/collections_ocp_res-neighborhood.shtml#how
- 2 http://www.lacitysan.org/srpcd/mulch_compost.htm
- 3 <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wycd/sincommunity.htm>