

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 19-0438 In Recognition of International Compost Awareness Week May 5 – 11, 2019

WHEREAS, the Composting Council Research & Education Foundation, along with Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and other countries have declared the first full week of May to be the annual International Compost Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, composting is a way of returning organic resources to the soil and is a way of conserving water during extreme drought or flooding conditions, reducing water consumption and non-point pollution; and a proven method of decreasing the dependence on chemical fertilizers and decreasing erosion; and

WHEREAS, composting is an effective form of waste reduction, reuse and recycling; and since organic materials make up approximately 50% of the material going to the landfill in Denver, composting is becoming one of the primary methods communities use to reach waste diversion goals; and

WHEREAS, composting creates green jobs and infrastructure for cities and states who implement composting programs; and

WHEREAS, materials such as yard debris, vegetable cuttings, biosolids, food scraps, manures and hay shavings can be composted and converted into a beneficial product known as compost; and

WHEREAS, The City of Denver has provided residential compost collection service since 2008, collecting food scraps, yard debris, and other organic materials from Denver households; and

WHEREAS, The City of Denver has actively grown its LeafDrop leaf composting program and its Mulch Giveaway and Compost Sale event through the years to help resident compost their fall leaves and utilize compost made from these materials; and

WHEREAS, The City of Denver partners with Denver Urban Gardens to empower and educate residents to start backyard and vermicomposting through *Learn to Backyard Compost* classes; and

WHEREAS, The City of Denver's compost collection program has expanded to over 18,800 subscribers over the course of a decade; and

WHEREAS, communities, through their local governments, highway departments, soil conservation service and extension offices, and public works professionals, can have significant impact on clean water, soil, climate change and landfill diversion by using compost for public works projects; and

WHEREAS, International Compost Awareness Week is a publicity and education initiative to showcase compost production and demonstrate compost use; and

WHEREAS, The City of Denver launched the 2019 Denver Compost Challenge in partnership with Sustainable Neighborhoods and other community groups to educate and empower residents about *the many ways to compost* and to engage neighbors and communities in the composting process; and

WHEREAS, Denver residents can take FREE Learn to Compost Classes to learn how to start their own backyard and vermicomposting programs at home; and

WHEREAS, The City of Denver is now partnering with its composter A-1 Organics and ACE Hardware stores to *help close the compost loop, locally* by making bags of Denver's Own EcoGro™ Compost available for purchase at Ace Hardware stores; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme Cool the Climate – Compost!, was selected to highlight the connection between soil health and the climate. Soil plays an important role in our environment. Healthy soil is at the heart of planetary, agricultural and human health. This year's theme shows the relationship between soil management practices with compost is key to soil health and mitigating climate change. By composting, we return nutrients to the soil, help capture carbon from the atmosphere, resist drought and disease, and provide fresh air.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver therefore, in recognition of the efforts of the Composting Council Research & Education Foundation, Extension Agents, soil conservation stewards, householders, landscapers, farmers, recyclers, public workers, composters, gardeners, and plant growers everywhere, hereby proclaim the week of *May 5 - 11, 2019* as International Compost Awareness Week.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Solid Waste Management.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 6, 2019

PRESIDENT