

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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COMPOST

Spring being right around the corner may have some people itching to start gardening, or replant their garden with new crops. This year, why not consider starting a compost pile to supply your garden with free beneficial nutrients from food scraps and your own yard waste? As an added benefit, food scraps and yard waste will no longer fill up your waste bins. By composting these wastes and keeping them out of our landfill, we can reduce greenhouse gasses while also extending the life of our landfill.

In Tehama County, we put about 15 million pounds of food waste in our landfill each year, which comprises about 15% of the total amount of waste that enters our landfill. So why does it matter how much food waste enters our landfill? When food waste is buried in a landfill, the moisture in the food aids in breaking it down and produces methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, landfills are the third largest source of methane emissions in the U.S.

Keeping food and yard waste out of our landfill will not only help to reduce the amount of methane being produced and help extend the life of the landfill, it will also help conserve resources like water. To put it in perspective, it is estimated that each apple that is thrown out before being eaten is equivalent to flushing the toilet seven times! This is because of the water used to grow each piece of fruit. While less food entering our landfill means less revenue going to the landfill, it also means that more resources like water will be conserved and fewer potent methane gases emitted.

The Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency provides free information on composting and our Recycling Coordinator will give free composting demonstrations to schools, community groups, clubs, or other organizations. To contact the Recycling Coordinator call (530) 528-1103 or email tehamacountyrecycles@co.tehama.ca.us.