Why COMPOST?

Most of us know composting is a way to turn our organic waste into a valuable soil amendment, but it's also a powerful climate-change-fighting tool!

When we COMPOST, we:

1 STOP THE RELEASE OF METHANE, A POTENT GREENHOUSE GAS

A common misconception is that yard waste, food scraps, and other organic waste will simply rot in the landfill and eventually "go away." This is not the case. Landfills are tightly packed tombs of trash that shut out oxygen and sunlight. Organic waste decomposes slowly in these anaerobic conditions, which produces methane.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. It traps 84 times more heat in our atmosphere than carbon dioxide over the short term and is a major contributor to climate change impacts. Landfills attempt to mitigate these emissions, but composting prevents them altogether.

2 SUPPORT A NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTION

When we compost our biodegradable materials and then apply that compost to soils, we create a carbon "sink" by increasing the soil's ability to pull carbon from the atmosphere and store it safely in the ground. Soil has the capacity to store three times more carbon than trees.

3 CREATE HEALTHIER SOILS AND FOOD

Compost helps improve all soil types, including clay soils that are common throughout Colorado. Compost enriches soil and helps it retain nutrients that produce healthier, more nutrient-dense food.

4 REDUCE WATER USE

Just as compost helps soil retain nutrients, it also helps soil retain water by increasing its absorbency—a 5% increase in organic material quadruples soil's water-holding capacity.

5 REDUCE WATER POLLUTION

Compost helps increase food productivity naturally, reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides that often pollute rivers and water sources.