



26Jul2011 CEC Report To The Project Grow Board

-By Joet Reoma

CEC Volunteer Coordinator

26Jul2011

Email: joet@projectgrowgardens.org

For brevity of this first report to the Board, I have number listed below some past, current and planned activities for the Compost Education Center (CEC) project.

A. Past Activities

1. The Compost Education Center (CEC) was established as one of the specific projects of Project Grow in early June 2011. When Lucas DiGia offered the Volunteer Coordinator position of CEC, I accepted it. I recently completed the Washtenaw County Master Composter (WCMC) Certificate program and needed the volunteer hours. My very first volunteer work was to turn the compost pile at the Leslie Science Center. It was difficult because the pile consisted of hard, un-shredded branches, and smelled of rotten Greens.
2. Listed below are the 3 important activities we initially planned for July 2011, and their respective outcomes or results.
 - a. **To offer a Composting Class on July 16** per request by Cynthia Rutherford. I proposed a 2-hour class: hot composting for the 1st hour, and cold composting, specifically, vermicomposting for the 2nd hour. I would handle the first class so that I can also introduce the CEC. For the second class, I recruited one of my teachers in the WCMC program, Jesse Raudenbush, a local Master Vermiculturist. **Results:** We held the classes as planned. Some 17 or more persons attended. Deiatra Eudy donated her vermiculture and was used to seed the vermicomposting bin. We received good feedback for the two classes. Jesse Raudenbush expressed interest in donating his time to CEC in forms of teaching and advising. I have listed him as one of our Master Composter Advisers, as a Vermiculture Adviser.
 - b. **To build a multiple-bin system** for hot composting and a bin for vermicomposting at the Leslie Science center in time for the 1st composting class. I proposed a 4 or more bin system around the basic 3-bin plan that Cynthia Rutherford sent to Lucas. I also proposed to get donors for the wood and/or use free wooden pallets. **Results:** I was able to gather free wood pallets, spent \$100 for needed wood for the bins, Lucas obtained \$50 donation in kind from Fingerle. We built the bin structures with help from some volunteers on July 15 the day before the composting class. Two new volunteers, Alexi Ernstoff and Julian Carpenter, assembled the worm bin. While Jessica, Dawn Johnston, Joseph Kim, Lucas and myself assembled the 3-bin hot composting structure. Early next day, Dawn applied two bottles of canola and olive oil to stain and preserve the untreated bin structures.
 - c. **To design and implement a Composting Guide for Project Grow.** This was based on the observation that existing composting sites in some PG gardens are not organized or managed; there was no unified management practice for composting. Cynthia emailed me to go ahead and produce this guide. I also wanted to do this in time for the July 16 class. **Results:** I created a document titled, *One-Page Guide To Hot Composting For Project Grow Community Gardens*. This is for the hot-composting bins. Another One-Page guide is being made for the vermicomposting bin. These One-Page guides will be laminated and posted on the hot-composting bin and vermicomposting structures. Attached to this report are two documents for your review and approval:
 - 1) *One-Page Guide To Hot Composting For Project Grow Community Gardens*. This is a one-page summary of a larger document titled, *The Composting Guide of Project Grow Gardens*, a 10-page composting guide for proposed inclusion in the Project Grow manual.

- 2) *The Compost Education Center (CEC) of Project Grow Community Gardens – CEC Mission and Goals.* This one-page article is crucial to CEC – it defines the Mission, the Goals and the Long-term Projects of CEC. This document will lead all future plans and contemplated projects, and will dictate the entire management of composting and learning activities of CEC.

B. Current Activities and Short-term Plans

All current activities and short-term plans (for August and Fall season) originate from the goals and long-term projects of CEC. Here is a table that summarizes these.

CEC Long-Term Goals/Projects	Current Activities July 2011	Plans for August & Fall 2011
1. Establish a multi-bin composting system at Leslie Science Center for learning and for making compost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collect wood slats & screens for bins. b. Design additional 2 Incoming bins and 1 Finished bin of concrete-blocks. c. Get materials for concrete-block compost bins. d. Smooth worm bin surface by sanding. 	<p>3Aug -install slats & screen, bin cover & lock for worm bin. Need volunteers.</p> <p>4Aug -install concrete-block Incoming bins & signs for all bins. For 6Aug CEC Class. Need volunteers.</p>
2. Establish the Compost Committee/Group ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gather volunteer names for CEC Committee/Group members b. Draft CEC Tasks List c. Create web page for CEC & publish CEC documents. d. Publish Vermiculture documents. e. Create a page for CEC Advisers f. Create a page for Special Thank & Acknowledgements g. Create an email alias: cec@projectgrowgardens.org 	<p>2Aug –CEC Group Meet: assign tasks of taking care of bins, plan activities, schedule regular meets, surveyors. Need email notice.</p> <p>9Aug –CEC Group Meet: present findings Survey of Composting Sites. Need email notice.</p>
3. Produce the <i>Composting Guide of Project Grow</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Submit the <i>One-Page Guide to Hot Composting</i> to Lucas/Board. b. Submit the one-page description of <i>CEC Mission, Goals</i> to Lucas/Board. c. Draft a one-page <i>CEC Tasks List</i> for CEC Group/Committee. d. Draft <i>One-Page Guide to Vermicomposting</i>. e. Draft the 10-page guide, <i>The Composting Guide of...PGG</i>. 	<p>2Aug –Submit drafts to the Board the following for feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the 10-page <i>Guide...</i> , b. the one-page Guide to Vermicomposting, c. the one-page <i>CEC Tasks List</i>
4. Create a series of compost education workshops. . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Held Hot-Composting class by Joet Reoma. b. Held a vermicomposting class by Jesse Raudenbush. 	<p>6Aug –CEC Class: Building the First Compost Piles & Study of Temperature Logs.</p> <p>13Aug -CEC Class: Compost Pile Turning & Results of Temperature Logs.</p> <p>13Oct –CEC Class: Building Compost Piles & Merging Piles.</p>
5. Develop community partnerships. . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recruited Jesse Raudenbush as CEC Vermiculture Adviser. b. Ask Fingerle to donate in-kind. 	<p>3Aug - Ask faculty of WCMC to join CEC as Composting Advisers.</p>

If you have questions, email me at joet@projectgrowgardens.org or at my personal emails.

I want to especially thank Lucas D., Jessica S., and Cynthia R. for being patient with the seeming slow completion of the composting bins. This is in part due to the fact that Free materials and costly options are sometimes out of immediate reach, and diligent study of what we need and how we can do better with the little we have does take time.

–JoetReoma, CEC Volunteer Coordinator
joet@umich.edu/joetreoma@gmail.com