



## Compost trial shows good results

Edge Environment received an Organics Market Development Grant from the NSW Environment Protection Authority to conduct a compost trial on an infrastructure development site.

In areas where compost was applied, the plant death rate was only 2% to 4%, depending on the amount of compost applied. This compared to a 22% plant death rate in the control area using business-as-usual practices, with no compost applied.

“There was a real visual difference in the plant health and the vigorous nature of the plants themselves.

It was really quite obvious what the compost was doing.”

- Mike Twemlow, Sustainability Consultant, Edge Environment

## Increasing climate resilience

With its capacity to strengthen the soil and increase plant resilience, compost can reduce climate risk and help create an environment that is better able to cope with climate change and drought.

Widespread use of compost also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That's because when food and garden organics waste goes to landfill (instead of being recycled), it produces methane – a potent greenhouse gas.

So, by including compost in landscaped areas and green spaces, you can play a crucial role in diverting this valuable resource from landfill and reduce emissions.

Compost also has the added benefit of being able to be locally sourced. And it can reduce the reliance on expensive and imported synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.

## Sustainability showcase: Landcom's Compost Revolution



**Paul Humberger, Sustainability and Research Manager, Landcom. Photo: EPA.**

Landcom, the NSW Government's land and property development organisation, is an industry leader with strong credentials in sustainability.

From this unique position, it is well placed to trial new approaches, like compost, and demonstrate the benefits to others.

With a remit to deliver affordable housing, Landcom is always looking for the most cost-effective ways to achieve this. Paul Humberger, Landcom's Sustainability and Research Manager said: “Using compost in infrastructure projects has immediate benefits across water, waste, biodiversity and carbon neutrality, and it also improves our response to climate risk.”

## Be a circular economy leader

As NSW transitions to a circular economy, more and more food and garden organics waste is being diverted from landfill.

And, with the NSW Government's target for all households and select businesses to recycle food and garden organics waste by 2030, the availability of quality commercial compost is set to grow.

By using compost and encouraging communities to compost their food waste, your business or organisation can lead the way in circular economy innovation.



Mike Twemlow, Sustainability Consultant, Edge Environment. Photo: EPA.

## What to look for when buying compost

Quality is vital. Make sure any compost you buy complies with Australian Standard AS4454 (Composts, soil conditioners and mulches) and **NSW Resource Recovery Exemptions**. This will ensure your compost is good quality and free from contaminants.

Soil testing is also important, as every soil needs different nutrients. Compost can be made to suit requirements, so be sure to first request a site visit and consultation with your compost supplier.

## About the program

The Cool Compost program showcases the results of the NSW Environment Protection Authority's Waste Less, Recycle More Organics Market Development grants program. The information provided in these show notes is based on evidence and results of the grant projects and activities.

## More information

To find out more about the Infrastructure Sustainability Council's IS Rating Scheme visit [iscouncil.org](https://www.iscouncil.org)

To find out more about the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star rating system visit [new.gbca.org.au](https://www.gbca.org.au)

The Australia Organics Recycling Association is the peak industry body for compost processors [aora.org.au](https://www.aora.org.au)

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