

Sharon Composting Initiative

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Who are we?

- We are a group of Juniors at Sharon High School in Sharon, Massachusetts.

Contact Info:

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Mission Statement

- Our goal is to promote and encourage composting and composting education on local and state levels by offering low-cost (potentially subsidized) compost bins for consumers (for individuals or towns).

Timeline of Events

Short Term Goals Completion: Summer 2011

Long Term Goals Completion: Summer 2012

Short Term Goal: Create a Composting Base in Sharon



1

- Educational program (pamphlet) for residents about the benefits of composting (and survey by Rina Hoffman)
 - Environmental benefits
 - Economic benefits
 - Community benefits

2

- Acquire compost bins for all towns buildings including but not limited to public schools, town hall, police department, fire department, community center, public library.
 - These bins will be acquired in one of two ways: (1) Under MA State Contract FAC61 or (2) By negotiating directly with compost bin manufacturers (Earth Machine, etc)
 - Number of bins implemented will be determined by the usable output at each specific location (ratio of compostable material will be directly proportional to number of bins)
 - Create and implement a system of collecting and redirecting compost to local farms/ designated areas
 - Provide the option and information necessary for buildings to keep compost on site for use by buildings

3

- Encourage town businesses to compost (arrange interdependent composting program between restaurants and town gardens/farms)
 - Discuss Ward's Berry Farm, Town Gardens
 - Town Restaurants
 - Other Businesses

4

- Gather a group of interested adults to legally and financially support the initiative within Sharon
 - Register as a group and create contact list for reference
 - Grants
 - Environmental Foundations
 - Sponsors

- Note list of other towns that have previously received Compost Bin Grant Awards

5

- Develop a method of accessing and distributing home composting bins to individuals within Sharon
 - Online access through the town?
 - Pamphlets?
 - Order forms with composting information?
 - Flyers around the town?
 - Storage of bins: house, organization, designated location?
 - Distribution by individuals involved in efforts or mail directly?
 - Information at town meetings/votes?

6

- Organize a group of interested adults to legally and financially support a composting program that will be state-wide, as further explained in long-term goals.

Long Term: Register as a non-profit
organization and expand
throughout Massachusetts



1

- Form an organization that will act as a middle-man between the MassDEP (or compost bin manufacturers) and state residents or towns. This organization will develop composting educational programs for home and town composting and provide access to acquiring low cost (potentially subsidized) composting bins.

2

- A. Discuss Distribution Options
 - Acquired directly from manufacture or from state?
Shipping or Storing?
 - Price of Bins
 - -Subsidized further by government (state/town) or by organization donations?
- B. Draft Education Program
- i. Synthesize MassDEP and university studies into pamphlets, slide shows, and documents.
- C. Finance
 - i. Cost of legal applications and registration
 - ii. Non-profit back account
 - iii. Registering for Tax Exemption

3

- Legally and financially register this organization as a non-profit organization
 - Find a lawyer familiar with non-profits and willing to dedicate time/ effort to the cause
 - Find a lawyer familiar with dealing with state contracts, preferably if they have any experience dealing with MassDEP contracts
 - Form solid financial base (grants) and develop budget

4

- Develop an organization constitution that outlines specific roles and responsibilities of members.
 - The specific delineation of roles. Format can be decided, but a youth-led program initiative board as supported by a financial/legal/distribution board of adults.
 - Create a time-sensitive plan for position appointments/elections and for the future of the organization

5

- Make presentations across the state and encourage the following state-wide initiatives:
 - Composting bins for all public schools (according to budget, collection of donations, and further discounts? from manufacture or government)
 - Curbside collection of compost (as first dealt with on a town-by-town basis)
 - Website that provides compost education (including details of available bins)
 - Possibility of creating online ordering of compost bins (by entering credit card and state resident credentials) if shipping/distribution can be worked out
 - State-wide residential application for compost bins

- Thank you for your consideration!
- Please contact us if you are interested in helping out or if you know anyone who would be interested in aiding us.

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