

# LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Simple everyday actions to take care of the environment so that the environment can continue to take care of us!

ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY.

Rockhampton  
Regional Council



## FEEDING COMPOST BINS & WORM FARMS

## SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION!

Living sustainably comes down to daily habits and choices you make, both big and small, that can have huge environmental impact.

**Did you know? Around 50% of the average general waste wheelie bin is made up of organics and garden clippings.**

Compost worms are nature's own recyclers, converting your kitchen scraps and garden clippings into nutrient-rich plant food perfect for your garden and potted plants. Using compost can reduce weeds, improve soil quality, help soil retain moisture in your garden. Put your wheelie bin on a diet and join the compost conga line!

### **Pick your compost style!**

There are many ways to compost so it's important to choose a 'style' that suits your household.

- Kitchen bench - keep an urban living 'bucket' style compost systems in your kitchen
- In ground systems - dig a hole and bury organics or a bucket with holes drilled in the base.
- Compost bin - a more traditional option and come in a range of sizes and types
- Compost heap - a good option for big backyards, big families and avid gardeners.
- Worm farm - can be good for small yards and balconies.
- Chickens - the ultimate and quickest composters but check Council requirements.

### **Location, location, location!**

Like real estate, compost is all about location!

- Choose a convenient spot close to your house or a path you take regularly.
- Ensure the spot gets a good amount of sun without baking during our hot summers.
- Set up your system, ensuring any open based systems have a good drainage base layer.
- Add a few 'green', 'brown', 'wet' and 'dry' layers to kick start your compost.
- Start your daily kitchen collection system habits (a container in your kitchen).

### **Catering for compost guests!**

Just like a party, who attends your 'compost' and the menu can make or break its success.

- Encourage lots of worms, slugs, and soldier flies to your compost.
- Some classic worm favourites include vegetable and food scraps, leaves, tea leaves and coffee grounds, vacuum cleaner dust, egg shells, some grass and used potting mix.
- Remember worms have dietary requirements - no meat, dairy, diseased plants, animal manure, magazines and chemicals.
- Discourage unwelcome guests such as ants, cockroaches and rodents.

### **Keeping your compost composure!**

If your compost starts to stink...no need to worry, it is easy to regain your composure.

- Keep layering! Build one layer of organic scraps, then a layer of dry leaves and clippings.
- Get the right mix of air, layers and moisture to allow the organic matter to breathe.
- Give it an occasional stir or tumble for aeration.
- Be patient and in about three months you should have compost that looks like soil.

**GET INVOLVED AND FIND OUT MORE!**

**SIGN UP FOR THE LIVING SUSTAINABLY ENEWSLETTER!**

[rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/EnvironmentalSustainability](http://rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/EnvironmentalSustainability)

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