What’s Right for Your Site?
Community Compost Management
To Compost or Not to Compost, That is the Question...
To Compost or Not to Compost...

- **Community Driven:** Is there a desire and commitment to composting on site?
- **Management Support:** Are there people willing and able to effectively manage the compost system and guide users?
- **Site Requirements:** Does your site meet community and compost system needs?
- **System Inputs:** Do you have access or the ability to source adequate compost system inputs?
What’s right for your site?

System Considerations
System Considerations: Cold vs. Hot Composting

**Cold Compost**

- Lower maintenance (less turning & monitoring)
- Slower decomposition with lower temps
- Will NOT destroy pathogens & weed seeds

**Hot Compost**

- High maintenance, year-round (regular turning & consistent monitoring)
- Faster decomposition with higher temps
- Destroys pathogens & weed seeds
- Can compost meat & dairy
System Considerations

Project Goals
System Considerations:

People

Photos: Upper: Composter Coordinator, Abby Foulk with student volunteers; Lower: Ruby & Andy, Co-coordinators & Master Composters at Callahan Community Garden
Keep in mind...

- Interest and commitment (coordinators, volunteers, community)
- Time available (coordinators & volunteers)
- Knowledge/skills/comfort level (coordinators, volunteers, community)
System Considerations:

Location

- Meet goals
- Manage materials
- Accessible location
- Addresses site issues

Photo: West Washington Park Community Garden, Denver, CO

From NYC Master Composter Manual, DSNY
System Considerations: Materials

Assess Volume of Materials:
• Community need
• People power
• Site capacity
• Permit limits
  > 100cy/yr. feedstock
• Resources available
Resources

- “Growing Local Fertility: A Guide to Community Composting”  
  (Highfields Center for Composting & Institute for Local Self Reliance)

- Compost Siting, Design, Operation, and Monitoring Resources  
  (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources)

- “Composting Best Practices – A guide for small scale composting”  
  (Institute for Local Self Reliance)

- “NYC Master Composter Manual”  
  (New York City Department of Sanitation)

- “2014 NYC Community Composting Report”  
  (New York City Department of Sanitation)

- “A Guide to Starting a Composting Program in Your School”  
  (Green Mountain Farm-to-School)

- Grow More Waste Less docs & Shared Farm to School files