COMPOSTING WORKSHOP IN WESTFIELD
A SUCCESS

Thursday, June 22, 2017

UVM Master Composter and NEK Waste Management District Outreach Coordinator, Shannon Choquette, hosted a backyard composting workshop at the Community Center of Westfield, VT. Fifteen community members from Westfield & Jay gathered to ask questions, share stories, and discuss the variety of techniques available to effectively turn food scraps into compost at home. Several of the group already compost, some have never, but all wanted to learn more about composting especially due to the new Vermont regulations regarding recycling and composting.

One of the questions that arose was “What if I don’t generate enough to have a compost?” Shannon responded, “While the state of Vermont would like to encourage people to compost in their own yards, they realize that this may not be possible or desirable for some and that is why there are centers that they are accepting kitchen waste for composting. Recycling Centers doing so at present are Jay/Westfield, Newport Center and Derby.”

A couple of attendees shared their composting styles. From simple low tech hardware cloth enclosures to more elaborate systems - everyone could take home ideas that may work for them. UVM-Extension Master Composter helper, Anne Holdridge provided some handouts describing systems/plan and a summary sheet for the VT Universal Recycling Law (ACT 148).

Shannon gave a simple but concise explanation between hot composting and cold composting, the importance of the nitrogen (green) and carbon (brown) ratio when establishing and building a compost pile and what food scrapes to avoid in a home system.

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