



Case study

Climate
Action
Leeds



Community
Composting
project - Drury
Field,
Horsforth

Community Composting Drury Field, Horsforth - a Horsforth Climate Action project

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Compost bin consultation

Project/Activity summary

An initial consultation was undertaken in 2022 with residents in Horsforth about a community composting site being developed in Horsforth, as one of six sites across Leeds to be included in a funding bid by Foodwise Leeds.

The community compost site has been developed by volunteers from Horsforth Climate Action (HCA) and Foodwise Leeds. Following extensive negotiations to resolve concerns raised by Leeds City Council (LCC) (see the 'what made this a success' section for more details). In April 2024 the site was granted permission to operate on a 3-month trial. This was on condition we consulted residents again, completed a partnership agreement and the site was regularly monitored.

What are the benefits of a Community Compost Scheme?

Residents can reduce the volume of waste in their bins. It is estimated that kitchen waste makes up 35% of all domestic waste. Composting reduces domestic household waste and reduces the carbon footprint associated with waste removal and energy recovery.

Composting recycles 'waste' into a valuable resource. Scheme members have first dibs on the nutrient-rich compost for their gardens/allotments and any leftovers can be put to good use in the community, supporting growing projects.

How does the community composting scheme work?

The bins are locked and only accessible to people from the local neighbourhood who have signed up and received some basic training in composting.

Local volunteer compost monitors to keep an eye on the bins and give inductions to new members, organise a rota for turning the compost and generally be responsible for keeping an eye on the boxes and their contents. When members want to join the scheme, they are inducted by the monitor, receive the code for the padlock and a free kitchen caddy.¹

Community Composting Drury Field, Horsforth - a Horsforth Climate Action project



How is this helping to deliver the CAL aims of a zero carbon, nature friendly, socially just Leeds by the 2030s?

The project contributes to all three of the Climate Action Leeds aims. It is estimated that kitchen waste makes up 35% of all domestic waste. Community composting reduces domestic household waste and the carbon footprint associated with waste removal and energy recovery. It supports a nature friendly Leeds by contributing to healthy soil, and to a socially just Leeds by creating a learning community around composting.

What has been the impact of the project/activity?

A community composting bin was built by volunteers on Drury Field in August 2024. There are 23 active members now composting their food waste and a further 10 people have shown interest in doing this.

What helped make this a success?

Partnership work with

Compost Collective Leeds/FoodWise, and their Compost Collective Project Worker - Annie Whitehead. Thuja Phillips - Parks Technical Officer, Ward Councillors, Claire Evans – Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)² worker, Horsforth.

Determination, perseverance and resilience

It took over 18 months from the initial idea to actually building the first bin. A lot of time was needed by the Compost Collective Project and ABCD workers, City Councillors and HCA volunteers to answer questions and provide information to the LCC Parks Department to resolve concerns they had about vandalism, litter and vermin.

The delay meant that the original funding for the project had been re-allocated to another scheme in Horsforth, so Horsforth Climate Action agreed to pay FoodWise to deliver the Drury Field project.

Volunteers delivered 300 flyers to local residents and held an open day in May 2024 to consult with them and to advertise the project. No objections were raised. A training session on how the composting scheme works was held in July 2024, led by Annie Whitehead and the first bin was built in August 2024. We ran a stall at Breeze on Drury Field in August 2024 to recruit more members, 10 new people signed up. There are now 23 active members composting their food waste and another 10 people have shown interest.

What resources were needed?

Money

Horsforth Climate Action £2000 paid to FoodWise Leeds for:

- Design leaflet for public consultation
- Provide risk assessment for the bin build and send to Leeds City Council
- Provide training and support for volunteer members and volunteer monitors
- Provide some social media support to promote Compost Collective Horsforth
- Provide all equipment for bin build for 3 bins including stencil for branding and 3 information panels

¹ [Horsforth Community Composting Collective](#)

² [Asset Based Community Development in Leeds](#)

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- Provide 30 caddies with stickers
- Provide on-going support to the project including opportunities to use ZEST network to enhance knowledge and provide support.

Time

Lots of time needed from volunteers and paid staff.

Marketing, publicity and social media

Posts on Facebook and Instagram, promoting the consultation, training, and building of the bins. Additional posts calling for volunteer composters.

What did you learn from this?

The importance of partnership working and ABCD.

What are the next steps on this project/activity (it any)?

Recruit compost monitors.

Replicate in other areas of Horsforth.

Links to any sources of information that were important for this project/activity

Compost Collective Leeds: foodwiseleeds.org/project/ccl/



Compost bin building



Compost training

Contact info@horsforthclimateaction.org

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Photos by Horsforth Climate Action

