

Community Composting

East Herts Council's decision to make a separate charge for collection of garden waste, and to ask residents to put food waste into residual waste black bins creates a need and an opportunity to promote alternative disposal methods for large amounts of both cooked and raw food and garden waste

The opportunity is to reduce material going to waste, to reduce the consequent production of surplus carbon emissions.

Community composting schemes are being established all over the country with support from Councils (for example <https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/reduce-your-waste/home-composting/community-composting>) and from charities (for example <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/resources/community-composting-resource-pack>).

A community composting project in Ware can keep green material out of the residual waste stream, and provide a useful resource for individual gardeners and allotment holders, and potentially for groups like Ware in Bloom. There is initial interest from a small number of residents consulted.

We can fund a pilot scheme from our available "green" budget. For future growth if the pilot is successful, then there is funding available from charity sources to help with that.

(<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/funding-community-composting-and-ad-projects>)

A pilot scheme will require a small committee of volunteers to run it. We would establish one day a week when people could deposit material and, eventually, claim compost. If successful at one site, the project can be expanded later to others.

Proposal

Consult with stakeholders in town on the establishment of a community composting pilot scheme to set up a committee and identify a site for the pilot. Budget request for the pilot scheme is £1000.

Indicative costs for equipment are: £600 from the "green" budget to purchase four eco-friendly composting bins for the pilot; £150 for a hot composting bin for cooked food waste and £250 to support establishment of the pilot including advertising to residents.



