



# COMPOSTING AT SCHOOLS

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# What is Composting?

- Composting is when humans help recycle food back into the soil.
- Peppa Pig – Compost
- Wiggle Worm – Composting
- Composting Buddies  
(middle/high school)

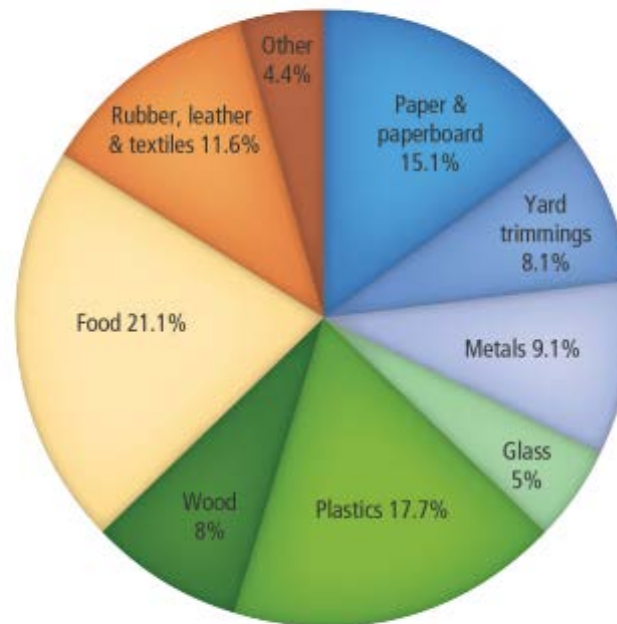




# Why Compost?

- It saves energy and natural resources.
- It can be used to improve soil.
- It can reduce landfill space and the production of methane.

**Figure ES-5. Material Discards\* in MSW, 2013**  
167 Million Tons (after recycling and composting)



\*Discards in this figure include combustion with energy recovery

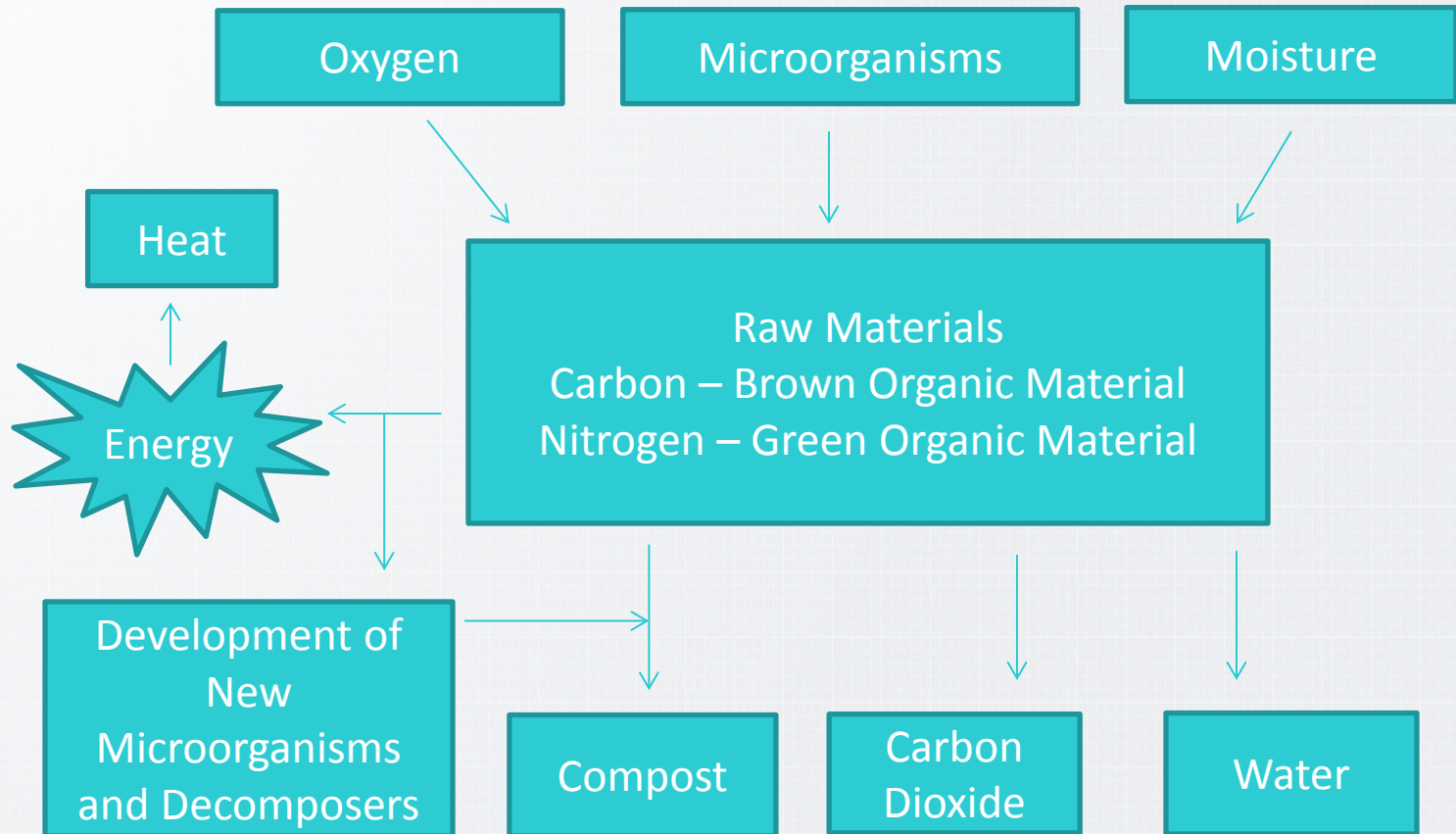


# What Can You Do With Compost?

- Incorporate with soil
- Make potting soil
- Apply to lawn areas
- Mulch around plants
- Erosion control
- Bioremediation



# Flow Chart For the Composting Process





# What Should/Shouldn't You Compost?

GREENS	BROWNS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fruit and vegetable scraps</li><li>• Grass clippings</li><li>• Bread and grains</li><li>• Coffee grounds</li><li>• Hair and fur</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leaves</li><li>• Twigs</li><li>• Shredded newspaper</li><li>• Cardboard rolls</li><li>• Clean paper</li><li>• Fireplace ashes</li></ul> 
<p><b>DO NOT ADD:</b> dairy, meat, fats, bones, oils, pet waste, seafood scraps, plastic, stickers from fruits and vegetables, metals, glass, treated or painted wood</p> 	



# How Do You Compost?

- Add materials in proper amounts
- Stir and add water as necessary
- Wait until most bacterial activity diminishes
- Screen compost (optional)
- Age your compost (optional, but ideal)
- USE YOUR COMPOST!



# Earth Machine Composter

- [https://www.earthmachine.com/how\\_to\\_compost.html](https://www.earthmachine.com/how_to_compost.html)





# Add Organic Material in Proper Amounts

## 3:1 ratio of browns to greens

- **CHOP** - It helps to chop up larger items like watermelon rinds or corn cobs before putting them in your compost bin.
- **STIR** - Mix the new material into the existing pile using a Compost Turner, pitchfork, or other garden tool. This also adds oxygen, a key component to successful composting.
- **COVER** - Cover your food waste with a handful of old leaves, other dried yard waste or soil. This will add carbon and reduce the chance of odors and fruit flies. Then put the lid back on and let it “cook”.



# Stir and Add Water as Necessary





**Wait until compost bugs are done working.**



# How do You Know if Your Compost is Ready?

- The temperature of the pile drops to the temperature of the surrounding air.
- It smells earthy-not sour, putrid, or like ammonia.
- It no longer heats up after turned or watered.
- It looks like dark soil.
- It's crumbly, and doesn't have identifiable food items, leaves, or grass.





# Screen Your Compost (Optional)



# Age Your Compost (Optional, but Ideal)





# Compost Uses

- You can use it on site!
  - School garden
  - Landscaping
  - Athletic fields
  - Lawn areas



# Questions?







**THANK YOU**

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