



Compost Training Network

“Compost Skillnet” is a training network under development by Cré – Composting & Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland. A National Standard for Compost will be published shortly and the National Compost Quality Assurance (QAS) which will provide third party independent certification to this standard is under development. This network’s aim is to train compost operators to produce high quality QAS compost and to train organic farmers/landscapers how to use compost. The proposed network will be applying for funding in June. If successful, the network will operate on a non – profit basis and training courses will be subsidised.

At this stage we are recruiting organic farmers/landscapers and unemployed people to be part of the proposed network. Compost site open evenings have been organised to explain the proposed network to organic farmers and landscapers.

Compost Sites Open Evenings (For Landscapers/ Organic Farmers)

Presentation on “Benefits of Using Compost in Organic Farming & Landscaping”

Location	Date	Time
Acorn Recycling, Horse & Jockey, Tipperary	18 May	7.30pm-9pm
GreenKing, Beside Beehive Pub, N11, Wicklow	19 May	
Envirogrind, Pettigo, Donegal	20 May	

The open evenings at composting sites are to show landscapers and organic farmers how quality compost is manufactured. Also there will be a short presentation on “Benefits of Using Compost in Organic Farming & Landscaping” by Gerry Bird at the Greenking & Acorn Sites and by Klaus Laitenberger at the Envirogrind site. The open evenings are free. It is essential that you register prior to the event as space is limited. Contact John Brennan (Tel: 086-8129260. Email: john@cre.ie) to register.

Gerry Bird (OCAE Consultants) is an Agricultural Science graduate. He has worked with Bayer, as Field trials and Technical manager. He then commenced his own independent Crop Consultancy and Field trials operation in 1986. He presently manages Crops and Landbank management on 9,000 ha of arable crops. He does contract field trials research on arable crops, amenity and forestry. Gerry was the lead researcher on a three year Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) sponsored winter wheat crop trials using compost in Ballinderry Farm and a Cré/WRAP sponsored compost top dressing trial at the K Club Golf Course.

Klaus Laitenberger has been growing organic vegetables for over twenty years in the UK and Ireland. He was running a four-acre organic market garden in England before moving to Ireland in 1999 where he was the Head Gardener at the Organic Centre in Rossinver, Co. Leitrim for seven years. He then took on the challenge to start the garden restoration in Lissadell House in Co. Sligo. For the last few years he works as a self-employed trainer, mentor and consultant in organic horticulture. Last year he completed his PgDip in Organic Farming (SAC Aberdeen and University of Glasgow). As part of his thesis Klaus conducted vegetable crop trials using Envirogrind’s compost. His first book, *Vegetables For the Irish Garden*, is now available. The book will be of interest for anybody just starting to grow a few vegetables for the first time as well as for the more advanced gardeners.

Organic Farmers & Landscapers

For the funding application we need to identify organic farmers and landscapers who would be interested in taking part in the network.

Membership is free for landscapers and organic farmers. If you are interested in joining and you have ideas for training courses, please apply by 25 May to John Brennan (Tel: 086-8129260. E: john@cre.ie)

Email John with the following details:

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. Mobile Phone Number
4. Email address:
5. Ideas for training courses:

Some of the Suggested Training Courses for the Network

- The role of compost in maintaining good soil biology
- How to grow different organic crops (cereals, grass & vegetables) using compost
- How to use compost in different horticultural practices

Recruiting Unemployed People

The proposed network will be applying for funding in June. If successful, the network will have a limited number of free places on training courses for unemployed people.

For the funding application we need to identify unemployed people who would be interested in taking part in the network.

If you would like to be part of the proposed network and have a background in any of the following areas: Compost industry, Anaerobic digestion industry, General waste industry, Organic farming, Landscaping sector.

Please apply by 25 May to John Brennan (Tel: 086-8129260. E: john@cre.ie)

Email John with the following details:

6. Name:
7. Address:
8. Mobile Phone Number
9. Email address:
10. State your Background (e.g. landscaping, compost industry)



Compost Sites Open Evenings

About the Composting Sites & Location Details

Acorn Composting Facility, Littleton, Co Tipperary

Acorn Recycling's composting facility located in Littleton, Co. Tipperary is situated just off the M8 motorway (Horse & Jockey exit) so is less than 1.5 hours from Cork, Dublin, Waterford and Limerick.

Location Directions: When you get off the M8, head towards the Horse & Jockey, at the T Junction in the village, turn left up the old N8 heading north. Take the first right. The site is approx. 1 mile down that road on the right hand side.

GreenKing Composting, Beside Beehive Pub, N11, Wicklow

Green King Composting operates a composting facility at Coolbeg, County Wicklow. The green waste composted comprises of wood wastes generated by the King Tree Service tree surgery business, garden; park waste produced during during maintenance works by landscape gardeners; grass and shrub trimmings produced by individual householders, and timber and wood waste recovered during construction and demolition works. The finished product is suitable for horticultural and agricultural use.

Location Directions: Greenking Composting is located on the N11 near Wicklow Town. Turn right opposite the Beehive Pub, Greenking is the first turn on the left.

Envirogrind, Pettigo, Donegal

First established in 1997 as a wood & green waste composting facility, Enviro Grind Ltd operates an In-vessel composting facility for organic materials. Its product range includes bark & coloured mulches, compost, top soil & growing mediums blended to customer requirements. It also supplies agricultural/equestrian bedding chips.

Location Directions:

- The Enviro Grind facility is located on the R232 road between Pettigo and Laghey (N15 Ballyshannon - Donegal), approximately 2 miles from Pettigo and 11 miles from Laghey.
- From Donegal Town, take the N15 to Laghey and turn left onto the R232.
- From Sligo area, take the N15 to Ballyshannon followed by the N3 to Belleek. Continue through Belleek and take the A47 followed by the B136 (sign posted Pettigo). At the end of this road, turn left onto the R232 towards Donegal. Enviro Grind is located approximately 1/2 mile on the right hand side.
- If approaching via Fermanagh, take the A32 from Enniskillen to Trory roundabout, followed by the B82 to Kesh and the A35 to Pettigo.

