



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

Phase 1 Composting in the Community Pilot Project

**Project duration
September 2023 – March 2024**

Tender Document

Phase 1 Community Composting Pilot Project

Background

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) is committed to achieving the targets of zero waste and net zero carbon by 2040. This involves changing behaviours and attitudes to prevent people from throwing away valuable resources that could be reused directly or reused after treatment. People need to move towards a culture of reuse, repair and avoiding waste, including, in this instance - food.

A Waste Composition Analysis in 2021 of the region's waste identified that 26.3% of residual waste bins contained food waste that could have been composted. The decomposition of organic waste in the form of methane, is 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide at contributing to climate change. On average, the UK throws away 143 kgs of food per person, per year (ons.gov.uk).

We currently support residents to home compost through the distribution of compost bins and with the provision of online resources. However, we recognise that almost 50% of the residents in the region do not have access to a garden or may only have a balcony and therefore, are unable to compost food waste.

This is Phase 1 of the Community Composting Pilot Project; it will cover three of the six districts. Phase 2 will launch April 2024 and will be developed following the evaluation of Phase 1. Phase 2 will cover the other three districts, ensuring we run community composting in all six districts in Liverpool City Region.

The Project

Phase 1 of the Community Composting pilot project is focussed on enabling residents without access private gardens to compost. The purpose of the project is to educate, inform and enable individuals, households, and communities to work together, support each other and influence changes in behaviour so that less food waste is discarded in household residual waste bins and less food waste requires treatment by MRWA. The project will consist of 3 participating community groups. Each group is expected to consist of around 30 households with 50 residents participating.

Sustainable Development Goals

MRWA has prioritised four of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals with regards to its impact from operations and activities. The prioritised goals are,

3. Good health and well-being.
11. Sustainable cities and communities.
12. Responsible consumption and production.
13. Climate Action.

This project will support all four goals. It will contribute to people's self-esteem, relieve isolation, and instigate community cohesion. It will manage food waste where it is produced, influence sustainable communities, and reduce methane emissions which contribute to climate change. Participants will change behaviour and be more responsible about their consumption and the waste they produce.

What will your organisation's participation involve?

If you would like to be involved in this project, you would work closely with the MRWA Strategy & Development team to deliver community composting in the Liverpool City Region.

We are looking to commission a composting specialist to manage three community composting projects in the Liverpool City Region (LCR). The LCR includes the local authorities of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, and Wirral.

The composting specialist will have the opportunity to engage with local communities to establish 3 community household food composting projects. This project is focussed on residents who do not have access to a private garden.

Taking part

Taking part will involve the following:

Engage with local communities – you will identify groups in their communities that have expressed or shown an interest in community composting and identify suitable locations. This project is targeted at residents that have the desire to compost food waste but not the capacity to do so. Importantly, they must not have access to a private garden.

Health & Safety - You will maintain excellent health and safety standards throughout the project. You must manage the project on our behalf and mitigate regulatory risk by complying with the Environment Agency Composting Regulations T23. T23 exemption allows composting of small volumes of vegetation, cardboard, and food waste to spread on soil to add nutrients or improve its structure. You will undertake health and safety risk assessments (site and project aspects and impacts) and maintain a register.

Help increase community composting in the region – as you have experience and connections in the community, the successful specialist will identify three suitable groups to take part in the project. You will have significant experience in engaging with communities. You will develop resources and provide training workshops for participants.

Deliver community composting projects – You will identify three sites (one per district) to participate in the project. Each facility will consist of a membership of 30 households and 50 residents. You should work with the communities to set up a functional compost facility open to the residents of that community. You will provide suitable kitchen caddies to transport food waste to the composting facility.

Consider sustainability – throughout the project you should consider sustainability implications and ensure the project is keeping waste production to a minimum.

Communications support - We will work with the composting specialist to establish a communications plan and share relevant information with community organisations and on social media. As part of the project, you will provide images and share stories for use in promoting the project.

Produce project evaluation – Following completion of the project, provide evidence in a summary report of the success and possible failures of the project and the value of continuous support for community composting facilities in the region. You should produce a report that includes the following,

- Summary of project, including outcomes.
- Demonstrate that community composting is a viable and beneficial way for people in general and for those that are unable to compost in their own homes (terraces, multi-occupancy buildings).
- Collect data of waste diverted from residual household waste bins.
- Identify changes in consumer behaviour with regards to food waste diverted from collection and disposal.

Project outcomes

We're looking for the following outcomes from this project:

- Partnership with at least three community groups
- Direct engagement with 90 households or 150 residents across three LCR districts
- Health and safety risk assessments
- Recruit volunteers to support the running of the facilities.
- Delivery of at least 3 face-to-face workshops, to educate and inform residents about the benefits and how to run a successful compost project.
- Set up and support three community composting facilities.
- Evidence of food waste diverted from household bins.
- Evaluation/end of project report.

How your organisation can benefit from taking part in the project

Help instigate behaviour change – our long-term goal is to achieve zero waste and carbon by 2040. You can help us shift from a linear to a circular economy, reduce waste and carbon and address the global challenges we face today and, in the future, including poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. To do this successfully, you will work in partnership and directly engage residents across the LCR.

Embed waste prevention, reduction and reuse thinking within your organisation – Expand your organisations knowledge of the challenges faced by people locally and internationally with regards to sustainable lifestyles.

Provide opportunities for residents to understand the need to compost food waste – Help residents to change their behaviour and attitudes towards food waste, understand the consequences of lifestyle choices and their buying habits and only buy what they need so they save money.

Develop new partnerships and networking links – build up relationships with community groups and other interested organisations.

Provide social value for the LCR communities – there is significant social value in community composting. The impact of waste collection, disposal and climate change are all costs that are not usually considered when identifying support for all types of community projects. This is changing as more local authorities recognise the importance of social value and are factoring the benefits into public spending.

Funding linked to the Project:

- We would like the pilot project to be run in three of the six local districts within the Liverpool City Region.
- You should detail which three districts you will work with and demonstrate local knowledge of each of the areas.
- We have a total of £10,500 funding available for this pilot project.
- We will evaluate each project application individually and will appoint the right organisation to deliver the best overall outcome for the LCR.

When will the project be delivered?

This project will begin in September 2023, and end March 2024. A detailed timeline of activities is provided below:

Activity Detail:	Dates: update
Project tender goes live	Tuesday 29th August 2023
Project tender closes	Sunday 10th September
Tender applications evaluated	2 weeks evaluation
Organisation selected	Monday 18th September 2023
Due diligence	Following acceptance
Project initiation meeting	w/c 25th September 28th
Final reports received	31st March 2024

Evaluating applications

We will score applications received based on the following criteria:

- 50% Meeting project objectives
- 40% Finance
- 10% Evaluation

How to apply

To apply, complete the Phase 1 Composting in the Community Pilot Project Application Form and send to tony.scott@merseyside.gov.uk by 5pm Sunday 10th September 2023. If you have any questions, please contact tony.scott@merseysidewda.gov.uk