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Riverside County **NEWS RELEASE**

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County waste department to provide free virtual composting and vermicomposting class Saturday

Looking for a safe, socially-distanced way to learn how to create a soil amendment that's great for gardens? On Saturday, Sept. 4, the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources will host a free virtual backyard composting and vermicomposting class that can be accessed on any computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Learn how to recycle organic resources, such as yard trimmings, as well as fruit and vegetable waste into a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling soil conditioner called compost. If you don't have yard trimmings, or lack suitable space to compost, vermicomposting is a fantastic alternative that can be done in an empty plastic bin, bucket, or kitty litter container.

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It's a great way to turn waste into a garden. In composting, organic material is mixed together in a pile or bin, where literally millions of tiny microbes digest the material and turn it into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Vermicomposting puts worms to work, as red wigglers will break down organic waste, such as apple cores and banana peels, and turn them into a nutrient-rich byproduct called worm castings. The free virtual class covers both composting and vermicomposting and begins at 9 a.m. The class can be accessed via the sign-up link found at www.rcwaste.org/classes.

If attendees would like to put the principles taught in the class into practice, compost bins are available for purchase at our headquarters facility in Moreno Valley. These bins are only available for purchase by

Riverside County residents, and have a limit of three per household. In addition, pre-assembled vermicomposting kits are also available for purchase, and have a limit of one per household.

The virtual class is free and will end by 11 a.m. These programs are offered to teach residents about the ease and advantages of organic material recycling and how composting helps preserve valuable space in county landfills.

For more information, call (951) 486-3200 or visit www.rcwaste.org/classes

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