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**NEWS RELEASE**

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

Learn how to create a soil amendment that's waste free and great for gardens. On Saturday, November 5, the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources will host a free backyard composting and vermicomposting class at our headquarters in Moreno Valley (14310 Frederick Street).

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 melon rinds, and turn them into a nutrient-rich byproduct called worm castings. The free class covers both composting and vermicomposting, with composting starting at 9:00 am and vermicomposting starting at 10:00 am.

If attendees would like to put the principles taught in the class into practice, compost and vermicompost bins are available for purchase at the end of the class. These bins are only available for purchase by Riverside County residents, and have a limit of three per household. Credit card or cash payment only, no personal checks are accepted.

The class is free and will end by 11 a.m. This class will be held outdoors, please dress accordingly for weather. These programs are offered to educate residents about the ease and advantages of organic material recycling and how composting preserves valuable space in county landfills.

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

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