



On-farm composting at ECO City Farms

Thomas Fazio

ECO City Farms

- Founded in 2010 by Margaret Morgan-Hubbard
- Mission statement - ECO City Farms is a nonprofit urban teaching and learning farm in Prince George's County that grows great food, farms and farmers in ways that protect, restore and sustain the natural environment and the health of local communities. Working with area children, youth and adults, ECO educates and trains the next generation of urban farmers and eaters.

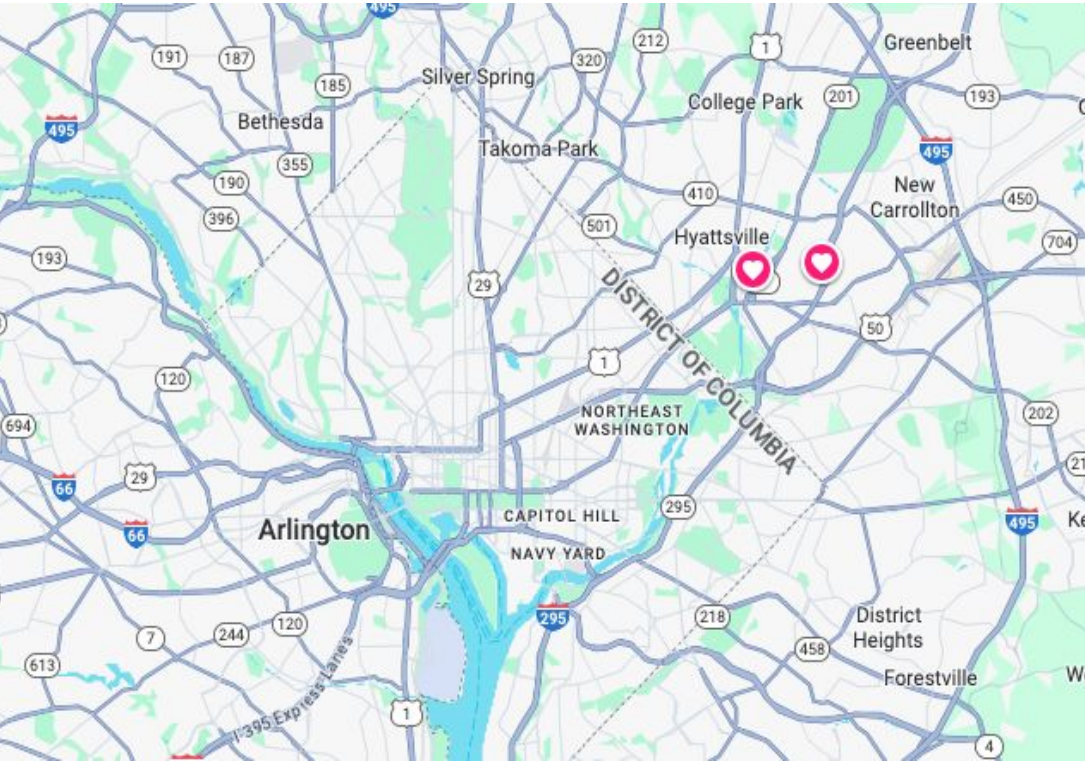


ECO City Farms

- Certified Naturally Grown farm
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) providing seasonal veggies, fruits and herbs to members of our community
- USDA funded Beginner Farmer Training Program
- Urban Farm Incubator
- Summer Youth Program
- Maryland Healthy Soils participant



Where are we?



Farms just a few miles from DC border.
Inside the Capital Beltway



Bladensburg farm (composting site) is
on 2.5 acres of urban environment
surrounded by residential housing

Produce





Farmer trainees





CSA Shares



Plant Nursery



Volunteer opportunities



Summer youth program



Community Events



Background

- Recipient of EPA Region 3 *Enhanced Composting Infrastructure for a Healthier Environment Grant* in 2021
- Collaboration between Prince George's County Soil Conservation District (PGSCD), Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), Compost Crew and ECO City Farms
- Site has been operational since September 2022



On-farm Composting

- Under Maryland state regulation, a composting operation that takes up less than 10,000 square feet of space is exempt from obtaining a composting facility permit*
- In order to meet food waste reduction goals, different types of composting infrastructure will be required
- On-farm composting combines meeting food scrap diversion goals with enhancing soil health





Post consumer food scraps from ~300 households



Feedstock Recipe

Browns:

- 2 parts leaves (sourced from City of Bladensburg)
- 1 part wood chips (sourced from local tree crews)

Greens:

- 1 part Vegetable and food waste (sourced from partner food scrap collection company)











Piles are aerated at regular intervals by solar powered blowers



Complete transformation takes ~4 months.





Finished compost applied to our fields this spring



Smaller portion (5-10%) is fed to worms to make vermicast which we use in our nursery seed starting mix

Vermicomposting







Compost Tea

- Liquid application of compost
- Mix of worm castings and water (occasionally organic fertilizer supplements-
- Battery powered backpack sprayers used for application



Thank you!



Contact information:

Thomas Fazio
Compost Manager at ECO City Farms

Email: thomas@ecocityfarms.org

Phone: 2406041909

Instagram: @ecocityfarms

