



## Montclair's Compost Give-Back and Climate Kick-Off

by Gray Russell and Barb Conover

For eight years every fall, Montclair residents have been able to pick-up free compost, buy low-cost compost bins, learn how to "Rot Right!" along with all sorts of green yard care at the town's annual "Compost Give-Back" in Edgemont Park.

This year, Montclair's new Climate Showcase project, "It's In Our Power," kicked off at the event, hosted by the town's Office of Environmental Affairs.

Many residents have become interested in making their yards and gardens more "green" and eco-smart, and others are looking for simple alternatives to "bagging and dragging" leaves and grass clippings to the curb. Backyard composting is an environmentally-friendly way to create beautiful and healthy yards and gardens.

Retailing at around \$100, the township purchases the "Earth Machine" compost bins wholesale and offers them at-cost to residents.

Also, Nature's Choice – our composting facility – generously donated a small mountain of their professionally-made compost for the event, made from leaves and grass clippings collected curbside around Montclair. Residents took home gallons of "Black Gold" for their gardens, backyards, and houseplants.

Continuous "Rot Right" backyard composting demo's were held, and community groups (including CNNJ) taught visitors

about turning a backyard into an attractive habitat for birds and butterflies, using organic gardening, preventing water pollution by reducing chemical use, growing native plants, and the benefits of water-wise gardening. Free compost tea was available while the supply lasted.

A centerpiece of this year's event was the launch of "It's In Our Power," a town-wide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It's a unique climate collaboration between three New Jersey towns – Montclair, Highland Park and Cherry Hill – state and local government, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All homeowners, renters or landlords, schools, local businesses, and houses of worship will be able to sign up to take part in various projects to help our community save money and reach specific energy reduction goals. The three towns will create a blueprint for other communities to make significant reductions in their carbon footprints.



[www.ourpowermontclair.org](http://www.ourpowermontclair.org)

[www.youtube.com/ourpowermontclair](http://www.youtube.com/ourpowermontclair)

**It's In Our POWER Montclair**

Take Action | Background | Who's Involved | Events | Tips & Resources | Press Room

**It's in Our Power Pledge Update**  
Keep track of pledge support and energy reports from around Montclair.

**Montclair Pledges:**  
36! And counting...  
Be the next, **PLEDGE NOW!**

**It's In Our Power to reduce Montclair's environmental impact**  
Montclair has committed to getting our community on track to solve the climate and energy crisis within two years! We are asking you to pledge to join us. Over the next two years we will be sending you practical, cost-effective steps. If we all do them, then Montclair will be on track to solve this crisis. Click on the Pledge Now button and join us!

**LATEST NEWS!**  
Watch this space for the latest news and info from It's In Our Power Montclair!

**STAY CONNECTED**  
Sign up to receive email updates about the campaign:  
Email address

**PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT**  
It's In Our Power, so take the pledge and help reduce Montclair's environmental impact!