

# UDC BERTIE BACKUS COMPOST PROJECT



The Bertie Backus Compost Project three bin system was completed in September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Each single bin is a 4 ft. x 4 ft. x 4 ft. cube. This system is constructed to protect against rats and other animals, to allow airflow through the pile, and to facilitate access by composters. The wood slats at the front of the bin can be easily removed to provide access to the bottom of each cube. The systems are raised off the ground to allow air to circulate and prevent water from accumulating at the bottom of the pile. The systems are fully enclosed by hardware cloth (a metal mesh cloth), which helps make them rat resistant. The system is designed to facilitate several stages of decomposition, to keep the process tidy, to deter unwanted critters, and to retain heat and moisture during decomposition.

When the first bin has new material or is filling up, the other bins can be composting or curing.

The goal of the project is to introduce the community members to composting, and to help them understand the environmental impact and benefits of composting, as well as increasing community engagement and social bonds in an activity that turns food and garden waste into a soil amendment.

The UDC Bertie Backus Composting Project includes training sessions to the community as part of the CAUSES Food Hub System to become a certified master composter after the completion of the training.

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