

# Composting Vocabulary

Environment - the natural world of land, water, air, plants, and animals

Stewardship - the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

Biodegradable – material that is able to be readily decomposed or broken down by biological means, especially bacterial action.

Compost – organic matter that has been decomposed by microorganisms.

Decay – to rot away; waste away.

Decompose – to break down; change form.

Decomposer – microorganism that breaks down large organic molecules into smaller molecules.

Disintegrate – to break up; crumble to pieces.

Earth – the soil; dry land.

Humus – nutrient-rich organic matter in soil.

Landfill – a method of solid waste disposal in which refuse is buried between layers of dirt to fill in or reclaim low-lying ground.

Microorganism – a living thing too small to be seen with the unaided eye.

Nitrogen – an element most living things consume as food; found in the air we breathe and in all living tissue.

Nutrients – materials a body gets from food to use for energy, growth, and repair; present in compost-rich soil.

Organic – related to food production without chemical fertilizer.

Rot – to decompose naturally.

Soil – top layer of earth's surface.

