



## **Compost! Message Spreading Globally during Compost Awareness Week**

***“Be Resourceful ... COMPOST!” serves as the rallying cry for The Composting Council of Canada, US Composting Council, European Compost Network and UK Composting Association as they join together to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> International Compost Awareness Week (May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup> 2004)***

Over 600 million people across Europe, Canada and the United States will be encouraged to ‘be resourceful ... and compost’ during International Compost Awareness Week (May 2 – 8), thanks to a combined partnership between the European Compost Network, UK Composting Association, US Composting Council and Composting Council of Canada. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the week is designed to promote the benefits of composting and compost for effective resource management and plant growth.

Throughout the week, community events will be held to encourage and celebrate composting. All types of composting – from “do it yourself” composting in your backyard to large-scale community-wide composting – will be promoted. The importance of the use of compost for strong, healthy plant growth will also be strongly emphasized.

“No matter what the country or in whatever language, thirty to fifty percent of the materials that are thrown out are organics,” said Josef Barth, European Compost Network. “This is wasteful and not a good use of valuable resources.”

“What is encouraging though is that, in all our countries, more and more communities and enterprises are making composting happen to help change this situation for the better,” said Jane Gilbert, UK Composting Association.

“Add the extra benefits of the use of compost for improved soil quality and composting becomes an integral part of our drive towards environmental sustainability,” said Stuart Buckner, US Composting Council.

“Compost Awareness Week allows us to work together and bring global attention to this situation and positively encourage all of us to change our mindset and actions,” said Susan Antler, The Composting Council of Canada.

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Compost Awareness Week was first established in Canada in 1995 as a means to promote composting and compost use throughout the country. It is now being celebrated in the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe. Supported by their national composting organization, communities and local environmental groups as well as composting facilities organize local events to promote composting to their area. Backyard composting distribution programs, openings of composting facilities, school gardening programs and tree planting events are just some of the many activities that have been spearheaded as part of the week’s programs.

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