



BOXERWOOD

# BACKYARD COMPOSTING Challenge

March 11 – May 20, 2023

Buena Vista, Lexington, Rockbridge County

**WANTED:**

## CITIZEN-SCIENTISTS

**Problem:** Hauling food waste to the landfill wastes energy and money. Food waste buried in landfills also releases methane, a harmful greenhouse gas for our atmosphere.

**Solution:** Let's help the Earth and ourselves by keeping food waste out of the landfill through backyard composting – which makes garden soil.

**Investigative Question:** How much food waste could local households keep out of the landfill if given the opportunity?

**The Plan:** Recruit 80 households from Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge as project participants (citizen-scientists). Give them composter kits. The households weigh the amount of food waste they send to their composter each week, then upload their week's total to the Boxerwood website.

Boxerwood compiles the data for 10 weeks and shares each week's anonymous totals. At the end, we analyze the data and share it with participants and local government.

**Who:** Anyone can participate, but **only those not currently composting are eligible to receive the kit.** **Priority to households with children;** all other households selected by lottery.

**The Kit:** Selected participants will receive a composter, pail, hand scale, plus instructions. These citizen-scientists will also receive a weekly update from Boxerwood. Households that plan to keep on composting after the project may **keep their kit!**

*This community project is funded by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the City of Lexington, the City of Buena Vista, Rockbridge County, and Boxerwood.*

## Got Slop?



Meet the 80-gallon **EARTH MACHINE**: a simple, durable, recycled plastic - a top-selling municipal composter.

Register by March 6, 2023 by clicking **HERE**, by tapping the QR code, or <https://boxerwood.org/compost-join/>

