

The logo for the University of New England, featuring the lowercase letters 'une' in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

University of
New England



Compost Field Day

Tarinore Farm, Wollomombi

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Introduction

- Soils and compost
- Future Food System CRC
- Why compost municipal organic waste
- Challenges with composting organic municipal wastes
- A bit about landfills

Soils and compost

- Healthy soils contain huge amounts of life
 - Biodiversity and total of earth's biomass
- Healthy living soils key to sustainable farming
- Compost, vermicast and humus preparations
 - Soil inoculant and disease control
 - Carbon and soil moisture
 - Roots, roots... roots!

What are your thoughts about biodynamics?

Future Food System CRC

- Armidale (New England NW) identified as a food hub
 - <https://www.futurefoodsystems.com.au/fresh-food-precincts/>
- Predominately focussed on protected cropping
- Strong focus on the *Circular Economy*
 - Waste
 - Water
 - Energy

Composting

- Why compost organic waste (green and food)
 - Large fraction of MSW
 - Generates methane and leachate when decomposes anaerobically in landfill
 - Creates odour and attracts vermin at landfills

Composting

- Challenges with composting organic municipal wastes
 - Access to a suitable composting facility
 - Managing physical contamination of compost (glass, metals and plastic)
 - Propagules (weed seed)
 - Odour and animal (vermin) control
 - Maintaining compost quality and securing markets

Composting



Armidale Regional Council - City to Soil

Landfills

- Landfill space is becoming a constraint for many jurisdictions in Australia
 - New (green field) landfill approvals difficult to secure due to public opposition
 - Public is rightfully concerned about landfill and the expectation is on more recycling and reuse of waste

Get organic waste out of landfill

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Conclusion

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