

Green Cone Recycling

How the GREEN CONE Works

Sunlight - (Maximum Sunshine)

The Green Cone uses the sun's heat to accelerate the composting process and lengthen the composting season.

Kitchen Waste

All organic kitchen waste

Solar Heat Trap

The outside wall is translucent. The inside wall is opaque. This creates a solar heat trap.

Inside Vents

Vents allow heated moist air to circulate inside the Green Cone.

Digestion Chamber

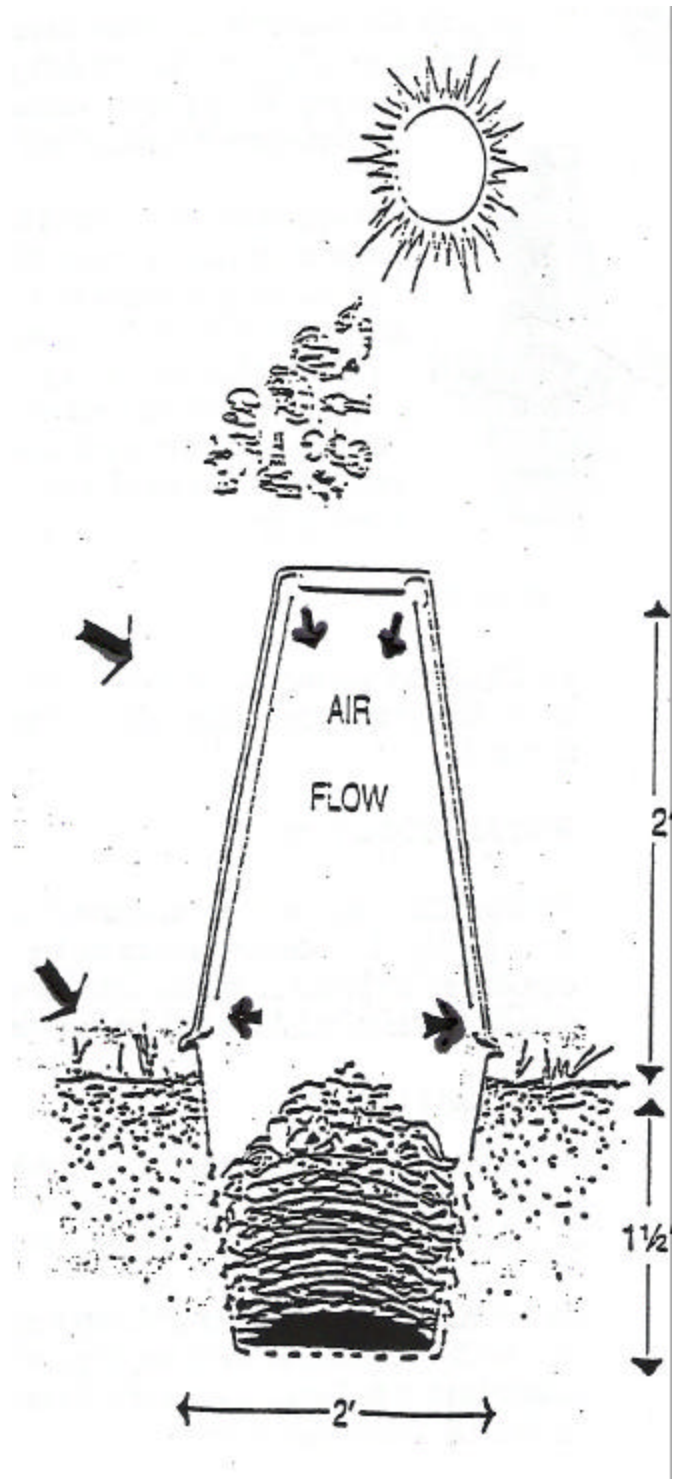
The digestion chamber is buried in the ground.

The ground acts as an insulator in the winter.

Food waste is approximately 80% water that is absorbed by the ground.

The Soil absorbs odors that may be given off and lets air into the system.

Natural microbes enter the heap from the soil and break down the waste.



Green Cone™ Composter

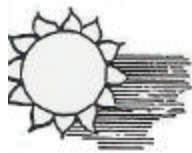
What is the Green Cone Composter ?

The Green Cone* is a recycled plastic food waste digester. It consists of a cone with a lid that sits above ground, and a plastic basket that is placed in a hole in the ground approximately 20 inches deep. The Green Cone™ is unique in its design because it has a double wall construction that traps and utilizes the sun's heat.

How Does It Work ?

The key to the Green Cone™ is how it uses the sun's heat to accelerate the composting process. The double wall construction, with dark-green and clear layers, creates a solar heat trap. Venting causes warmed air to circulate into the digestion chamber, where it "breathes" into the soil instead of out into the air.

The digestion chamber is buried in the ground. In the winter the ground acts as an insulator, allowing efficient operation year-round. Because food waste is approximately 80% water and the water is absorbed by the ground, the volume of the food waste quickly dissipates. In addition, the soil absorbs orders that may be given off, and natural microbes enter the heap from the soil and breaks down the remaining waste. Most of the remaining matter decays and disappears into the surrounding earth. A small portion of digested waste is left behind in the form of fertile humus (compost).



Why Use It ?

The Green Cone™ is ideally suited for people who want a simple alternative to disposing of their food scraps in the garbage, and who have no desire to harvest compost from their scraps.

What About Maintenance ?

The Green Cone™ requires little maintenance. There is no turning required, as the cone design provides the necessary aeration of the materials. About every other year, depending on the volume of material deposited in the cone, a shovel can be used to clean out the basket, and the residue can be buried somewhere in the yard.

Where Can I Get One ?

By attending one of the Kitchen Waste Composting classes presented by the Thurston County Master Composters and sponsored by the City of Olympia and Thurston County. A schedule of all classes will be available at Dirt Works, Closed Loop Park or the County Extension Office.

For more information contact the Thurston County Waste Line at 754-4348 or 1-800-624-1234 Ext. 7676; the city of Olympia Solid Waste, Recycling and Composting Line at 753-8377 during normal business hours; the Thurston County Master Gardener/Master Composted Line at 786-5441 between 10 AM and 2 PM Monday through Friday.

Site Selection & Installation of Your GREEN CONE™

For optimum performance, consider the following when choosing your Green Cone site:

1. Sunlight: The more sunlight, the better.
2. Soil Conditions & Drainage: Organic Waste is largely composed of water. As the waste decomposes, the water seeps out of the basket and into the ground. Water must drain freely from the basket, as this is a vital part of the digestion process.

If your yard is:	Drainage Concerns:	Action Needed:
Soil	None	Backfill loosely around basket with soil
Clay	Yes	Dig large hole, backfill with topsoil or 1 to 1 mixture of topsoil & peat moss
Sand	Yes	Dig large hole, backfill with topsoil or 1 to 1 mixture of topsoil & peat moss.

3. Water Table: The Green Cone should always be placed above the water table. If water begins to appear when you dig your hole, then you know you are below the water table.
4. Shelter from the wind.
5. Convenient location; Remember, easy access from your kitchen to your Green Cone will make the task of disposing of food waste easier for you.

Questions & Answers about the Green Cone™

What is it? A kitchen waste food digester made from recycled plastic.

Why use it? It's a simple alternative to disposing food scraps in the garbage if one has no desire or need to harvest compost.

Maintenance? Very little required due to the design. About every year or two (depending on volume of food scraps) the residue should be cleaned out or the cone should be moved.

Can it be used in Winter? Yes. In freezing weather, the food will rise inside the cone, but the pile will shrink into the basket when weather warms up.

Are there odors? Not if the pile is working well. If odors occur, a thin layer of Green Cone Accelerator should eliminate them by absorbing excess moisture and helping to keep the pile aerated.

Can yard waste be composted in the cone? It is not recommended. The unit would have to be emptied more often due to the bulk of yard wastes and the relatively small size of the cone.

Will the food in the cone attract animals? This is unlikely if used according to instructions. Remember: Keep the lid closed & clean up any food spills outside the cone.

