

Volunteers help with composters.

The staff of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) held a home composting workshop in November of 2007. It was well attended and the participants asked for more workshops in the future. HSWCD staff told the group that they would put on more workshops, but they needed some help with building the home composting units. Seven people stepped up after the workshop and offered their services. With the assistance of these community spirited men and woman, the HSWCD staff intends to host another home composting workshop this spring.

This fine group of volunteers joined together for a brainstorming session on building home composters and came up with efficient, cost and time saving ideas for the design and construction of these units. With the help of these volunteers, Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District may be able to supply 50 composters for our next workshop.

Thus far, the group has put in over 50 hours and plans to come in every Wednesday and work until the goal of 50 composter kits has been met. Once they build these units, HSWCD will put on a workshop and supply anyone who is interested in composting a “composting kit” for a small fee, which will cover the cost of the materials.

It is so refreshing to see people working in our community that want to be a part of keeping our County beautiful and environmentally friendly. These men and woman come out on their own time, expecting no pay or compensation, simply to perform a task that needs to be done. They want to be a part of the solution to help the environment. Our volunteers are all practicing composters and they believe in the concept of producing less waste and using the garbage we do produce for a good purpose.

These good folks also help in other areas. When the need to put up a portable shed to house our composters came up and County staff was too busy to assist, guess who came to our rescue? That’s right, our volunteers came out and the shed was constructed in three hours. So whoever said “you can’t get something for nothing” hasn’t met these people!

We are very proud of and pleased with our volunteers. They always show up with a cheerful – can do attitude and share knowledge and ideas with us and each other. They are skilled folks and we even have a couple of carpenters among them. These composters are going to be great!

This community minded group is made up of Carl and Anna Fette, Eric Maron, Gary Pendrak, Bud Wallen, Gerald Hibbs and Ed Cunningham.

The staff from Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District certainly appreciates the help. We would not be able to supply Highlands County residents with home composters without their assistance. The hours and labor these people are putting into this, with expectations of nothing in return, is refreshing.

In this world where a common attitude seems to be “what’s in it for me?” it is good to know that there are folks around who want to contribute to society for no gain and make the world a better place. Thank you so much to each of you volunteers; we couldn’t do it without you!