



Spotlight

Community composting: Holm Grown

February 2025



A local initiative in Inverness to help reduce food waste and produce on-site compost for Holm Grown community gardens. This community composting project at Holm Grown aims to reduce the overall amount of waste going into household landfill bins and, instead, turn food “waste” into compost which can then be used in the community gardens and grow more local produce. It’s also a great way for local residents to get involved a community group and get their hands in the soil.

Background

The Holm Grown Community Composting pilot set out to reduce the amount of household food waste sent to landfill by transforming food scraps into nutrient rich compost. This compost is then used in the community growing space, creating a closed-loop system that benefits the community and the environment.

This project built on the experience and knowledge acquired through the Kilmallie Community Composting Pilot Project, led by Highland Community Waste Partnership partners The Highland Good Food Partnership (HGFP) and Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG).



Development

Two composters, a 'Joraform Compost Tumbler', and a 200 litre hot bin composter were purchased by Holm Community Council and Velocity for Holm Grown gardens.

We held a community composting networking event at Holm Grown gardens to share the project, gather sign-ups and learn how to get the community composting and reduce food waste going to landfill.

Participating households were asked to fill their 6-litre caddies with raw fruit and vegetable scraps and drop them off at the community garden composters.

Similarly to the [Kilmallie project](#), Holm Grown made the decision to only accept raw fruit and vegetable scraps, excluding any animal by-products (ABPs) such as meat and eggs. This meant that the only SEPA registration requirement was the short two-page application for the "Paragraph 12- Notice of intention to carry out small scale composting (<2m³) at business or education facilities" as each composter is less than 2m³.

Impact and next steps

It was too early to capture any impact from this project at the time of writing.

We are hopeful that, similar to the Kilmallie community composting project, this project will be successful in diverting food waste from landfill, demonstrating the value of community composting and how small communities can make a big impact on sustainability.

See also:

[Kilmallie community composting pilot](#)

[Highland community composting resource](#)

The Highland Community Waste Partnership (2022-2025)

Funded by The National Lottery Climate Action Fund, and coordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful, the Highland Community Waste Partnership (HCWP) brought together eight community groups in the Highlands to reduce waste and promote more sustainable consumption.

Learn more here: www.keeptscotlandbeautiful.org/highlandcommunitywaste/