

**Temple Israel Environmental Task Force  
Green Tip Sheet, May 2008**

**The 4 R's of Environmental Awareness:**

**RETHINK/REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE/**

**REDUCE/RECYCLE:**

Composting

Zero waste! What a concept! Do you realize that there are people working on achieving that goal? What can you do to help? Read on about home composting!

If you live in Memphis and put your yard waste out for the city to pick up, you are already participating in a composting project! ([click here](#) - go towards the bottom of that web page - to see how Memphis treats yard waste.) The city creates compost from your yard waste and sells it to contractors or uses excess around the city. Our yard waste doesn't go to the landfill! However, our garbage does.

Ordinary garbage is mostly organic waste...kitchen waste, left over food, etc ([click here](#) for more details). [About two-thirds](#) of what goes into the landfill is organic waste. And it remains there forever. As population increases, we will require more and more land area for landfills to store this waste.

What can you do to help? Instead of putting your organic waste into the garbage bin, consider composting! The [EPA](#) has much some general information about composting. Many states like [California](#) have general information as well. There are various levels of composting from the compost heap or [large composter](#) in your backyard to the [smaller kitchen composters](#). These are just two examples. A web search on "home composting" will find many more options including a bucket you can keep in the kitchen!!

Remember Confucious says:

**[A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step!](#)**

Your Temple Environmental Task Force  
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