

# Association of Compost Producers

*"We Build Healthy Soil"*

## Our Vision

Complete beneficial reuse of organics residuals in California, with compost playing a central role to build and re-build sustainable healthy soils, keeping our state's lands productive, green and biologically diverse for generations to come.

## Our Mission

The **Association of Compost Producers** (ACP) is a non-profit association of public and private organizations *dedicated to increasing the quality, value and amount of compost being used in California.* We do this by promoting activities and regulations that *build healthy soil*, benefiting people and protecting air, water and soil.

ACP members work and *invest* together to increase compost *markets* and improve compost product & manufacturing *standards*. The association provides *education & communication* on compost benefits & proper use through support of scientific *research & legislation* aligned with developing and expanding quality compost markets.

## ACP Members Core Values

- Building healthy soil, our customers' needs and product safety drive the quality of our products, our manufacturing processes and soil testing methods, not (solely) regulations.
- We support regulations that build healthy soil, benefit people and the environment.
- We never use our markets to *dispose* of excess product inventory.
- We never site a composting facility that will not be *welcomed* by the surrounding community.
- The odor of our products and facilities will match the expectations of our customers.
- We support creating value not merely "lowest cost."
- We assume people are smart enough to understand clear ideas of value. It is our job to inform them with simple, meaningful messages.

## Healthy Soil Benefits, Characteristics

**The benefits of healthy soil, made with compost, are:**

- **Healthy Soil Delivers Water Abundance and Productivity**
  - Healthy soil made with compost can conserve up to 30% of water use by itself. When combined with efficient irrigation systems, California-friendly plants, and optimal maintenance; water savings can be as high as 80-90% over traditional landscapes!
- **Composted Organics Saves Landfill Space**

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## "We Build Healthy Soil"

- We can return nutrients and organic matter in plant clippings, selected food leftovers, animal manure, and biosolids to the land in the form of compost where they *build healthy soil* in our communities, conserving up to 70% of landfill space for non-recyclable wastes.
- **Compost Helps Turn Marginal Soil into Healthy Soil**
  - Marginal or sub-standard, unproductive soils must be re-built either by the developer or the new property owner in order to grow anything *and* conserve water.
- **Healthy Soil Makes Cleaner Groundwater Basins**
  - Healthy soil made with proper compost can help purify the water that seeps to the groundwater basin. How?
- **Compost Controls Pests and Weeds**
  - Compost use reduces the need for pesticides and herbicides. How?
- **Healthy Soil Increases Water Purity & Abundance**
  - Healthy soil made with compost is a proven remedy to reduce runoff that can cause surface water pollution and to return more clean rainwater into local aquifers.

### Healthy soil has the following attributes:

- **Optimum Structure:** An optimum combination of physical inorganic and organic constituents that maximize productivity for each plant species:
  - *Erosion Resistant:* A property of healthy soil is that it absorbs rain fall and run off because of it's added organic matter which acts as a sponge.
  - *Good Depth:* Optimum top soil depth for growing the desired landscape, crop or native ecosystem
- **Balanced Nutrients:** Proper balance of natural and beneficial compounds, especially beneficial plant nutrients:
  - *Macro Nutrients:* The main plant nutrients include nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sulphur. Adding too much of these beneficial nutrients can be toxic to plants or seep below the root zone and contaminate the groundwater.
  - *Micro Nutrients:* The remaining essential elements needed by plants include boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, and zinc. Again, too much of any of these can be harmful or toxic to plants.
  - *Water:* Optimum water content for cultivation of desired plants.
- **Non-Toxic:** No excess accumulation of contaminants that might be toxic to plants, animals or people, including but not limited to:
  - *Salt*, in its various forms
  - *Trace metals* above the amount required by plants
  - *Organic compounds* that are unnatural and/or present in toxic amounts
- **Pathogen Free:** Acceptable, low levels of pathogens or harmful microorganisms
- **Diligence:** Healthy soil must be diligently managed to maintain the optimum profile for its use.