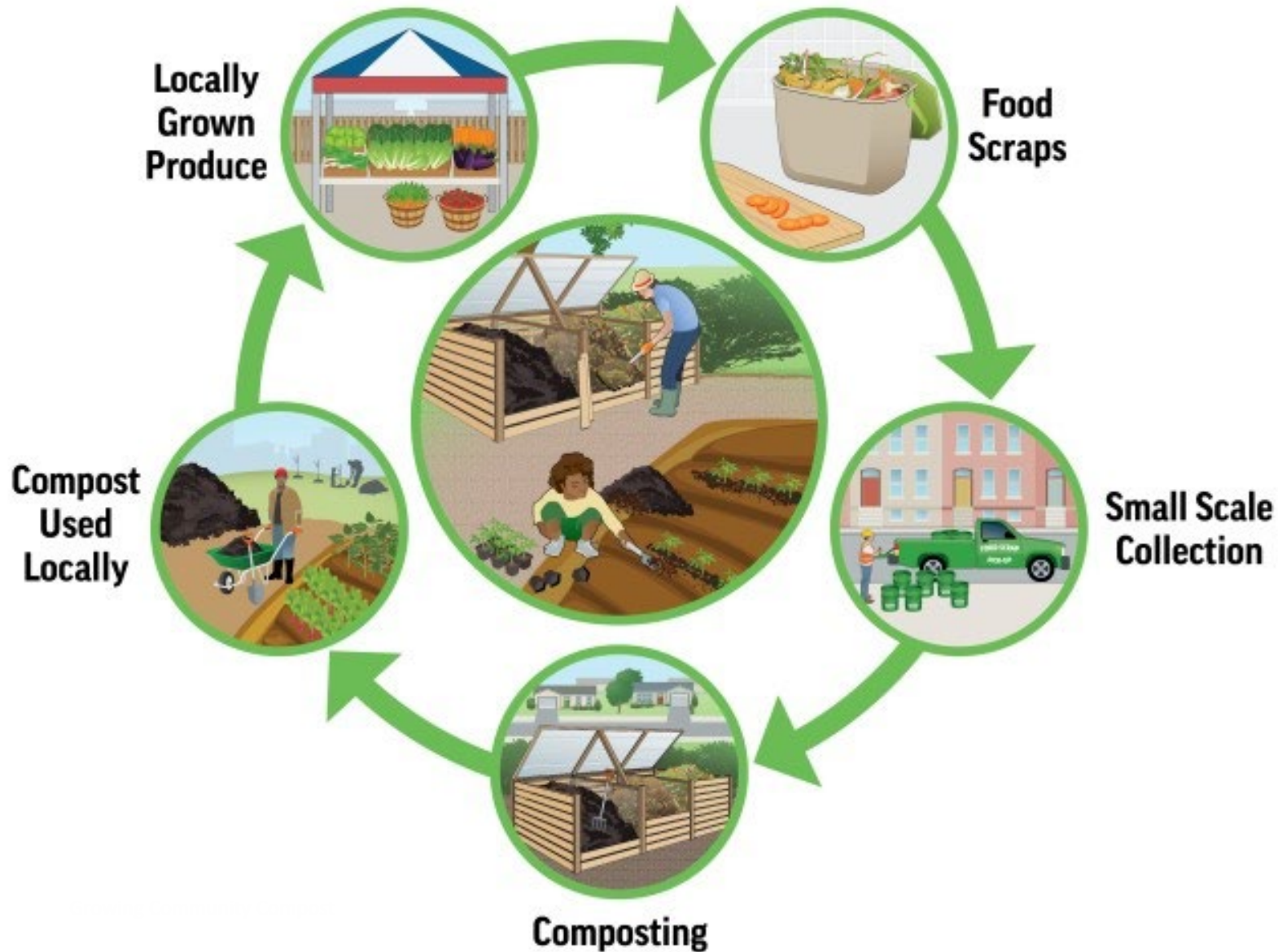




# Growing Community Compost

The Solution Multiplier



## Community Composting Basics

Community composting is a model of composting that sources organic materials locally, engages the community in the composting process, and uses the compost produced in local soils.

## ➤ Drivers for Community Compost

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANDATE

Existing Island County Waste Services are wasting valuable natural resources and are a climate change disaster happening every day.

Island County relies on diesel powered equipment to dump around 60,000 tons pa of “so called garbage” aka lost resources 400 miles to be buried at Roosevelt Landfill.

# ➤ Drivers for Community Compost

## FINANCIAL MANDATE

Existing Island County Waste Services are a BIG WASTE of \$\$.

Island County residents collectively expend near \$11,000,000 to trash valuable organic resources and pollute the environment. Given 40-50% of all IC trash is organic - vast system savings are achievable with a greater reliance on lower cost community-based distributive composting systems.

## ➤ Drivers for Community Compost

### LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

Washington State Law required diversion of organics material from landfill.

“The state establishes a goal for the landfill disposal of organic materials at a level representing a 75 percent reduction by 2030 in the statewide disposal of organic material waste, relative to 2015 levels.”

HB 1799 / 2022

## ➤ Drivers for Community Compost

# CLOSING THE LOOP ON ISLAND FOOD SECURITY

“Enhancing Whidbey Island Circular Food Economy”  
Creating Sustainability and Resilience

The missing link in Whidbey Island Food System Security is the absence of supply of local quality compost. Keyword: Jobs, Food and Health, Resilience

A wide-angle photograph of a massive landfill. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by a chaotic, sprawling pile of waste. Visible items include numerous black, green, and white plastic bags, cardboard boxes, food scraps like banana peels and vegetable scraps, and various pieces of trash. In the background, several large trucks are parked or moving, and the horizon shows a line of trees under a clear sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of overwhelming waste.

Take your choice...

THIS?

OR THIS?







Community Compost  
is a solution multiplier and a  
stakeholder

**AGGREGATOR**

COMPOST UNITES COMMUNITIES



## STEP ONE: Launch an Island County Compost Collaborative Campaign

*The Whidbey Compost Champions could be an umbrella organization made up of both individuals and key Whidbey Island organizations and businesses dedicated to the promotion and enablement of the collection, processing and use of quality life-enhancing compost in Island County.*

➤ **Community Food Champions**

Good Cheer Garden/Food Bank

Whidbey Island Nourishes (WIN)

Goosefoot Foundation

The Goose Market

WI Food Resilience Program

Slow Food Whidbey

# ➤ Compost Champions

Tilth

Organic Farm School

Greenbank Farm

South Whidbey School Garden

Coupeville Farm to School Program

Washington State Extension Services

Key Drivers of Community Compost Education / Demonstrations for  
homeowners and institutions

- **Community Eco-System Champions**  
Sound Water Stewards  
Whidbey Climate ACTION  
Whidbey Island Environmental Network  
Fresh Water Stewards  
Whidbey Camino Land Trust  
Pacific Rim Institute  
Re-Purpose

FOCUS ON ADVANCING COMMUNITY COMPOST COLLECTIVE TO  
THEIR MEMBERS AND PROMOTE THE COLLECTION & USE OF  
COMPOST IN THEIR WORK TO REGENERATE THE EARTH

- **Public Agency Champions**
  - Langley City
  - Coupeville Port Authority
  - Whidbey Health Authority
  - Island County
  - Washington State Dept. of Ecology

It is now time to transform an essential public service from “Waste Management” to “Resource Management” to save money, enhance eco-system viability, protect the public health and promote sustainable economic development

# Community Farmer Champions

Whidbey Island Grown Cooperative  
Farmer's Markets

Whidbey Island Farm Stand Network  
Growing Veterans

Whidbey Island Growers Association

WIGC & WIGA represent over 75 local farmers and food producers, who grow and make a wide variety of products from fresh vegetables, herbs, and flowers to meat, dairy, canned goods, fermented foods, goat milk soap, fresh pie, and much more. They have a vested

interest in making quality compost

# ISLAND COUNTY (WA) FOOD SYSTEM: ASSETS & RESOURCES

## LEGEND

Food Producers



Marketing Outlets



Educating Farmers and Healthy Eaters



Food Insecurity Non-Profits



Agriculture Resource Groups and Affiliates



**Farmers**  
**Food Producers**  
**Ranchers**

**Farmers Markets**  
**Farm Stands/CSA's**  
**Whidbey Island Grown Cooperative Food Hub**

**Growing Veterans**  
**Coupeville Farm to School Program**  
**Organic Farm School**  
**South Whidbey School Farm**

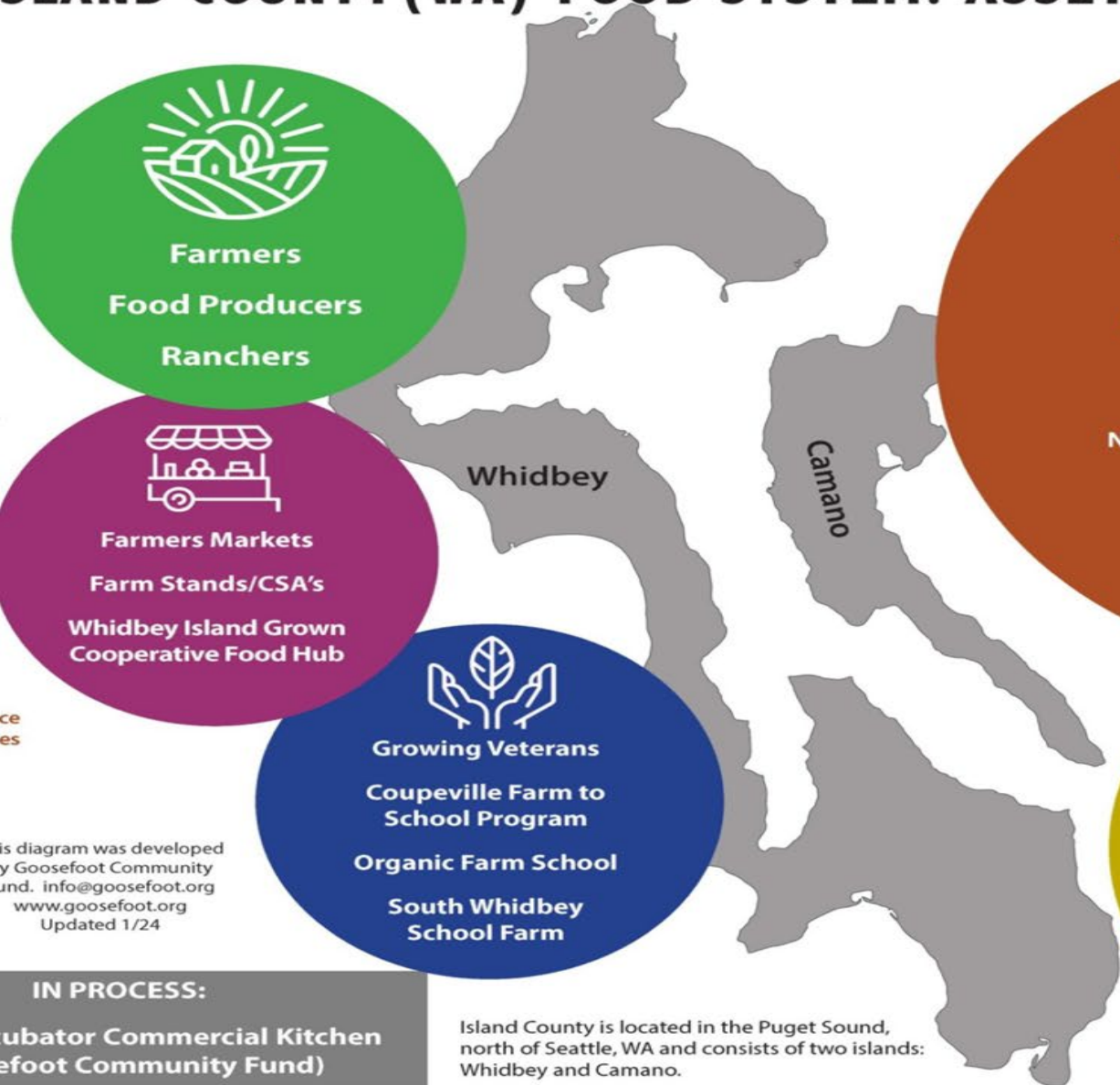
**Agricultural Resources Committee/IC**  
**South Whidbey Tilth**  
**Whidbey Island Conservation District**  
**WI Food Resiliency Consortium**  
**Whidbey Island Growers Association**  
**WSU Extension Island County**  
**Slow Food Whidbey**  
**Northwest Agricultural Business Center**  
**Snohomish Conservation District**  
**Goosefoot Community Fund**  
**Port of South Whidbey/ Fairgrounds Commercial Kitchen**

**Camano Center**  
**Gifts from the Heart Food Bank**  
**Good Cheer Food Bank & Farm**  
**Island Senior Resources**  
**North Whidbey Help House**  
**Readiness to Learn**  
**Stanwood/Camano Food Bank**  
**Whidbey Island Nourishes**

This diagram was developed by Goosefoot Community Fund. [info@goosefoot.org](mailto:info@goosefoot.org)  
[www.goosefoot.org](http://www.goosefoot.org)  
Updated 1/24

**IN PROCESS:**  
**Shared Incubator Commercial Kitchen (Goosefoot Community Fund)**

Island County is located in the Puget Sound, north of Seattle, WA and consists of two islands: Whidbey and Camano.





## ➤ Langley Pilot Prime Activities

**FOOD:**

**Bokashi Composting**

**LANDSCAPE:**

**Langley City Coles Rd.**

**SUPERIOR COMPOST:**

**TBD**

**COMMUNICATIONS / MARKETING / FUND RAISING**

The goal of the pilot project is to determine best practices in rolling out a decentralized community compost program, collecting and processing the community's organic materials to aid in the growing of food and supporting ecosystem regeneration projects on Whidbey Island.

**FOOD RESOURCES**  
PILOT PROJECT ACTION

# Whidbey Climate Fund Supports Langley Food Compost Projects

*Running In parallel with the formation of the Community Compost Alliance Program -Whidbey Climate Action's Community Climate Fund has provided \$5,000 to support the Langley-based "Compost Collective" to expand its current home offering to collect and process food scraps using bokashi and worms.*



## *Landscape & Garden Resources*

### PILOT PROJECT ACTION



Those citizens and businesses of Langley that cannot operate “at home” on-site composting of landscape and garden organic materials will be directed to drop off approved organic materials to the Composting / Waste Water Treatment site on Coles Road operated by the City of Langley.

Langley’s Public Works Director Randi Perry has given her support in principle for the Whidbey Compost Collective in concert with the Langley City Council to prepare the following:

- Langley Compost Business Plan
- Compost Processing Site Renovation
- In partnership with the City of Langley secure funding for the construction and roll out of the proposed Langley City Compost Enterprise.

## *Superior Compost*

PILOT PROJECT ACTION #3



Example: Dr David Johnson's Fungus-based bio-reactor

## *Beyond Compost - Blending the Best*

A primary goal of our Whidbey Community Compost Collective (WCCC) is to make and market the finest range of organic compost products suited to our wide ranging of agricultural pursuits – from home pollinator gardening to commercial production planting.

The WCCC's goal is maximum soil fertility. Simply settling for "organic elimination from landfill bound material" is an admirable achievement but it is not enough. Therefore, within the WCCC, interested parties will collaborate to integrate a range of composting processes be they mycelium additives or biochar or vermiculture worm tea.

The goal is to make superior compost that give life fulfilling nutrients to Whidbey's growing environment.

How this happens is to be determined.

## EDUCATION & MARKETING

### PILOT PROJECT ACTION



The Best Option is to Keep It all At Home

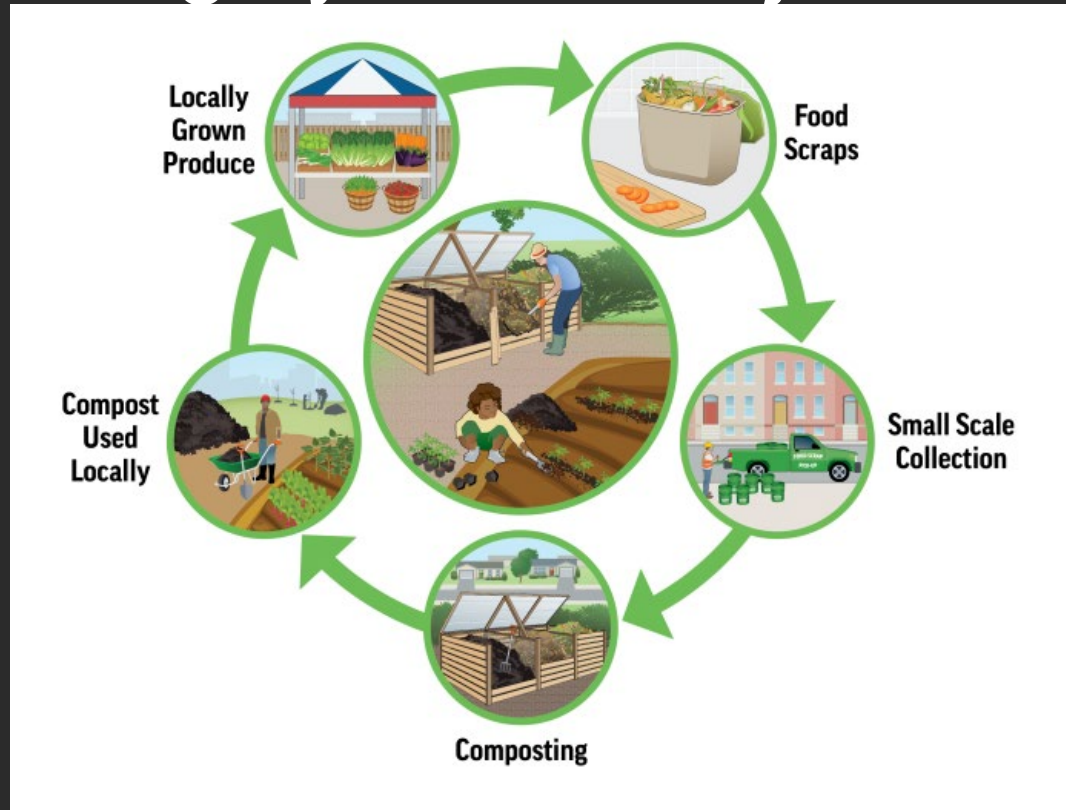
This project when broken down to its elemental parts is underpinned by a community united in pursuit of 100% diversion of organics from landfill.

The good news is Compost is a Community Aggregator.

To succeed, this project will draw upon the talents and passions of individuals and organizations who have a track record of caring for the environment and growing food for Island County residents.

A fully resourced education program, lead by august organizations like Tilth, The Organic Farm School, South Whidbey School Garden Program, Washington State Extension Service and Whidbey Grown Cooperative to name a just a few, has the capacity to deliver Whidbey Community Compost's goals

# Langley Pilot Project



**LANDSCAPING AND GARDEN ORGANICS**  
 Expand and enhance the Langley City Composting Services @ their Coles Road Waste Water Treatment Plant.

**FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION**  
 Whidbey Climate ACTION supports “Compost Collective” to expand their collection and processing of food wastes in Langley.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION & MARKETING**  
 Key to success is education and marketing to residents of Langley to build total support for Compost Champion Program.