

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Magic of Composting: Turning Scraps into Gold

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

3. One innovative use of compost is in community gardens and urban farming projects. In many urban areas, composting initiatives collect food scraps from local households and businesses to create high-quality compost. This compost is then used in community gardens to grow fresh produce for local residents.

This approach is beneficial because it reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, conserves water, and supports local food production. It also reduces greenhouse gas emissions by diverting organic waste from landfills. Plus, it fosters a sense of community and provides access to fresh, healthy food in urban environments.

4. Composting has a significantly lower environmental impact compared to sending organic waste to landfills. When organic waste, such as kitchen scraps and yard trimmings, ends up in landfills, it decomposes anaerobically (without oxygen), producing methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Composting, on the other hand, promotes aerobic decomposition, reducing methane emissions. Instead of generating harmful gases, composting creates nutrient-rich soil conditioner that improves soil health and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.

Composting also lessens the burden on landfills, extends their lifespan, and reduces transportation costs associated with waste disposal. Overall, it plays a crucial role in building a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future by minimizing waste, conserving resources, and mitigating climate change.

