



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, May 15, 2015

**Contact:** Sandy Rusch Walton  
414.286.3261 (o)  
414.708.2386 (c)  
[slrusch@milwaukee.gov](mailto:slrusch@milwaukee.gov)

## **City of Milwaukee Hosts Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale – May 16, 2015**

*Residents encouraged to learn more about composting and harvesting rainwater to reduce waste and save money*

The City of Milwaukee will host a **one-day-only, first-come first-served** backyard compost bin and rain barrel sale on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Wilson Park Senior Center parking lot, 2601 W. Howard Ave. The event will take place rain or shine, and is ***not*** restricted to City of Milwaukee residents.

A limited number of Earth Machine™ compost bins and SYSTEM rain barrels will be available for \$45 and \$55 respectively (including tax), offering significant savings from regular retail prices of \$100 and \$120, respectively. Compost turners (\$15) and kitchen scrap pails (\$7) also will be available for purchase.

**Cash, checks MasterCard and VISA are all accepted.**

Past truckload sales events saw more than 1,200 people purchasing more than 1,000 compost bins and 800 rain barrels.

“In the City of Milwaukee we are serious about sustainability,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “Composting helps reduce solid waste and saves Milwaukee taxpayers money by conserving landfill space and avoided disposal costs. The more residents commit to green behaviors such as recycling and composting, the more we can move Milwaukee towards our goal of reaching 40% landfill diversion.”

“Yard materials were banned from landfills in Wisconsin starting in 1993. Home composting is a great way to manage leaves, grass clippings, garden trimmings, your fruit and vegetable scraps and other organic materials,” said Rick Meyers, Resource Recovery Program Manager for the City of Milwaukee. “A recent DPW demonstration study showed that households using backyard compost bins divert about 25% of their food waste from their trash.”

Are you a beginner composter? Not to worry – each compost bin comes with a “Home Composting Handbook.” Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search for “compost” for more information.

Rainwater harvesting is the perfect complement to composting efforts. One inch of rainwater falling onto a 1,000 square-foot roof yields up to 600 gallons of water saved from our storm water sewer systems. Residents can use this harvested water for their lawns and gardens without turning on the tap, which conserves our natural resources and helps save money on their water bills. To learn more about rainwater harvesting, visit [freshcoast740.com](http://freshcoast740.com).

**For more information, visit [www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com) or call (414) 286-CITY (-2489).**

###

