



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Reduce your waste and COMPOST!**

County Council encourages waste prevention at composting workshops

**County Clare, IRELAND, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007** - Clare County Council will host a series of waste prevention events from 15 May to 12 June to give practical advice to householders on ways to reduce waste. Events will initially be held in Tulla, Kilmihil, Lisdoonvarna, Sixmilebridge, Crusheen, Killaloe, Westbury, Stonehall and Kilkee and will feature a composting workshop with a slide show and practical demonstration, as well as practical information and tips on preventing waste.

Internationally recognised home composting pioneer, Craig H. Benton will deliver the series of workshops for Clare County Council during May and June. Mr. Benton started the first Master Composter program for the City of Seattle in 1984. Since then, thousands of communities around the world have implemented similar programs that teach volunteers how to compost successfully.

According to Mr. Benton, *“The events will provide the basics of composting, the various composting systems available to residents, and how to use the compost made from your own system.”*

He added, *“Composting is easy and simple to do. It saves you money while providing a useful amendment to help beautify your garden. So everybody should give it a try”*.

Cllr Patricia McCarthy, Chairperson of the Strategic Policy Committee commented, *“The Clare/Limerick/Kerry Waste Management Plan stresses the importance of preventing waste, and composting is a great starting point. This is an excellent opportunity to learn the correct skills for successful composting from Mr. Craig Benton, a specialist in the field of composting. I am urging householders in Clare not to miss out on this opportunity to attend these very interesting and informative events.”*

Speaking ahead of the workshops, Joan Tarmey, Environmental Awareness Officer with Clare County Council explained, *“Nowadays, householders are very conscious of their impact on the environment and are keen to find ways of preventing waste such as composting, using new style washable nappies and lots more. This is a great chance to ask all those questions you’ve been storing up.”*

Ms. Tarmey indicated that the Local Authority anticipated holding further workshops during 2007, depending on public demand.

Composters are available for sale in six locations around County Clare:

***Ennis Recycling Centre, Gort Road, Ennis (Tel: 065-6893705)***

***Central Waste Management Facility, Ballyduff Beg, Inagh (Tel: 065-6836960)***

***Kilrush Town Council, Kilrush (Tel: 065-9051039)***

***Lisdeen Recycling Centre, Lisdeen, Kilkee (Tel: 065-9060172)***

***Scariff Recycling Centre, Fossabeg, Scariff (Tel: 061-921735)***

***Shannon Town Council, Shannon (Tel: 061-362319)***

Booking is not required for the upcoming series of workshops. Persons interested in receiving further information or having a possible workshop held in their area are invited to contact staff in the Environment Section of Clare County Council on 065-6846503 or 065-6846386.