



## **The Climate Action Toolkit (C.A.T)**

### **Are you an Educator?**

### **Here's how to use this C.A.T. with youth!**

#### **Coordinating Guide with C.A.T.:**

#### ***Difference between Compostable and Biodegradable***

##### **What** you need to know:

Terms like "Compostable" and "Biodegradable" are often found on packaged products as a selling point against competing products, yet many students are not aware of the distinction. Understanding these terms can help improve consumer literacy and enable students to take actionable steps to improve their environment.

##### **Why** is this important for climate change?

- Understanding these terms can improve your consumer literacy.
- By composting, you help to enrich your local environment and make a small and important action for climate change.
- When food decomposes in a landfill, it releases methane (a greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere; composting prevents this from happening. Composting improves soil quality and reduces landfill waste.

#### ***Empowering youth voices and action***

##### **How** can I incorporate this toolkit into my curriculum?

- This toolkit fits perfectly within an instructional unit; it is designed to support student learning and can be used as an additional formative assessment
- The toolkit was designed to empower youth to research, explore, and take action
- Students will be able to complete the assignment independently, in cooperative groupings, or as a class

- **Note:** This toolkit can be used as a differentiated activity and/or support struggling students

### **Extended-learning opportunities.**

Composting is a great action project for an entire school to participate in and manage. The process shared can easily be expanded, and the results would go a long way in showcasing the impact youth can have on their environment.

**Toolkit procedures:** Take action; [click here](#) to learn how to compost.

### **What actions can you take now?**

- Connect with another educator and/or community member to initiate and launch a [community conversation](#) in your school.
- Allow students opportunities to think about the climate issues that are facing your community
- Arrange instructional assignments for students to research a noteworthy climate issue in your area
- Encourage students to draft a list of potential participants that can represent unique perspectives and perceptions on this issue
- Contact your local TCI Regional Coordinator (RC) for support and assistance connecting with area resources:
  - [Maria Claudia Schubert-Fontes](#) (East Coast)
  - [Caitlin Neal-Jones](#) (Central)
  - [Stephanie Rivas](#) (West Coast)

### **Want to share your “Story of Change”?**

Share how this toolkit impacted you, your students, and/or community to inspire others to take meaningful climate action in their communities. Visit our [Stories of Change](#) webpage to learn more about how to submit your story! You can also email our team with questions at [programs@theclimateinitiative.org](mailto:programs@theclimateinitiative.org).