The Earth Cube Community Build Workshop

What is the Earth Cube Workshop?
The Earth Cube Community Build Workshop is an on-site training course/hands-on workshop to help community members transform Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBC’s) into Earth Cube food waste composting systems for use in their own communities.

How Does An Earth Cube Workshop Work?
We work with you to schedule the Earth Cube workshop for specific dates. We help you source IBC’s locally, determine a workspace for the workshop and acquire needed tools and equipment. We ship kits containing all the hardware required to build out the Earth Cubes. We then come to your community and facilitate a hands-on Earth Cube Building workshop. Neighborhood community members contribute labor in helping to build the Earth Cubes. In exchange, communities receive Earth Cubes to enable food waste composting in their neighborhoods. The Earth Cube Workshop has a “barn raising” feel to it and is a great community-building opportunity in itself. The workshop model works best when a community wants to build multiple Earth Cubes (at least 4 vessels recommended). The more vessels we build, the more economical the workshop becomes.

What are the Benefits of the Earth Cube Workshop?
- By building Earth Cubes locally in your community, this dramatically reduces the costs on a per vessel basis. By lowering the costs, we make urban composting of food waste accessible to more communities. This helps communities grow their own food and make their neighborhoods beautiful.
- Because we source large, heavy materials (such as IBC’s) locally, this helps to significantly reduce freight costs (and carbon footprint!)

More Benefits of the Earth Cube Workshop
- This workshop provides many benefits for local communities:
  - Community involvement/empowerment/ownership.
  - Practical skill building. This is the “teaching people to fish” approach.
  - Involvement of young people, students and elders.
  - Integration of the arts.
- The workshop also provides opportunity for on-site training on how to compost effectively with the Earth Cubes.
What is Neighborhood-Scale Composting?
Neighborhood scale composting is not backyard composting and it is not curbside composting. It’s something in between. In this concept, neighbors work cooperatively to compost food waste and other nutrients in their local communities. This homegrown soil fertility makes it easier to grow food for the neighborhood.

What is an Earth Cube?
An Earth Cube is a totally-enclosed, in-vessel composting system designed for composting food waste in an urban or suburban environment. The Earth Cube prevents rodents from accessing the compost and provides excellent control of odors and bugs. See our Earth Cube brochure for more information.

Who is the Earth Cube designed for?
- The Earth Cube is for communities who want to compost in their urban and suburban neighborhoods while preventing problems with animals, odors and bugs.
- The Earth Cube is for neighborhoods and local communities who don’t want to have their nutrients hauled away and then have to pay for soil amendments.
- The Earth Cube is for communities who are passionate about being green and living green values.

How Many People Are Needed for the Workshop?
One person, working efficiently, can convert an IBC into an Earth Cube in approximately:
- 24 person hours (including cladding and top).
- 8 person hours (functional only).

Therefore, the number of Earth Cubes we can build in the workshop is largely a function of the number of volunteers/staff hours available to contribute to the build. The number of people that can work simultaneously on a single Earth Cube is 2-4 people (depending upon the tasks).
Equipment/Tool Requirements

Power tools required for the workshop:
- Rotary grinders/cutters
- Jig saws
- Chop saw
- Table saw
- Impact wrenches (with extra driver bits)
- Power drills (with extra drill bits)

Hand tools required for the workshop:
- 3/8” wrenches
- Metal snips
- Hammers
- Rubber Mallets
- Flat head Screw drivers
- 10 each - 3/16” & 1/8” drill bits
- 20 Phillips head inserts

Safety Protection:
- Safety Glasses
- Hearing Protection
- Dust Masks
- Aprons/Gloves

What are the Workspace Requirements?
- Workspace should provide protection from adverse weather and adequate lighting for the duration of the workshop. In favorable weather, production can take place outdoors.
- The workspace should provide access to 110V electrical power.
- Each Earth Cube requires approximately a 10’ x 10’ of space during production (100 sf) or approximately 3’ surrounding the 4’x4’ vessel.
- Additional space is needed to store supplies.
- Worktables/benches are required for access to tools and working surfaces.
- Trash disposal and recycling should be provided for the workspace.