

06 December 2007

**Beyarmudu Home Composting Pilot Program
DON'T DUMP IT, COMPOST IT! TURN YOUR TRASH INTO TREASURE!**

With help from the Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE) project, Beyarmudu is tackling its trash and turning it into treasure! A home composting pilot program was launched in the Beyarmudu community on 6 December 2007 to demonstrate how residents can easily turn household and garden waste into organic compost. The SAVE project, which is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will provide composting units, training and support for 6-months. The composting pilot program will demonstrate a productive and environmentally-friendly way to dispose of organic household waste, enrich gardens, and reduce the amount of refuse dumped in the local dump site. The SAVE project works to build local capacity to better protect and manage Cyprus' valuable natural and cultural resources.

The pilot is an outgrowth of a SAVE assessment of solid waste practices recently conducted in Beyarmudu that included an analysis of weekly solid waste material collected in the area and a household survey on composting. The study found that close to half of household trash is organic waste that is suitable for composting. The pilot program was developed as one mechanism to help Beyarmudu improve solid waste management practices in the region while providing a direct benefit to the community and protecting the environment.

During the launch, the composting program was explained, the composting units were demonstrated, and local residents were invited to volunteer for the pilot program. Twenty (20) lucky volunteers will be selected for the program and be part of a training session on December 17th that will provide details on how to set up and use the composter and what organic materials can be composted. Composting units, waste bins, and written information will be delivered to each volunteer household. Anyone interested in finding out more about home composting can contact SAVE at save-info@irgltd.com. A Home Composting Guide developed by SAVE will also be available soon for download at www.save-irg.com.

Composting is nature's way of recycling decomposable organic materials into a rich soil supplement. Home composting is the controlled decomposition of organic material such as vegetable food waste and garden refuse such as leaves, twigs, and grass clippings. The breakdown or decomposition of this organic material is caused by the natural action of hundreds of different types of bacteria, fungi and other organisms feeding on the material in the composting bin. Finished compost looks like soil – it is dark brown and crumbly and it smells like a forest floor just after a rain.

There are many benefits to the Home Composting Pilot Program. The Beyarmudu community will benefit by reducing the amount of waste taken to the landfill and by decreasing pollution, especially greenhouse gases (which contribute to climate change). Local families will actively engage family members, especially children, in protecting the environment. And anyone who composts will produce an end product that is a valuable organic fertilizer to be used in their gardens.



SAVE Environment & Natural Resources Management Program Manager Sibel Paralik delivered a presentation on the Pilot Program



Participants had the opportunity to thoroughly check the home composting units



Mr. Asim Vehbi, Mr İlker Edip and the local community participated in the launch event



SAVE Chief of Party, Barbara Rossmiller and ENR Management Program Technical and Logistic Support Specialist, Bengü Mindikoğlu delivered a speech, explaining the benefits of the Home Composting Program to the local community.



Mr. Asim Vehbi and Mr. İlker Edip from Beyarmudu gave a speech during the launch event explaining the importance of solid waste management for Cyprus.

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