



Editorial



Vereador
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One after the start of the of EU-LIFE Community Composting Project in Seixal, is with great joy that

I congratulate all the schools and families that have enthusiastically participated in this project and without whom this project would not had been possible to implement.

Furthermore, I would to welcome all the readers of this Newsletter that can in the future participate in the local projects, such as this.

The Phase II of the LIFE-project is to promote domestic composting. Since part of the organic waste produce in Seixal will not be disposed in the landfill, the direct result is the increase of the waste landfill lifetime, which has a great positive impact on the municipal quality of life. On the hand, a significant side effect of the project is the increase of public awareness on the importance of source separation of waste.

It is clear that the project results in an innovative way to accomplish 2 major goals established by the European Commission, environmental protection and public awareness!

500 composting bins in villas

One year after the kick-off of the project, 9 public sessions have been carried out throughout the Seixal Municipality. We are working hard on the pursuit of the goal to create a **Community of 1000 Ecological Families**. It was established as a goal of the project to have 1000 families participating in the project and to who it would be distributes 1 composting bin free-of-charge. The criterion was to select families living in villas with a gardening area, where the compost product could be used.



The participation in the project has been good in all the Seixal Municipality, although the region of Fernão Ferro has shown a higher level of participation, followed by Pinhal de Frades, Vale de Milhaços, Alto do Moinho and Pinhal do Vidal.

At the moment, a total of 554 composting bins have been distributed. 20 trainees, university students, who have been assisting the 500 families to ensure the successful implementation of the project, have monitored the composting process.

The project's secondary objective is to promote and develop the public's participation on a community aware of environmental issues, and to stimulate the decrease of household waste production.

Furthermore, the project helps our council to reach the recycling goals established by the European Union, which are far to meet throughout Portugal.

Municipal Composting – Seixal municipality as an example

The Municipal Composting Unit, located next to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) of Fernão Ferro, has started its work.

The Composting Unit treats biodegradable waste from public gardens and collected by the municipal services. The WWTP sludge will also be added to the composting pile.

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Community Composting - our experience



Case 1 - School EB 1 Paivas

The vegetable waste, fruits, coffee and tree-leaves have decomposed into a compost, which can be used in our pedagogic allotment garden.

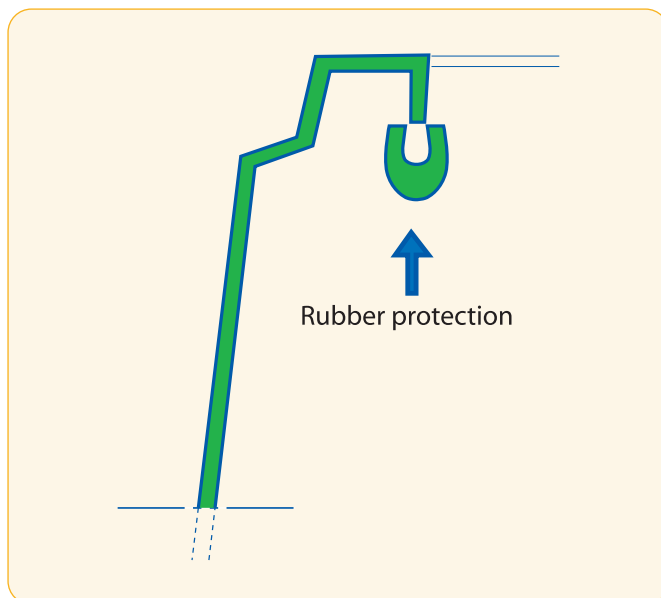
The compost-product was taken from the composting bin and put it in the soil. One by one, all our class and Prof. Zulmira's, put half of a potato in the trench, directly on the compost. Finally, the trench with the potatoes was covered with soil.

One month after we went back to the pedagogic garden and observed that there were plants growing. The potato plants already presented several leaves."

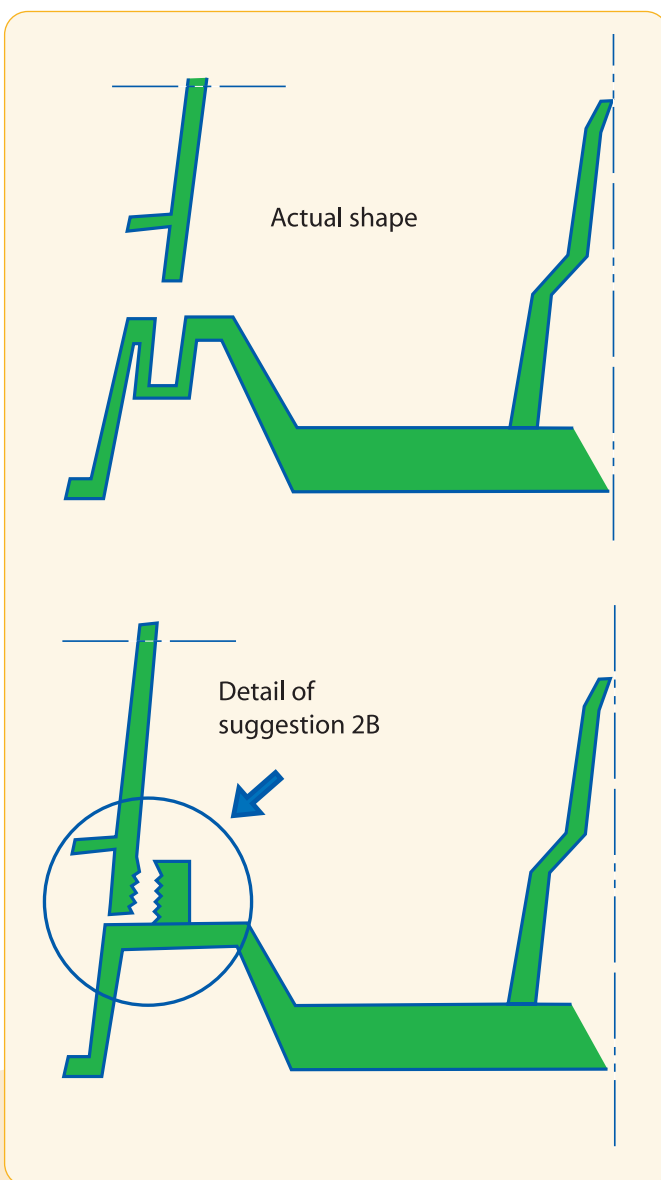
Improving the composting bin School 2,3 Paulo da Gama – Class 8º 6

The students' from the Paulo da Gama School have joined the project and have carried out several activities related to the subject, namely a writing article in the School Newspaper.

In the end of the School Year, the students presented a number of suggestions to improve the use of the composting bin.



Suggestion 1: Setting up of a rubber to cover the cutting edges of the composting bin.



Suggestion 2: Changes in the connection between the composting bin and its bottom support.

Home Composting – Personal Views

1. How relevant do you consider the project?
2. How have you used the compost-product?
3. What kind of advices would you give to those joining the home composting project?

Maria de Jesus Fonseca – Redondos

1. The project is relevant both in terms of waste recycling and public environmental awareness.
2. The compost was used in the garden and small allotment.
3. To follow the technical advices provided by municipality trainees and disseminate the results and the project to neighbours.

João Lopes – Redondos

1. The project has several positive aspects: it reduces the transport and treatment costs of biodegradable wastes and it is environmental friendly, since it transforms waste in a useful product to fertilize.
2. The compost was use in trees and plant-stands.
3. Use all you can to produce compost, and follow the Seixal-staff's advices, the benefits will be for our municipality, our environment and our soils.

Home composting – Experiences from 2 field-monitors

1. How has it been the experience of following the citizens implementing the project?
2. What were the main constrains in the implementation of the project?

Ana Santos - Environmental Engineer student

"I found that, generally, the citizens were aware and interested in participating. Sometimes some people would become a bit apprehensive when it was explained the all the factors to be aware of for the success of the project (water, aeration, what to put and not to put, ...) but after some time of composting activities, they would realise that it was all lot of intuition involved and that composting is a very simple technique once the principle is understood."

Teresa Brás - Environmental Engineer student

"The project has been very positive, due to the increase in the number of people participating in the project. Evertheless, here are also some drawbacks, namely regarding the non-participation of a higher number of people and also a number of people quitting the project.

Some people have explained that the reason for not participating in the project is the lack of time. Another reason for bandoning the project is the low production of biodegradable waste, probably due to the fact that the house having the composting bin is not full-time home of the family.

These difficulties are, however, not common and do not put the project at risk."



