

# Welcome to the Green Cone™ Project

**By participating, you're helping the region to work toward Zero Waste!**

**T**he CVSWMD has developed the first Zero Waste solid waste plan in the state of Vermont. This means that our efforts are aimed toward developing programs and procedures that not only reduce waste, but create the opportunity to take "waste" products and utilize them as the resources they are.

Food scraps make up 20% of the "waste" Vermonters send to the landfill each year. Taking them out of the waste stream through composting and food waste digesters like the Green Cone™ can really help the region to work toward Zero Waste.

The Green Cone™ Project is part of the District's three-part organics program, reaching businesses, schools, and homes. Diverting tons of food waste from schools and businesses to a composting operation rather than a landfill accomplishes a number of Zero Waste priorities: it keeps material out of the landfill, keeps local businesses

flush with the raw materials needed to produce locally valuable and environmentally sound products, and it transforms a "waste" product into a soil amendment used to grow more food for the region.

Home food waste diversion accomplishes the same thing on a smaller scale. The food waste diverted to the Green Cones™ or a compost bin is not being sent to a landfill (saving landfill space and dollars on waste disposal) and is either directly feeding plants through the Green Cone™ system or is being turned into compost for supplementing the soil in garden beds at home.

Another way you can work toward Zero Waste: Return this instruction booklet and the DVD to us when you're done so we can re-use them. Thanks!

For more information, see the District's Web site—[www.cvswwmd.org](http://www.cvswwmd.org)

## Green Cones in Your Yard



Green Cones can handle all of your household food waste—from bones and cheese to oils and produce peels. The Green Cone uses micro-organisms and insects in the soil to break down the waste underground. It utilizes heat from the sun to speed the process, breaking down the waste into water, carbon dioxide, and a very small residue that remains in the bottom of the cone.

Using the Green Cones is simple; choosing a good site is the key to success!

### Choosing the Site

Green Cones require good drainage. The water produced as the waste is broken down must be able to drain away. If not, the Green Cone will become anaerobic (without oxygen) and cease to work. So, installing the cones where there is good soil drainage, or where good drainage can be created, is critical. (Under no circumstances can the base of the basket be situated below the water table or where water gathers!)

*continued on p. 2*



**Only In My Backyard: CVSWMD Residential Organics Program**

CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT • [WWW.CVSWMD.ORG](http://WWW.CVSWMD.ORG) • 802-229-9383

*The Green Cone™ project is funded in part by a grant from the VT Agency of Natural Resources.*

## Where to Put Your Green Cones



*Good Green Cone sites include sunny locations,*



*a site close to the house,*



*and areas that can benefit from the nutrients the system releases into the soil.*

- The cones work best in a sunny spot; at least ½ day of sun is ideal.
- Good drainage is required for the system to work properly. Avoid poorly drained soils and seasonally wet areas.
- If you aren't sure if your soil drains well, dig a hole 2 feet deep and pour water into the hole, 2 inches deep. If the water has not drained away after 15 minutes, you have poor drainage. *Note:* If you don't have another spot with better drainage, carefully follow the directions for poorly drained soil in the *Cone Installation* section (p.4).
- Site the cones close to your home. Depending on family size, the frequency of trips to the cones will vary. The closer the cone is to your house, the easier it will be to bring the food scraps to it.
- Site the cones where our long winters won't interfere with their use. Avoid locations where snow may drift excessively and spots that are exposed to the wind.
- Consider the cone sizes when looking at a site. The cone is 23 inches wide at the bottom, and when installed, the top of the cone is 28 inches high. If you are installing two cones, the bottom of the cones can be as close together as 1 foot. *Note:* *The cones don't need to be placed near each other.*
- The cones can be placed in flower and vegetable gardens or near shrubs and trees. The nutrients released into the soil will be taken up by the plants around the cone. *Note:* *Don't place cones too close to a tree or the roots may grow into the basket underground.*

## Step-by-Step Green Cone Installation

The installation can be broken into three steps: Preparation, Cone Assembly, and Cone Installation.

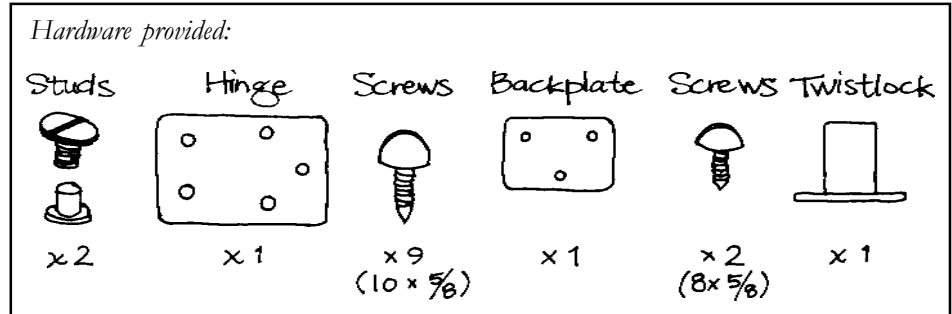
### A. Preparation

Gather all of the tools and materials needed to install the cones before you begin.

#### Tools

- A flat head screwdriver
- A Phillips head screwdriver
- A level
- A set of tin snips
- A sharp knife or hacksaw
- A spade or shovel

It's also helpful to have an electric screwdriver or a cordless drill with screwdriver bits on hand.



#### Parts

- Lid
- Green outer cone
- Black inner cone
- Black basket
- Bag of hardware containing: 2 screw studs, a hinge, 11 screws, a backplate, and a twistlock (see drawing above)

#### Other materials needed

- A 3ft. x 7ft. piece of hardware cloth if the two cones are placed within 1 ft. of each other; you'll need a 3ft. x 8ft. piece of hardware cloth if the cones are placed farther apart.
- Approximately 1 1/2 cu.ft. of 3/4 inch crushed stone

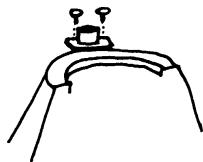
### B. Cone Assembly

#### Step 1.



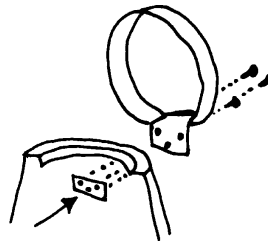
Place the ribbed side of the hinge on the inside of the lid. Screw the hinge onto the lid through the pre-drilled holes using the two studs.

#### Step 2.



Attach the twistlock to the outer cone through the marked holes using the two 8 x 5/8 screws.

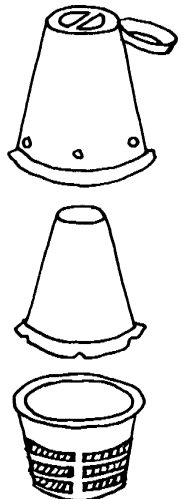
#### Step 3.



Place the lid on top of the green outer cone. Screw the hinge to the outer cone using three 10 x 5/8 self-tapping screws and backplate as shown. Pre-drilled holes are not required when using these screws.

#### Step 4.

Place the green outer cone over the black inner cone. Line up the screw holes in the base of the green outer cone with the notches on the base of the black inner cone. Use six 10 x 5/8 self-tapping screws to secure the cones to the basket.



### C. Cone Installation

With the cones assembled and ready for installation, it's time to start digging. Green Cones can be difficult to move once they're installed, so make sure to dig your holes exactly where you'd like the cones to stay.

*Note:* There are two sets of directions for several of the steps below: one for soil with good drainage and one for soil with poor drainage. Please follow the appropriate directions for your soil type.

**1. Good drainage:** Dig a hole 32 inches wide and 26 inches deep, removing any large stones, sticks, or roots in the process.

**Poor drainage:** Dig the hole 36 inches wide and 28 inches deep.

In both cases, if you are digging into a lawn, set the sod aside to place it on top of the bare soil after installation.



*step 1a. As you begin to dig the hole, set the sod aside to replace later.*



*step 1b. Digging the hole.*

**2.** Once you've determined that the hole is deep enough, **in well-drained soil** place approximately 2 inches of crushed stone in the bottom of the hole. Spread out the

*step 2. Pour stone in bottom of hole.*



stone to make a nice level base for your Green Cone. **In poorly drained soil**, place approximately 4 inches of stone in the bottom of the hole and smooth it out.

**3.** Once the stone is in place, put the cone into the hole so it sits on the bed of stone, making sure the lid opens in a convenient direction. The lip where the green outer cone meets the basket should sit 1 inch below ground level. Adjust the stone as needed to attain this depth.

**4.** Place a level on top of the cone to ensure that it is level; adjust stone as needed.



*steps 3 & 4. Make sure the rim of the cone is not placed above or too far below the soil surface, and that the cone is level.*

**5.** Once the cone is at the proper depth and is level, carefully start filling in the hole around the cone with the dirt you dug out of the hole. Do this slowly, and check often to make sure the cone remains level. **In poorly drained soils**, mix some stone or gravel with the dirt and use the mixture to fill in around the cone; this will help improve the drainage.

**6.** To deter animals from trying to dig into the cone, place 1 ft. strips of hardware cloth or wire mesh around the base of the cone 2 inches beneath the lip. Cover the mesh with soil or sod as you continue to fill in the hole.



*step 6. Hardware cloth placed around the cone.*

**7.** Once the cone is in place, the bar across the opening can be removed using a hacksaw. (Removing it makes it easier to dump materials into the cone.)

**You're now ready to start using your Green Cone! Just follow the *Using Green Cones at Home* instruction sheet.**

