

COMPOSTING

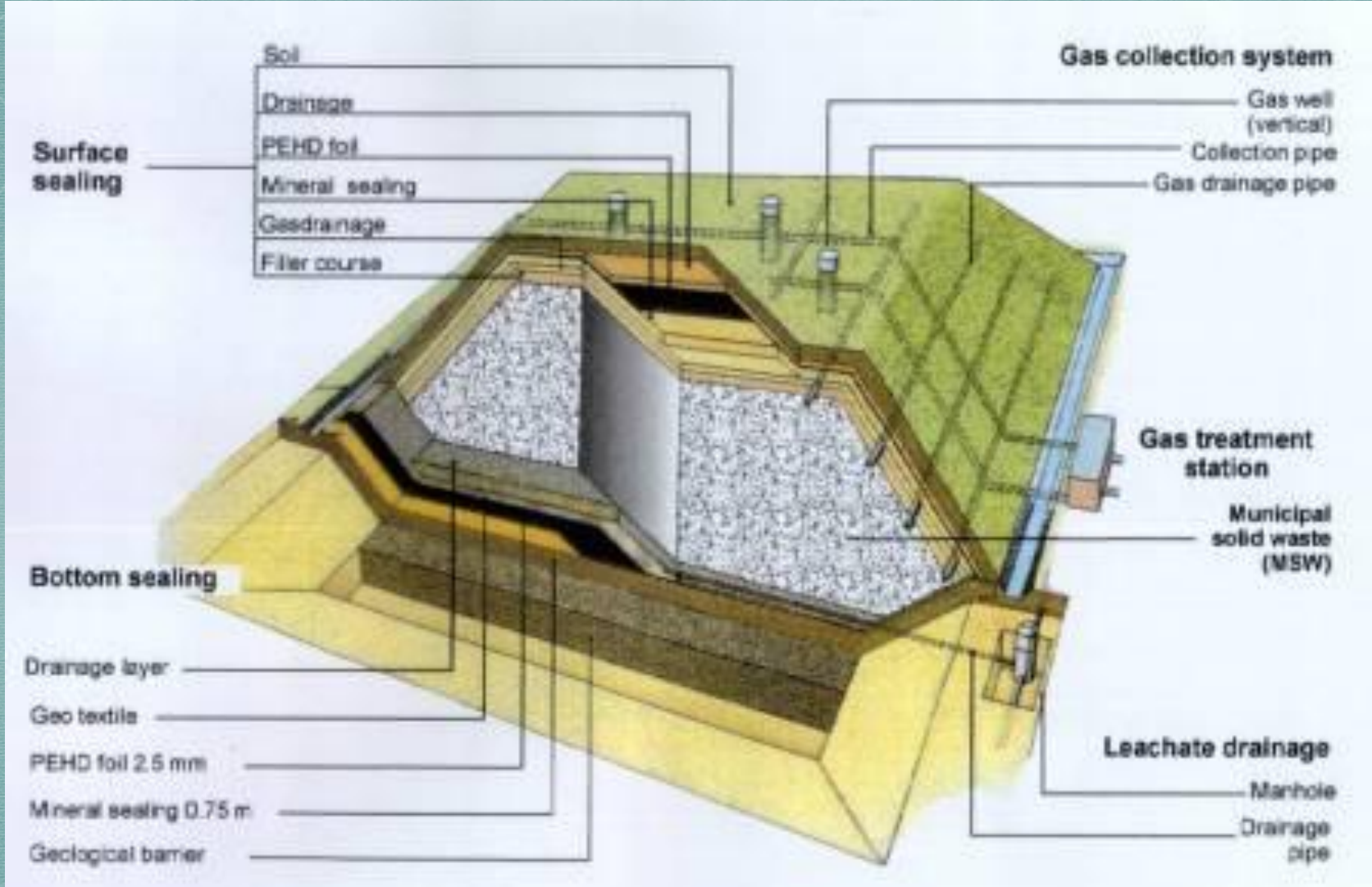












This pyramid is a landfill

Landfills are
full of threats.

Some of them are
INVISIBLE.



Composting

A simple solution to the many problems associated with how we handle our trash.

Why listen to me?

1. I'll describe the cost of our reckless reliance on landfills

2. I'll show you how composting can solve them

So you may be wondering:

“How can you be wasteful
with *TRASH?!?*”

Simple:

We're throwing money away!

Recycling = Cash

100 pounds of aluminum cans =

\$42

(Earth Works Recycling 2015)

Compost
=
Recycling

Tons of Trash

In 2016, Americans produced
254 million tons of trash.

That's 1,605 pounds of trash *EACH*

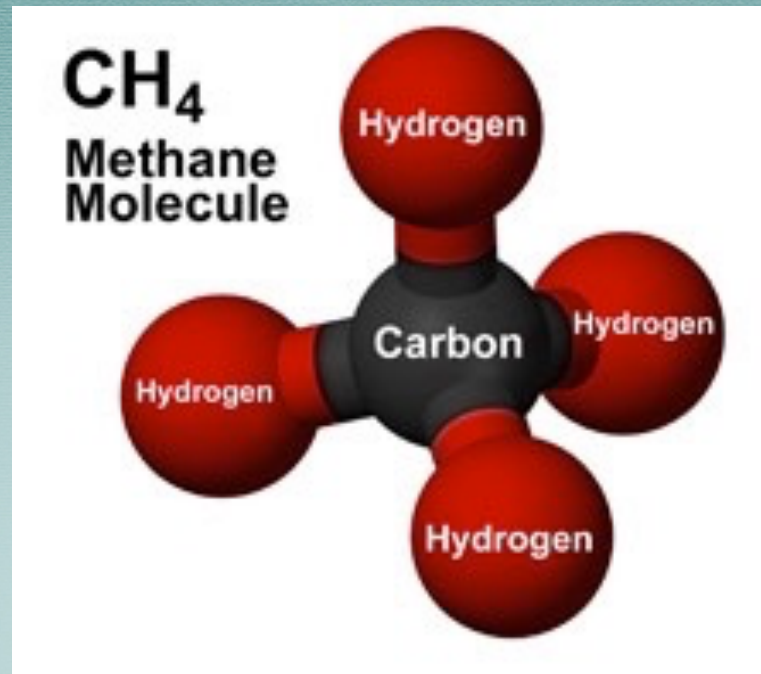




Burying organic waste removes
it from the food chain

Depleting the quality and
nutritional value of our food





As it breaks down, the organic waste in
landfills creates methane

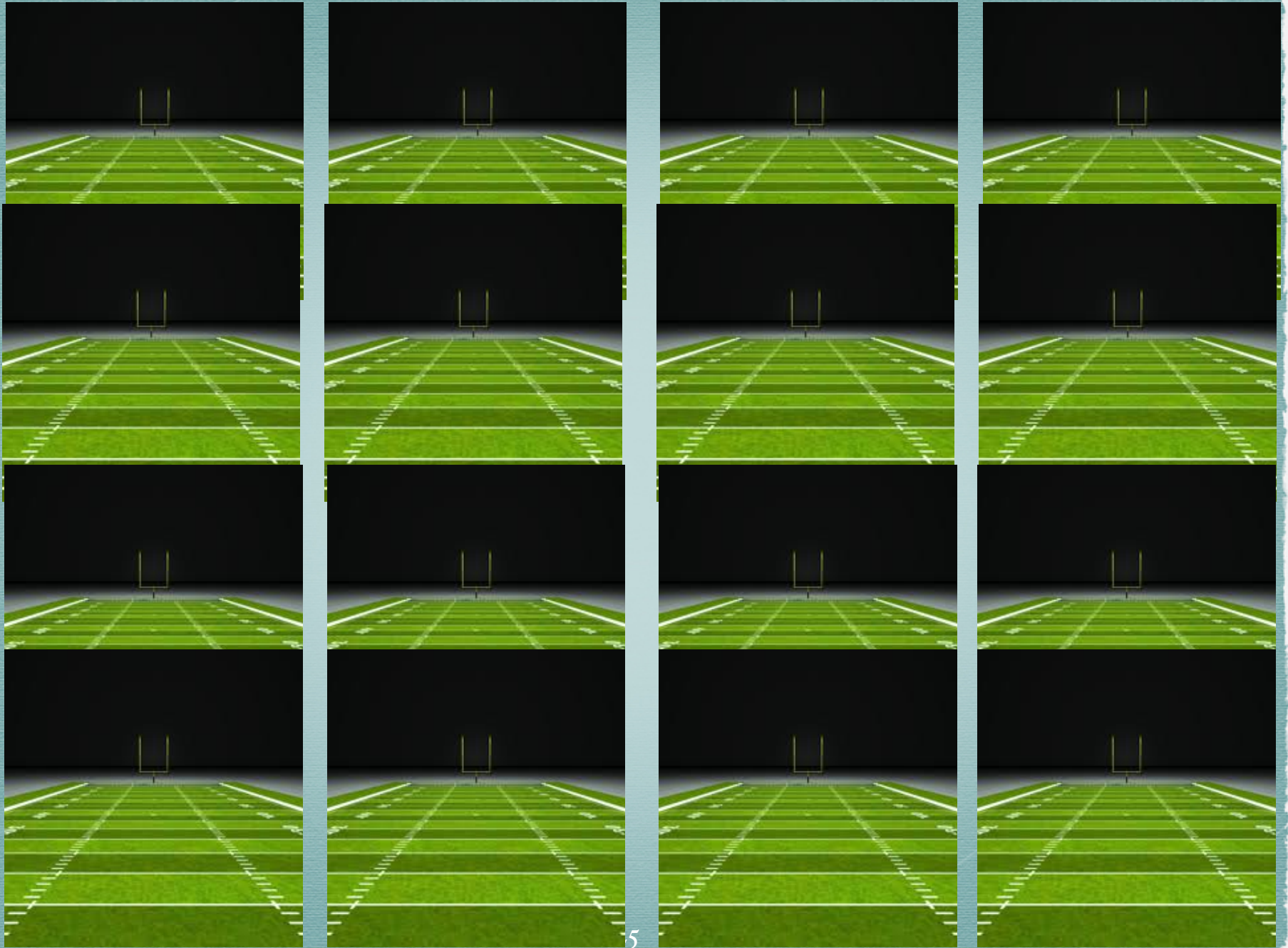
Methane vs Carbon Dioxide

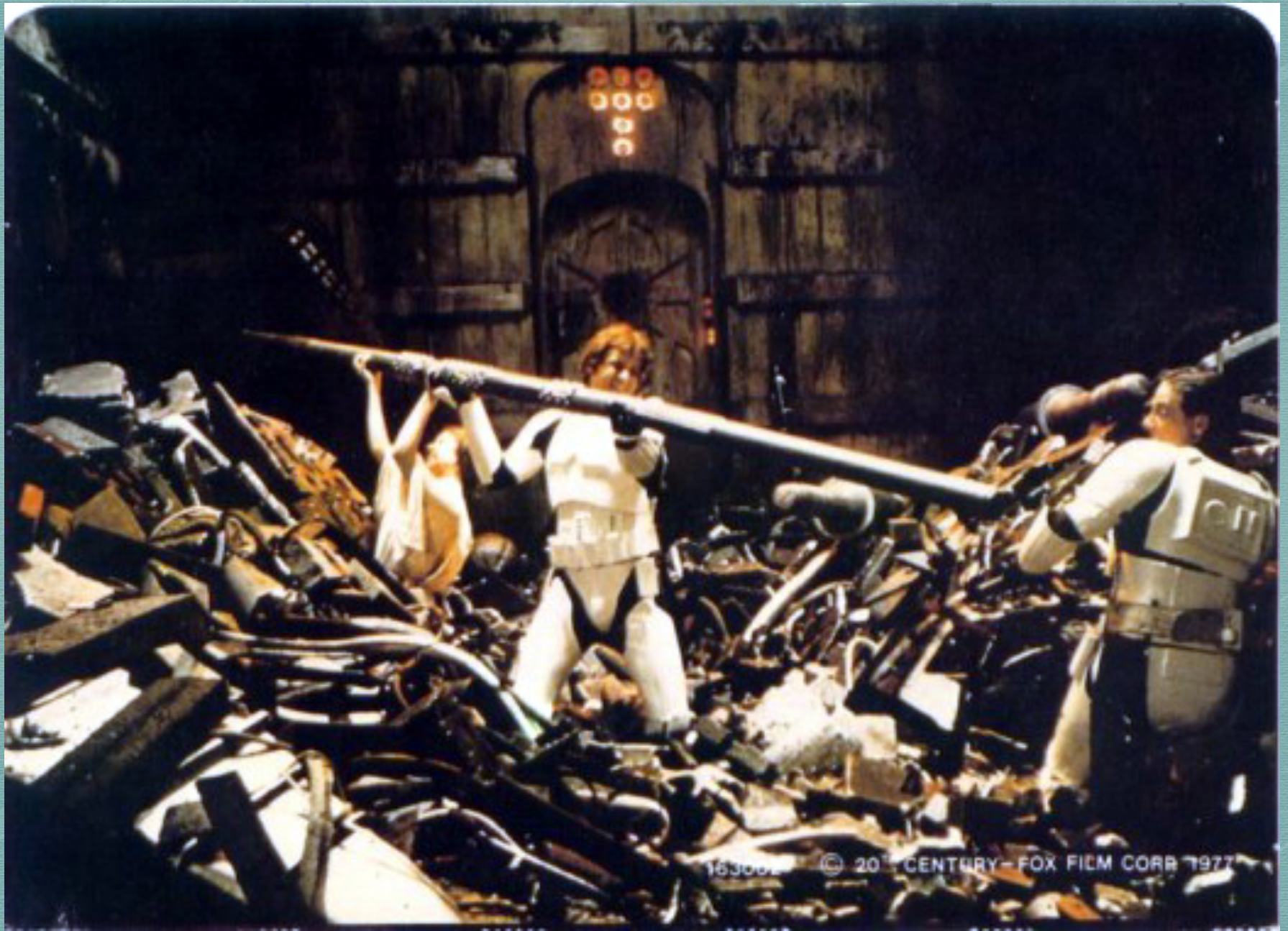
Methane is 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide (Princeton University, 2014)

Landfills produce “10 million metric tons of methane per year in the US alone” (Parsell 2011)



LANDFILL





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**Can composting really
solve *all* of these problems?**

YES!

Composting accelerates the natural biodegrading process,
turning this...



into this...





Three-Way Reduction

1. No organic waste = no methane
2. Compost promotes native plant growth in open lands
3. Carbon is stored in the compost, not released into the atmosphere



Sustainable agricultural methods,
which rely heavily on compost,
can improve:

1. soil quality
2. crop quality,
3. and crop yields.

Vermi-compost, “contains 5 times more nitrogen and 7 times more phosphorous than topsoil” (Bogner, Using Compost 2006).

It is also a natural pesticide (Vitale 2011)





Is it difficult to do?



imagine

















**Let's
start
Composting!**

Learn More!

Visit:

*Search “Backyard Composting” at www.sandiego.gov

*Rebates on compost bins, workshops, and resources

*Composting 101: www.composting101.com

*Vermicompost: www.wormcompostingblog.com

Learn More!

- * *Let it Rot!: The Gardener's Guide to Composting* (Third Edition) by Stu Campbell (1998)
- * *Easy Composters You Can Build* by Nick Noyes (1995)
- * *The Rodale Book of Composting: Easy Methods for Every Gardener* by Grace Gershuny, ed. and Deborah L. Martin, ed. (, 1992)
- * *Start With the Soil: The Organic Gardener's Guide to Improving Soil for Higher Yields, More Beautiful Flowers, and a Healthy, Easy-Care Garden* by Grace Gershuny (1997)

Talk to People

- * Visit your local Farmer's Market
- * Visit Seeds at City College
- * Contact the people at the San Diego Community Garden Network:
<http://www.sdcgn.org/>

Mother Nature's
original recipe

COMPOST