1. Avoids Waste Outcomes with High Emissions

Landfilling food scraps produces 20x the CO₂e emissions (as methane) as composting. Landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the U.S.

...and when used, compost’s net emissions become negative!

2. Enhances Soil Quality

Compost increases:

- Water holding capacity: Increases soil resiliency to extreme heat & flooding.
- Soil aggregation: Prevents erosion & runoff, thus protecting & restoring waterways.

Synthetic nitrogen accounts for 80% of human-related nitrous oxide emissions.

Normally it takes 1,800 years to build 6 inches of topsoil but with compost, it takes only 6 months.

3. Sequesters Carbon

World soils hold 1.5 trillion tons of carbon in the form of organic matter. Just 1 acre amended with compost can sequester up to 75% of a car’s annual emissions.

Degraded soil actually releases carbon. But a 1-time application of compost can make soil a carbon sink again!

Degraded soil has been linked historically to the fall of civilization!

Compost also increases crop yield & vegetation, leading to even more carbon sequestration.

4. Builds Community Resiliency

Healthy soil =
- Food security
- Profitable farms
- Enhanced habitat & biodiversity
- Resilient ecosystems

Community composting =
- Local jobs
- Environmental education
- Community bonds & safety
- Physical activity & healthy diets
- Social inclusion & empowerment

ilsr.org/compost-climate