



Shovel-it Yourself Day, Wickham Market

09 May 2025



In celebration of [Compost Awareness Week 2025](#), residents were invited to bring a bag and a shovel and help themselves to free compost at this Shovel it Yourself event organised by East Suffolk Council with the support of the [Suffolk Waste Partnership](#).

11.32 tonnes of soil improver were donated by ESC's garden waste contractor, Envar. It was held in the car park at the Youth Football Club in Wickham Market, close to the allotment gardens on the opposite side of the road facilitating access by allotmenters.



The event was promoted via a [press release](#) issued by ESC on 30 April and a [flyer](#) produced by the Greenprint Forum. Posts were circulated on social media by the Greenprint Forum and by East Suffolk Council, and many of the visitors told us they had found out about the event via these posts having been shared on local community pages and local gardeners' groups on Facebook. It was also promoted by Suffolk Recycling as part of their [webpage](#) to promote local activities and initiatives during Compost Awareness Week.

The huge pile of compost began this glorious sunny day as tall as a family car and as long as the widths of 3 car parking spaces. But this did not deter anyone, with every last piece of compost getting shovelled up and taken away to be used in resident's gardens and allotments.



The soil improver was made from the garden waste that residents of the district place in their domestic garden waste bins, thus completing the circle from garden, to bin, to process, and back to the garden once more.

Envar process our garden waste via [open windrow composting](#) at their site at Lackford in west Suffolk. This process is essentially like a giant garden compost heap, where the material is able to compost naturally in the presence of oxygen – an aerobic process resulting in a compost product that meets the industry standards for compost [BSI PAS 100](#), certified by the [British Standards Institute](#). As the process takes place in the open, it is not licenced to accept any food wastes or animal by products. The usual end destination for the majority of the end product that Envar produce from our garden waste is for local agricultural and landscaping use.



The day was a resounding success, with the sun in full show the conditions were inviting to all, reflected in the fantastic turnout of people who came along. The team were on hand to welcome and enable members of the community to help themselves over the day, with some 109 cars, 2 tractors, and 11 wheelbarrows loaded up!

As well as being an ideal opportunity to say thank you to residents for recycling, in the form of free soil improver, the event also presented us with an opportunity to engage with residents on the topic of composting and in particular promote home composting, which is after all the most environmentally sustainable way of dealing with compostable waste as it all takes place at source without any need for transportation – with the added bonus to the gardener that they know exactly what went in.

During the course of the day, the event team also took the opportunity to do give the area a spring clean, removing a total of 1.08 kg of litter from the venue and immediate surroundings.

Get into the composting habit !

If you live in Suffolk you can get your green fingers on any one of a range of subsidised home composting systems ranging from ordinary compost bins for garden waste and fruit and vegetable waste, as well as other systems that can help deal with some cooked food waste too.

To find out more, visit:

[Home composting - Suffolk Recycling](#)

