

Compost Power

Who We Are

Compost Power includes experts in forestry, permaculture, compost science, renewable energy, biogas engineering and local economic development. We are dedicated to building a regenerative, waste-free model that addresses the enormous challenges posed by peak oil, soil depletion and energy scarcity.

The Jean Pain Method

Jean Pain (1930 – 1981) was a farmer and forester in southern France who developed ways to generate high-value compost, heat and methane through specially designed compost mounds.

How It Works: Chipped and shredded brushwood is formed into a mound. Multiple levels of spiraled plastic piping act as a heat exchanger, cold water enters at the bottom and

hot leaves out the top. Within 2-3 weeks, the temperature rises to **110-155°F**, providing a continuous stream of hot water.

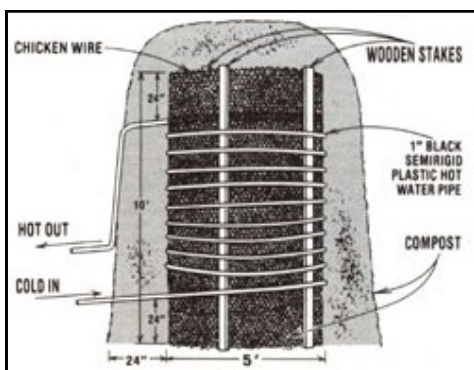
Costs

A small system can cost \$700-\$2000 depending on the source of materials. Mounds typically require 20 cubic yards of material. A mixture of wood-chips, saw-

dust and manure is a convenient alternative to shredded bark-mulch due to availability on most farms. This mixture was used by 2011 Compost Power project at Hartshorn Farm in Waitsfield (pictured on the far right). Building the mound requires a single day of labor, including the use of a tractor or backhoe for heavy lifting.



Steam is visible coming off top of mound



Benefits of a Compost Mound

- ♦ **Generates Heat!** A small system can produce around 15,000 btus/hour. That's 65 million btus over a 6 month period, equivalent to 700 gallons of propane.
- ♦ **Creates soil!** The byproduct of a Jean Pain Mound is quality organic compost.
- ♦ **Produces NO Pollution or Emissions!** Digestion puts out energy just like combustion, but unlike combustion it leaves no waste.

Consider Hosting a Jean Pain Mound

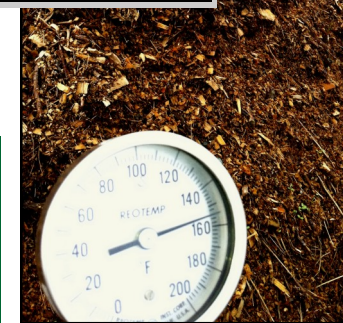
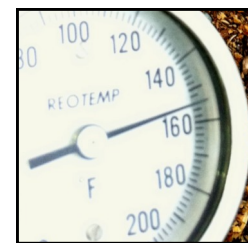
Any interested party can host a mound. There are two options: the host pays a \$600 minimum project fee to Compost Power, or the host can assemble 6-10 students who will each pay \$100 for the one-day training program.

The project manager and the host will meet at least a month prior to construction to discuss design and acquire materials. The manager will lead the construction of the mound while teaching the course. Prospective hosts should contact CPN with details about their site and goals.

Contact Us!

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Mounds reach up to 155°F