

# Give us hope Johanna!

The Home Composting Project that works one household at a time



A pioneering Dreamcatcher South Africa NPC initiative in collaboration with the 'Stilbaai, Melkhoutfontein & Jongensfontein (SMJ) Community Waste Working Group' and 'Henque Waste Warriors'



## What is a Green Johanna?

The Green Johanna is a top performing composter that recycles food waste (including meat, fish and processed food) with garden waste, card and paper, into high quality compost.

## Why compost?

Most waste generated in South Africa is dumped at poor performing landfill sites, significantly impacting the environment and community wellness. The drive for sustainability will mean the costs for managing waste are destined to increase and passed onto households and businesses who generate the waste. To address the economic, social and environmental impacts of waste, the priority needs to be on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling interventions to divert waste away from landfill. A key solution is composting organic waste. When combined with the excellent Henque Waste recycling service, home composting significantly reduces the amount of waste that needs to be collected and disposed of by the municipality.

## So, what is organic waste, why is it important and why Composting?

Organic waste – consisting mainly of food and garden waste – is a useful resource that can be recycled into compost to grow fruit, vegetables, and flowers in your own backyard! In South Africa much of this 'resource' is currently being 'wasted' as it is sent to landfills where it generates greenhouse gases contributing to climate change.

The Western Cape government set the target to divert 50% of organic waste from landfill by 2022, with all organic waste being prohibited from landfill by 2027. **Home composting organic waste** has been **prioritised** as a core intervention to meet these targets. **Benefits include:**

- A **valuable resource** to be used in your garden! Compost improves the structure and health of your soil by adding nutrient rich organic material
- **Immediately reduces** the amount of waste that needs to be collected and managed by the municipality. This leads to economic savings through less fuel costs, and disposal charges – all of which are increasing
- **Cuts down** on waste bag costs – you buy less as your waste reduces
- **Less emissions** through the diversion of organic waste from landfill sites, and reduced vehicle movements as less waste will be collected

#### The Lid

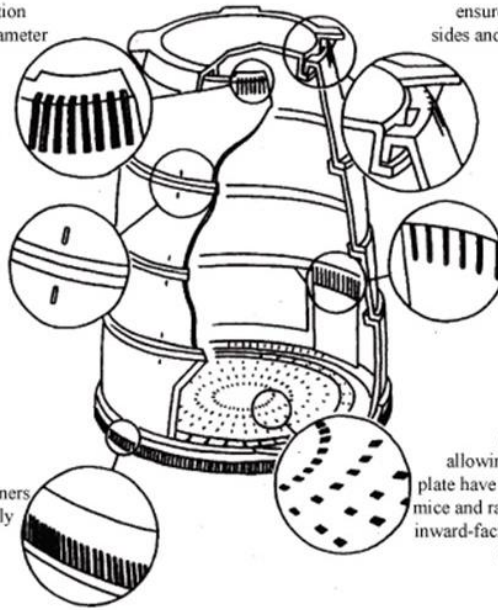
Closes around the container's ventilation system. The vents are holes with a diameter of 4.5 mm. Simply by turning the lid, even when it is locked, it is easy to regulate air circulation and the temperature depending on the season.

#### When assembling

the Green Johanna the errors on each section of the bin must be kept in line.

#### The round shape

ensures that there will be no cold corners and that the heat is spread more evenly through the composter.



#### The cone-shaped design

ensures that the compost does not stick to the sides and instead sinks down towards the centre. This enables air to circulate, oxygenating the compost.

#### Sliding doors

on the front and rear make it easy for you to inspect the ongoing process and to remove the compost when it's ready. The simplest way to remove the compost is to rake it out with the stirring stick.

#### The base plate

enables both good ventilation as well as allowing worms to enter. The holes in the base plate have a diameter of 4.5 mm which means that mice and rats cannot penetrate the composter. Four inward-facing air vents lead in from the base plate, allowing air upwards into the container.

Diagram of the globally patented Green Johanna composting unit

## What can you do to address your organic waste and why the Green Johanna?

The Dreamcatcher South Africa team has extensive hands-on experience of home composting. We installed the first Green Johanna units to research their impact and viability in South Africa in 2010. 14 years later these units still function and produce compost. The benefits of Green Johannas have been independently recognised and were awarded 'Best Buy for composters' by [BBC Gardeners' World Magazine](#). Green Johanna composters have advantages over other composting units:

- ✓ They handle all food waste (including **cooked and uncooked food, meat, and fish**) and garden waste and with a 330 litres capacity they are **larger than** conventional home composters
- ✓ **No power or additives are needed**
- ✓ Unlike other home composting units, Green Johannas are **fully enclosed** – including a base - preventing vermin and dogs from getting to the waste. Through trialling the system in townships and rural areas vermin has not been a problem
- ✓ Made from **100% recycled plastic**, they have a **secure twistable lid** that helps to regulate ventilation, a **patented airflow system** ensures the system remains aerated producing high-quality compost

Composting is a cyclical continuous process. Once you add the material – a mixture of food and garden waste - it starts to breakdown immediately, and your waste reduces in volume. From our experience you can expect your first compost within 4-6 months which is removed from the two secure hatches at the bottom of the unit.



## How to get a Green Johanna

Dreamcatcher is a registered non-profit entity. Our focus is to improve quality of life for people and our environment. Our research across the wider Stilbaai area shows that few households currently compost! To help address the current gap, Dreamcatcher has acquired a limited number of Green Johannas for distribution. Thanks to the support of donors, we are proud to make the Green Johanna units available for **ZAR 2,500** – this is **32% less** than they sell for in the UK. This once off cost includes delivery, installation by our experienced Dreamcatcher Team, and ongoing support. To order your Green Johanna, make your own compost, reduce your impact on the environment, and save money, contact us today:

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More information can be found on our website: <https://dreamcatchersouthafrica.com/green-johanna-guidance-and-tips>