



Begun in October 2022, Talbot Green Hands (TGH) is the local chapter of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC). We are a collaborative group of local faith communities, taking action to restore and protect our shared waterways.

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**January 2026**

#### THIS MONTH'S TOP STORIES

One of our partner congregations, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton (UUF) has begun collecting food scraps. Congregants take a small food-safe bucket home, fill it with fruit and vegetable peelings and empty the contents into a large bucket when they come in on Sunday morning. The bucket is taken to the composting Center at PCE where the composting team takes over.

TGH is exploring the possibility of Easton revisiting the Sustainable Maryland certification through the University of Maryland. Members met with the Easton Mayor and representatives. Sustainable Maryland is an initiative of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland. It is a free and voluntary program designed to help Maryland communities choose a direction for their sustainability efforts, improve access to resources needed to implement action, and recognize their accomplishments.

#### **Benefits of Composting**

- Maryland's #1 contribution to global warming is methane escaping mostly from landfills as a result of anaerobic digestion of food scraps. Methane, world wide, is driving us faster towards climate change because while it does dissipate eventually (unlike CO<sub>2</sub>) it is 30 to 80x more heat trapping in the short term. Food scraps and green litter make up at least 1/3 of what is tipped into landfills. The Shore is already taking a hit from rising and salinifying oceans and is expected to be vulnerable to more high-powered storms but what you will probably see first is significantly higher property insurance costs.
- Composting organic matter not only virtually eliminates green house gas emissions from this large percentage of trash, it acts as a catalyst for living soil processes including water retention and fertility. This is important because we are rapidly losing a great deal of arable land and water.

- We offer countertop sized canisters which can be brought to Temple or Fellowship and dumped in a larger container for me to take to the composting site at the Presbyterian/TGH community garden where it grows food and flowers.
- We take all foods except meat and bones. It is really nice if they are chopped up to less than 1 inch and if labels are removed from fruit.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Composting Workshop

Compost: All You Ever Wanted to Know!



Blackwater Rising (BWR) is hosting a free workshop on home and community composting on Thursday January 22 at 6:00-7:00. It will be held at the Dorchester Public Library, Gay Street, Cambridge. The workshop will be led by Jonathan Williams.

Composting food scraps reduces methane pollution, builds soil and saves tax dollars on landfill costs. There is nothing high tech about it, anyone can do their part to slow down climate change in their backyard, church or park.

Two years ago, Jonathan and members of Talbot Green Hands (TGH) rebuilt an abandoned wood and wire set of compost bins at the Presbyterian Church of Easton's community garden and the compost has been replenishing the beds there since. Blackwater Rising, a fast growing environmental group in Cambridge, also needed a composter for their community garden on Locust Street so in the fall they teamed up with TGH to build one.

Jonathan has compost training from the Institute for Local Self Reliance and the 131 School of Composting. He will explain the basics of how vegetable matter can be turned into "black gold" for homesteaders and community groups. He will guide the curious through the practical steps needed to set up and manage a compost pile so that it produces a soil supplement but not varmints or odors. He will also explain about the ancient wood preserving treatment process that BWR used on their compost frame.

For more information about Blackwater Rising or this workshop, <https://blackwaterrising.org/point-calendar/>

The Maryland General Assembly started its session on January 14.

- IPC Advocacy Training January 15, 7:00-8:00, virtual webinar, how to get more involved in Maryland advocacy.
- ShoreRivers, February 5, 6:00-7:00, focuses on preparing for the Maryland General Assembly legislative session and provides updates on key environmental priorities.

Some events cancelled due to ice and snow.

Talbot Green Hands monthly meeting February 19 at 11:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton (UUFE) and by zoom (email us for a zoom invitation): [talbotearthday@gmail.com](mailto:talbotearthday@gmail.com)



Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC): [www.interfaithchesapeake.org](http://www.interfaithchesapeake.org)

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