

**Location**

United States

**Users**

Homeless people

**Maintained by**

Dan Peterman, Resource Center

**Duration**

1988

**Category**

urban-development, economy, social

**Nr. and Title**

U 108

# Chicago Compost Shelter

**Initiator(s)**

Dan Peterman

**Description**

While working for the Resource Center, a non-profit recycling organization, Dan Peterman converted an adjacent lot into a temporary shelter for the homeless. Peterman created Chicago Compost Shelter with a Volkswagen van body, burying it in compost to retain heat. The van's seats were removed, making the space large enough for a bed and some furniture. The compost used for the shelter was collected as part of a project to recycle organic waste in Chicago by the Resource Center. The compost consisted of a mixture of leaves, grass, clippings, and police horse manure.

**Goals**

Temporary shelter for homeless in the winter, using organic material to produce heat.

**Beneficial outcomes**

Heated, temporary shelter without the danger of fire.

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