



# Dan Peterman

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## Chicago Compost Shelter

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**Arte Útil archive nr:**  
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**Initiator:**  
Dan Peterman

**Location:**  
United States

**Category:**  
urban-development, economy,  
social

**Users:**  
Homeless people

**Maintained by:**  
Dan Peterman, Resource Center

**Duration:**  
1988

**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.

**Images:**

