

Dawn explained that the rat man thought it was the compost bin in her garden that had attracted the rats. This was a shame, as throwing bio waste in the bin isn't great for the environment. If it goes into landfill then it emits methane as it breaks down, a greenhouse gas that is many times more damaging than carbon dioxide. If the waste is incinerated, then wet waste lowers the temperature of the burn meaning more energy has to be used. Everything that is biological from fruit, to teabags, bread or meat should ideally be composted. It is a common myth that meat shouldn't be composted, but it breaks down brilliantly, better than vegetables. It was only the fear of attracting the rats that led to the advice not to compost meat or fish.

See how preachy that is? But you really want to get in that information about composting, find a way to make it work – here, much later, Tim is at the bar, following his 5 minutes of fame as Habitat Man, drunk and rambling – now it works adding that information as the reader is invited to laugh at how boring he's being:

...‘And no one knew you were Habitat Man, not even your parents?’ asked Josh wide-eyed.

‘Well it's not exactly like I'm Batman,’ I laughed, ‘although I did put up a bat box and create a habitat for bats for the wizard.’ I took another slug of beer and suddenly felt much better. What was I getting so worked up about anyway? Who cares what my parents think, that boat had sailed long ago. I am now gardener to the magicians, ecologist to the guerrilla knitters, vegan saviour. I finished off my second pint and found a third was waiting for me, courtesy of the young couple. I made them laugh by telling them about the Wizard identifying as a witch and threw in a hilarious pun about being Batman and the robin in Lori's garden. They seemed interested in my description of how to rat-proof a compost bin, so I told them that any food produce that went to landfill would produce methane, a greenhouse gas, many times more damaging than carbon dioxide.

‘But if it gets incinerated, then wet waste lowers the temperature of the burn requiring more energy, so that is why all food-based waste should be properly composted. And this is important for habitats because the compost, through the magic power of the humble worm, turns waste into rich fertile soil, alive with-’

‘Sorry, did you want another?’

I looked up into the bartender's concerned face. The nice couple seemed to have departed....