Moving Towards A Sustainable Future With Organics
Getting to 60% by 2024...

- More than 90% of materials disposed of @ WTE or LF can be reused, recycled or composted.¹
- More food reaches landfills and incinerators than any other single material in our everyday trash.²
- Food waste shouldn’t be burned or landfilled:
  - Heavy = cost more per ton
  - Wet = Not efficient at WTE, creates methane in LF.
- Support the hierarchy of waste management. COMPOST before WTE or LF
- The US EPA has identified landfills as the single largest source of methane. It is a potent GHG that is 23x more efficient at trapping heat than CO₂³
The practice of separating Organics at the curb isn’t new... but Connecticut had never tried it.

- 3120 community composting programs documented in 2012.²
- Over 2.4 million households have food waste composting collection programs.²
- However... In 2013 EPA reported that out of the 37 million tons generated, ONLY 5% was diverted to be composted.⁴

**Challenge for CT**
- 169 Municipalities with different waste plans
- Few organic processor in CT
- Rural Communities – distance to a processor
- Private Subscription hauling
- Cost per ton
Building a Program

- Research and study other programs
- Obtain hauler to transport material
- Partner with processor to accept material
- Agree on materials that are acceptable
- Plan how to supply and fund the program
- Get the word out before it starts
The Kit

Provide the tools to make a successful program
Getting the word out

- Local Fair
- Survey Monkey
- HRRA Website
- Word of Mouth
- Local Village Store
- Town Newsletter
- Hauler Invoices

“If residents don’t know why they should be saving organic waste, they’re far less likely to do so.”

EDUCATION IS KEY

*Curbside Composting Added to a Major City: Is it Yours? By Elizabeth Daigneau/February 2012*
FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM
Bridgewater, CT Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

Understanding the public to drive the program (August, 2013 - 422 surveys completed)

1. Do you recycle at home? 96% Yes
2. If you don’t recycle at home, why not? Need more info, believes hauler mixes anyway
3. Do you compost organic (food scraps) at home? 28% Yes / 73% No
4. If you don’t compost, why not? 47% need advice / concern of odor & animals / too much work
5. Would you be interested in a once a week organics (food scrap) curbside pick-up program? 98% yes
6. Would you be willing to purchase an organics compost collection bin for $35-$45? 55% yes / 45% No
7. Would you be willing to pay for the pick-up service? 31% Yes / 69% No
8. Who is your trash hauler? Many did not know
9. Do you use a cart on wheels for your trash and or recycling now? 75% yes / 20% No / 7% other
10. How much do you pay for trash pick-up? Many did not know
11. How do you pay for your waste disposal now? Monthly, Quarterly? Many did not know
12. Would you be interested in saving money and reducing trash? 79% yes / 21% No
13. Would you be interested in participating in a pilot program for 6-12 months for organics (food scrap) curbside pickup in July 2014? 100% Yes
Implementing the program  (March 11, 2014)
Making it easy for the residents to understand the program
Making it official
April 4, 2014

Deputy Commissioner - Macky McCleary
Bridgewater First Selectman – Curtis Read
HRRA Director – Jen Iannucci
New England Compost – Jeff Demers
HRRA V. Chair and Ridgefield First Selectman – Rudy Marconi
All American Waste – Eric Fredericksen
Good Afternoon!
This is your weekly reminder to remember to put your bin out tomorrow morning before 6am!

REMEmber - ONLY FOOD Scraps are allowed in your bin. No PLASTIC items, stickers, rubber bands or twist ties!

Acceptable Food Waste Items for Curbside Pick-up
• Meat, Poultry (bones also) Fish (including shellfish)
• Dairy Products
• Flower & Vegetable Garden Waste
• Houseplants & Flower Bouquets
• Fruits & Nuts (including pits)
• Vegetables ***Remove stickers, bands and ties***
• Bread, Pasta & Grains
• Saucers, Soup & Gravy
• Coffee Grounds & Filters
• Tea Bags
• Paper Towels & Napkins
• Egg Shells
• Plate Scrapings

If you are having issues with animals, feel free to use a bungee cord.
If you have an issue with pick-up please contact All American Waste directly at 860-354-2213 and speak with Stephanie DiLucca.

To date 18,880 lbs. or 9.44 tons of organic material have been collected in 22 weeks.
If you wish to be removed from this email list please reply and add "Remove Me" in the subject line.
Thank you,
Jen
Lessons learned

**Keeping participants** – Communication is key

**Increasing participation** was not as easy as planned.

**Animals** – Bungee cord

**Pest** – Freeze bag, use newspaper, keep container dry, keep in cool place

**Not enough bags** delivered bags day of pick-up and gave supply to town hall

**Container quality** – Use different container in future (larger and stronger)

**Contamination** – Education

**Cost** – Set fees upfront
Program results

- 60 Weeks
- Started with 120 participants currently have 141 – 16% of town
- Village Store, Church and local school
- **Over 50,000 lbs. / 25 tons** collected
- Average household – 10 lbs. per week
- Average bins out – 74%
- Nearly zero contamination reported

If... 882 residents diverted their organics, it would equal 4 tons a week or 212 tons a year from Bridgewater, CT.

HRRA serves 81,000 households (per 2010 census / www.hvceo.org)

Potential diversion - 374 tons wk or 19,459 tons a yr from waste to energy
Environments Benefits

Compost added to gardens, construction sites, and poor soils makes great things happen! Compost is a unique soil amendment because of its ability to hold moisture and soluble minerals.\(^4\)

Properly composted organics are beneficial:

- Maximize plant growth.
- Effective at preventing soil erosion.
- Aid in Stream and land reclamation.
- Reconstruction of wetlands.
- Help with storm water management and construction sites.
- Reduces the need for fertilizers & pesticides
- Over all soil amendment to improve soil health by increasing the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil.\(^3\)
- In addition, may be used to create biogas, a specialized type of gas that can be used effectively as a biofuel.
Closing the Loop
Giving away Compost
Down the road - Moving towards a sustainable future with organics

- It will require regulatory & public support to COMPOST not Landfill or Incinerate.⁴

- Financial support and investment is needed

- Education is essential

- The path to a sustainable society may be long and difficult, but composting organics is clearly a step in the right direction.⁴
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REFERENCES:
1. GAIA - Incinerators: Myths vs. Facts about “Waste to Energy”
3. USCC Position Statement Keeping Organics Out of Landfills