

# Enhancing Local Government Support for Food Scraps Recycling Programs in NYS

## A Virtual Forum

July 19, 2022



# NYS Pollution Prevention Institute

- Reduce the environmental footprint of New York State by working with businesses, non-profits and municipalities
- Direct 1:1 assistance, outreach and education, grant programs, research
- 5 partner universities, HQ in Rochester, NY at RIT
- \$3.9M in annual NYS funding administered through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



# Today's Virtual Forum

- **Introductions from NYSDEC**
- **Facilitated discussion**
- **Q&A with attendees and NYSDEC**



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# **Enhancing Local Government Support for Food Scraps Recycling Programs in NYS**

**July 19, 2022**

**Organics Reduction and Recycling Section, Division of Materials Management**

# Quick Updates From DEC

## NYS Department of Environmental Conservation **Organics Reduction & Recycling Section**

Regulate and promote the diversion of organics (wasted food, yard waste, biosolids, food processing waste, etc.) from disposal to beneficial uses.

- Regulatory Oversight & Technical Assistance
- Legislative Advocacy
- Funding Programs
- Outreach & Education

The Organics Reduction & Recycling Team  
(based in Albany, NY)

- Sally Rowland (Section Chief)
- Kristine Ellsworth
- Nasibah Elmi
- Chris Glander
- Molly Trembley



# New Contract - Center for EcoTechnology –

CET will engage and support actions through outreach, planning, education and technical assistance to businesses, organics recycling facilities (composting, anaerobic digestion, etc.), transporters, and other interested parties.

Tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Providing direct support via a call center and in-person assistance to businesses, organics recyclers, etc.
- Development of a social media and web campaign to address wasted food in New York State
- Direct assistance to businesses & institutions required to comply with Food Donation & Food Scraps Recycling law
- Direct assistance to organics recyclers to improve operations and product marketing

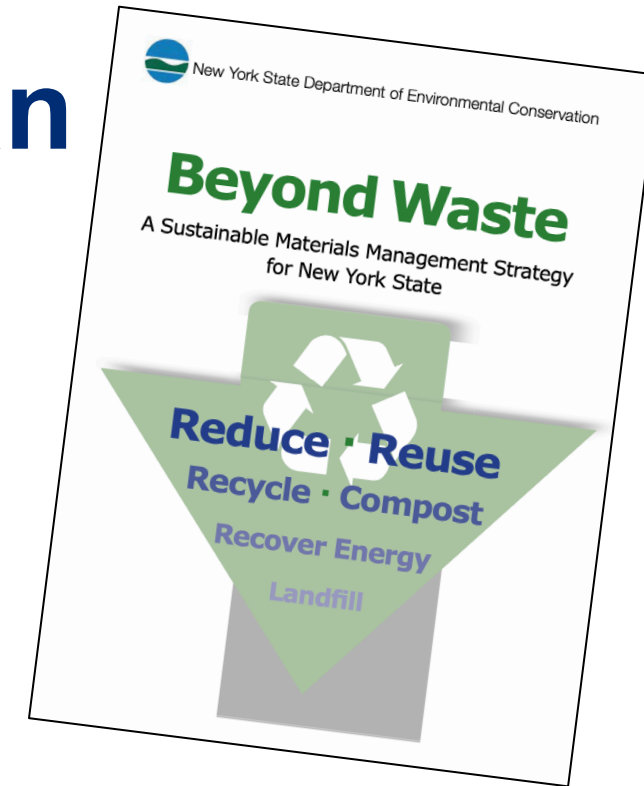


# NYS Solid Waste Management Plan

Anticipated public comment period fall 2022

Big themes:

- Addressing climate change through solid waste mgmt. through 2050
- Emphasis on waste reduction and recycling efforts
- Organics recovery and recycling plays a big role







# Municipal Funding for Food Scraps Recycling Initiatives

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Available Funding: \$2 million

- *Note: First \$1 million prioritized to eligible projects that dedicate at least 50% of the total funding to serving environmental justice communities.*

## Eligible Project Types

- Increased Residential Food Scraps Recycling Opportunities
- New or Expanded Food Scraps Recycling Programs and Facilities



# Grant Program Overview

## Eligible Applicants: Municipalities

- County, City, town or village
- Local public authority
- Local public benefit corporation
- School district, supervisory district, and improvement district
- Native American tribe or Nation residing in NYS
- Combination of above

**Note:** Eligible applicants may partner with private companies and not-for-profit organizations on their applications if the municipality is the lead applicant.

Grant Funding: 75% --- Match: 25%

Minimum Award Amount: \$1,000

Maximum Award Amount: \$200,000

Contract Term: Up to 3 Years



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# Eligible & Ineligible Costs

## Eligible Items:

- Staffing (educators, operators, drivers)
  - Travel
  - Equipment & Vehicles
  - Supplies and Outreach Materials
  - Facility Expansion (Equipment & Construction)
  - 1-year pilot programs including hauling
  - Depackagers/decontamination equipment
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## Ineligible Items:

- Costs not directly related to project (staff supervision, secretarial support, grant admin)
- Vehicle & Equipment maintenance, repair and insurance
- Permitting fees
- Costs directly related to energy recovery (e.g., engines at digesters)
- Costs incurred in preparing and submitting an application





# Project Examples

- Food scraps drop-off programs
- Home composting education
- Composting demonstration sites
- Residential food scraps collection programs
  - Pilot programs with hauling up to one year
- Expansion of yard waste composting to accept food scraps
- Development of new or improving existing food scraps recycling facility
- Depackager to incorporate food scraps at an anaerobic digestion facility



# Apply Today!

## [View RFA and Apply on Grants Gateway](#)

- Search by Grant Opportunity: 'Municipal Food Scraps Recycling Initiatives'
- Q&A document uploaded weekly on Wednesdays

## Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

- May 2, 2022 3:00PM EST to May 3, 2024 3:00PM EST, or until funds are exhausted

All projects evaluated by DEC for eligibility in the order in which they are received (first-in, first-out).



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# Other Available Grant Programs

- [DEC Climate Smart Communities Grant Program](#)
  - *Applications due 4:00 PM July 29, 2022*
- [USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreements](#)
  - *Applications due September 1, 2022*
- DEC Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling State Assistance Program
  - [Grants for Recycling Capital Projects \(ongoing\)](#)
  - [Grants for Recycling Coordination and Education Projects \(Apply Aug. – Oct.\)](#)







# Contact Us!

General Organics Recycling  
Questions? Email us at  
[OrganicRecycling@dec.ny.gov](mailto:OrganicRecycling@dec.ny.gov)

Grant Questions? Email us at  
[OrganicsGrants@dec.ny.gov](mailto:OrganicsGrants@dec.ny.gov)

Food Donation & Food Scraps  
Recycling Law Questions? Email us  
at [FoodScrapsLaw@dec.ny.gov](mailto:FoodScrapsLaw@dec.ny.gov)



# Upcoming Workshop Series

Sustainable Food Management Workshop Series (two options)

Herkimer - Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> (in-person), Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> (in-person), Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> (Virtual)  
or

Geneseo - Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> (in-person), Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> (in-person), Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> (Virtual)

[Register Today!](#)

SU Center for Sustainable Community Solutions & NYSP2I have partnered to coordinate a workshop series to assist rural communities with addressing food loss and waste on the local level.



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# Thank You

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RIT



Cornell CALS  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



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