

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING
DPW AGENDA
February 21, 2024**

Committee Members: CONOVER, Dickinson, Bruno, Bean, Merlino, Magowan and Strainer

- I. Committee meeting called to order by Chair**
- II. Approval of minutes of prior Committee Meeting**
- III. Privilege of the floor and public comment**
- IV. Action Agenda/New Business Items**
- V. Discussion Items:**
 - 1. Introduction of the County’s New Solid Waste and Recycling Compliance Coordinator
 - 2. Presentation by Adirondack Compost Education Council, Inc. (ACEC)
 - 3. Form a Working group to discuss a recyclables project.
- VI. Referrals/Pending Items**
- VII. Privilege of the floor and public comment**
- VIII. Motion to Adjourn**

Attachments:



Adirondack Compost Education Council, Inc. (ACEC)

A NYS Non-Profit Organization 501(c)(3)

February 2024

Board Members

Claudia Braymer, Esq., Deputy Dir. Protect the Adirondacks
(Secretary)

Tracy Frisch, Chair, Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls

Barbara Joudry, Retired, National Security Agency (Chair)

Jean Lapper, CPA, Owner, Anderson Advisory CPA (Treasurer)

Julian Mangano, Owner, Della Terra Organic Farm/State Committee
Member, Farm Service Agency

Christopher Millard, Esq., Senior Counsel, The Law Offices of
Christopher Millard, L.L.C. (General Counsel)

Alex Sabo, Environmental Designer

*Our mission is to educate the public and support local
food systems by promoting a circular economy.*



Our Motivation

Promote a healthier environment

New York State Food Donation and Food Scrap Recycling Law, Title 22 now in effect.

Establishes a hierarchy for the recycling of food scraps by designated generators in New York State. Designated generators are defined as: supermarkets, large food service businesses, higher educational institutions, hotels, food processors, correctional facilities, and entertainment venues. The law requires all generators who produce 2 tons per week or more to donate excess food and recycle all inedible food scraps if located within 25 miles of an organics recycler.



Warren County Organic Management Plan

Preliminary Recommendations

- Hire a Solid Waste Coordinator and a Recycling Coordinator.
- Pursue grant applications.
- Implement a pilot program in 2024, including a waste characterization study.
- Finalize the municipal business case, including market assessment for finished compost.
- Consider expanding county support of local composting initiatives (e.g., outreach and engagement).

Warren County Organic Management Plan

Preliminary Recommendations

- Pilot programs include:
 - ✓ Backyard composting: Town of Queensbury, Rotary Club
 - ✓ Residential drop-off at a centralized location: Food scraps collection at GF Farmers Market by Zero Waste WC
 - ✓ Curbside collection: Adirondack Worm Farm
- These efforts give residents the opportunity to learn what materials are to be composted.
- Implement the pilot program in 2024. The plan determined a centralized facility was feasible and to start with a small composting operation

ACEC Recommendations

- DPW should **hire a consultant** to write grant applications.
- Build a **Windrow** system to prove value
or
- Implement an **Aerated Static Pile (ASP)** system to improve efficiency.

Strategic Value in Warren County Compost Facility

- **30% reduction** of municipal solid waste. Save money on waste disposal.
- Earn revenue from tipping fees and the sale of high value compost product.
- Meet public demand expressed in the survey results, the participation in food scrap collection at the GF Farmer's Market, and the growth of the Adirondack Worm Farm business.
- Create a local alternative to chemical fertilizer and improve local soil health.
- Create local jobs (e.g., construction, operations, program management).
- Align with Warren County's Climate Smart Community pledge (adopted in 2019 and certified in 2020) and the NYS Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law (January 2022).

Funding: Federal and State

- **EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling program** – improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure and assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.
- **USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production** – funds pilot projects that develop and implement strategies for food waste reduction and compost plans.
- **NYS Pollution Prevention Institute Food Waste Reduction and Reimbursement Program** – reimbursement grant program for local governments in NYS that generate, haul or recycle large amounts of food wasted with the goal of reducing waste sent to landfills.
- **DEC** – municipal funding for Food Scraps Recycling initiatives. Assist municipalities in starting municipal food scrap recycling programs.
- **DEC Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling State Assistance Program** – 50% reimbursement rate.

Questions?

Barbara Joudry

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