

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING
July 22, 2026**

Committee Members: CONOVER, Strainer, Bruno, Diamond, Patchett, Niles and Beaty

- I. Committee Meeting Call 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**
- V. Information for Discussion/Review**
 - 1. Presentation – Scott Royael/Barbara Joudry – Sustainable Materials Management
 - 2. Working Group – update
- VI. Referrals/Pending Items**
- VII. Privilege of the floor and public comment**
- VIII. Motion to Adjourn**

Attachments:

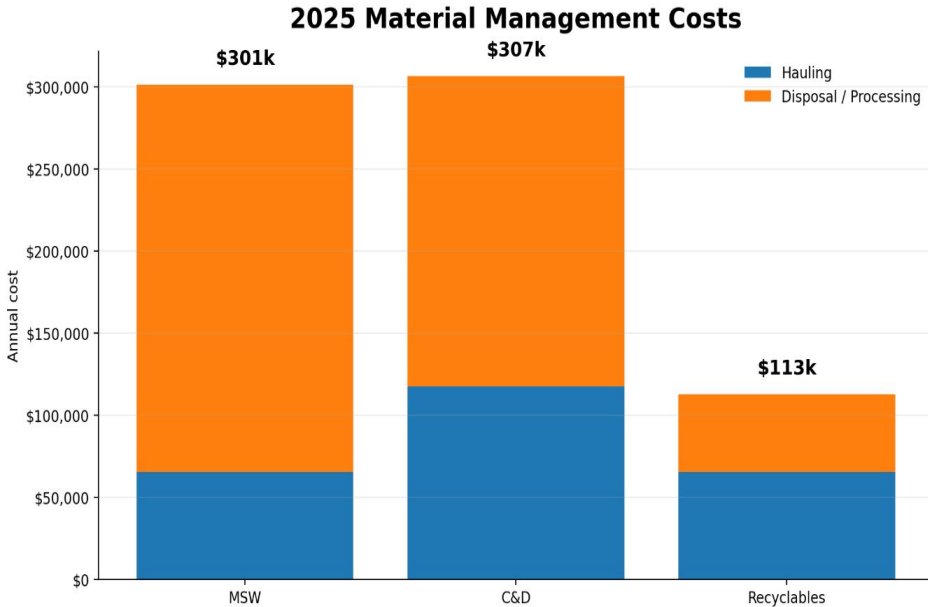
- 1. Slide Presentation

Warren County Business Case for Sustainable Materials Management



North Elba Baled Cardboard (2026)

Why are we recommending change?



*MSW - Municipal Solid Waste
C&D - Construction and Demolition

Why materials management matters?

- 💰 Residents pay for disposal.
- ♻️ Source-separated transfer station recyclables are accepted at no charge to encourage participation
- 📊 Warren County municipalities spend approximately \$113,000 annually transporting and processing transfer station recyclables.
- 📦 Recyclables retain commodity value.
- 🍎 Food scraps are 29% of the MSW* stream (~1,000 tons/year).
- 🌱 Together, recycling and composting provide opportunities to recover value rather than pay for disposal.

Food scraps represent approximately 29% of the municipal solid waste stream - the single largest recoverable material identified in the 2025 waste characterization study.

Why are we recommending change?

Why Recyclables Are Different?

MSW & C&D

- Disposal materials
- User fees help offset costs
- No recoverable commodity value*

Source-Separated Recyclables

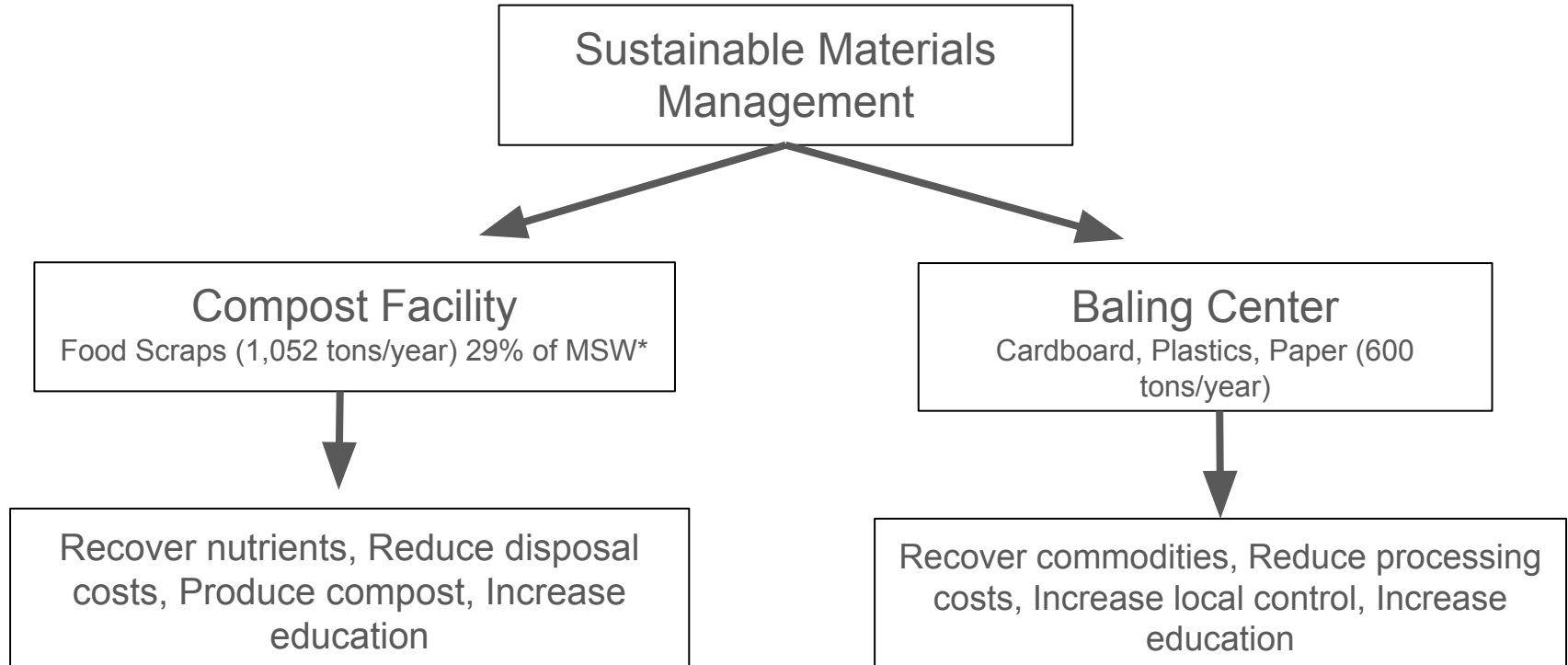
- Accepted at no charge to encourage participation
- Municipalities absorb transportation & processing costs
- Retain market value that can potentially be recovered



*MSW - Municipal Solid Waste
C&D - Construction and Demolition

largest recoverable material identified in the 2025 waste characterization study.

How do we make this change?



*Stony Brook waste characterization study

Compost Opportunity



Warren County

Waste Characterization Study (2025)

Proposed layout for Warren County Food Scrap Pilot

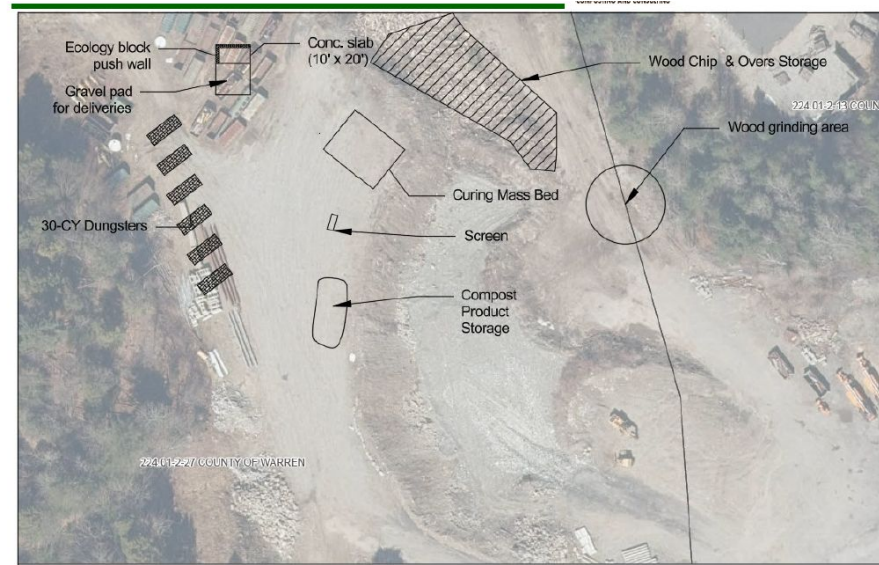


Figure 5. Concept Layout at Tony Pit

Compost Opportunity



Warren County

Waste Characterization Study (2025)



Food scraps

≈1,052 tons/year



Current hauling & disposal cost

≈\$87,000/year



Shorter transportation distance

(Local compost site)



Product

Finished compost

Resident distribution
Municipal landscaping
Highway projects
Stormwater projects

Lessons from North Elba - 22 Years of Municipal Recycling Experience



What we've learned

- ✓ Started with cardboard—not a full recycling center.
- ✓ Expanded gradually as experience and markets developed.
- ✓ Commodity markets fluctuate, but the program has remained sustainable.
- ✓ Public education increased participation over time.
- ✓ Clean material (less than 2% contamination) is critical to success.

Why a baling facility?

Current System



Source-separated cardboard is transported to a single-stream MRF before entering commodity markets.

- Longer hauling distance
- Additional handling
- Processing costs
- Commodity value leaves county

Future Opportunity



- Shorter hauling distance
- Less handling
- Commodity recovery
- Local control

Cardboard (phase 1) - Warren County



 ~400 tons annually

 \$34,000 commodity value

 \$13,073 estimated hauling efficiencies

 \$40,000 avoided processing costs

≈ \$87,695 annual gross opportunity

How would a Warren County pilot work?

- 1 Transfer station
- 2 County hauling to leased site
- 3 Cardboard baled*
- 4 Broker schedules pickup
- 5 Commodity market

***Staffing (Under Evaluation)**

- Existing County staff
- Intermunicipal partnership
- Shared staffing model
- Refine through pilot



Approximately one
outbound trailer pickup per
month (~44 bales per shipment)

Plastic (phase 2) - Warren County

Available Tonnage:
138 tons (2025)

North Elba:

- Markets mixed plastics (#1-7)
- Approximately \$60/ton commodity value

Potential Benefits:

- Additional commodity revenue
- Reduced processing costs
- Utilizes existing baling infrastructure



Fiber Expansion (phase 3) - Warren County



Phase 3 – Fiber Expansion

Additional Materials:

Mixed Paper 77 tons

Newspaper 17 tons

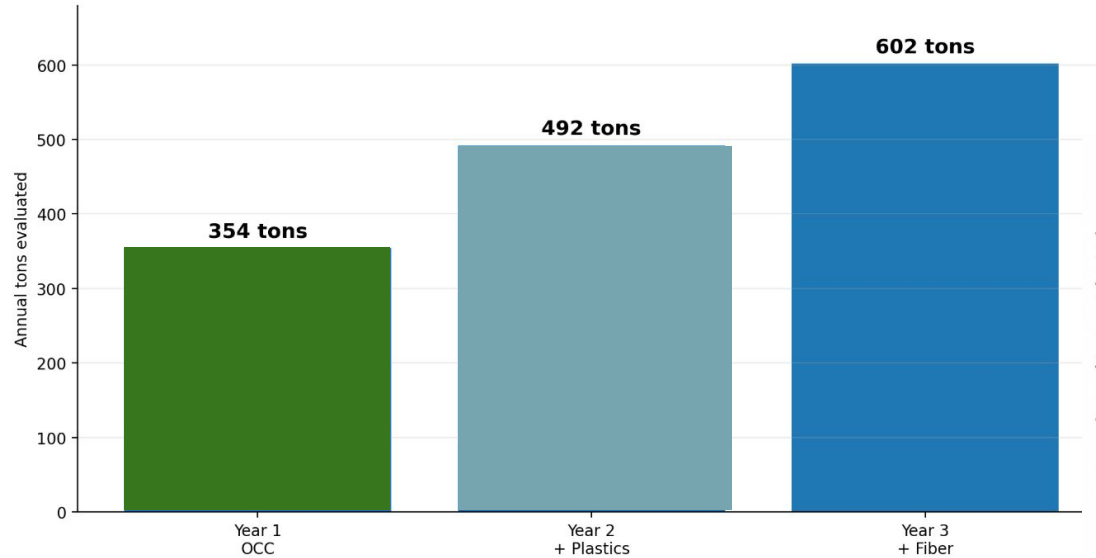
Magazines 16 tons

Additional Fiber:

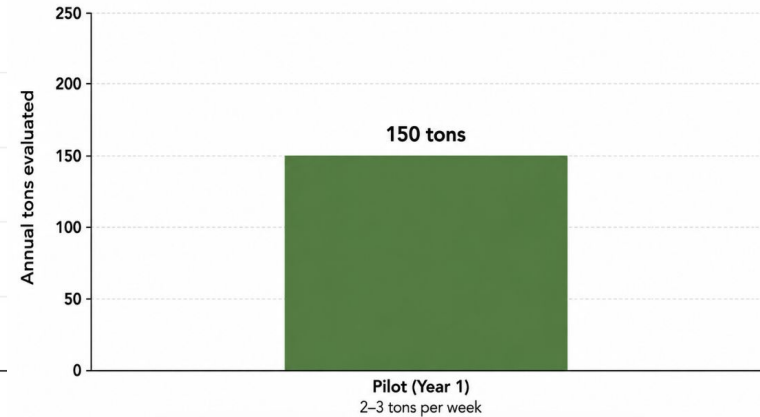
110 tons

Warren County Materials Management Opportunity

Recyclables



Food Scrap Pilot



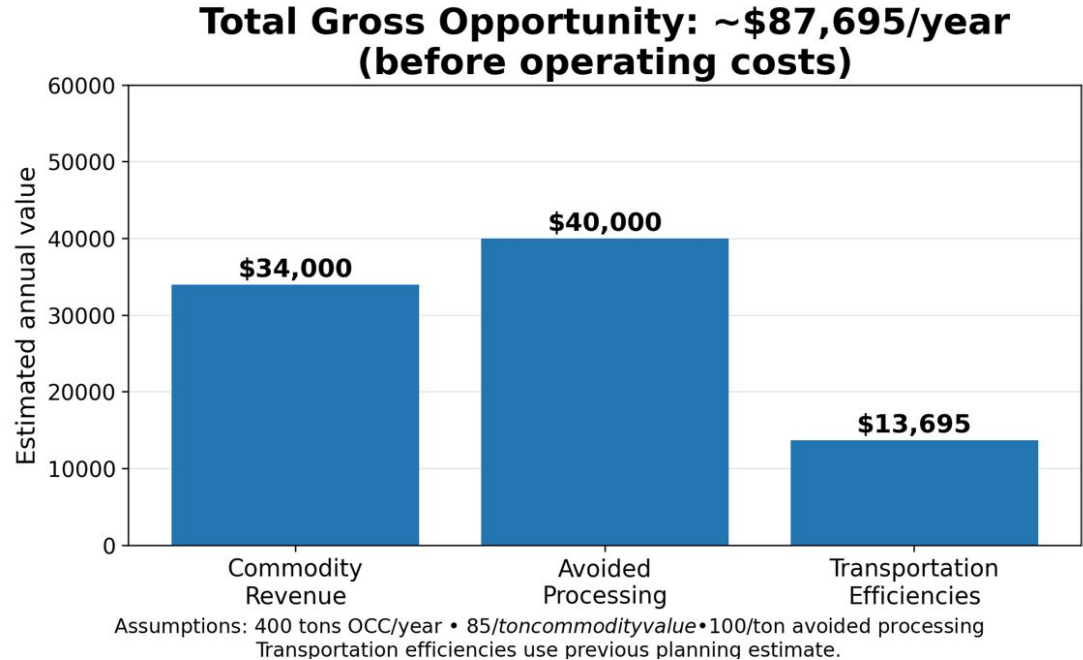
Are we maximizing the value of materials we currently manage?

Current:

- ~\$113,000 annually to transport and process transfer station recyclables
- ~\$87,000 annual cost of food scraps in waste stream

Opportunity:

- Commodity revenue
- Avoided processing costs
- Reduced hauling
- Environmental
- Educational
- Local control



The Warren County waste stream contains valuable resources that we currently pay to transport and dispose of

Our Opportunity

-  Recover nutrients from food scraps.
-  Recover commodity value from recyclables.
-  Reduce transportation and processing costs.
-  Build a resilient, locally controlled materials management system.

Moving Forward

As Warren County begins developing the 2027 budget, we will:

- Finalize a lease strategy for the proposed recycling pilot facility.
- Refine capital, operating, lease, and staffing cost estimates.
- Explore intermunicipal partnerships and grant funding opportunities.
- Final business case and budget proposal for consideration during the County's November 2027 budget approval.