Ulster County
Food Waste & Recovery
2021-2022
Is your business ready?

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About the Food Waste and Recovery Act

This local law expands food scrap recycling requirements by regulating generators of food scraps, by including schools and hospitals, and through other extensions beyond State law.

The full text of the Act can be found here: https://ecode360.com/36623724
About the Food Waste and Recovery Act

Food Recovery Hierarchy

- Source Reduction: Reduce the volume of surplus food generated
- Feed Hungry People: Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters
- Feed Animals: Divert food scraps to animal food
- Industrial Uses: Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy
- Composting: Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment
- Landfill/Incineration: Last resort to disposal

Adopted 12/18/2019
Who is Impacted?

Large generators of food scraps who produce:

- Greater than 2 tons of food scraps per week (starting January 1, 2021)
- Greater than 1 ton of food scraps per week (starting January 1, 2022)
- Greater than 0.75 tons of food scraps per week (starting January 1, 2023)
- Greater than 0.5 tons of food scraps per week (starting January 1, 2024)
Why it matters

Food takes up the most space in our Landfills
Why it matters

Methane verse CO2
Why it matters

In 2018, 101,379 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) was generated in the County.
Where does food waste come from?

- **Industrial**
  - Food Processors like dairy, fruit, vegetable processors, and breweries
- **Institutional**
  - Schools, colleges, universities, correctional facilities, hospitals, and nursing homes
- **Commercial**
  - Restaurants, grocery stores, fast food, retail establishments, hotels, hospitality, and event centers
- **Residential**
  - Homes, apartment building etc.
As it is right now.
The Goal.

Reduce
Donations
Animal Feed
Anaerobic Digestion
Composting
Land Fill
How does the County identify large food scraps GENERATORS?

Ulster County uses the Organic Resource Locator dataset developed and maintained by the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) to identify large food scraps generators who are regulated under the law.

https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nysp2i/organic-resource-locator
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November 16th 2021
Learning Outcomes

• What is UCRRA?
• What are the benefits of organics recycling?
• What is the UCRRA Partners in Composting program – and it’s local impact?
• What is contamination and how does it affect composting?
• What are other local composting service options?
Food makes up 22% of all landfill waste nationwide. Why compost?

- **Save on disposal costs**
- **Compost improves soil quality**
- **40% of food grown in the U.S. is never eaten**

Learn more at [WWW.UCRRA.ORG](http://WWW.UCRRA.ORG)
Join our Partners in Composting Program

Learn more at WWW.UCRRA.ORG
Partners in Composting
Tote Bin Loan Program

- 35 gallon rolling carts
- $40.00 deposit per container
- Equipment deposit fee is fully refundable when/if bins are returned

Learn more at WWW.UCRRA.ORG

This program made possible with the support of Ulster County and funding by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and NYS Environmental Protection Fund.
History – UCRRA Organics Recovery Facility

2012

2017-2020

2020-2021

Learn more at WWW.UCRRA.ORG
Composting is a climate smart solution and a community asset that fosters stewardship of Ulster County’s environment and natural resources. 2012-2021 GHG equivalent = 38,000,000+ LBS (19,000 TONS) of food scraps. 266,481 miles. C02 equivalent 31,574.80 TONS. 5,833 homes’ electricity use x 1 year. 39,343 acres forest x 1 year. Burning 35 million lbs. coal. Learn more at WWW.UCRRA.ORG.
Extended Aerated Static Pile (EASP) method of composting

We composted 4,665 tons of organics in 2020!

Learn more at WWW.UCRRA.ORG
CLEAN FEEDSTOCKS IN  

QUALITY COMPOST OUT

Accepting: all food scraps including pre or post consumer food scraps, meat/fish bones, dairy, fruit/vegetable trimmings, bulk produce, bread and bakery overages, coffee grounds/filters, tea bags, nut shells, cooked/uncooked foods, plate scrapings, etc.

Not Accepting: bulk liquids, grease traps, waste vegetable oil, food service contaminants (hairnets, gloves, condiment packages, rubber bands/twist ties, utensils etc.) pizza boxes or misc. paper products, brewery waste grains, animal manure

Learn more at WWW.UCRRA.ORG
Grow Ulster Green Compost produced locally & sustainably sold in bulk screened & unblended $30 per ton

We sold 2,676 tons of compost in 2020!

Learn more at WWW.UCRRRA.ORG
## Manage food scraps on site

### PROS

- You make and use your own finished compost.
- On site mgmt. = Low carbon-footprint.
- Provide hands-on learning experiences.
- Lots of system options to choose from.
- Maximize cost savings.
- Grants may be available to support your project.
- Facility has total control of the program.

### CONS

- This option requires the most planning and commitments.
- Small compost systems should avoid: meat, bones, dairy products, compostable products, etc.
- Need a suitable space to do the composting.
- Need to source your own yard waste.
- Can potentially be high cost.
- Need to troubleshoot any issues (odors, pests, neighbor concerns, contamination, etc.)
Composting: What are the options?

Hire a hauler for curbside service

**PROS**
- Convenience! Someone else does the composting for you!
- There are no concerns about troubleshooting, sourcing browns, mixing/making the compost.
- There are several service options to choose from.
- Can include meat, bones, dairy products.
- Bins, stickers, signs, etc. may be provided (ask the company).
- Convenience of pick-up requires less staff time.
- Supports local green jobs.

**CONS**
- Don’t get to use the finished compost (unless you purchase it).
- Reduced (or none) hands-on learning experience for participants.
- 5, 6, or 7 day pick-up is not always available, or it is costly.
- May be one-step removed from the compost site; lack of feedback if there are contamination issues.
- Odors/vectors can become an issue with bins.

Learn more at www.ucrra.org/waste-recycling/food-waste/
# Composting: What are the options?

## Self-haul (drop-off) food scraps to a site

### PROS

- Convenience! Someone else does the composting for you!
- There are no concerns about troubleshooting, sourcing browns, mixing/making the compost.
- There are several composting sites that you can self-haul to.
- Can include meat, bones, dairy products.
- Bins, stickers, signs, etc. may be provided (ask the company).
- Support local green jobs.
- **DIY is always an economical option.**
- Close the gap - see for yourself how the compost is made and get direct feedback on contamination/quality.
- UCRRA will track your waste and provide environmental savings, stats, and social media tools to help you promote your sustainability practices!

### CONS

- Don’t get to use the finished compost (unless you purchase it).
- Reduced (or none) hands-on learning experience for participants.
- Odors/vectors can become an issue with bins.
- May need special permitting if hauling over 1 ton.
- Need a reliable Green Team & appropriate vehicle.

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Learn more at www.ucrra.org/waste-recycling/food-waste/
Composting: What are the options?

**REDUCE & REUSE!**

**PROS**

- Change wasteful habits upstream = the most environmentally-responsible option!
- Make a difference towards social equity in your community by supporting food insecure families.
- Donation centers often have volunteers that will pick up food, making it very easy to donate!
- Costs associated with making a food donation are tax deductible.
- Create an outlet for inventory that may be otherwise difficult to move.
- Create exciting new menu options or value-added products, learning new skills and new recipes!

**Avoidable:** Food that can be easily prevented from going to waste. Reasons for waste include over preparation, improper storage, or spoilage. Understanding the cause of this waste is key to preventing it.

*Example: An entire tray of lasagna is left over every day at a buffet.*

**Possibly avoidable:** Food that may seem inedible but can be used or repurposed.

*Example: Beet tops can be cooked similarly to collard greens or spinach instead of discarded. Also, slightly stale bread can be used for croutons or bread crumbs.*

**Unavoidable:** Food that cannot be consumed by people and should be used for animal feed, compost, or anaerobic digestion.

*Example: Banana peels and peach pits.*

Learn more at www.ucrra.org/waste-recycling/food-waste/
UCRRA Recycling Outreach Team

Rethink Waste!

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Food Scrap Recycling Services & Finished Compost Products
About Us

Established in 2013, Community Compost Company, LLC is owner-operated by founder Eileen Banyra. The company is NYS certified women-owned and based in New Paltz in the Hudson Valley of NY.

Our team of passionate environmentalists are committed to a closed loop approach to effectively utilize food waste through recycling and composting, to improve our regional soils.
Organics Collection & Drop-Off Services
- Municipal, Commercial & Residential

Hudson Soil Co. Compost Products
- Bulk & Bagged
Environmental Impacts

OUR METRICS

Total Pounds of Food Scraps Composted: 3,802,785

Carbon Equivalency: 1,700,000

Gallons of Gas Avoided: 170,824

Seedlings Planted: 492,375

Current Service Areas:

Hudson Valley of NY
- Areas of Ulster, Dutchess and Orange Counties

Hudson County New Jersey
- Hoboken
- Jersey City
- Secaucus
- North Bergen
A sample of our clients
Operations Overview

Aeration and Curing
Decentralized Model

- Turn wasted food scraps and other organics into valuable soil amendments

- Distribute capital costs and reduce trucking/environmental impacts by composting at multiple smaller sites
Our reliable services make it easy to divert food waste
Clean commercial collection services
Our composting facility at Arrowhead Farm in Kerhonkson, NY
Our Hudson Soil Co products: Restoring local soils
Why Work With Us

1. Reliable, attentive service tailored to your needs
2. We clean containers at each collection
3. We provide free training, dashboard metrics of volume and environmental impacts as well as ongoing support by our knowledgeable staff
4. We are involved in our communities through creating green jobs and supporting the Hudson Valley’s local economies
5. We apply a climate aware, systems approach to organics recycling—collect materials, process into compost and amend soils
6. Our compost improves the soil’s biology to better sequester carbon, clean and store water, and enhance the quality of our foods and planetary health
Keep in Touch!

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Websites:
Collection: communitycompostco.com
Soil Products: hudsonsoil.com
Resources


- Food Bank of the Hudson Valley: https://foodbankofhudsonvalley.org/donate-food/
Already regulated under the New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law?

Submit a Waiver form and supporting documentation by November 30

https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114499.html
Thank you for attending!

https://ulstercountyny.gov/environment/department-environment

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