

Ulster County Food Waste & Recovery 2021-2022

Is your business ready?



Molly Lindsay
Director of Operations, Community Compost Company



Angelina Brandt
Director of Sustainability
Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency



Michael D'Arcy
Ulster County Department of the Environment
Environmental Outreach Manager

About the Food Waste and Recovery Act

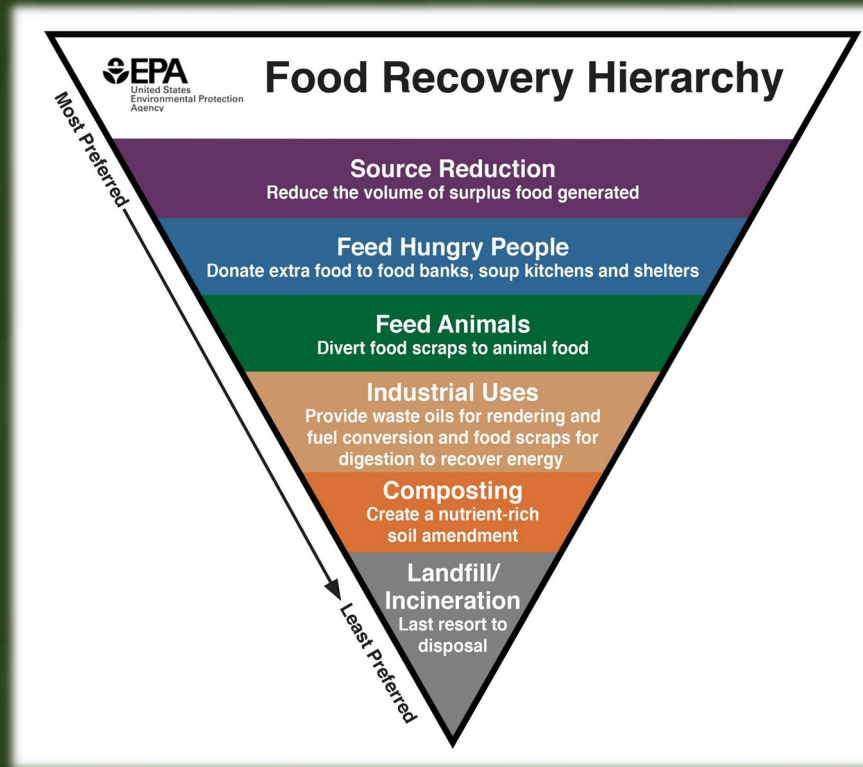
This local law expands food scrap recycling requirements by regulating generators of food scraps, by including schools and hospitals, and through other extensions beyond State law.



The full text of the Act can be found here: <https://ecode360.com/36623724>

About the Food Waste and Recovery Act

Adopted 12/18/2019



Who is Impacted?

Large generators of food scraps who produce:

- ~~Greater than 2 tons of food scraps per week¹ (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)



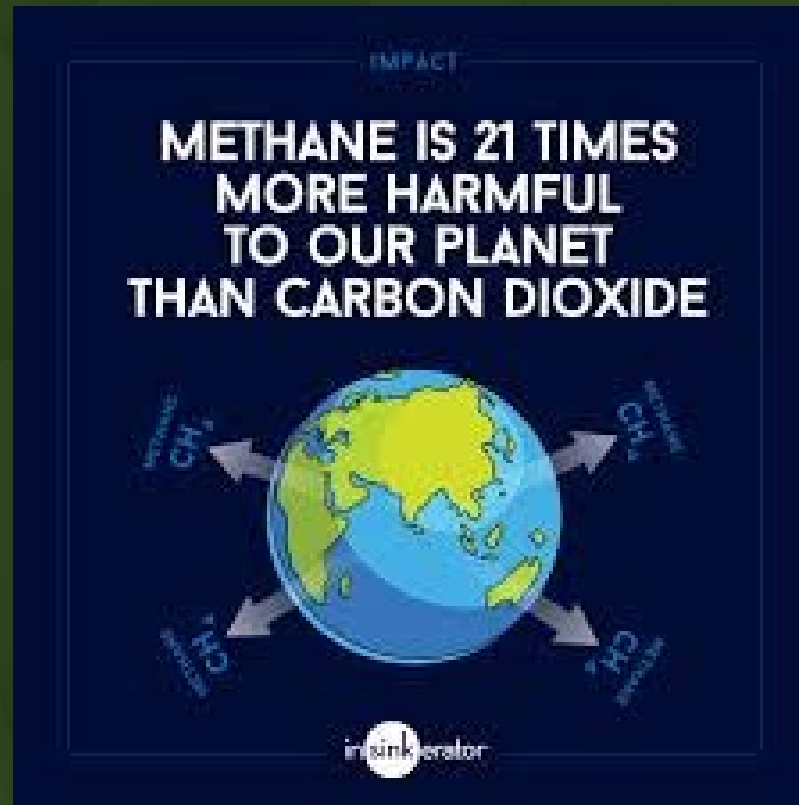
Why it matters

Food takes up the most space in our Landfills



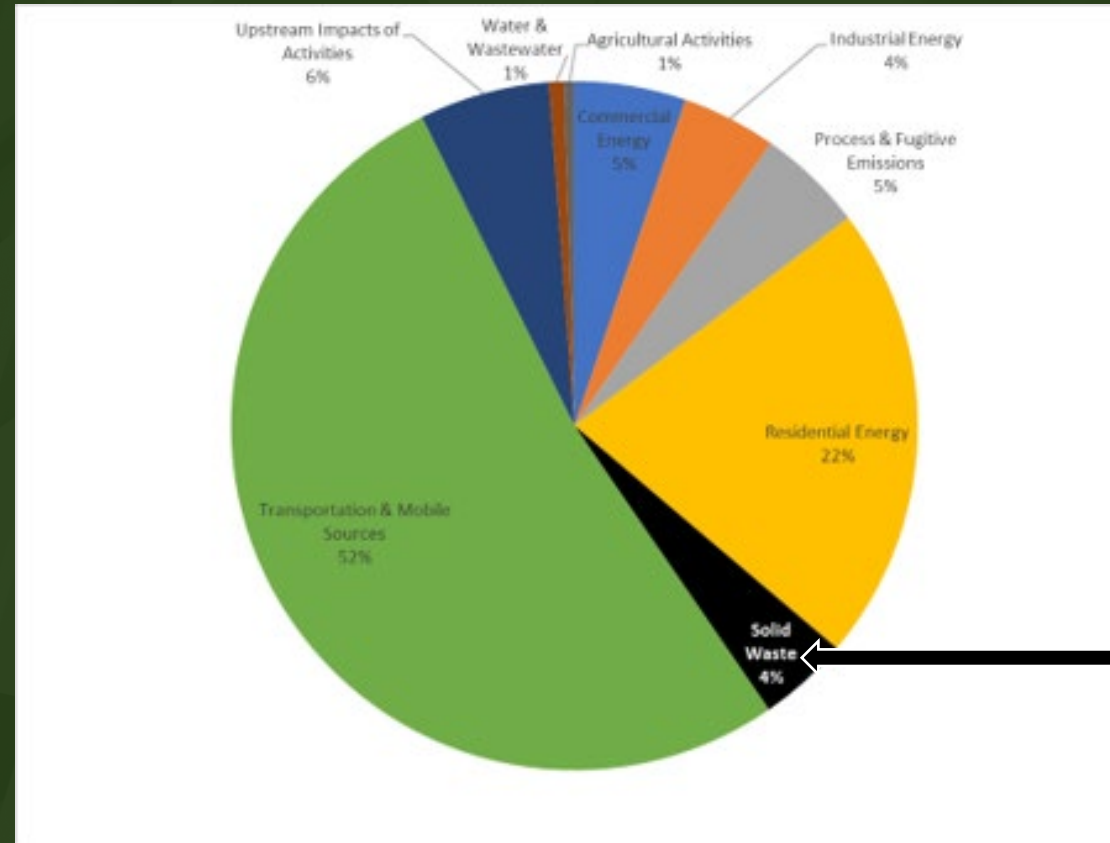
Why it matters

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>



Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability
Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency
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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?



Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

*Proudly serving Ulster
County for 30+ years*



Learn more at
WWW.UCRRRA.ORG

Why compost?



40% of food grown in the U.S. is never eaten



Food makes up **22%** of all landfill waste nationwide



Compost improves soil quality

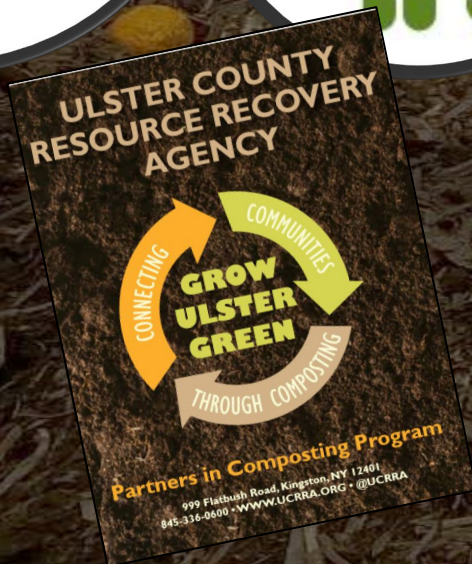


Save on disposal costs



Learn more at
WWW.UCRRRA.ORG

Join our Partners in Composting Program



Learn more at
WWW.UCRRRA.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



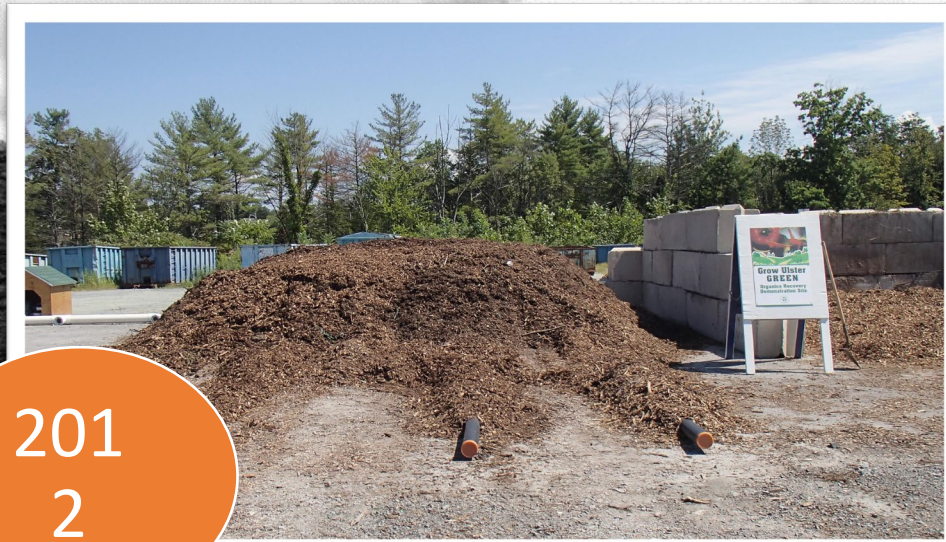
Food Waste Only
Residuos De Comida Solamente

This program made possible with the support of Ulster County and funding by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and NYS Environmental Protection Fund.



Learn more at
WWW.UCRRRA.ORG

History – UCRRA Organics Recovery Facility



2012



2017-2020

2016

County Expands Food Waste Composting Site

The Ulster County (NY) Resource Recovery Agency recently expanded its pilot composting facility to service organics haulers.

Marsha Johnston

WITH increasing traffic from regional waste haulers attracted by its affordable tipping fees and professional operation, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency's (UCRRA) food waste composting pilot facility in Kingston, New York was expanded in September 2016. "Only 50 percent of the source separated organics received come from Ulster County," explains Marilyn Akhtar, UCRRA's regional waste haulers considering extra transportation costs. The pilot facility receives loads from between five and seven private haulers, some of which are collecting from groceries, schools and businesses, including Hannaford's and eChopper, notes Charlie Whitaker. UCRRA's composting operation began in 2012 and was designed to process 1,000 tons in all of 2015. Once the operation hit over 500 tons last August, UCRRA decided to ask the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for permission to construct an expanded composting site and to accept more organics. "We had been discussing it all along with DEC," says Whitaker. "When they put us out there, we were ready to go."

In the first nine months of 2016, the composting facility processed over 1,000 tons of food waste, compared to 670 tons in all of 2015.

UCRRA's composting operation began in 2012 and was designed to process 1,000 tons in all of 2015. Once the operation hit over 500 tons last August, UCRRA decided to ask the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for permission to construct an expanded composting site and to accept more organics. "We had been discussing it all along with DEC," says Whitaker. "When they put us out there, we were ready to go."

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Learn more at
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Composting is a climate smart solution and a community asset that fosters stewardship of Ulster County's environment and natural resources

2012-2021

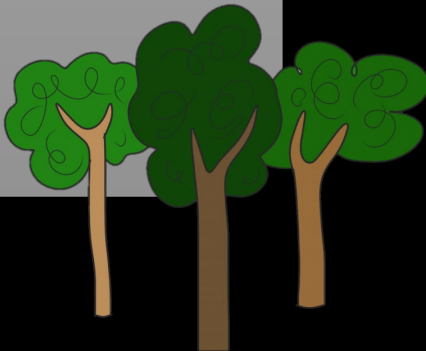
GHG equivalent =



burning 35 million lbs.
coal



5,833 homes'
electricity use x 1 year



39,343 acres forest x 1 year



38,000,000+ LBS
(19,000 TONS)
of food scraps



266,481
miles

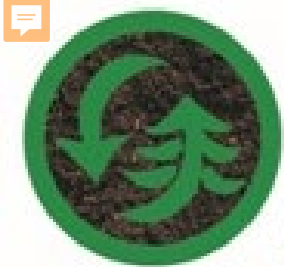


52,741
gallons

C02 equivalent
31,574.80 TONS



Learn more at
WWW.UCRRRA.ORG



US Composting
Council®
Proud Member
I'm a Soilbuilder!

Extended Aerated Static Pile (EASP) method of composting



Initial Mix



EASP Process



We composted 4,665 tons of organics in 2020!

Learn more at
WWW.UCRRRA.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.UCRR.ORG



ORGANICS RECYCLING CONTAMINATI

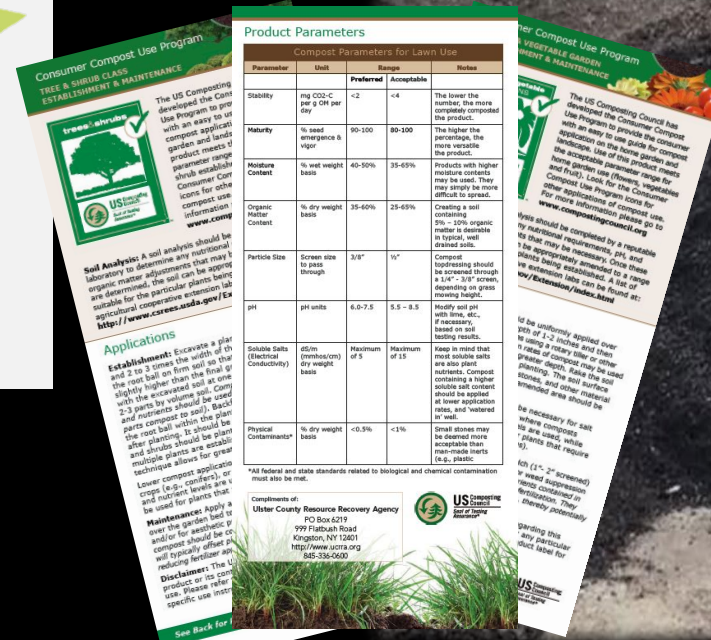


Learn more at
WWW.UCRRRA.ORG

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.UCRR.ORG

Composting: What are the options?

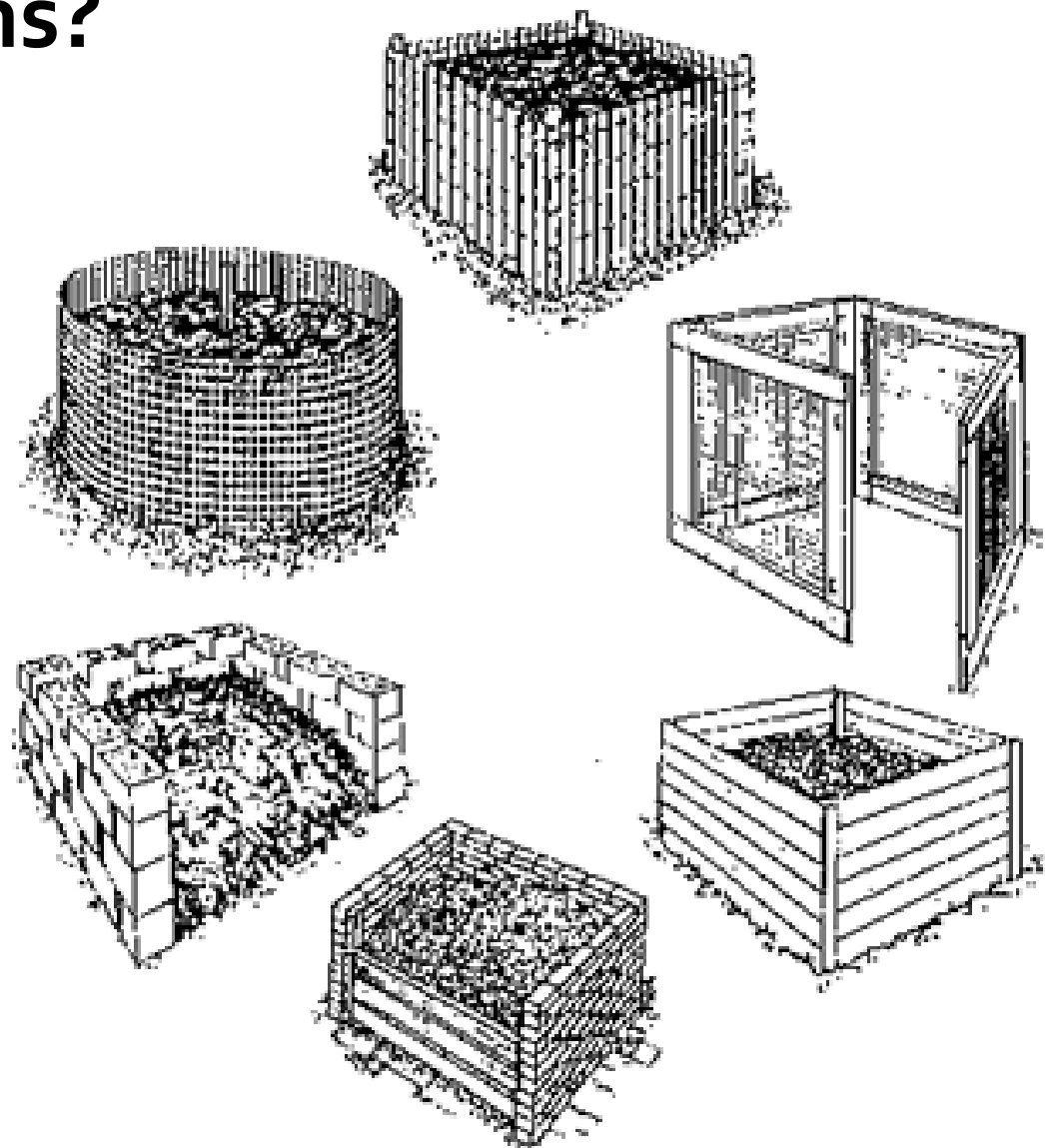
Manage food scraps on site

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.)



Learn more at
WWW.UCRR.ORG

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.**



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.

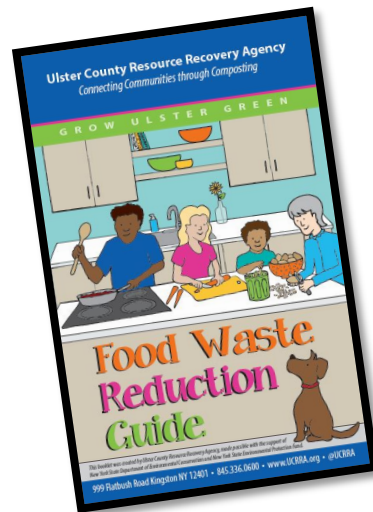
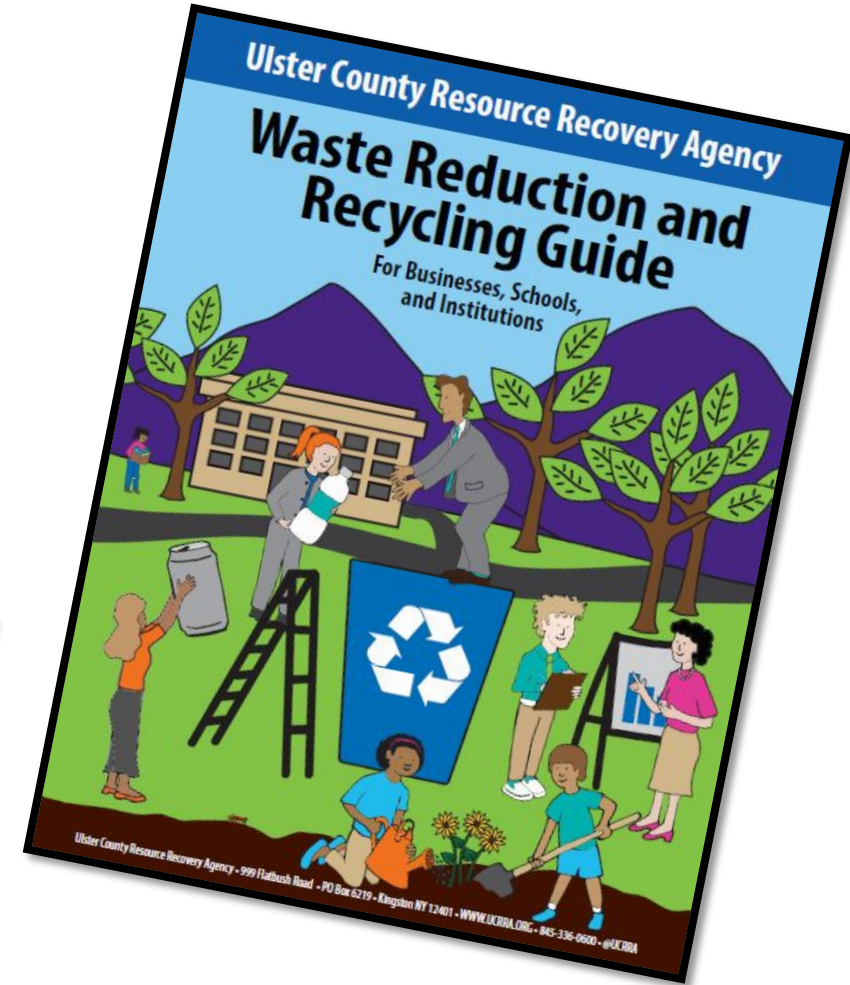
Unavoidable: Food that cannot be consumed by people and should be used for animal feed, compost, or anaerobic digestion.

Example: Banana peels and peach pits.

Learn more at www.ucrra.org/waste-recycling/food-waste/

UCRRA Recycling Outreach Team

Rethink Waste!



www.UCRRRA.org @UCRRRA





Angelina Brandt
Director of Sustainability



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**Ulster County
Resource Recovery Agency**

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Kingston NY 12401

WWW.UCRRRA.ORG • @UCRRA



845-336-0600





HUDSON
SOIL  CO.

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.



Products & Services



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

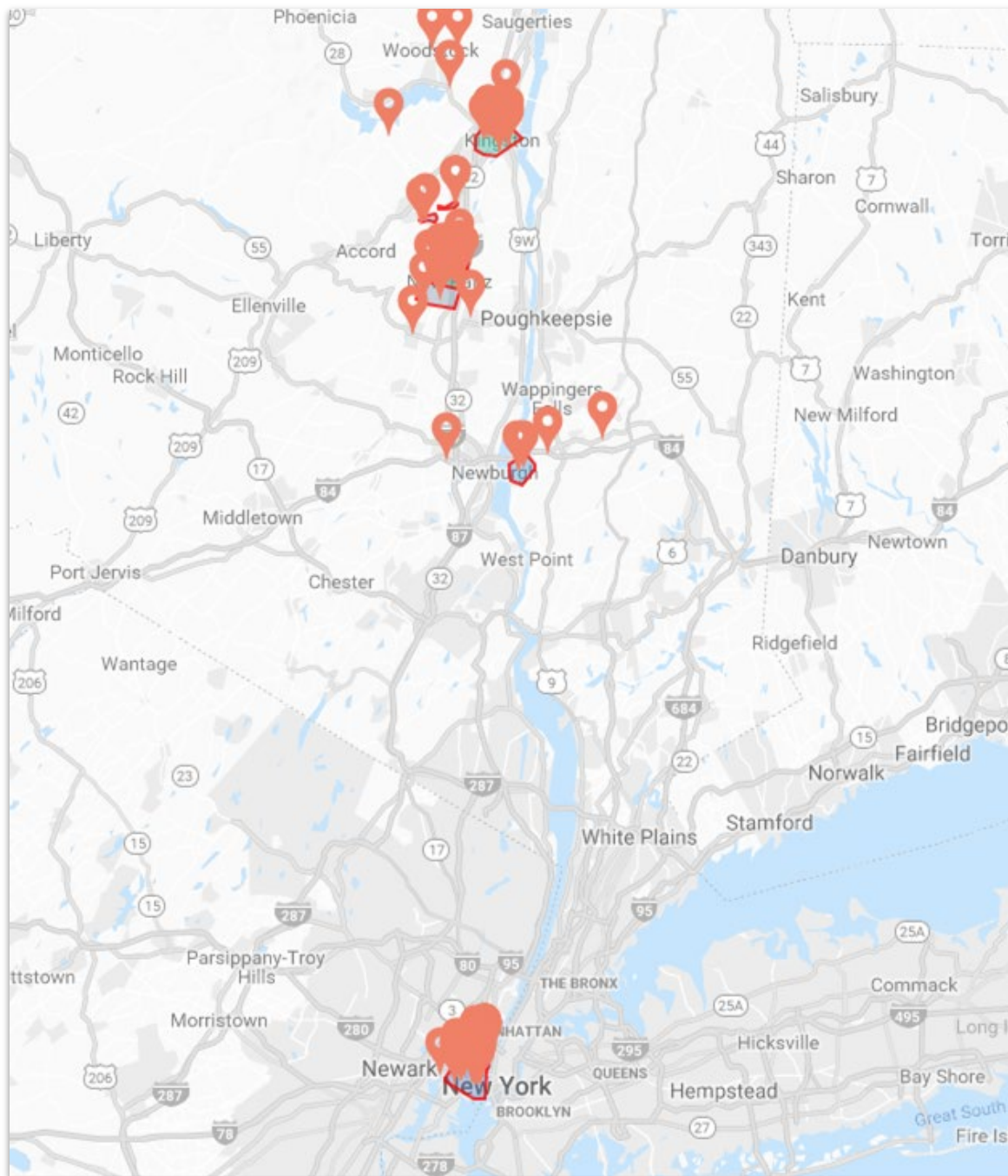
Carbon Equivalency: 1,700,000

Gallons of Gas Avoided: 170,824

Seedlings Planted: 492,375

For More Information Visit: [EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#)





Current Service Areas:

Hudson Valley of NY

- Areas of Ulster, Dutchess and Orange Counties

Hudson County New Jersey

- Hoboken
- Jersey City
- Secaucus
- North Bergen



MARBLETOWN, NY
Established 1703



LORD ABBETT



Woodland Pond
at New Paltz



WKNY 1490AM 107.9FM



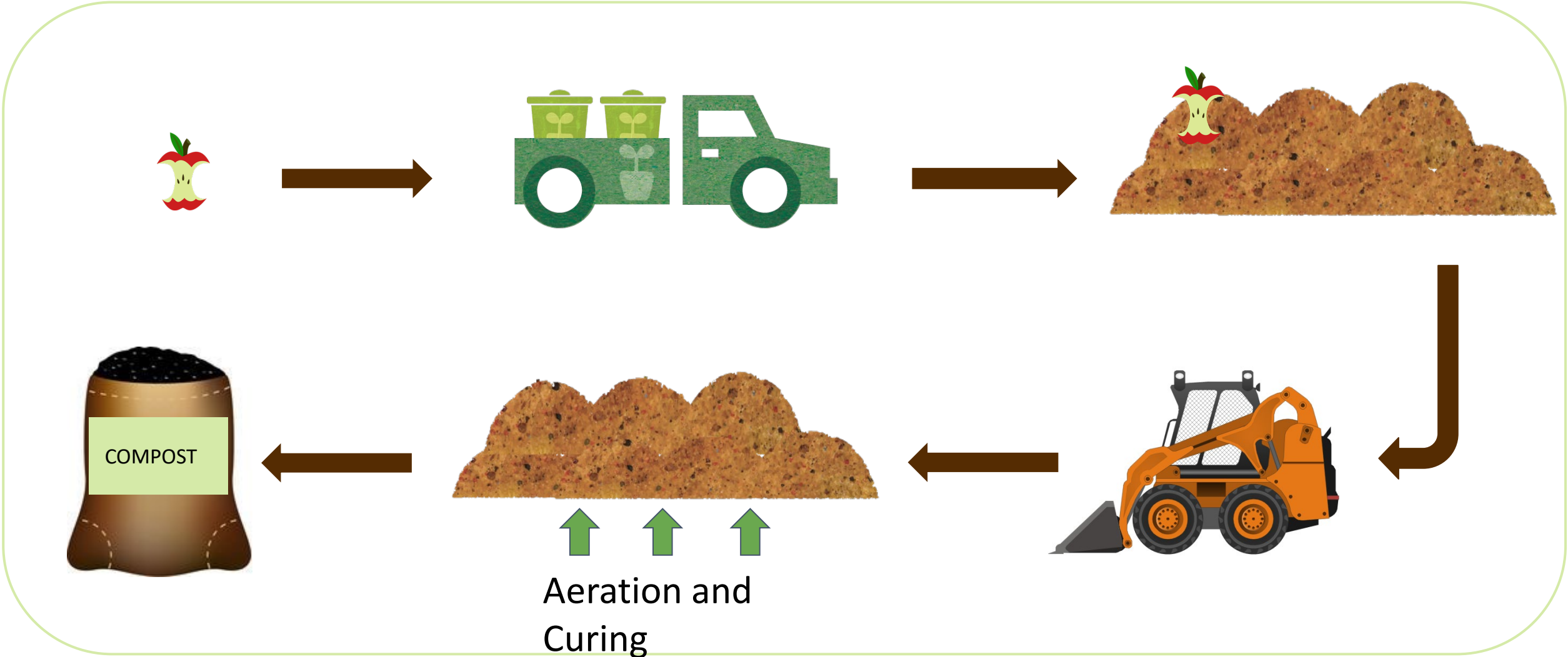
Beacon Natural Market
LIGHTING THE WAY FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD



A sample of our clients

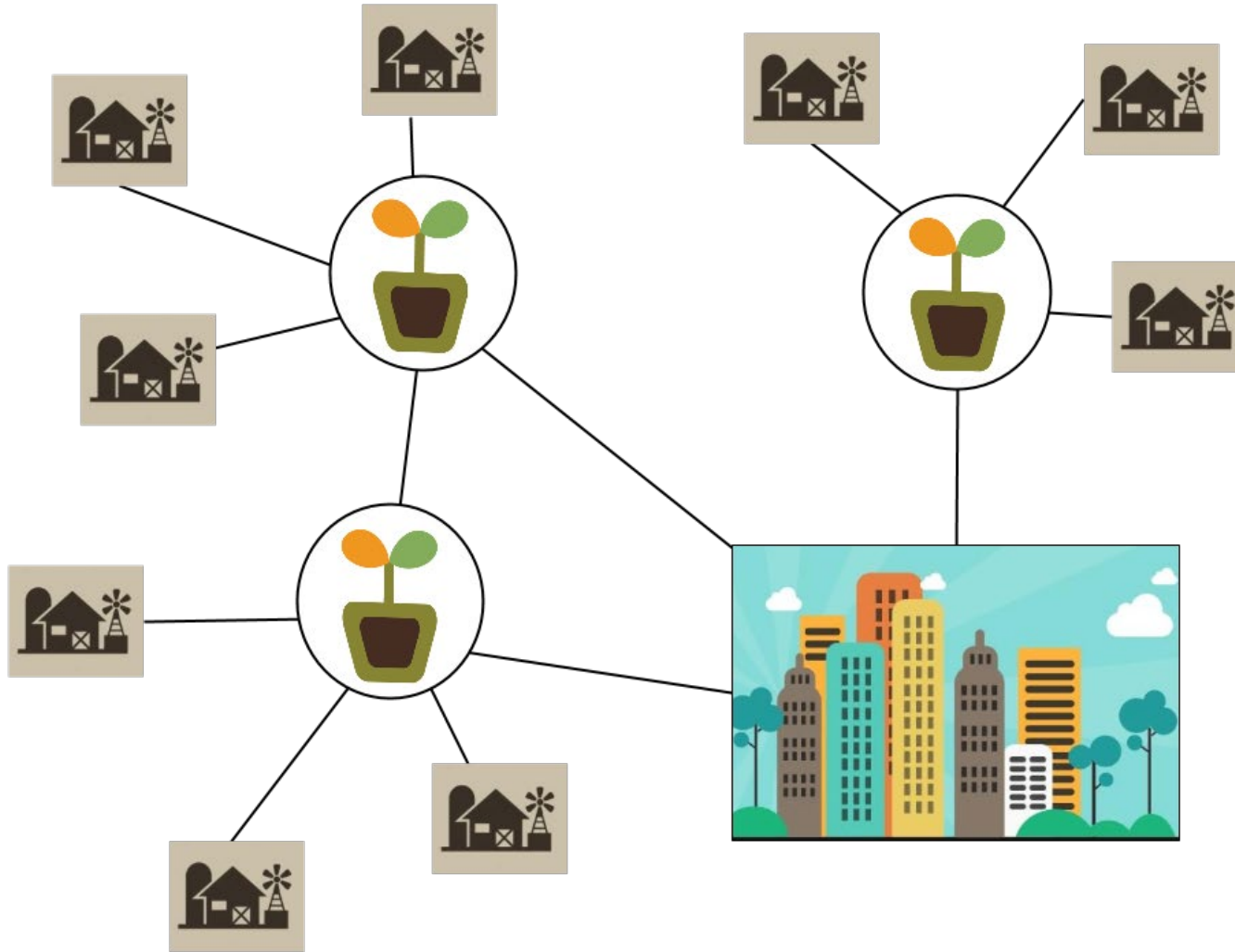


Operations Overview





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!



Molly Lindsay

Director of Operations

molly@communitycompostco.com

Phone: 845-787-3478 x3

Websites:

Collection:

communitycompostco.com

Soil Products: hudsonsoil.com



Resources

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/environment/food-waste-prevention-and-recovery-act>

- Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA): <https://ucrra.org/waste-recycling/food-waste/>
- New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I): <https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nysp2i/organic-resource-locator>
- Food Bank of the Hudson Valley: <https://foodbankofhudsonvalley.org/donate-food/>
- New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR): <https://www.nysar3.org/page/strategies-for-businesses--institutions-129.html>





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/departments-environment>

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