



NJ Climate Change Alliance



**New Jersey Climate Change Alliance
Organics Workgroup Briefing
Gary Sondermeyer, Bayshore Recycling
ANJEC Environmental Congress
10/21/21**



Organics Workgroup

Primary Goal: Unify the “Organics Community” in New Jersey, to connect the “Food Waste” and “Food Rescue” worlds & perform a “Gap Analysis” of Barriers we need to break down to practice “Sustainable Materials Management” through voluntary collaboration!



5 Chapters of the Book of Organics!

- Food Waste Reduction and Donation



- Food Waste Management in Schools

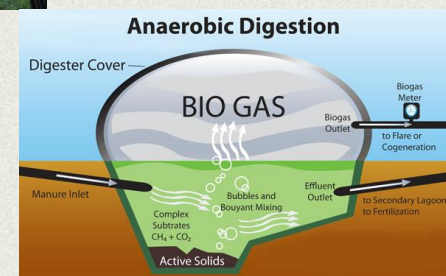


- Community Scale Composting



- Large Scale Organics Infrastructure

- Sustainable Animal Manure



Stakeholder Process



- Lightning, 6-Session Stakeholder Process: April 1 – June 3
- About 80 Organizations Participated
- Significant Front End Coordination with NJDEP Linked to Chapter 5 of the DEP's 80 x 50 Report on Waste & Agriculture
- Significant Involvement from the Department of Agriculture
- 70 Recommendations Generated During Stakeholder Process
- Initial Prioritization of 17 “Opportunities For Action”
- Draft Statewide Organics Plan Completed June 25th
- July Reserved for Final Stakeholder Comment
- Final Plan and Prioritized Implementation Began in August

17 Core Opportunities for Action



1. Focus on Food Equity as a Social Determinant of Health
2. Organics “Sector Based” Education and Outreach and for the Schools Climate Platform
3. Central Governance in Food Rescue
4. Food Rescue Transportation and Equipment Assistance
5. Food Rescue App Development
6. On-Site Management of Food Waste in Schools
7. Expand the Use of Share Tables in Schools
8. Community Garden Exemptions
9. Broader Regulatory Reform for Municipal Windrow Composting
10. Enhanced Interagency and Interdepartmental Coordination
11. A New Round of County Solid Waste/Recycling Planning Focused on Organics
12. Wastewater Utility Engagement to Review Co-Digestion Opportunities
13. Fostering a Transition to 21st Century Landfills
14. End Product Market Development
15. Locational Metrics on Animal Manure Generation
16. Develop Regional Manure Management Facility(ies)
17. Financial Incentives to Foster Sustainable Organic Material Management

Where We Need to Go?



- Finalized SOMMP August 19;
- Extensive Plan Briefings Held or Being Scheduled;
- Press Release Associated with Disposal Ban: October 14;
- Modified State SWAC Legislation to Drive Process;
- Developing a Prioritized Implementation Plan with a Key Focus on Regulatory Reform and Legislation
- Practical Models that are Replicable: Westfield

Getting the Word Out - Briefings



- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:** (June 9)
- **Food Research Action Center:** (June 9)
- **NJ Board of Public Utilities:** (June 21)
- **Senator Bob Smith, Senate Democratic Office, OLS Senate** (July 29)
- **Assemblyman Kennedy, OLS Assembly** (August 19)
- **Climate Change Alliance Steering Committee** (September 7)
- **NJ Business & Industry Association:** (September 16)
- **21 County Recycling Coordinators:** (September 21)
- **NJDEP: Commissioner LaTourette & Senior Leadership** (September 24)
- **Tri-County Municipal Recycling Coordinators:** (September 28)
- **NJBIA Detailed Briefing:** (September 28)
- **ANJR Webinar - State Recycling Community:** (October 13)
- **ANJEC Environmental Congress:** (October 21)
- **NJCC Organics Waste Management Summit— Compost Community** (October 27)
- **First Lady Tammy Murphy, Governor's Senior Policy Advisor, Senior Leadership at DEP** (TBD)

Planned Briefings



- Additional Legislative Leadership (Senate President/Assembly Speaker)
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Human Services
- USEPA Region 2 – Possibly EPA Headquarters
- State Chamber of Commerce
- Commerce & Industry Association of New Jersey
- New Jersey Food Council
- New Jersey Restaurant Association
- Association of Counties
- League of Municipalities
- Sustainable Jersey For Schools
- NJ Association of State Colleges & Universities
- Association of New Jersey Environmental Authorities
- County Solid Waste Coordinators
- New Jersey Food Democracy Collaborative
- National Waste & Recycling Association (Hauling Community)
- Specific Environmental Groups (Recommendations Please)
- County Agricultural Agents
- Association of Equine Practitioners and New Jersey Horse Association

Member Grants Thus Far



- **Sustainable Jersey NJDEP REA Grant:** *Sustainable and Scalable Food Waste Solutions for Schools: Best Practices Research, 3 Pilots and Toolkit Development: SJ/TCNJ & RU Cooperative Extension:* \$235,000
- **Stockton/Rutgers/CET “New Jersey Food Asset Inventory and Mapping Project”** - \$172,102 from NJDEP REA
- **NJ State Policy Lab (Bloustein School) Grant:** *“Informing evidence based policies to reduce food waste, contribute to food security and reduce landfill greenhouse gas emissions.”* - \$17,340 from Rutgers
- **Center For EcoTechnology;** US EPA Advancing Sustainable Materials Management Proposal: *“Educate and train municipalities, businesses, and institutions to implement food waste reduction, recovery, and diversion strategies”* As yet undisclosed Amount from USEPA
- **Rutgers NJDEP REA Grant:** *Food waste/climate change curriculum development – “New Jersey Leaves No Bite Behind”* - \$335,261

Proposed DEP Collaboration



- State SWAC **Joint Legislative Proposal**
- Targeted **Education and Outreach** Related to Disposal Ban Compliance
- Non-Regulatory Round of **County Planning**
- Analysis of **Wastewater Utility Co-Digestion** Potential
- **Small Scale Exemptions**
 - Regional Schools Composting
 - Class C “Light” Permits – “Registered Facilities”
 - Multitiered Permitting Structure (not 1 size fits all)
 - Fee Waivers for Small Scale Food Waste Facilities
 - Expanded Use of General Permits
 - Inter-Program and Inter-Agency Coordination Essential