NJ Composting Council
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Vice-President
ANJEC Conference
October 14th, 2022
Agenda

● Educational Program

● Preparing to divert food waste

● Home options

● NJ rules for composting

● Pickup/drop off (examples)

● On-site options

● What do you want from your program?

● Compost Utilization

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The NJCC advances compost manufacturing and utilization of organics/food waste recycling programs to benefit our members, society, and the environment through advocacy, education and, research.
The NJ Organics Recycling Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit founded to promote research and education around organics waste recycling in New Jersey for the benefit of our environment and economy.

Tax-Deductible Donations can be made at:

njorganicsrecyclingfoundation.org
So you want to divert food waste…

1. Why is it important?
2. What can be composted?
3. What goes where?
4. Training
NJDEP estimates 1.46 million tons of food waste was generated in the state during 2017 and more than 89% of that was disposed of.

- Food waste is 22% of the MSW disposed in either a landfill or incinerator in New Jersey.
- 45%+ of the waste to landfills/incinerators are organics.
Large volumes of uneaten food are disposed in landfills, contributing to 16% of U.S. methane emissions. - NJ DEP

New EPA required capture systems continue to provide 25% of methane release.

Landfills are at capacity, neighbors, sustainability, etc.

Untreated Leachate.

Unused valuable resource.
Table 1: NJDEP Draft Food Waste Reduction Plan

The Generators

Estimated Food Waste Generated by Sector. Data in chart is average of surveys conducted in Denver, Nashville, and New York City by NRDC

- Residential - 43%
- Restaurants & Caterers - 26%
- Institutions - 9%
- Retail - 14%
- Food Manufacturing & Processing - 8%
6.7% of all global greenhouse gases come from food waste. - UN Food and Agriculture Organization

New EPA require capture systems continue to provide 25% of methane release.

Landfills are at capacity, neighbors, sustainability, etc

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Unused valuable resource.
Benefits of Composting

- Improves soil structure, porosity and density
- Increases infiltration and permeability of heavy soils reducing erosion and runoff helping control stormwater issues
- Improves water holding capacity, reducing water loss and leaching in sandy soils
- Supplies and rehabilitates a variety of micro and macronutrient to the soil for nutrient dense food.
- Reduces toxic emissions and increases carbon sequestration.
What do you accept?

Compostable Organics

These items are acceptable:
- All food scraps and food residuals
- Unopened food and food waste residuals including peelings, shavings, ends, cores, cooked or uncooked food scraps
- Bread
- Dairy
- Tea bags
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Meat
- Pasta
- Fruit
- Bones
- Vegetables

Certified Compostable Packaging

BPI stands for Biodegradable Products Institute and BPI provides a certification and labeling system for packaging that assures compostable products meet certain scientific standards for industrial composting. Approved packaging must be BPI certified compostable products with ASTM D6400 or D6868 standards. In addition to being certified, approved packaging must be easily identifiable as certified compostable such as green colored bags, green stripes, clearly labeled BPI, clearly printed COMPOSTABLE, etc. Visit www.bpworld.org for a list of BPI certified compostable products. Please see FAQ on page 11 for more information.

Compost Contaminants

These items are not acceptable:
- Non-food:
  - Plastic
  - Glass
  - Metal
  - Cardboard
  - Paper
  - Clothing, etc.
  - Utensils
  - Latex gloves
  - Bulk liquids
  - Cardboard
  - Aluminum foil
  - Pizza boxes
  - Straws
  - Brewery waste
  - Coated paper products
  - Animal manures
  - Bulk liquids, grease, animal fats, cooking oils, etc., condiment packaging, produce stickers, rubber bands, twist ties, latex gloves, etc., utensils/straws, aluminum foil, pizza boxes, frozen food boxes, corrugated cardboard, brewery waste, animal manures, coated paper products (paper cups, paper plates), non-certified packaging (products labeled “eco-friendly”, “plant-based”, etc.)

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Signage

**Organics**
- Food waste
- Compostable paper

**Mixed Recycling**
- Glass
- Metal
- Rigid plastic
- Mixed paper
- Carton

**Landfill**
- Soft plastics
- Mixed-material items
- Styrofoam
- Miscellaneous

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Fundamentals Of Compost

Part II

Jairo Gonzalez
Organics Recycler

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BACKYARD COMPOSTING

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET STARTED?

Composter

COLLECTION CONTAINER

CARBON SOURCE
Pre-mixing the recipe

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AT LEAST A 1 TO 1 RATIO

EQUAL PARTS NITROGEN AND CARBON
(RATIO MAY VARY DEPENDING ON TYPE OF CARBON YOU’RE USING)

1 CONTAINER OF FOOD SCRAPS  1 CONTAINER OF CARBON MATERIAL
RECIPE FOR COMPOST

AT LEAST 1:1 RATIO OF NITROGEN TO CARBON
(VARIES DEPENDING ON CARBON SOURCE)

NITROGEN = GREENS
CARBON = BROWNS
OXYGEN = AIR
Strategies for Odor issues.

- Food waste items
- Recipe mixture
- Moisture
- Oxygen
- Temperature
How Much Time?

- 2 months to 2 years
- Depends on
  - Feedstocks
  - Management Intensity
  - Temperature/moisture/oxygen

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HOW SHOULD I COMPOST?

INSULATED TUMBLER

PROS
- Reaches temperatures of 110-160 degrees. Year round composting
- Can compost ALL food scraps
- Short breakdown time (6-8 weeks)
- Top quality material

CONS
- More expensive than some other tumblers
Other Compost Systems
HOW SHOULD I COMPOST?

NON-INSULATED TUMBLERS

PROS
- Less expensive
- Does the job

CONS
- Some concerns about quality of material
- Difficult to turn when full
- Can freeze in winter
OTHER COMPOST SYSTEMS

TWO BIN SYSTEM

PROS
- All in one system
- Animal proof
- Can handle all types of material

CONS
- Can be more labor intensive than tumblers
- Needs to be built: materials/labor
OTHER COMPOST SYSTEMS

EARTH MACHINE

**PROS**
- Simple + inexpensive

**CONS**
- Animals can burrow underneath
- Limits what kind of food you can compost
- Takes a long time to break down
- Hard to turn, hard to get out material
Pallet Composter

https://joegardener.com/video/how-to-make-a-compost-bin-using-free-shipping-pallets/
Garden Sifter

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7prtsXv4wA&ab_channel=Earthkeeping
TUMBLER BEST PRACTICES

- Mash, Mix, Move

- Consistency of compost should be like a damp sponge; you don’t usually need to wet your compost if using a tumbler; moisture comes from food scraps

- Use a sifter if you want a finely granulated compost

- Sifter also helpful to separate larger pieces that need to go back into tumbler for a second cycle

- The interior of a tumbler does not, and should not, need cleaning. You want the bacteria to remain there

- Tumblers not air tighter so exterior will get a bit mucky
Compost Spreader
Potential Legislation:

Schools and community gardens (A4557 + A4548)

Call your legislators, call your SWAC
Pickup/Drop off

Residential Composting

You drop it off or We pick it up

1. Sign up!
   Register for FREE compost drop off by taking the quiz at hobokennj.gov/compost. At the end of the quiz you will receive a combination to open the compost shed.

2. Collect
   Collect food scraps and paper products in any airtight container or paper bag. Pro Tip: store it in the freezer!

3. Drop off
   Drop off your food scraps at one of the FREE drop off sites: City Hall, Church Square Park, Columbus Park, Eliot Park, Herbstwood Park, Jackson St Community Garden, Maxwell Park, Multi-Service Center, Southwest Park, Stevens Park, 14th St Viaduct at Adams St, 7th B Jackson Park. See a map at hobokennj.gov/compost. Please only drop food scraps in the green bin!

4. Empty Bucket
   Community Compost Company picks up your full bucket and drops off an empty bucket.

5. Get soil!
   Twice per year, Community Compost Company drops off finished compost with your clean, empty bucket.

Green Bucket Compost

Food Waste Recycling Pilot Program

Ridgewood Recycling is excited to launch Bergen County's first food scrap recycling pilot program.

We have been working hard on this new opportunity and look forward to joining forces with our pilot group of residents to make it a success!

Please review our General Information Brochure and complete the digital form to participate in the program.

New: DROP OFF LOCATION in Glen Ridge

Composting diverts waste from the landfill, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and saves taxpayers money.

www.hobokennj.gov/compost

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Pickup/Drop off
On-Site Options
Questions for your Compost Program

Who is going to pay for it? - Residents, town, subsidy?

What will you accept?

How many locations and what are the hours?

Where do you want it to go? Compost? AD? distance?

Do you want any of it back?
Do it yourself?
Municipal Composting
Queensboro Bridge
FINISHED COMPOST = BLACK GOLD
OUR GARDEN- ALL GROWN IN COMPOST
Compost Application

Soil application:
- Turf establishment
- Garden bed preparation
- Reclamation/remediation
- Nursery application
- Roadside

Surface applied
- Garden bed mulch
- Erosion control media
- Turf topdressing

Growing Media Component:
- Container/potting substrates
- Landscape
- Backfill mixes (tree and shrub)
- Golf courses
- Manufactured topsoil
- Environmental media - rootop, rain garden, bioretention, structural soils etc.

Other
- Nutrient source, limiting agent, biological fungicide
soil Application

Turf establishment
soil Application

Garden bed preparation
soil Application

Reclamation/remediation

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Nursery application
soil Application

Roadside

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Surface applied

Garden bed mulch
Surface applied

Erosion control media
Rain Garden
Surface applied

Turf topdressing
Growing Media Component

Container/potting substrates
Growing Media Component

Landscape
Backfill mixes

How to Plant a Tree

Step 1: Remove turf and dig a hole wider and deeper than the tree’s roots. Loosen base and sides of the hole to improve drainage, and add garden compost.

Step 2: Position the tree in the hole. Lay a stick across the hole to check that the planting depth is right. Do not bury the root crown.

Step 3: Backfill with soil around the roots, pressing down occasionally with your heel, to remove air pockets around roots. Water really well.

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Growing Media Component

Golf courses
Growing Media Component

Manufactured topsoil

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Growing Media Component

Environmental media
Nutrient source, limiting agent, biological fungicide
JOIN US!

NJCC:
Website: NJComposting.com
Email: contact@njcomposting.com

NJORF:
https://njorganicsrecyclingfoundation.org/