

Food Recovery Roundtable

March 28, 2023



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ANJEC MEMBERS! WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Please complete our quick online "Member Interest Form" so we can better support you in accomplishing your goals.



Member Interest Form



SCAN HERE, or go online to:
forms.gle/4StpP8dXFmAkRkuy7



Agenda

**Introduction – Nandini Checko, Project Director, ANJEC
Jennifer Schneider – Environmental Director, Secaucus
Don Farineau & Dolph Geurds – One Compost Can**

- Please use the Q&A to post your questions.
- Yes, recording will be shared and be posted to
YouTube: ANJEC VIEWS

Food – What's the Problem?



- The NRDC estimates that 40% of all food grown in the USA is wasted;
- New Jersey is the 2nd most affluent State in the US:
- Four New Jersey Counties are in the “Top 20” most affluent in the United States: - #10 Morris - #11 Hunterdon - #15 Somerset - #20 Bergen
- Despite our relative affluence, 11% of New Jersey’s population and **15% of kids** 18 years of age and younger are food insecure;
- Wasted food is landfilled. **133 Billion pounds of food** is wasted each year. 22% of solid waste in NJ is food waste.
- Landfills are the 3rd largest source of human related methane emissions in the US – direct link to climate change



Food Recovery Hierarchy

Most Preferred

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

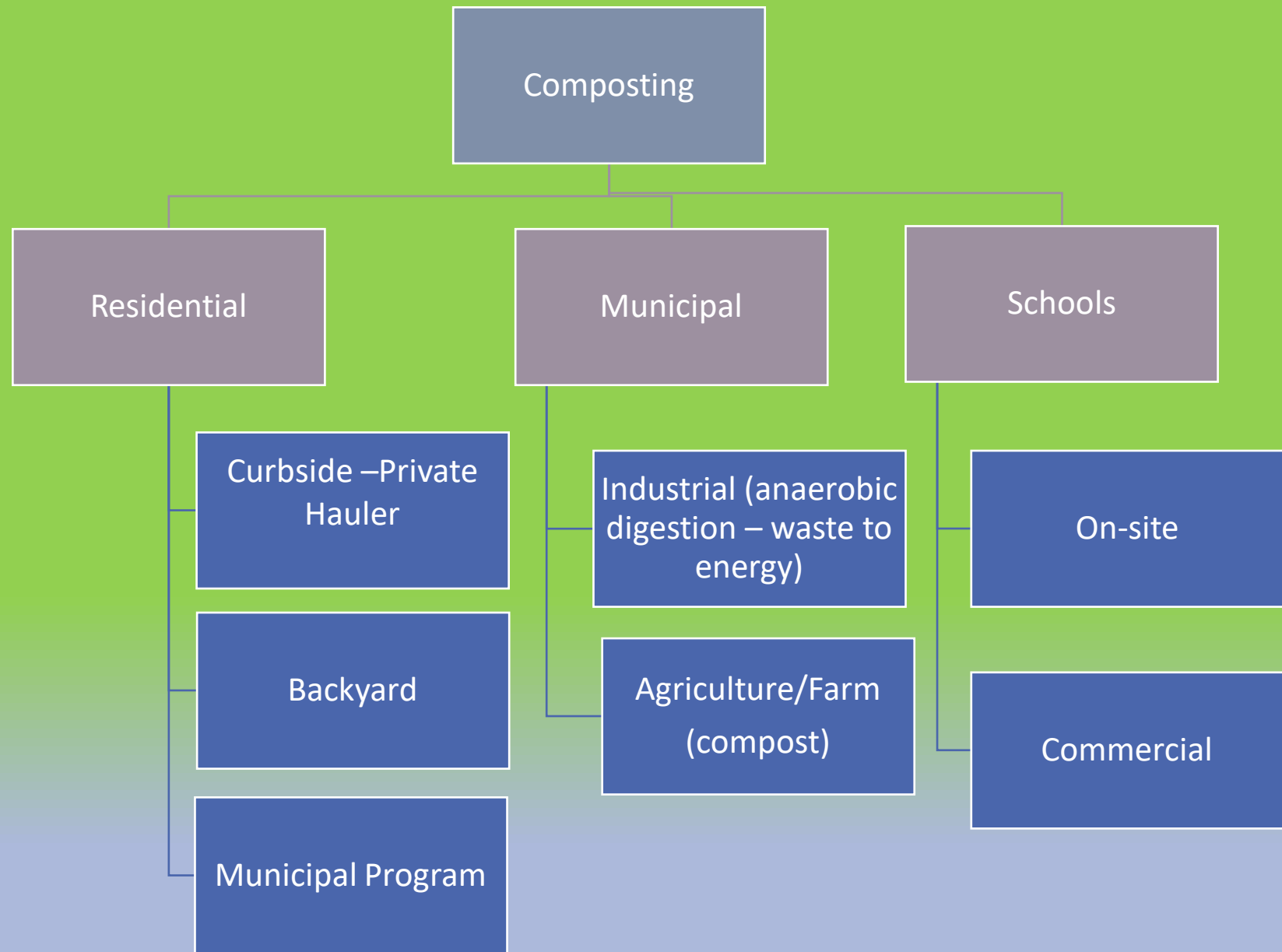
Least Preferred

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>

Feed Hungry People

- Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens, shelters
- Good Samaritan Law – You're protected
- Food Date Labels – Sell by, Best by, Use by, Freeze by
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Food Waste – Health Inspector Training
- Food waste rescue apps – Too Good To Go





Municipal Composting

- 1) Identify Champion in Twp Council
- 2) How does town want to reduce waste? (diversion and composting)
- 3) Conduct survey with educational material to residents (Why the need to compost? What are you willing to do? How much are you willing to pay?)
- 4) Township budget (Staff time, Compost Bins, RFP for Haulers)
- 5) Drop Off Locations (Convenience Center Exemption, 2 Industrial facilities, Agriculture/Farm)
- 6) Pilot program



Convenience Center Exemption

Westfield, Union County

- DPW convenience center yard drop off
- No DEP Permit Required
- Use MicroHauler (Green Bucket) to take it to CORE Facility

Examples of Haulers (ANJEC doesn't endorse)

- Green Bucket Compost
- Java Compost
- Community Compost Company
- Un-Waste
- One Compost Can



Legislative Activity



- 2017 – NJ Food Waste Reduction Act
 - 2019- Suite of bills passed to reduce number of food insecure people
 - 2020 NJ statewide disposal ban for large scale generators (52 tons per year)
-
- Goal to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030
 - Regulatory Reform Needed – Streamlining NJDEP Permitting Process

What's on the Horizon?

- **A1439/S2730 – County Food Recovery Planning Act, Assemblyman Jim Kennedy**
 - Passed Senate Environment Committee, Passed full Assembly, Referred to Senate Appropriations
- **S418/A4342 – Date Label Legislation, Senator Bob Smith/Assemblywoman Shama Haider:**
 - Passed Senate Environment, Referred to Senate Appropriations and Assembly Community Affairs
- **A4547/S3154 – Community Garden Composting Exemption Bill, Asm. Kennedy/Sen. Greenstein**
 - Passed Both Senate and Assembly Environment Committees
- **A4548/S3153 – Regional School Composting Bill, Assemblyman Kennedy/Senator Cody**
 - Passed full Senate and the Assembly Environment Committee
- **A5191/S421 - Establishes Statewide targets to reduce organics to landfills: Senator Smith/Assembly McKeon**
 - Passed Senate Environment and Referred to Senate Appropriations

Municipal Grant Opportunity! USDA Cooperative Agreements for Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made availability of up to \$9.5 million for local governments to host Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) pilot projects! The cooperative agreements support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans and they are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

The NJCC is ready to help you design and implement these projects.



Cooperative agreements support projects led by local governments that:

- Generate compost.
- Increase access to compost for agricultural producers.
- Reduce reliance on and limit the use of fertilizer.
- Improve soil quality.
- Encourage waste management and permaculture business development.
- Increase rainwater absorption.
- Reduce municipal food waste.
- Divert food waste from landfills.

The deadline is June 15th, so if your town is looking to get a composting started, get in touch today! Email us at isaac@njccomposting.com or jairo@njccomposting.com

Grant announcement: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-announces-cooperative-agreements-for-compost-and-food-waste-reduction>

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Grant deadline June 15th

Thank you! Questions
info@anjec.org