

ANJEC Presentation: Legislation & Advocacy

April 29, 2025



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Advocacy Chair

Framing the Issue

- ▶ NJ's Compost Regulations *run contrary* to its Waste Goals
 - ▶ Limits what is considered food waste
 - ▶ Limits who can compost
 - ▶ Prevents Farmers from selling compost
 - ▶ Treats all size composters the same

- ▶ We have an “underground” compost network with no State support



Food Waste - Facts & Figures

- ▶ Over 1.3MM tons of food waste landfilled or incinerated each year
 - ▶ Over 1.5MM tons of GHG CO₂e generated
 - ▶ 350K cars or 200K homes
- ▶ Food Waste Reduction Law (50% by 2030)
- ▶ NJ is running out of Landfill space
 - ▶ Will lose 40% in next 10 years
 - ▶ Tipping fees are \$100+/ton and rising
- ▶ Towns want to compost & recycle organics
 - ▶ Permitting is expensive
 - ▶ Permitting takes time

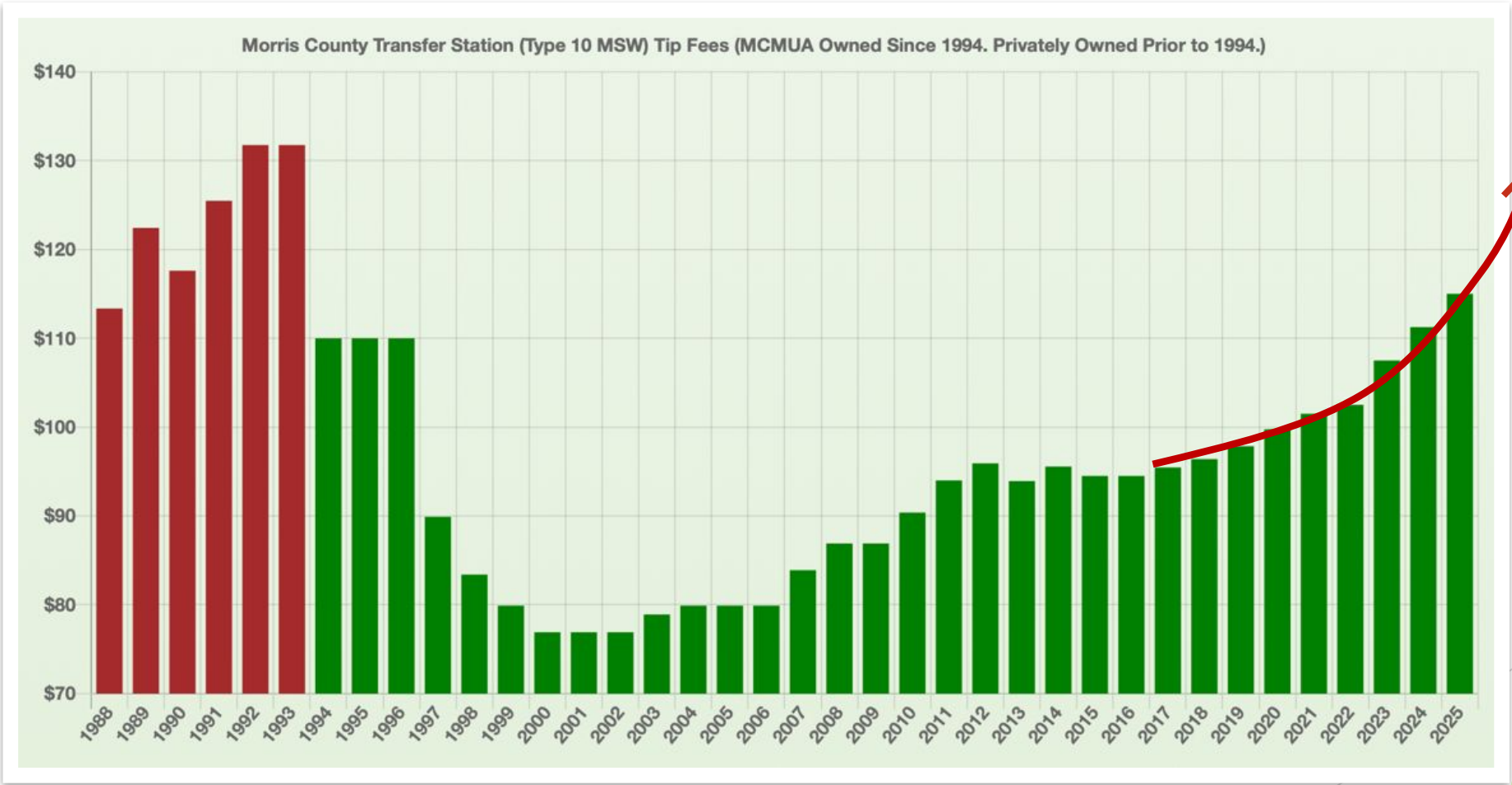
How Did We Get Here?



Existing Barriers to Food Waste Recycling

- ▶ Cultural and Behavioral Barriers
 - ▶ Resistance from stakeholders (landfills, Counties, NJDEP, Legislators)
 - ▶ Public awareness, capability, & participation
- ▶ Operational Challenges
 - ▶ Lack of infrastructure (e.g., processing facilities, collection systems).
 - ▶ Contamination in food waste streams (e.g., non-compostable materials in food waste bins).
 - ▶ Leachate from composting
- ▶ Regulatory and Policy Barriers
 - ▶ The 2017 law is an Unfunded Mandate

Rising Costs of Landfill Tipping Fees



But There is Money Available

- ▶ Tonnage Grants
 - ▶ Recycled Food Waste Counts Towards Recycling Goals

- ▶ USDA - Compost & Food Waste Reduction Grant
 - ▶ Princeton
 - ▶ Newton

- ▶ Other Partner Grant Opportunities
 - ▶ Flourishing in Communities (EPA)
 - ▶ NRCS

Permitting / Regulations



- ▶ Community Gardens
 - ▶ Exemption 2 - Onsite recycling and use of finished product
 - ▶ Exemption 21 - Onsite recycling with off site use
 - ▶ Bills S1040 and A2102 would allow local food waste to be brought on
 - ▶ May Need RD&D or Class C Permits
- ▶ Convenience Center 7:26 1-4
 - ▶ A site where one or more containers are located for temporary storage of solid waste and/or recyclable materials brought to the site by persons transporting only their own household solid waste and/or recyclable materials in passenger automobiles bearing general registration plates.
- ▶ Transfer Stations & Materials Recovery Facilities
 - ▶ N.J.A.C. 7:26-2B.5 and 2B.9
 - ▶ Enclosed buildings, washouts, prevent odor migration

Critical Bills

- ▶ S2426 & A2090
 - ▶ Require COUNTY Solid Waste Management Districts to develop a plan to reduce food waste
 - ▶ Currently, our counties are under NO obligation to consider landfill-alternatives for food waste
 - ▶ The Senate Bill includes Tiered Permitting
- ▶ College Campuses
 - ▶ S3889 - Require a food waste reduction plan
 - ▶ S3911 - Allow for sharing of food waste across campuses

How Can You Get Involved?

- ▶ Advocacy
 - ▶ ANJEC Resolution
 - ▶ Senate & Assembly Meetings (Recent was 4.22.25)
 - ▶ NJCC Monthly Meetings (Join the Cause!)
 - ▶ NJDEP Stakeholder Meetings
 - ▶ Talk to your County Executive or Improvement Authority

RESOLUTION



**SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN TO REDUCE
FOOD WASTE, IMPLEMENT TIERED
PERMITTING, AND ALLOW COMMUNITY
GARDEN COMPOSTING**

<https://anjec.org/action-alerts>



WHEREAS...



1. In 2017, the State of New Jersey enacted a food waste reduction mandate with the goal of significantly decreasing food waste sent to landfills and incinerators; and
2. This mandate has **not** been fully implemented, and over 1.3 million tons of food waste are still landfilled or incinerated annually in New Jersey – generating the equivalent of 1.5 million tons of CO₂e. According to ReFED, landfilled food waste has actually gone up by 10% since the Act was put in place.
3. New Jersey's landfills are nearing capacity, with estimates showing a potential loss of 40% of remaining landfill space within the next decade—leading to increased tipping fees and greater financial burden on municipalities and residents; and
4. Composting food scraps, yard waste, and other organic materials significantly reduces landfill waste, curbs methane emissions, and contributes to soil health, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience; and
5. Community gardens are ideal sites for localized composting, enabling responsible reuse of organic materials while providing community, educational, and environmental benefits; and
6. Reducing food waste and expanding composting efforts align with both local and statewide goals for sustainability, climate action, and cost-effective waste management; and
7. Legislation **S2426/A2090**, which calls for the development of a comprehensive county-level strategy to reduce food waste and implement tiered permitting for composting operations, would provide **[TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH OF XX]** with tools to lower disposal costs, increase recycling rates, conserve natural resources, and reduce pollution; and
8. Legislation **S1040/A2102**, which exempts certain community composting operations from burdensome NJDEP permitting requirements, would make composting more accessible and affordable—encouraging community gardens to support environmental stewardship, resilience, and education;

RESOLVED...



1. That [TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH OF XX] urges the New Jersey State Legislature to pass and enact a strong mandate for county-level food waste reduction planning and tiered permitting for composting operations (S2426/A2090);
2. That [TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH OF XX] strongly supports the passage of legislation allowing for on-site composting in community gardens without excessive regulatory barriers (S1040/A2102);
3. That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of New Jersey, the State Senate President, the Speaker of the General Assembly, [INSERT LOCAL STATE SENATOR], [INSERT LOCAL ASSEMBLYMEMBER(S)], and any other individuals or agencies deemed appropriate:
 1. Senator Paul Sarlo, Chair Budget & Appropriations Committee
 2. Senator Bob Smith, Chair Senate Environment
 3. Assemblyman James Kennedy, Chair Assembly Environment
 4. Matthew Wasserman, NJ Composting Council
 5. County Executive
 6. County Improvement Authority
 7. Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

QUESTIONS?



Thank You

JOIN US - For Information, Contact
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