Cleaning Up Our Act: Getting Food out of the Waste Stream

Where We Are

BURNIN’ DOWN THE HOUSE
- Nearly 2 Million Tons/Year
- Environmental Justice Crisis
- ¼ Million Tons/Year Landfilled
- ⅓ of All Waste Generated is Compostable

Where We Need to Be

WEIGHT WATCHERS & KEEPING IT SEPARATED
- Reduce overall amount generated
- Commercial & Residential Composting Programs
- Close down MIRA & don’t replace

How We Get There

TRIED & TRUE SOLUTIONS
1. Update the Commercial Organics Ban
2. Start curbside organics collection in municipalities
3. Facilitate the development of in-state compost facilities
Cleaning Up Our Act:
1. Update The Commercial Organics Ban

The Current Language of CGS Sec. 22a-226e:
Each commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or conference center that generates a projected annual volume of 52 tons or more per year of source separated organic material AND are located within 20 miles of a permitted recycling facility shall separate such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. INDUSTRY EXEMPTIONS</th>
<th>2. GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS</th>
<th>3. LOWERED THRESHOLD</th>
<th>4. FINES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Make all industries applicable under the law.</td>
<td>Remove geographic limits and make it applicable to the whole state.</td>
<td>Provide for the lowering of the threshold from 52 tons per year to 26.</td>
<td>Allow for fines for entities that refuse to comply with the organics ban.</td>
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Cleaning Up Our Act:

2. Start Municipal Organics Collections

We need to provide resources to municipalities that want to get food scraps out of the waste stream. Here is how the State can help:

### Potential Municipal Solutions

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<tr>
<th>Curbside Collections</th>
<th>Transfer Station Drop Offs</th>
<th>Backyard Composting</th>
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The State Should Provide Grants for:
- Purchasing Equipment
- Paying for Pilot Collection Programs
- Educational Materials
- Staffing
- Technical Assistance

### The Economics

- Tip Fees are lower at composting facilities
- Transportation is the cost to overcome
- Unit Based Pricing is one way to show the true cost of waste
- Some municipalities move to bi-weekly trash pick up down the line
- Even if it costs more, implementing organics is much cheaper than the status quo ($300M+ to fix MIRA)
Cleaning Up Our Act:
3. Build It (Diversion) And They Will Come

Connecticut desperately needs more composting infrastructure to process the increased food scraps that we’ll be diverting with the updated Commercial Organics Ban and Municipal Organics Programs.

### 3 Main Methods for Scaled Composting

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Community Composting</th>
<th>Commercial Composting</th>
<th>Anaerobic Digestion</th>
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<td>Peels on Wheels in New Haven</td>
<td>WeCare Denali in Ellington</td>
<td>Quantum Biopower in Southington</td>
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### Recommendations

- Streamline the Permitting Process
- Provide Incentives to Develop
- Watch out for “Greenwashing”
We’re Here to Help

We want to see you succeed!

Feel free to reach out with questions or for consultation.

Contact Info:
(office) - (860) 266-7346
(cell) - (413) 824-6504
sam@blueearthcompost.com

More info:
www.blueearthcompost.com