

Lessons Learned from Implementing the Food Recovery Hierarchy:

Athena Lee Bradley
Northeast Recycling Council
NERC.org



- NERC - 11 states united for environmentally sustainable materials management
- The Project: *Implementing Food Waste, Organics, & Manure Management in Rural Maryland Communities*
- USDA, RUS SWM Grant Program
- Partner Counties - Allegany & Cecil County

- Develop educational resources
- Provide minimum of 4 regional training sessions
- Onsite technical assistance in participant communities resulting in at least 5 sustainable projects
- Two national webinars

Where to Start

- Build partners
 - ✓ Government staff - county, town, district, planning commissions
 - ✓ AgExt, food policy councils
 - ✓ Rural associations, environmental orgs
 - ✓ Colleges, institutions, schools

Focus Frostburg







Allegheny County Recycling Office



Compost Bin Sale!! Saturday, April 21 from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm at Constitution Park, Cumberland, MD

Celebrate Earth Day by learning how to compost yard trimmings and food scraps. Already composting yard trimmings? Come to our mini-workshop to learn how to safely & effectively add food scraps to your compost pile.

The Allegheny County Recycling Office is offering Earth Machine compost bins to County residents at the discounted price of \$20.56

Why compost?

- Composting converts yard trimmings, food scraps & other organics into a valuable soil amendment
- Using compost on plants and lawns reduces the need for fertilizer, other soil amendments, & pesticides



The bin sale will be held on **Saturday, April 21** from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm at Constitution Park, Pavilion 1 (between the Amphitheater and Playground), Cumberland, Maryland. Cost per bin is \$20.56. Payment can be made by credit card or cash. **Pre-sale here: <https://squareup.com/store/allegheny-county-recycling>**

For more information call or email 301-777-5933, ext. 210 or recycling@alleghenygov.org



FREE Compost Workshops & “Ask a Compost Expert”

Two compost workshops will be offered during the bin sale at:

- 10:30 am
- 1:00 pm

Compost ingredients, successful composting strategies, food waste composting, & more will be discussed.

☞ Compost Expert, Athena Lee Bradley, with the Northeast Recycling Council will lead the workshop. She will also be available during the bin sale to answer your compost questions.

Lessons Learned

- Partner to carry-out educational/training events
- Utilize existing events: farmers markets, Earth Day activities, International Compost Week, AgExt (Master Gardener)
- Benefits of combining bin sales & “mini” food scrap composting workshops

Frostburg Grows



FG Community Compost Site



Open House



Food Scrap Compost Workshop



Farmer's Market



Lessons Learned

- Lack of incentives, “can’t do this thinking,” low priority
- Food Councils/food insecurity
- “Mini” food scrap composting workshop
- Multi-faceted approach – outreach, informal/formal trainings, promote the hierarchy

Westernport Elementary

Grade 3

5.44	10/31
4.99	11/7
4.0	11/14
2.24	11/21
	11/28
	12/5



**3rd Grade
Lunch Food
Scraps
collection**



Lessons Learned

- Concerns: real & perceived
- District vs. teachers
- Food waste audit
- Ongoing meetings
- Focus on the hierarchy
- Plan: lunch choice, waste free lunches, one lunch composting as pilot

WEST NOTTINGHAM
ACADEMY
FOUNDED 1744



WNA & Kilby Farm Partnership



Cr.: American Dairy Association, North East

Dining Hall Collection





NO



**ONLY FOOD
IN THE
COLORFUL
BUCKETS
PLUS**



NO





Cr.: American Dairy Association, North East

Deep Roots

Pallet Bin Construction

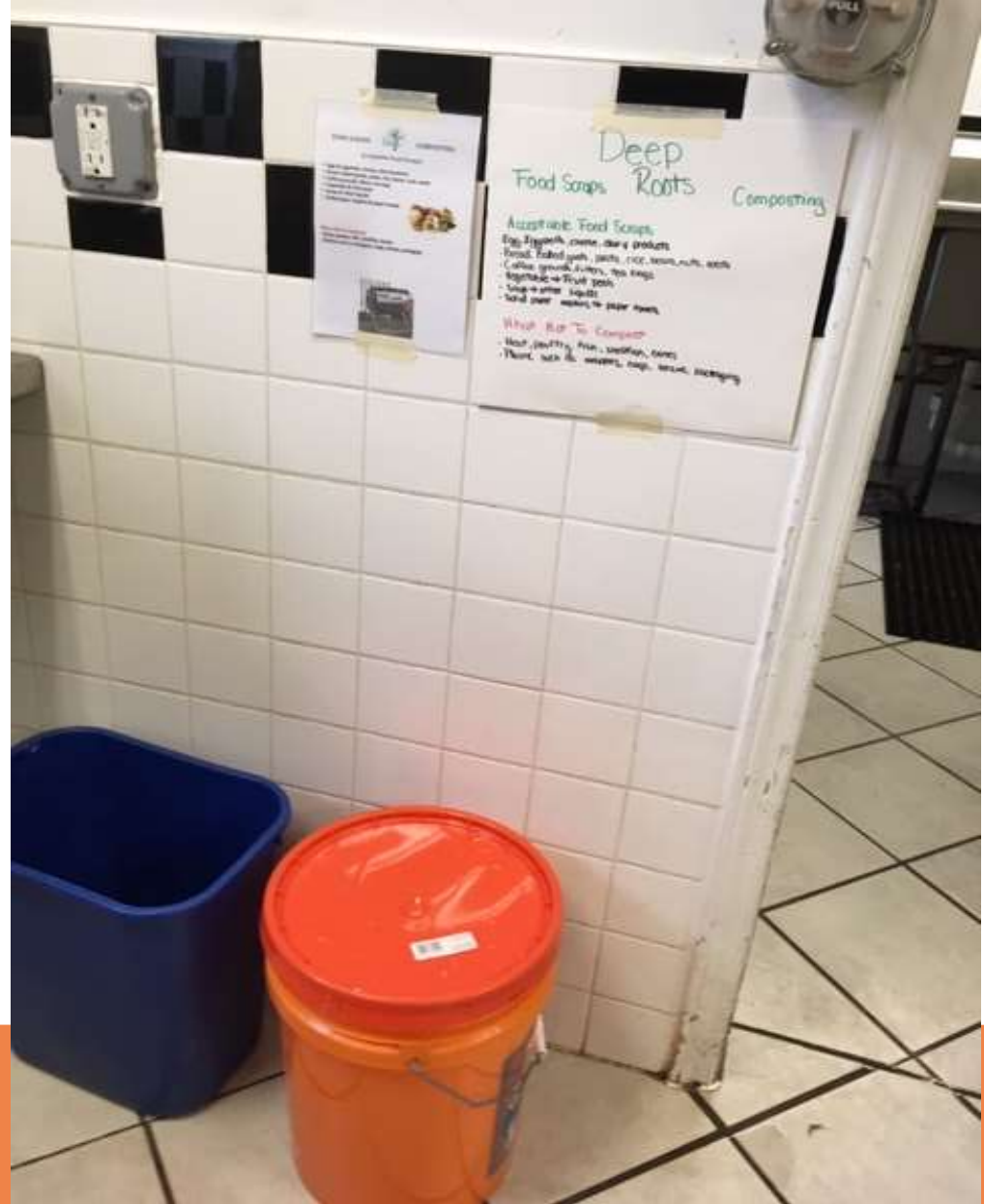




Compost lessons



Food Scraps Collection



Lessons Learned

- Institutions/schools present a perfect opportunity for food scrap diversion
 - ✓ Start small – prep scraps
 - ✓ Sustainability & garden tie-in
- Understand that staff are already overworked

Cecil County Fair AgDay





SOILBINDER

CECIL COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS
SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
www.cocogdp.org

National
AgBusiness



SOILSAVER

100%



**Manure
Management**



Lessons Learned

- Partner with AgExt & established events
- Farmers are busy
- Change is slow
- Agritourism & diversification present opportunities

Community Composting Project

- 6 States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, & Vermont
- Goal: Create at least one sustainable community compost site in each state for managing food scraps & other organics

Community Composting Project

- Training course & multimedia training resources
- Remote, local & regional trainings
 - ✓ At least three onsite trainings
- Technical assistance & support
- Each site receives \$1,000 for development

Community Composting

- Produces compost for local use
- Promotes community connections
- Builds resident food waste management awareness & participation
- Can play an essential role in the evolution of food scrap diversion

Community Composting, cont.

- Often volunteer run; some staffed
- Garden groups, neighborhoods, nonprofit organizations, public sector, farms, schools, other
- Range of sizes - 10 sq. ft. – 20,000 sq. ft.
- Range of compost systems

Community Garden Collection





Images Cr.: BioCycle.net



Image Cr.: Elements Mountain Compost

System Considerations

Available materials
Community need/goals
People power/skills
Site capacity
Permit/regulatory limits
Resources available –
funding, supplies, etc.

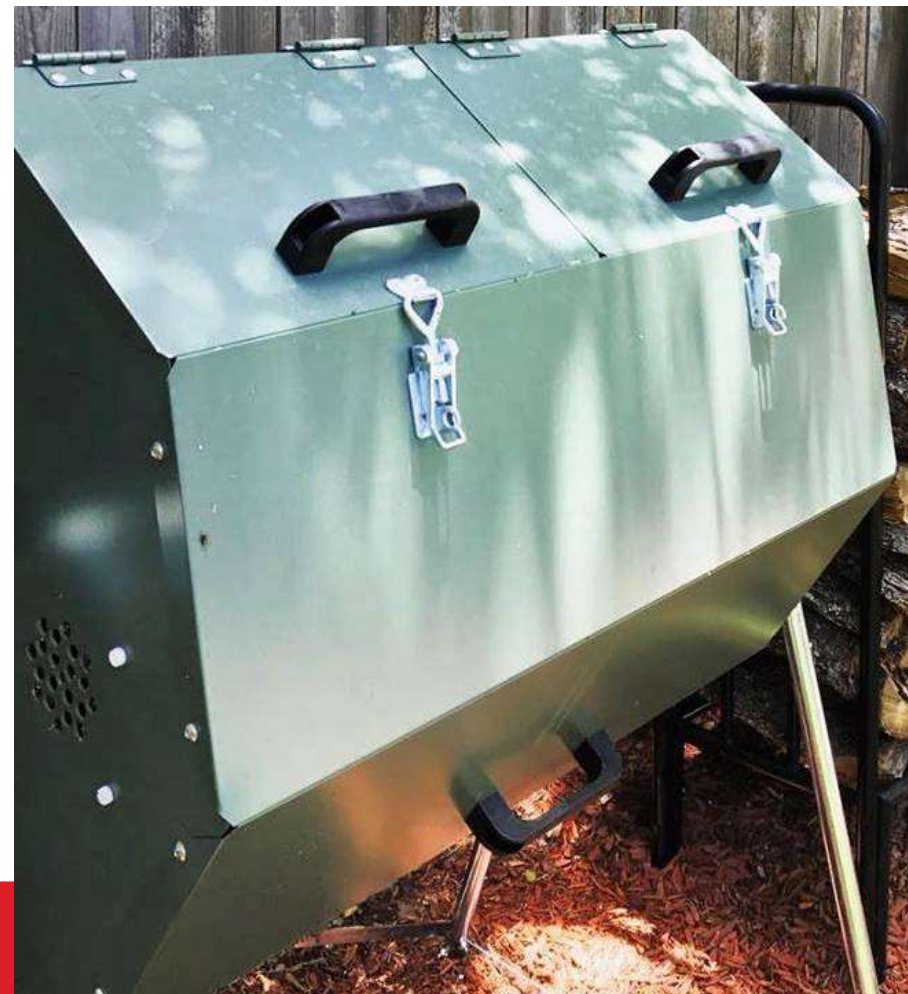


Charlotte Central School, Charlotte, VT;
Red Hook Community Farm, Brooklyn, NY
(photo credit NYC Master Composter
Manual, DSNY)

Tumblers



Jora & Aerobin



Compost Bins



3-BIN SYSTEM



Photo Cr.: George McDonald, Maine DEP

Windrows



Images Cr.: David Hurd, GrowNYC



Aerated Static Piles



Images Cr.: David Hurd, GrowNYC



Ludlow, Vermont

- Hidden from public view
- Relatively isolated
- Limited winter access



Bennington, Vermont

- In town at Rec Center
- Nearby residents
- Highly visible



Montpelier, VT



Jora - Active
Composting
Step 1

Buffer area

Active Composting Step 2

Water

- Highly visible
- In town neighborhood
- Nearby residents

Fort Community, Burlington



Carbon Storage

**Food
scrap
Tumbler**

**3-Bin
System**

FOOD SCRAPS
No trash - make sure you
remove wrappers and any plastic.
Save your house, chop your food
scraps between 1 and 3 inches
and dump your food scraps inside
the bin. Do not fill the bin
with scraps (these can be found in the
"Browns")
Close the lid on the tumbler and make
sure it is tightly secured.
Turn the tumbler a spin

Barre Town, VT

Senior citizen multi-family housing



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Athena Lee Bradley

Northeast Recycling Council

athena@nerc.org

802.254.3636

www.nerc.org