

Diverting Organics from Food and Hospitality Venues



Presented by,

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Author US Environmental Protection Agency/US Composting Council Publication, *"Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Incorporating Food Residuals into Existing Yard Waste Composting Operations"*

"It is important to view compost feedstock as a usable product, *not* as waste requiring disposal....and composting as environmentally sound and beneficial means of recycling organic materials, *not* a means of waste disposal."

(USEPA. "Decision Makers Guide to Integrated Solid Waste Management, Vol. II.)

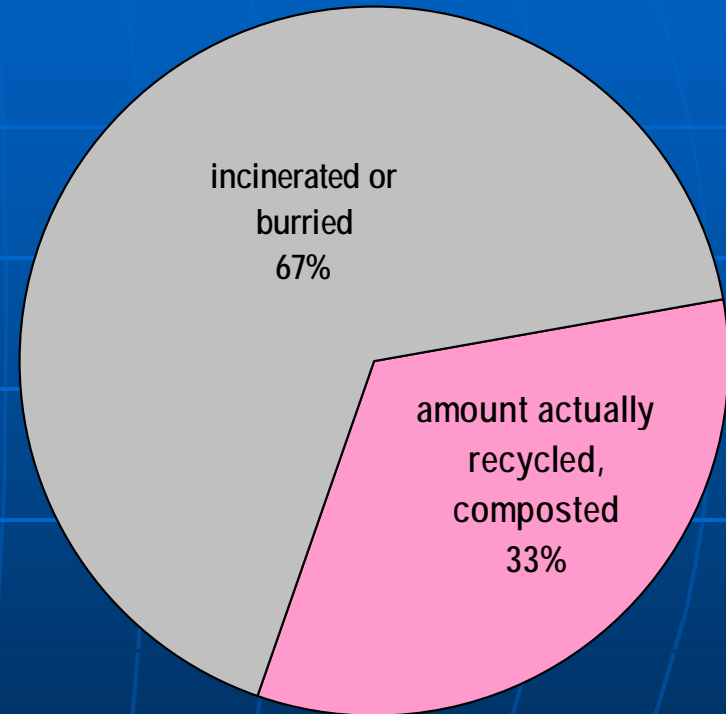
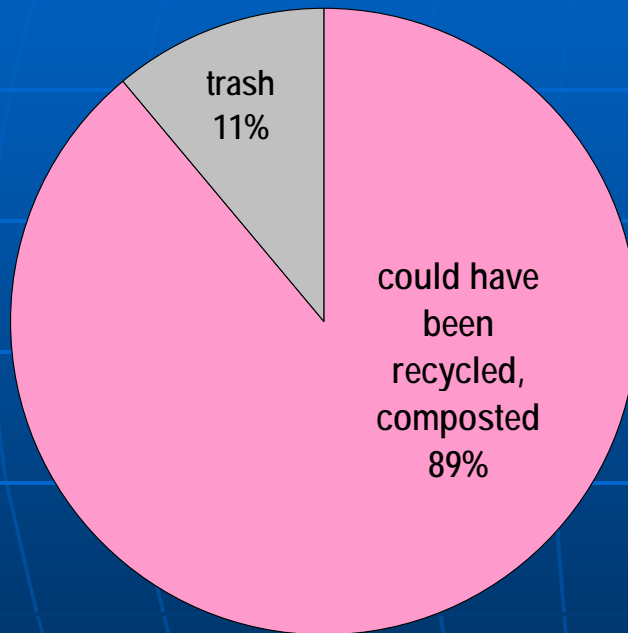
- EPA report: "Americans generated more than **254 million tons** of waste in 2007". **89% could have been recycled and/or composted, but only 33% was**. The remainder was landfilled or incinerated.
- BioCycle Magazine estimates that figure to be **nearer 413 million tons**.



That's **\$6.12 billion** spent to treat *resources as trash*, and 142 million tons of reusable resources unnecessarily buried or burned.

Not to mention the greenhouse gasses and emissions generated from doing so.

Of 413 million tons of waste generated (2007):





Hospitality venues can be part of the solution, by implementing waste reduction and diversion programs.

Some have already begun.....



COMPOST

All Food Scraps!



RECYCLE

All glass, plastic, drink bottles

TRASH (LANDFILL)











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OCEANSIDE
RUBBISH
WELLS 646-3230

ORGANIC WASTE ONLY









Potential Benefits

- ❖ Reduce landfilled and incinerated waste (and consequent greenhouse gas emissions), which result from hospitality endeavors;
- ❖ Possibly reduce waste management costs by reducing trash volume and number of hauls*;
- ❖ Enable nutrients from locally grown foods to be composted and returned to local farm fields (thereby supporting organic/natural production);
- ❖ Gain or improve your “green” image in your community;



In venues where such programs are launched and promoted, patronage often increases

We Now COMPOST!!!

In response to soaring waste management costs and the escalating need for socially and environmentally responsible business practices, *Me & Ollie's Cafe* and *Earthtenders Organics Recycling* have launched a new waste diversion program. Organic waste will now be separated from trash and recyclables here in our cafe, and sent to the Earthtenders' composting facility in Farmington, NH to be made into organic compost.

The objectives of this project are to reduce waste collection, hauling and disposal costs paid by the City of Portsmouth via reducing trash gathered by the City and brought to the landfill. Additionally, we intend to catalyze change in the downtown area, by demonstrating a cost-effective and more socially-responsible approach to managing wastes.

This program will only succeed with your support and cooperation. Please do your part by correctly placing only compostable items into compost bins. Incorrect disposal of non-compostable items can foul the ecological process, endanger those working with the organic items, or even those who utilize the resultant compost.



For information on this program, other "zero waste" projects, or composting, contact Earthtenders at (603) 767-0806, or visit their website at www.earthtenders.com

Challenges

- ❖ Hauling: feasibility, cost effectiveness and willingness of haulers;
- ❖ Access to processing facilities (particularly in northern regions): limited number of composting and/or recycling facilities in NH exacerbates hauling challenges;
- ❖ “Fly-by-night” companies and/or “repeat offenders” offering services which are either unsustainable or illegal. *Dealing with these companies can potentially harm the venue’s reputation;*
- ❖ *Appropriate/effective* set up, staff training, and continued prevention of contamination.



First Steps to Take:

Gather interest in your area

Programs and hauling schedules can rarely be established for one venue alone. Cooperatives are extremely helpful and cost-effective.

Do your homework

Learn if there is a composting facility that services your region. Try www.findacomposter.com, and talk with your state's Department of Environmental Services (Waste Management Division).

Understand the factors involved

Tipping policies and fees, hauling issues, staff training, local rules & regulations, etc.

Contact *Earthtenders* directly for more details about planning and executing waste reduction and diversion programs.

Further Information

EPA, US Composting Council Publication, *"Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Incorporating Food Residuals into Existing Composting Facilities"*

http://compostingcouncil.org/?page_id=55

(scroll down to Composting Practices)

Earthtenders Organics Recycling www.earthtenders.org

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