



ORGANICS RECYCLING & NYC HEALTH

RETHINKING SPENT ORGANIC MATTER AS A CLOSED-LOOP SYSTEM OF
NUTRITION AND ENERGY INSTEAD OF WASTE

Organics Don't Belong in Landfills

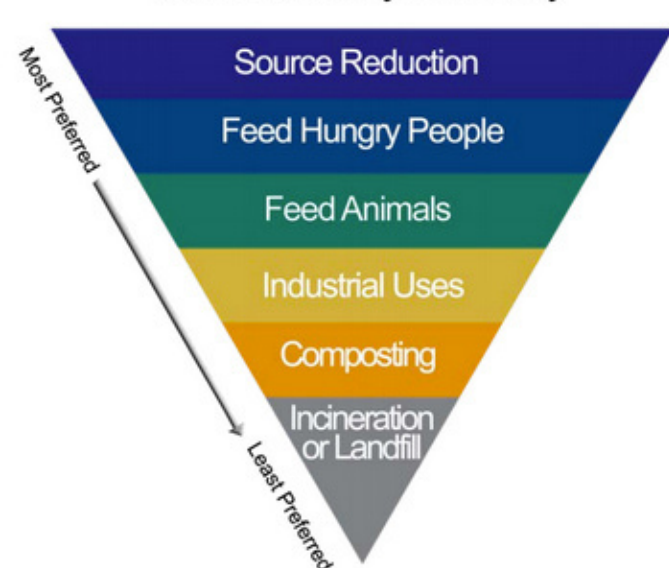
The simplest and potentially most cost-effective action to reach Zero Waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to divert organic matter from the landfill.

Landfill decomposition of organic matter releases methane, a greenhouse gas 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide (EDF, r. 9/17/20). About 1/8th of U.S. human-related methane emissions in 2016 comes from landfill (3rd largest; (EPA no. da).



Organic Matter in the waste stream produces the most greenhouse gases.
Key to Zero Waste by 2030 is total diversion of organics from landfills.

Food Recovery Hierarchy



Benefits of Excess Food Recycling

Excess food can be used to 1) address food insecurity; 2) amend soil; and 3) produce energy; or 4) provide animal feed.

The demand for food and fuel is endless. Food waste-to-energy & compost benefits far outweigh or mitigate any costs associated with organic waste collection program.

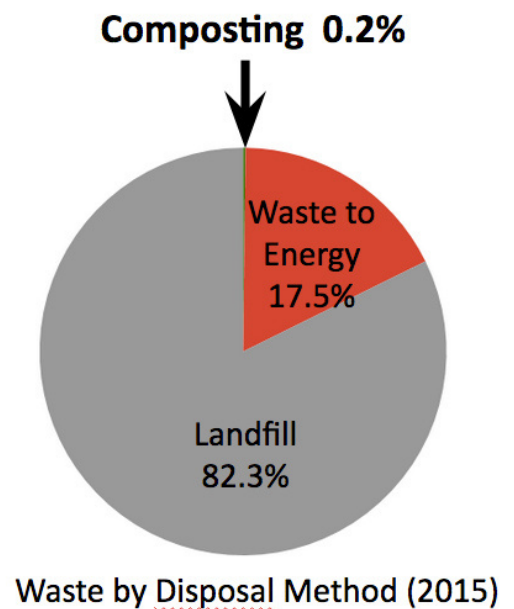
NYC needs a holistic organics recovery program.

NYC collected only 1.2% of more than 1 million tons of organic waste with brown bins in 2017 (13,000 tons)

NYC Waste at a Glance

In general, DSNY:

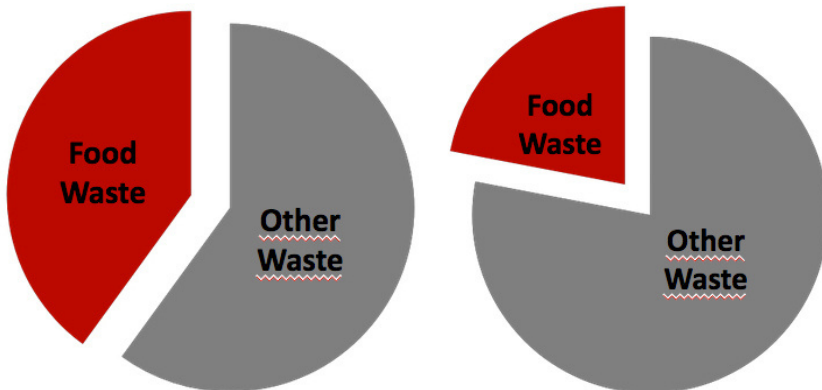
- collects 3.8 million tons of residential & governmental agency waste
- spends \$1.7 billion on collection & disposal
- generates ~1 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions/year with landfilled trash (primarily due to organic portion)
- sends waste 25 million miles per year, burning 11 million gallons of diesel fuel
- discards 31% or 1 million tons of residential compostable organic material



More food is being discarded today in NYC than in 2005.

40% of U.S. Food is Discarded

Food Waste is 22% of Municipal Waste Stream



Food waste takes up 61 million cubic yards of landfill space a year. That is 60,000 square miles at 1 foot deep.

‘Spent’ food is a recyclable, renewable resource that is being wasted.

Discarded food can be considered a stable, renewable, ‘recyclable’ resource. It is in NYC’s best interest to proceed with full, mandatory organics collection. We need effective solutions with the largest impacts in the shortest time to redirect food waste from landfills. Increased capture volumes of discarded organic material will ultimately align with or be lower than garbage collection costs. Right now, we have the potential to process ~185,000 tons of organic waste each year from local businesses at 15 regional facilities .