Building State-Wide Capacity for Food Scrap Recycling

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CT’s Food Scrap Recycling Infrastructure Gap: Value to be Unlocked
Closing the Organics Recycling Infrastructure Gap: 3 key steps

• Solid Waste Management Plan:

• Where are the generators:
  – [Food Residuals Mapping link](http://Food Residuals Mapping link)

• What’s still in the trash:
  – [Waste Characterization Study link](http://Waste Characterization Study link)

If any trouble with links, search key terms at [www.ct.gov/deep/recycle](http://www.ct.gov/deep/recycle)
Food Residual Generation in Connecticut

Food Residual Generation (Tons / Year):

- Conference or Resorts
- Restaurants
- Groceries
- Hospitals
- Other Health Care
- Colleges
- Independent Prep Schools
- Prisons

Food & Beverage Manufacturers, Wholesalers, Venues
Permitted Food Residual Composting Facilities
What is Still in Connecticut’s Trash?

- Food Waste, Yard Waste, and Compostable Paper, 31.5%
- Plastic, 14.5%
- Construction and Demolition, 14.1%
- Paper (not incl. Compostable Paper), 17.7%
- Glass, 2.4%
- Metals, 4.7%
- Other Waste, 9.5%
- Electronics, 2.2%
- Household Hazardous Waste, 0.6%
## What is Still in Connecticut’s Trash?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Est. Percent</th>
<th>Est. Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Waste</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>321,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compostable Paper</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>195,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaves &amp; Grass</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>172,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunings &amp; Trimmings</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>51,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branches &amp; Stumps</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>10,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>31.5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>750,773</strong></td>
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Purpose of **Public Act 11-217**

The purpose of the law is to incentivize companies to establish facilities in Connecticut so that everyone will have the option to reduce the costs of disposal by recycling food waste rather than disposing of it.

The law is intended to **get a valuable resource** out of our trash and **into local commerce** and made into valuable products such as compost and clean energy.

Goals:

- **Save businesses money** through *avoided disposal cost savings*.
- **Promote clean energy investments** because it provides certainty of feedstock to clean energy businesses.
- **Encourage economic development by encouraging businesses** to locate in Connecticut.
- **Move up the waste management hierarchy** to higher value use.
How this law works

The law requires large-scale commercial generators of food waste that generate more than 104 tons per year [about 2 tons per week], to recycle source-separated organic material, once permitted capacity is available.

Applicable to:

1. Commercial food wholesalers or distributors
2. Industrial food manufacturers or processors
3. Supermarkets, [large stores, typically with 69+ employees]
4. Resorts and conference centers.
Specifics

- Definitions of “Source-Separated Organic Material” and “Composting Facility” are in the law: Public Act 11-217.
- The law kicks in once we have enough permitted composting facilities in the state that can handle the material generated from the above facilities.
- The law does not apply to municipalities, hospitals, schools, etc.—just large-scale commercial generators.
- A generator is not required to divert their food waste to a recycling facility if there is not a recycling facility within 20 miles of the generator.
  - The reduced disposal costs associated with lower tipping fees at recycling facilities vs. at resource recovery facilities and landfills is the economic incentive that will be the real action driver (i.e. we expect generators to look to recycling facilities for lower-cost options).
  - This exemption is intended to offset any concerns about mandates.
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