

THE STATE OF WASTE IN CT

When MIRA closed in July, 2022 one third of the state's MSW capacity was lost. That material is being trucked and railed out of state, potentially hundreds of miles away. Municipalities are planning for the future of waste.

With clock ticking, fate of half a million tons of CT trash remains unclear

ENVIRONMENT • by PATRICK SKAHILL | CONNECTICUT PUBLIC RADIO | JULY 9, 2021 | VIEW AS "CLEAN READ"



Steam billows from a tall stack near the power block facility at the MIRA trash-to-energy facility in Hartford's South Meadows. CLIVE POISSON

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Closure Of MIRA P Scramble To Recycle Thousands Of Tons Food

Connecticut Public Radio | By Patrick Skahill
 Published December 9, 2021 at 12:01 AM EST



After decades of burning trash, the historic innovation and the Hartford incinerator by July 2022. That means hundreds of tons out-of-state landfill, a costly reality that has state and municipal leaders both nervous.

Lamo To-End Move

by Christine Tuo



Turning Food Scraps into a Reusable Resource

Over the past eight years, Blue Earth has built a reputation for turning food scraps into quality compost and soil. The company's success is due to its focus on quality and customer service. Blue Earth is a family-owned and operated business with a strong commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. The company's products are used by a wide range of customers, from small businesses to large corporations. Blue Earth's compost is a valuable resource that can be used in a variety of ways, from landscaping to agriculture. The company's commitment to quality and customer service has led to a steady increase in demand for its products. Blue Earth is proud to be a part of the sustainable waste management industry and is committed to continuing to grow and improve its products and services.

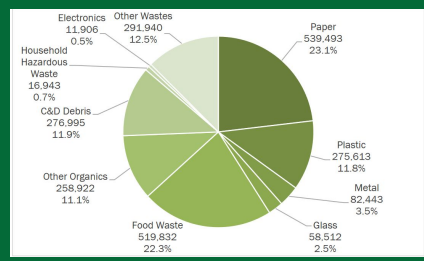
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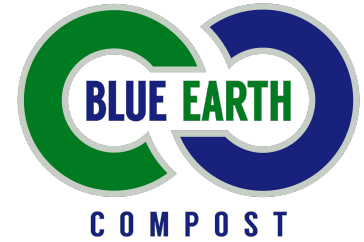
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WHAT'S IN OUR WASTE?

Food waste makes up about 25% of the waste stream and over 33% of disposed material is compostable. However, only a small fraction of this heavy material is actually recycled.



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



Photo Credit: CT Mirror

Where We Need to Be

WEIGHT WATCHERS & KEEPING IT SEPARATED

- Reduce overall amount generated
- Commercial & Residential Composting Programs
- Close down MIRA & don't replace



Photo Credit: City of San Francisco

How We Get There

TRIED & TRUE SOLUTIONS

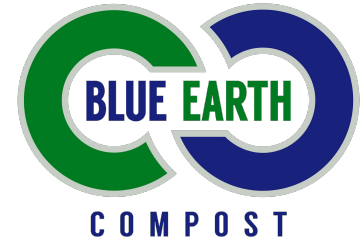
1. Update the Commercial Organics Ban
2. Fund curbside organics collection in municipalities
3. Facilitate the development of in-state compost facilities



Photo Credit: BEC





Cleaning Up Our Act:

1. Update The Commercial Organics Ban



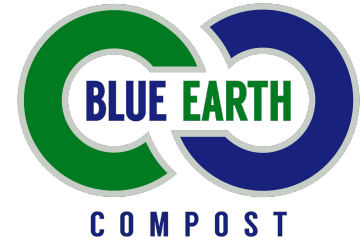
The Current Language of CGS Sec. 22a-226e:

Each commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or conference center that generates a projected annual volume of **26 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...

1. INDUSTRY EXEMPTIONS	2. GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS	3. LOWERED THRESHOLD	4. FINES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE
<p>Make all industries applicable under the law.</p> 	<p>Remove geographic limits and make it applicable to the whole state.</p> 	<p>Provide for the lowering of the threshold from 26 tons per year to 0 by 2028.</p> 	<p>Allow for fines for entities that refuse to comply with the organics ban.</p> 

Cleaning Up Our Act:

2. Fund Curbside Collection



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

Curbside Collections

Transfer Station Drop Offs

Backyard Composting

The State Should Provide Grants for:

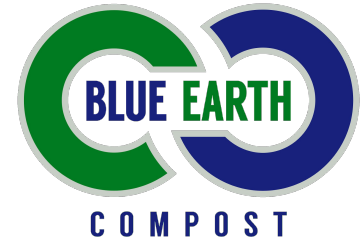
- Purchasing Equipment
- Paying for Pilot Collection Programs
- Educational Materials
- Staffing
- Technical Assistance

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

**Community
Composting**



Peels on Wheels
in New Haven

**Commercial
Composting**



WeCare Denali
in Ellington

**Anaerobic
Digestion**



Quantum Biopower
in Southington

Recommendations

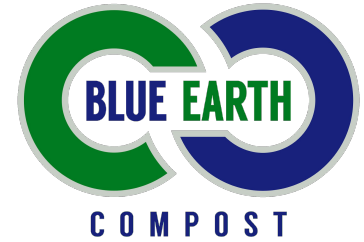
**Streamline the Permitting
Process**

**Provide Incentives to
Develop**

**Watch out for
“Greenwashing”**

Cleaning Up Our Act:

Bills to Watch



These are bills in front of the Environment Committee Right Now.

Bills in the Legislature Right Now				
Commercial Organics Ban	Increasing Composting	Packaging and Waste Reduction	Environmental Justice	Other
Gov's Bill 6664 5613	189 5618 5599 5399 5577	5617 5619 5571	5570 5154	6233- Biosolids 5736 - Food Recovery 5406 - Biosolids

We're Here to Help

We want to see you
succeed!

Feel free to reach out with questions
or for consultation.

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