Testimony of
Javier Lojan, First Deputy Commissioner
New York City Department of Sanitation

Hearing before the New York City Council
Committees on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management and Small Business

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Oversight: The City's Infrastructure to Handle & Process Organic Waste

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Good morning, Chair Abreu and members of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste. I am Javier Lojan, First Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Department of Sanitation. I am joined today by my colleagues Joshua Goodman, Deputy Commissioner, Public Affairs & Customer Experience, Ryan Merola, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commissioner, External Affairs, and Kate Kitchener, Director of the Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on a topic of deep importance to DSNY: the handling and processing of compostable material. This waste stream, everything from the kitchen and everything from the yard, accounts for about one third of what New Yorkers throw away – eight million pounds of residential waste each day.

For more than two decades, past administrations have been working to achieve citywide composting and make the separation and diversion of this food waste and yard waste go mainstream. Today, despite a massive fiscal challenge, the Adams administration is on track to do just that, to keep the material out of landfills where it contributes to climate change and instead to process and put it to beneficial use here in NYC, both as compost to beautify our parks and gardens and as renewable energy to heat our homes. In the process, we are getting it out of the black bags, off our streets, out of landfills, and away from the rats.

CURBSIDE SERVICE

In August 2022, after years of stops and starts, delays, and unfulfilled commitments from the City, Mayor Adams committed to making curbside composting work and to treat this important service part of the core function of DSNY, instead of a small, niche program that is niche difficult for the public at large to access.

The development and implementation of the largest, easiest curbside composting program ever was no small feat, and many of the advocates and elected officials in this room helped to make it happen.

DSNY distributed tens of thousands of bins, sent hundreds of thousands of mailers, and purchased 158 net-new collection trucks as part of a historic investment in making this program work.

As a result, every resident of Brooklyn and Queens now receives this service every week on their recycling day, and this October, the Administration will extend this universal service to the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island making curbside composting citywide as promised.

The most important thing about this program is its simplicity. There's no need for sign-ups, special dates to remember, or specific locations to visit within limited hours. Simply place your materials out on recycling day, and we'll ensure they're put to good use. This is a composting program for all New Yorkers.

Make the separation of compostable material easy, and people will do it. And we have numbers to back this up: in fiscal year 2023, DSNY diverted a record 211 million pounds of compostable material from landfill, an incredible increase from just over 150 million pounds the year before. This is a testament to the value of simple, universal programs, especially given that it includes only a part of our ongoing Citywide roll-out.

These kinds of programs not only improve the customer experience – they are MORE efficient than smaller programs because of economies of scale. We are now collecting more compostable material with fewer truck routes than in old programs.

SMART COMPOSTING BINS

The ease-of-use principle holds true for our network of nearly 400 Smart Composting Bins across the five boroughs, where residents can drop off their compostable material 24/7 through an easy-to-use smartphone app. These bins are serviced six days per week and have proven to be very popular.

SCHOOLS

We are also on track to bring curbside compost collection to every Department of Education school by the end of this school year, giving the next generation of composters familiarity with the ease and importance of this program.

OUTCOMES

Material collected through each of these initiatives – curbside residential collection, smart bins, and schools – is put to beneficial use, either through composting or through anaerobic digestion. The Department produces tens of millions of pounds of finished compost every year at the Staten Island Compost Facility, where weeks ago Mayor Adams and Commissioner Tisch cut the ribbon on a major expansion. That 33-acre site is now permitted to take up to 165 million pounds of compostable material per year and, as a result of new technology on site, can process it in half the time it used to take – weeks rather than months.

While the City has sufficient permitted and contracted capacity to process compostable material from a citywide program, we are currently engaged in a procurement to distribute that capacity more evenly across the region. City procurement rules limit the extent to which we can talk about future status of processing infrastructure for putrescible waste, but beneficial use and waste equity are both key to our long-term planning.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

I would like to now turn to the series of bills that are on the agenda today.

The first is Introduction 55, sponsored by Council Member Nurse, which would require the City to accept commercial waste at city-owned and operated Marine Transfer Stations. Only two of the City's transfer stations have any additional capacity – the East 91st Street and Southwest Brooklyn transfer stations. However, there are significant costs that come with this approach which make requiring this approach impractical – DSNY would have to add additional City and vendor staff to process waste on a new shift overnight. In addition, our export contracts, with substantial built-in redundancy and an emphasis on rail and barge export, are not cheap. Our facilities may not be competitive with private transfer stations in New York City and the larger metro area. As it stands now, requiring DSNY to take commercial waste under any circumstance is cost prohibitive.

The second is Introduction 97, sponsored by Council Member Ung, which would increase the civil penalties for businesses that have failed to clean their sidewalk or 18 inches into the street, or from removing obstructions from the sidewalk. The bill will raise the amount of the first fine that DSNY issues and increase the second and third fines. In September, Commissioner Tisch urged this body to increase the amounts for first, second and third-time penalties so that our enforcement of the basic cleanliness rules had real teeth. We appreciate the partnership with Council Member Ung for introducing a bill that achieves this and for the Chair's support in hearing the proposal.

The third is Pre-considered Introduction 358, sponsored by Council Member Restler, to require at least 5 organic drop-off sites in each community district. As we testified, DSNY has brought curbside composting to all of Brooklyn and Queens, and by October 2024, residents in all five boroughs will receive curbside service. As a popular supplement to curbside collection, we have also installed nearly 400 smart composting bins in 25 community districts, giving millions of New Yorkers easy access to a drop-off point for their organics any day of the week. We appreciate the bill's goal of making available in every community district a drop-off point, and we are open to evaluating the need for more drop-off points as we roll-out full curbside service later this year and continue to assess the smart composting bins' success.

The final bills are Pre-considered resolutions by Council Member Nurse, the first in support of collaboration between DSNY and the Parks Department on encouraging interested parties to engage in compost-related activities in parks, and the second in support of the current version of the Extended Producer Responsibility Act in Albany. We are happy to continue working with our partners in Parks to this end, and we are deeply supportive of the State passing the Packaging

Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act in 2024, which we agree with the Council Member and the Chair is long overdue.

In addition to the bills being discussed today, DSNY would also like to raise the issue of commercial organics separation. Local Law 146 of 2013 requires certain commercial establishments to separate their compostable material, but this law is now substantially out of step with the City's commitment to diversion of compostable waste. The Commercial Waste Zone system will improve commercial diversion, in that DSNY is requiring carters to charge businesses less to collect recyclables and compost than to collect trash, but we also urge the Council to consider an update that would allow DSNY to have source separation at all commercial establishments, in line with the progress made in residential diversion.

Again, Chair, we thank you for the opportunity to testify about this important topic. With that, we look forward to taking your questions.

OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ANTONIO REYNOSO
Brooklyn Borough President

Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
Oversight Hearing: The City's Infrastructure to Handle & Process Organic Waste
2.27.23

Good morning Chair Abreu and congratulations on your new position as Sanitation Chair! Thank you for using your first committee hearing to call attention to these very important topics. I want to focus today on two aspects of the hearing: Intro 055 and the city's organics processing capacity.

Intro 055

Intro 055, which would require DSNY to accept commercial waste at the City's Marine Transfer Stations (MTSs) beginning in 2025, is very important to me. I introduced a version of this bill when I was Sanitation Chair, and I applaud Council Member Nurse for recognizing the increased urgency of the issue by updating it from requiring a study to creating a mandate.

The goal of this legislation is simple – to get waste trucks off our streets. Thanks to advocacy by the environmental justice community in creation of the City's 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), the MTSs remove waste by barge, rather than long-haul truck. The more waste we can send to these facilities, the fewer dangerous and polluting long-haul trucks on our streets. Additionally, because the MTSs are operated by DSNY, we know we don't have to worry about the usual concerns with private facilities, such as compliance with maintenance regulations and worker protections.

The timing for implementation of this bill is significant because DSNY is finally moving forward with implementing Commercial Waste Zones (CWZ) beginning later this year, having assigned 16 carters to operate across 20 zones citywide. I hope to discuss this in more detail at a later hearing, as there are many outstanding questions associated with the program's implementation. Chief among them is where haulers will tip. However, we can speculate that as the industry consolidates, some facilities may close, while others may take on more throughput, meaning more trucks in those communities, and possibly the need for longer truck routes, which CWZ sought to avoid.

I am proud that due to the waste equity legislation we passed in 2018, no community that isn't already there will be allowed to take on more than 10% of the city's waste processing capacity. Still, we have already heard concerns from environmental justice communities such as Sunset Park and Red Hook that facilities there may be looking to add more capacity due to CWZ. Passing Intro 055 will give haulers more options – one in each borough except the Bronx – and importantly will provide options that support environmental justice and worker safety.

Organics processing capacity

I want to again commend Council Member Nurse, as well as Council Member Shahana Hanif, for passing Intro 244 last term, requiring DSNY to implement universal curbside organics collection. This policy, when fully implemented and functioning, will make a huge dent in the City's efforts to send zero waste to landfills. I have a number of concerns with delays and budget cuts that I will save for next month's budget hearing; however today I want to make three points:

1. While any diversion from landfill is better than none, traditional composting is preferable to co-digestion. This is because anaerobic co-digestion creates two byproducts: biogas and biosolids. Biogas is primarily methane, a greenhouse gas that gets burned into the atmosphere if it is not captured for reuse. I supported the pilot program at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant that sought to capture this methane and redistribute it into the city's heating system; however, I have been disappointed by the years of delays in implementation and failure of the system to function reliably. Biosolids are the solid byproduct of processed sludge. According to DEP, New York City produces about 1,400 tons, or 600 tuckloads, of biosolids *per day* at its wastewater treatment plants, and much of it ends up in landfills. If at all avoidable, we should not be adding more inputs into this system until DEP can achieve its goals of reliably capturing methane emissions and achieving 100% beneficial use of biosolids.

2. Again, we will visit this in more detail next month, but I want to reiterate that community composting facilities play a critical role in a comprehensive organics diversion system. These facilities:
    a. divert millions of pounds of food waste from landfills every year;
    b. provide free compost to the Parks Department, community organizations, street tree maintenance, school gardens, Botanical Gardens, and community gardens;
    c. create jobs; and
    d. play a critical role in educating youth and the public about the value and mechanics of composting.

3. Acknowledging the benefits of community composting, last year the City Council passed the Community Organics and Empowerment (CORE) Act, requiring DSNY to establish at least 30 organic waste drop-off sites citywide, with at least three in each borough. It is disingenuous for DSNY to argue that they can meet this bill's mandate through use of

drop-off bins that send organics to Newtown Creek, given the issues with that pilot and the benefits of community composting facilities outlined above.

Thank you again for holding this hearing today. I look forward to working with you and all the members of the Sanitation Committee over the next term.

JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
TO THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
February 27th, 2024

My name is Jumaane D. Williams, and I am the Public Advocate for the City of New York. I would like to thank Chair Abreu and the Committee members for holding this hearing.

We know that since the 2002 MTS Conversion Program and the 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan, Marine Transfer Stations have been developed and improved upon, but environmental justice advocates are still rightfully insisting that more can be done. The status quo of private land-based waste transfer stations is untenable. Trucking non-recyclable waste into land-based waste transfer stations has led to entire communities around the facilities facing health issues.

There must be a plan developed by the Department of Sanitation to maximize the benefits of Marine Transfer Stations, and Intro 0055 provides a great starting point. It is unclear how utilizing the current RFPs and possibly doing piecemeal plans with individual Marine Transfer Stations will alleviate advocates' concerns. There must be a planned transition from trucking-based transfer stations to using barges. Barges are a far more efficient way of transferring waste. Although there are important concerns raised by the administration regarding the initial cost of using Marine Transfer Stations for the city's commercial waste, ultimately the current patchwork of private land-based waste transfer stations is leading to costly externalities such as deadly accidents and pollution-linked diseases.

Thank you.

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Testimony to Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management in support of Int. no 55

February 29, 2024

Council Member Shaun Abreu, Chair
New York City Committee on Sanitation and Waste Management

My name is Jenille Scott, and I am the Climate Director of ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York. We bring together labor, climate, and community for a more just and sustainable New York, and I am writing as one of the leading organizations of the Transform Don't Trash Coalition fighting for a green economy and better conditions for our state's workers. Thank you to Sanitation committee chair Council Member Shaun Abreu for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

ALIGN strongly supports Intro 55 which requires the Department of Sanitation to accept commercial solid waste at city-owned or operated marine transfer (MTS) stations and city-owned or operated rail transfer stations. The use of marine transfer stations is a more environmentally sound practice than the use of long haul trucks and will reduce truck miles traveled and traffic which creates safer streets for pedestrians and reduces noise issues caused by the current truck based system. Additionally, it will reduce the emission of harmful pollutants which are released in already overburdened communities. This will undoubtedly improve the air quality of these communities and create healthier environments for workers. Marine transfer stations are operated by the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) so there are more stringent requirements for compliance with regulations and labor standards so there are less concerns than with privately owned facilities.

Intro 55 also creates an accountability measure for DSNY in the form of an annual report that should be submitted to the Mayor, Speaker and to be made publicly available online around the acceptance and processing of commercial waste at each transfer station. This further emphasizes the aforementioned point of more stringent compliance requirements for DSNY which will ensure

proper functioning of the facilities and maintenance of cleaner and safer streets for workers and the surrounding communities.

The timing of this bill is significant as progress, although delayed, is being made on the implementation of 20 Commercial Waste Zones (required by Local Law 199) later this year. These commercial waste zones were developed with the intention of creating safer and healthier environments and Intro 55 helps to further the purpose of LL199 . Additionally the 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is nearing expiration and the new 20-year SWMP is due in 2026 so this is a prime opportunity to ensure we develop and implement the 2026 SWMP the right way.

We urge this committee and council to support the passage of Intro. 55 and bring overdo reform to the solid waste management system in New York. Thank you

Jenille Scott

Climate Director

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Testimony for February 27, 2024 Oversight Hearing: The City's Infrastructure to Handle & Process Organic Waste

I am Clare Miflin, ED of the Center for Zero Waste Design and a member of the Save our Compost Coalition. I participated in the panel What Happens to NYC's Organic Waste?, and the Community Compost Teach-Ins. I want to start by expressing my gratitude to DSNY for moves to collect organic waste citywide, and to containerize waste, but ask that they consider how to make these concepts successful and to bring many more benefits for less cost.

While we were glad to hear DSNY acknowledge the role community composters have played over 3 decades to get NYC, in collaboration with DSNY they have built the largest most successful community composting program in the country. This is something DSNY should be proud of, it has got them to a place where they can roll out curbside collection, and it is just not believable that DSNY cannot find $7 million in a $1.9 billion budget to allow them to continue to exist. It is 0.04% of DSNY's budget. It is just a matter of priority, and will save DSNY money in the long run.

Community Composters work is not done. Their continued existence and thriving is necessary for both the curbside organics program to succeed and to maintain the billions of dollars put into green infrastructure – street trees, rain gardens and parks. Please see my opinion article written with Samantha MacBride, for more: Don't Kill Community Composting in NYC

Community Composting also plays a role in improving New Yorkers health – mental and physical – from supporting healthy eating habits to bringing people together, to bringing tangible hope in a very uncertain future, see this video to hear what participants say.

If we think about the big picture, DSNY, even in their Queens rollout that they say is such a huge success, are only collecting ± 2% of the food scraps the residents create – we need to change behavior and change hearts and minds. You can change behavior with fines and rules, but a much better way to do it is to engage, empower and inspire people. Then the change will not be limited to separating food scraps but will inspire people to live in a healthier, more socially connected, civically responsible and mindful way.

The DSNY is not being clear on the actual success of the Queens rollout – see Samantha MacBride's testimony and policy brief for more details.

Thoughts on DSNY's containerization and Commercial Waste Zoning plans :

1. The containerization pilot could be done much more affordably and to help reduce and divert waste, see article in Vital City and other press. The trash only pilot in CB9 will just further reduce NYC's paltry 17% diversion rate.

2. In rules for commercial businesses – allowing trash bins on sidewalks is not eroding the quality of the public realm – why not help businesses separate organics waste with guidelines and education, incentivize it by prioritizing organics bins over trash bins, and work with Commercial Waste Zoning to allow organics bins to be placed in streets not on sidewalks.

I also support commercial use of DSNY marine transfer stations.

I am very happy to expand on any of these ideas,
Respectfully,

Clare Miflin,
Executive Director, Center for Zero Waste Design

NYLPI
JUSTICE THROUGH COMMUNITY POWER

Testimony of Justin Wood, Director of Policy of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest to the Committee on Sanitation on February 27, 2024 in Support of Intro 55 of 2024

Thank you, Council Member Abreu and members of the Sanitation Committee, for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) strongly supports Intro 55 of 2024 requiring the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) to begin accepting commercial waste at the City's marine and rail waste transfer facilities. This would enact a long-delayed environmental justice priority by reducing the number of trucks traveling in and out of communities overburdened by private, truck-based transfer stations. Currently, private sanitation trucks must travel unnecessary miles across boroughs and communities to reach private transfer stations where waste is then exported using large, highly polluting long-haul trucks.

The City's nearly expired 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) directed DSNY to report on efforts to process commercial waste at marine transfer stations and to issue an RFP to process commercial waste at least one Manhattan marine transfer station, but no further action has been announced.

The timeline required by Intro 55 is appropriate, as it would precede the new 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan due in 2026 and would coincide with the expected citywide implementation of the new Commercial Waste Zones (CWZ) system required by Local Law 199 of 2019.

The CWZ program was designed to sharply reduce commercial waste truck mileage citywide and incentivize the use of waste and recycling facilities with high safety and environmental standards, including publicly owned marine and rail-based transfer stations.

In the absence of equitable and efficient options to utilize municipal facilities located near commercial districts and commercial waste routes, DSNY's most recent Waste Equity report shows that almost 12,000 tons per day (75%) of the City's commercial waste continues to be trucked in and out of a handful of overburdened communities in the South Bronx, North Brooklyn, and Southeast Queens.

Fundamental reforms to a notoriously inefficient, dangerous, and polluting commercial waste system are long overdue. Intro 55 would implement a common-sense solution first written into the City's SWMP almost two decades ago. We urge this committee and the Council to pass it into law as soon as possible.

Yours,

Justin Wood
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NYLPI's environmental justice program fights environmental racism, works to eliminate the unfair burden of environmental hazards borne by low-income communities and communities of color, and seeks to create a more equitable and sustainable city. For more info visit www.nylpi.org.

Testimony of Alia Soomro, Deputy Director for New York City Policy
New York League of Conservation Voters
City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
Oversight Hearing on the City's Infrastructure to Handle & Process Organic Waste
February 27, 2024

Good afternoon, my name is Alia Soomro and I am the Deputy Director for New York City Policy at the New York League of Conservation Voters. Thank you, Chair Abreu as well as members of the Committee on Sanitation for the opportunity to comment.

One of NYLCV's top policy priorities is getting us closer to our zero waste by 2030 goals. Food waste is the third largest source of New York City's overall emissions according to the City's integrated NYC Greenhouse Gas Inventory, after buildings and transportation. Twenty percent of New York City's greenhouse gas emissions come from household food consumption. When food waste is sent to landfills, which are disproportionately located in low income and communities of color, organic waste decomposes to create methane gas, a powerful greenhouse gas more than twenty times more potent than carbon dioxide. Neighborhoods near polluting facilities like waste transfer stations and incinerators have higher rates of pollution, which cause disproportionately higher cases of asthma, cancer, and other health issues and compound already existing environmental and racial inequities.

Due to these environmental injustices—which are only being compounded with the impacts of climate change—the City needs to be doing everything in its power to continue moving towards organic waste recycling. We appreciate the strides the Council made last year in passing the Zero Waste Act, however, our City has a long way to go when it comes to implementation, funding, education, and outreach to achieve our zero waste goals and improve our quality of life.

FY25 Budget

First and most importantly, NYLCV stands with advocates calling for the restoration of the community composting budget of $7 million, plus capital funds for build-outs of the replacement facilities planned for the LES Ecology Center and Big Reuse mid-scale composting facilities. Additionally, NYLCV urges the Administration to restore the original rollout of March 2024 for the residential curbside organics program in Staten Island and the Bronx—a borough too often neglected. It is fair to say that with the stop and go of previous composting initiatives, New Yorkers are wary that this program will effectively roll out as originally planned if the original time frame is delayed. Furthermore, the community composting budget is a drop in the bucket compared to many other City programs, despite having a profound positive impact on many communities and residents. According to the Save Our Compost Coalition, the $7 million spent on community composting is 0.4% of DSNY's overall annual budget of $1.7 billion and 0.006%

of NYC's total annual budget of $112.4 billion in FY2022. We believe that the community composting program can and should complement the City's residential organics program, especially when it comes to workforce development, and outreach and education to spark behavior changes.

NYLCV was deeply disappointed in the Mayor's November Financial Plan Update for FY24 and the Preliminary Budget released in January. The proposed budget cuts directly undermine our City's climate and zero waste goals outlined in *PlaNYC*, in addition to the Mayor's own quality of life goals, a theme he continues to champion. While we understand the financial constraints the City faces, with the climate crisis growing more urgent by the day, this is no time for New York City to cut funding for zero waste initiatives. We appreciate that the Administration has already reversed some of the November cuts, and with higher-than-anticipated tax revenues, we hope the City restores the community composting program funding, and allocates funding for outreach, education, and enforcement of the curbside organics program.

Commercial and Residential Organic Waste Infrastructure

As stated in NYLCV's annual NYC Policy Agenda, we are longstanding advocates of zero waste policies. This includes advocating for the equitable siting of regional capacity for processing residential and commercial organic waste, including investing in more City-owned composting facilities and community composting programs, to the extent feasible, marine transfer stations to ultimately avoid the use of landfills and incinerators. Moreover, NYLCV believes that the City can do better when it comes to incentivizing and enforcing commercial organics. In accordance with Local Law 146 of 2013, DSNY is required to evaluate whether sufficient regional processing capacity exists to accommodate the expansion in the proposed LL146 rules. To that end, if the City improves and expands commercial organic recycling, we would like to stress the importance of siting more regional processing capacity for organic waste sufficient for handling future increases. It is imperative that the emissions reductions achieved from diverting this waste are not diluted by transporting it long distances, and does not compound poor air quality in environmental justice communities by siting additional capacity that will increase truck traffic in these already overburdened districts. Lastly, the City should ensure that small businesses and large businesses alike have access to recycling and food donation programs that are accessible, easy to use, transparent, and which would result in cost savings compared to landfilling and incineration.

We also urge the City to continue taking action to upgrade the City's wastewater treatment plants' digesters to process organic commercial and residential waste into renewable energy to reduce local pollution and help address food waste, including exploring the feasibility of public-private partnerships. DEP should make clear and public what its intentions and plans are for anaerobic digestion capacity at its WWTPs and what quality of materials they will take.

We urge DSNY to continue working towards transitioning to zero-emission vehicles for DSNY and commercial sanitation trucks. Additionally, the City must continue working with utilities to ensure adequate charging infrastructure is installed for sanitation trucks and give extra consideration for CWZ carters with the most aggressive plans to do so. Requiring cleaner fleets

as part of the City's move to CWZs is also the best way to bring measurable air quality improvements to neighborhoods that house a disproportionately high number of haulers and waste processing facilities. It is not good enough to require citywide emissions reductions. We should also strive for more localized benefits.

Legislation

NYLCV supports Intro 55 of 2024 sponsored by Council Member Nurse. Intro 55 would require DSNY to accept and process commercial solid waste at all city-owned or operated marine and rail transfer stations, and to publicly report the amount and type of waste received at such stations on an annual basis. For decades, environmental justice neighborhoods have borne disproportionate environmental burdens from the concentration of privately run land-based waste transfer stations. This bill will help redirect commercial waste away from waste transfer stations located in environmental justice communities and cut down on air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by using barges to collect commercial putrescible and non-putrescible waste from City-owned, state-of-the-art marine transfer facilities. According to the Newtown Creek Alliance, a single barge can carry as much garbage as twenty-eight tractor-trailer trucks. This bill will also reinforce the City's Solid Waste Management Plan, which mandates a shift from waste export by long-haul trucking to a system of marine and rail transfer stations spread throughout the five boroughs. If adopted, we urge the City to ensure that funding will go towards increased DSNY staffing at the facilities.

NYLCV also supports the pre-considered Resolution T2024-0743 of 2024, sponsored by Council Member Nurse. This Resolution calls on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, A.5322-A/S.4246-A, also known as the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, which would establish an extended producer responsibility system for packaging. This would make producers responsible for the recycling or end of life disposal of the packaging their products come in, incentivizing them to use less packaging material, use more post-recycled content in their packaging, and use easier to recycle materials in their packaging.

Conclusion

As our City continues to experience climate change on a regular basis, with the most vulnerable communities impacted disproportionately, we cannot risk cutting funding for vital environmental programs that are designed to reduce emissions and improve public health. While the City Council and Administration made strides over the past year prioritizing zero waste bills and policies, they are only as effective as the funding and political support they receive. NYLCV stands with advocates calling upon the Administration to restore cuts to community composting and LES Ecology Center and Big Reuse facilities, and prioritize the original rollout for curbside composting in the Bronx and Staten Island.

NYC | HOSPITALITY ALLIANCE

February 27, 2024

New York City Hospitality Alliance comments before the New York City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management on Int. No. 97 – in relation to increasing the civil penalty for repeated littering violations

The New York City Hospitality Alliance ("The Alliance"), a not-for-profit association representing thousands of restaurants, bars, and nightclubs across the five boroughs submits the following comments expressing concern about Int. No. 97 – in relation to increasing the civil penalty for repeated littering violations.

It is our understanding that the purpose of the original version of this bill Int No. 0809-2022 focused on going after bad repeat littering offenders, which we have no issue with, so it increased the penalties for violations.

We have two concerns we hope to will be addressed in this newly proposed legislation.

First, while the bill states that the fines be issued to the building owner, some commercial leases have a provision passing these fines on to the commercial tenant (the small business owner). So, it is really hurting small businesses, not building owners if they are the violator in such cases.

Second, this bill doesn't allow for a warning or cure period for first time violations, which is the opposite of the "*education and compliance first, fine as a last resort*" mentality, so many want us to see from government towards small businesses.

Thus, The Alliance urges the City Council to reconsider this proposed legislation as drafted and at a minimum include a warning or cure period for first time violations if assigned to restaurants and other small businesses, and incorporate protections for small businesses to ensure they don't receive hefty fines and violations for littering violations for which they are not responsible.
Thank you for your consideration.

If you have question or comments, please contact our executive director Andrew Rigie at arigie@thenycalliance.org.

Respectfully submitted,

New York City Hospitality Alliance

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February 27, 2024

Testimony of WE ACT for Environmental Justice

To the New York City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Regarding The City's Infrastructure to Handle & Process Organic Waste.

Dear Committee Chair Shaun Abreu and Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management:

WE ACT for Environmental Justice is a community-based organization in Harlem, New York City. We recognize and advocate for community-driven solutions that can remedy the institutionalized harms associated with unjust urban planning policies that have plagued communities of color for generations. WE ACT is also a member of the Save Our Compost NYC Coalition – a coalition of New York City organizations working to support and expand community composting to uplift environmental and climate justice.

WE ACT urges the City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management to work closely with the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) to build a holistic, robust infrastructure to collect, transport and process organic waste that prioritizes microhauling, community composting and healthy soil creation.

Through our Climate Justice Working Group, WE ACT advocated for the passage of the Zero Waste Act and the need for New York City to drastically reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and incinerators. The City spends over $450 million dollars a year to export its waste. Some landfill and incineration sites are as near as Newark and as far as Ohio or South Carolina. Incinerating waste causes air pollution and creates serious health problems. Often, landfills, incinerators and waste-to-energy facilities are sited in low-income communities and communities of color; having a disproportionate, negative impact on local air quality and health. However, achieving our zero waste goals would mean our city is working towards righting this wrong. In addition, diverting organic waste is a cost effective, feasible and proven way to advance our goals.

Over 34 percent of New York City's trash is organic materials. The City needs to be strategic and purposeful when building out the infrastructure

to collect, transport, process and use organic waste. The foundation of that infrastructure should be community composting. Community composting maximizes the potential for diverse and beneficial end uses, creating healthy soil to increase the benefits of green infrastructure - street trees, rain gardens and parks - which reduce flooding and cool neighborhoods. This not only fosters environmental sustainability but also contributes to the creation of vibrant, healthy, and resilient communities.

It is important to note that this should all start with the City reinstating $7 million per year in funding for community composting operations, including the 115 green jobs that facilitate the profound impact of community composting on both environmental sustainability and community engagement. New York City is undergoing a cultural shift when it comes to how households, buildings and the City handle organic waste. Community composting operators are vital to increased participation in all composting related programs because of their valued outreach and education efforts.

New York City has the opportunity to build infrastructure to handle and process organic waste that is environmentally just. It is our hope that the City Council and this committee work with DSNY to ensure this. With well planned infrastructure that takes into account all components of the composting process, New York City could make significant progress towards its zero waste goals and create healthy soils that we can reinvest into our community gardens and parks.

Sincerely,

Lonnie J. Portis
New York City Policy & Advocacy Manager
646-866-8720 | lonnie@weact.org

Committee on Sanitation

Support for continuing funding for community composting and outreach at nonprofit orgs

To: The Honorable City Councilmember Shaun Abreu
From: Justin Green, Executive Director, Big Reuse
Date: February 27, 2023

Dear Chair Abreu,

I am Justin Green - Executive Director of Big Reuse- I am here to testify to restore the budget for community composting programs.

Thank you to Chair Abreu for your steadfast support for community composting, combating climate change and this hearing. Thank you to our many amazing supporting council members! You are true climate leaders. We applaud DSNY's roll out of curbside organic waste collection and expansion of Fresh Kills composting facility. We are concerned DSNY codigestion of food waste with sewage in DEP AD undermines community participation by not actually making compost, supporting ongoing fossil fuel infrastructure, and producing a leftover AD digestate which concentrates microplastics and 700 pollutants and pharmaceuticals that are not appropriate for use as fertilizer.

Big Reuse has been a dedicated partner of the DSNY compost project for the last decade. Before the elimination of our funding in December - we annually composted 2.2 million lbs of organic waste at 3 community based sites and produced over 1000 cubic yards each year that went to over 300 Parks, community groups and street tree care - engaging and benefitting tens of thousands of New Yorkers. DSNY budget cuts forced us to lay off 10 curbside organic waste outreach staff and 7 staff for community composting. Temporary emergency private funding allowed us to keep on 3 staff temporarily - funding runs out in May.

With a budget of $1.8 billion - DSNY can easily afford ongoing support for community organization and Botanical gardens to continue to fund long standing community based programs uplifting composting.

Please restore the budget of $7 million funding for community composting and outreach at DSNY at non-profit organizations.

During a worsening climate crisis and Mayoral push for green jobs - community composting should not be eliminated. Community composting and outreach should be expanded to more communities, not cut.

Community composting composts Parks leaf and yard waste with food scraps to improve the city's degraded soil. Prior administrations and experienced DSNY staff recognized that community composting is the most ecological, engaging, economical, equitable and common sense way to process NYC food and yard waste. DSNY should not throw the best option for our organic waste away in order to simplify composting. Community composting provides many benefits differing from curbside collection - deep community engagement, changes in New Yorkers behavior and providing education to support curbside and providing high quality compost to green the city. Community composting makes compost in our communities rather than burdening other communities. Our community gardens, street trees and parks need the compost.

Our coalition of community based composters and environmental organizations have been advocating for composting for the last decade. It is inspiring to see how our years of hard work in community composting and composting education built citywide support for these composting initiatives. It is testament to the power of community composting.

The current DSNY administration has repeatedly acknowledged the benefit and impact of community composting. During the launch of citywide composting it - it does not make sense to eliminate all funding to the program and groups that made it possible.

Funding should be restored to continue the funding for community composting.

The need to strengthen community based responses to climate change is obvious after an unprecedented year of wildfire smoke, record rain fall, and high tides regularly flooding some NYC neighborhoods.

New Yorkers submitted close to 50,000 letters of support and hundreds rallied to restore funding for community composting when DSNY eliminated funding for community composting. New Yorkers recognize the importance and benefits of community composting even with the rollout of curbside organic waste collection. Similarly - the City should not get rid of all community gardens just because we can buy vegetables at Key Foods.

For 30 years prior to this current administration - DSNY funded innovative community based solutions for our food and yard waste. Master Composter and composting education at the Botanical Gardens, food scrap drop off at GrowNYC Farmers Markets, and over the last decade - development of nationally recognized community composting program.

We need extensive outreach to New Yorkers to explain why and how to compost. Changing the habits/behavior of 6.5 million people is going to take a lot more work. DSNY/City is cutting the outreach budget while the program is launching. It makes no sense. The city should be increasing the outreach

budget but instead the Mayor and DSNY are eliminating 115 jobs at nonprofits that are promoting composting. The cuts eliminated Big Reuse's outreach team for curbside collection. Changing the behaviour of over 8 million New Yorkers to get them to participate in curbside collection is going to need a lot more outreach.

Each year - Big Reuse's outreach team spoke to 75,000 New Yorkers about curbside collection - knocking on 35,000 doors and attending over 900 events. In support of the DSNY collection - we set up tables at community events and high rise buildings to educate residents about curbside collection, providing the outreach and information needed to participate and kitchen containers, compost, and leaf bags.

With the city's budget cuts to outreach this amazing and incredibly hard working and dedicated team lost their jobs and Big Reuse is no longer able to provide outreach.

Our outreach team fielded similar questions in every neighborhood about the curbside program. Why should I compost? Won't it smell? Won't it be extra work? When would I set it out? What do I do if I'm in a large building? Do you have advice for how to talk to your landlord about the program? I think I'm the only person in my building using the bin; how do I get information to my neighbors? Changing the behavior of 9 million New Yorkers is going to take a massive effort. Cutting outreach now will make curbside collection less successful.

With the city's budget cuts to outreach, come December 31 these types of questions will no longer be answered by dedicated team that is out in the community every day. Every day, 115 experienced and dedicated Compost Project employees and outreach associates work to make sure NYC residents understand their composting options and the importance of these programs for keeping these materials out of landfills, enriching soil, mitigating rats, and keeping the city clean.

With the city's budget cuts to community composting and outreach, these 115 people lost their jobs.

Reflecting on thirty years of unparalleled Compost Project work and the efforts of our outreach team to fill the critical need for education around the curbside composting roll-out reminds us that it's not just programs at risk of being cut; it's an entire community that is only continuing to grow and provide equitable access to all New Yorkers for a fraction of what other DSNY services cost to run.

Our outreach and community composting staff brought enthusiasm and incredible effort to compost education, collection, and processing to better the city and its residents, their talents for integrating into communities, their responsiveness for adapting to the unique needs of NYC residents, and their creativity in expanding services and education to reach new audiences.

Eliminating these programs would mean a staggering loss of extensive knowledge and community connections that have taken decades to build, large numbers of residents without access to composting options, and a huge step backward for NYC in reaching sustainability goals.

Funding should be immediately restored to the FY24 budget to continue community composting and outreach work to reduce rat populations.

Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions asks you to fund Community Composting and all of its 115 green jobs. NYC's organics exports are harming communities by NYC transfer stations, and by railyards, railroad tracks, landfills, and burners across NYS and in other states. Meanwhile corporations engaged in waste export benefit financially from keeping NYC's export tonnage up and turning organics into bioslurry, additional toxic sewage sludge, and climate-altering methane that has been routinely flared off into NYC's air. We ask the NYC Council to act based on consideration of the impacts of New York City's waste exports on Climate Change, soil, water, and communities where municipal solid waste is processed, transported, landfilled, and burned. We ask you to fund the more just and sustainable waste management you envisioned in the Zero Waste Legislation you have passed, and include Community Composting in your budget.

At the December 7th Rat Hearing DSNY Deputy Commissioner Joshua Goodman affirmed that DSNY eliminated Community Composting and initiated a procurement for back-end processing of Brooklyn's and Queens' organics without OMB climate budgeting guidance and sustainability and city resiliency evaluation tools, contrary to what the city council was told to expect. DSNY's chosen technocratic model lacks foundational climate, sustainability, and resiliency standards, while the city is spending almost 10 times as many taxpayer dollars for export to disposal vs. zero waste initiatives.

According to US EPA DSNY is employing three of the worst ways for New York City to manage organics: landfilling, incinerating, and co-digesting sewage with organics. At the Rat Hearing Joshua Goodman said that DSNY's criteria were "beneficial use of organics "and "keeping organics out of landfills". However, EPA's October 2023 Wasted Food scale shows that DSNY's criteria are too crude.

In contrast, Community Composting increases DSNY's compliance with the city's Zero Waste policies, US EPA standards, and NYS's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

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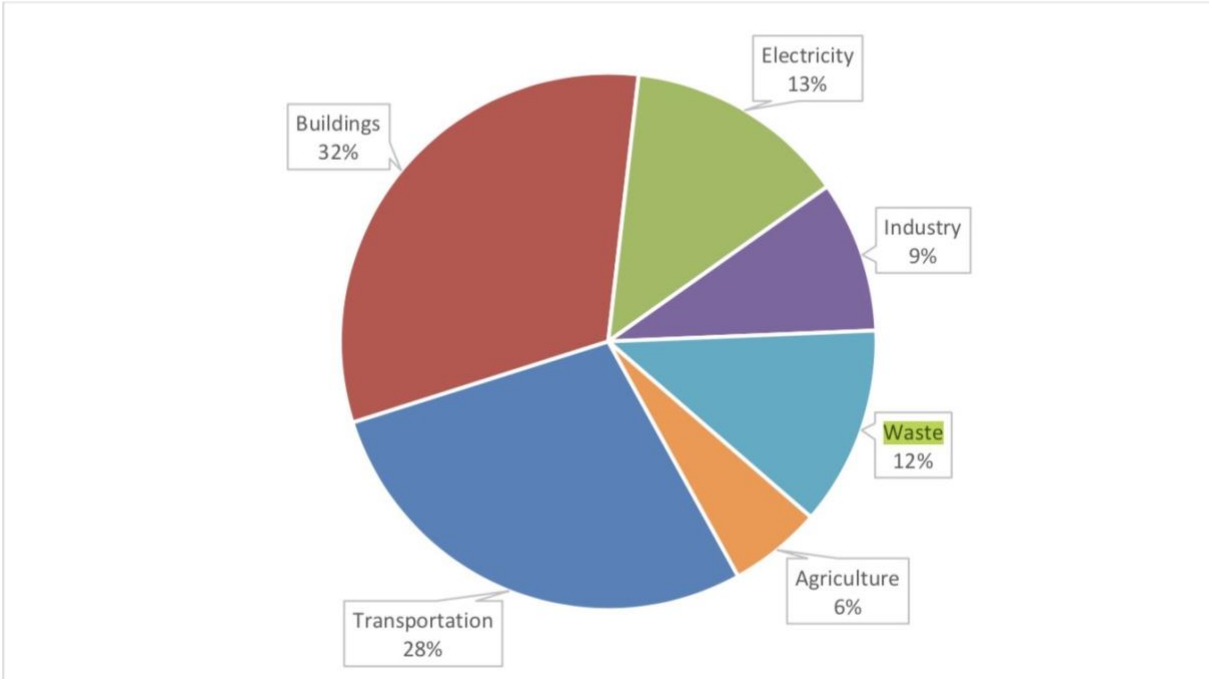
Figure 2. 2019 New York State GHG Emissions by Scoping Plan Sector



Everyone who lives with the misery of waste-by-rail is counting on you to remove the 40%+ of organics from rail cars of MSW that originate in NYC through public engagement in organics diversion. NYC's persistently low recycling rates show that it takes more than a DSNY mandate and enforcement to induce public participation. You have seen from the outpouring of support for Community Composting that your best chance of educating and engaging the public in organics diversion is to build on what Community Composting is already doing. Please support restoration and an ongoing source of funding for Community Composting and all of its 115 workers. Please make composting that returns NYC's organics to NYC's parks, gardens, tree pits, yards, and rain gardens NYC's #1 method of managing organics from curbside pickup. Thank you.

civicsunited@gmail.com
2-27-24

Cooper Recycling
123 Varick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237
(718) 497-4431

February 27, 2024

Testimony of Naomi Coooper
President
Cooper Recycling
Before the New York City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
Regarding Int. 0055-2024

Thank you, Chair Abreu, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to submit testimony on Introduction 0055-2024.

My name is Naomi Cooper, and I am the President of Cooper Recycling, the largest construction and demolition (C&D) recycling facility in New York City.

As a proud women-owned business operating in East Williamsburg Brooklyn since 1986, our company shares this Committee's commitment to diverting waste from landfills—especially materials derived from the construction industry.

Our facility has the capacity to process 2,000 tons of material daily, totaling more than a 1 billion pounds per year. Our equipment is designed to maximize the diversion of these materials to beneficial end uses. The materials we recycle daily include plastic, masonry, concrete, brick, wood, dry wall, metal, paper, and corrugated cardboard.

We believe strongly in mitigating truck traffic which transports C&D materials. Through technology and advanced design, our four-scale operation—two scales weighing inbound trucks and two for outbound vehicles— results in shorter lines and less truck idling at our facility. The majority of our residual materials which cannot be diverted are transported to landfill via rail that directly services our facility.

Given Cooper's three-decade performance record toward the reducing waste to landfill and the overall betterment of our environment, we applaud the good intentions of Intro 0055 and the desired outcomes you seek. However, the bill language is lacking a clear definition of what constitutes "commercial solid waste."

We respectfully request that the bill language be amended to clearly state that materials such as construction and demolition materials are excluded from the definition of commercial solid waste. Based on the stated goals and desired outcomes mentioned by Councilmember Nurse at the hearing, C&D is clearly not a material captured by this bill. However, to clear up any ambiguity, we ask that language is added to make that clear.
We appreciate the opportunity to express our thoughts and concerns concerning this legislation.

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Testimony by Courtney Scheffler, Member of the GrowNYC Workers Collective
New York City Council Committee on Sanitation Chair Shaun Abreu
Oversight: The City's Infrastructure to handle & Process Organic Waste
February 27, 2024

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Courtney Scheffler, and I am a proud member of the GrowNYC Workers Collective, represented by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, RWDSU. I work as a Compost Coordinator and Driver for GrowNYC, and together with our partners at The New York City Compost Project, we serve communities throughout the five boroughs by providing food scrap collections, processing, outreach, education, access, and finished compost.

The City Council must be dedicated to fully restore this program by ensuring sufficient funding for Community Composting in the 2024 budget and also mandating that this program exist through legislation. We are asking for organics to be processed hyper-locally to where it is produced through community composting for the health of our neighborhoods and for our livelihoods. I live paycheck to paycheck, like many of my coworkers, and like many New Yorkers. The loss of compost programming will cut my paycheck in half. When private funding runs out, 45 of my peers will be laid off from GrowNYC's Compost program by May 20th and 78 total workers across our entire Zero Waste Program by June 30th. The NYCCP is not expensive. It constitutes only 0.3% of the City's Sanitation budget.

We have been here before. There were budget cuts to community compost during the pandemic and every week I was asked when compost would return to the Parkchester Greenmarket and when compost would again be accessible in the Bronx. Smart bins alone do not exemplify waste equity by any means. Our services educate and are necessary for the efficacy of curbside composting via brown bins. Food scrap drop-off sites in the Bronx were the first to be cut and the last to be restored. It was up to us workers to build trust that was broken with the communities that were meant to serve. Investing in communities is always worth it, especially those disproportionately experiencing environmental injustice. It is a disgrace to cut programs that are just beginning to remedy barriers to waste equity in the Bronx.

This comes just as our union has entered negotiations for our first contract to make our workplace truly sustainable for all workers. Instead of just negotiating our first contract as a union, we are also dually negotiating our livelihoods. Funding the NYC Compost Project and GrowNYC's compost program is a means for this administration to realize its proposed environmental objectives.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Courtney Scheffler

Testimony by Leah Butz, Member of the GrowNYC Workers Collective
to the New York City Council Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management
Chair Shaun Abreu
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 10:00 A.M.
Oversight: The City's Infrastructure to Handle & Process Organic Waste

Good morning Chair Abreu and members of the Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Leah Butz, and I am a proud member of the GrowNYC Workers Collective, represented by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, RWDSU. I work as an Inspections and Compliance Program Coordinator for GrowNYC, and previously worked in the Compost program for 2 years. Furthermore, I have worked for the Lower East Side Ecology Center as a Compost Associate, and I am, as of November 16th, 2023 (the very day the Mayor's initial PEG eliminating community composting was announced), a Certified NYC Master Composter.

Clearly, I am passionate about compost, zero waste, environmentalism, and local agriculture — and the planned budget that excludes any funding for community composting makes it clear that New York City is not the right place for opinions such as those.

In December 2023, Jacques Jiha, the Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, testified in front of the City Council Committee on Finance to attempt to defend the indefensible November PEG prepared by Mayor Adams. Throughout his testimony, Director Jiha repeatedly asserted that community composting was "inefficient," a claim that is inaccurate and, quite frankly, insulting. "Inefficient" is a methane production technology that goes offline within weeks, releasing harmful gases into our environment. "Inefficient" is hauling thousands of pounds of waste states away, spending millions of dollars each year and costing even more in environmental effects. "Inefficient" is hundreds of "Smart" Bins either too full to drop scraps into or too complicated to properly open for older adults. "Inefficient" is the DSNY's abysmal record on outreach and even worse record on mandatory waste separation enforcement.

115 individuals employed by nonprofits the City holds years-long contracts with faced the threat of unemployment mere weeks before Christmas when the November plan was announced. While many of these jobs were saved by generous private donors, once again, 54 of my colleagues' careers will be confronted with extinction come May 2024. The City has a long history of outsourcing community-driven work (including, but by no means limited to composting) to nonprofit organizations and paying pennies on the dollar, if payment is ever made at all. The callousness with which Mayor Adams has treated the community organizations

who make sure our food waste actually gets composted rather than burned off into the atmosphere shows that the work of these nonprofits, and the people — the New Yorkers — employed by them are not valued or appreciated by the City.

Historically, the City Council has shown support for community composting (an obvious political win, given how popular the program is among the public). We need this continued support going into the next budget cycle, and doubtless each and every year after. GrowNYC and the member organizations of the late NYC Compost Project (NYCCP) — the Lower East Side Ecology Center, Earth Matter, Big Reuse, Queens Botanical Garden, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the New York Botanical Garden — are under threat. With the elimination of the NYCCP came the elimination of the Master Composter Certificate Course, a too-good-to-be-true resource and incredible example of free, equitable public education. Community composting is an invaluable cohort of excellent, thoughtful people who work tirelessly to make NYC a better, cleaner place to live, work, and play.

We cannot count on the philanthropy of the wealthy or the limited capacity of volunteer labor to keep our city clean. Relying on the deus ex machina of an “anonymous donor” is not a tenable model to keep this vital programming alive. I implore the City Council to continue to fight for community composting and take legislative action to make this program permanent.

Thank you for your time,
Leah Butz

Testimony by Lena Frey, Member of the GrowNYC Workers Collective
New York City Council Committee on Sanitation
Chair Shaun Abreu
Oversight: The City's Infrastructure to handle & Process Organic Waste
February 27, 2024

Good morning Chair Abreu and members of the Sanitation Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Lena Frey, and I am a proud member of the GrowNYC Workers Collective, represented by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, RWDSU. I have worked as a Compost Coordinator at GrowNYC for over 4 years, and it is a job that I love. Community compost is so important to me because it is a small thing that people can participate in to understand the environmental impacts of waste. I feel so much pride, because while doing this work is literally dirty, the services that we provide to New Yorkers make this city a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient place to live and work.

Because the City defunded our contract, me and 53 of my union coworkers will be unemployed as of May 20th. This is the second time we have faced this – the second time in just 3 months that I have sat here and testified for the city to let my coworkers and I keep our jobs. To let us keep providing vital services to communities across the 5 boroughs. I will not sit back and let my coworkers and I lose our jobs without a fight, and I am asking the City Council to do the same.

The work that we do, along with our partners at the NYC Compost Project, is distinct and complementary to the existing DSNY services. Our work makes composting accessible to people who do not have brown bin service, as millions of New Yorkers do not. Our drop off sites can be used by people without smartphones, and by those who live in areas without a single orange smart bin within miles, like me. Every week I speak to people whose landlords refuse to participate in the curbside service, preferring instead to pay menial fines, and to people whose large apartment buildings have just one single bin which is woefully insufficient. For these countless New Yorkers, community composting is their only option. Community compost is not expensive; it is a drop in the bucket of the city's budget, and yet it has proven to be effective as well as immensely popular.

The Council must fully restore funding to this essential program in order to save union jobs and livelihoods. Funding for community compost must be mandated through legislation to ensure it can thrive beyond the opaque pendulum swing of City budget contracts, which we fight for year after year.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Lena Frey, Brooklyn

Testimony by Nathalie Huang, Member of the GrowNYC Workers Collective
to New York City Council Committee on Sanitation
Chair Shaun Abreu
Oversight: The City's Infrastructure to handle & Process Organic Waste
February 27, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Abreu and members of the Sanitation Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony. My name is Nathalie Huang, and I am a proud member of the GrowNYC Workers Collective, represented by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, RWDSU. I work as a Compost Coordinator for GrowNYC, and together with our partners at The New York City Compost Project, we serve millions of New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs, providing food scrap collections, organics processing, compost outreach, education access, and finished compost. We divert more than 8.3 million pounds of organic waste from landfills each year, create hundreds and thousands of pounds of compost that is distributed to parks, community gardens, and individuals, and we perform necessary environmental outreach and education to over 600,000 New Yorkers annually.

Community Composting was fully funded by the City and the Mayor in the last budget for the fiscal year 2023, and defunding it is a violation of the contract the City has with GrowNYC and the other NYC Compost Project programs. Now, it is in the City Council's hands to propose the fiscal year 2024 budget and reinstate full funding to these vital community composting programs. This program is not expensive; it makes up just over 10% of the overall $33 million annual composting budget and it is only 0.03% of Mayor Adams' announced $106.7 billion budget for the coming fiscal year. Community Composting is just a drop in the bucket of the City's budget, and yet it has proven to be effective as well as immensely popular.

I, along with my colleagues in GrowNYC's compost program, will lose our jobs, unless the City Council takes a stand to protect this program. This includes 53 good, union jobs. In fact, we were told only a week ago that, due to needing to cut operational costs with the limited private funding GrowNYC's compost program currently has, we would lose our jobs at the end of June, and then just a few days ago were informed we would instead lose our jobs on May 20th, much earlier than we were led to believe. As you know, we are being told we will be fired soon, with only a few months notice and with hardly any time to seek a new job. This is not right.

Our workers provide essential education, outreach, and waste diversion services to neighborhoods across the five boroughs. Our work services neighborhoods that have been historically underserved by the City and other government agencies, including the Bronx. This defunding comes just as our union, the GrowNYC Workers Collective, has begun negotiating our first contract to make our workplace truly sustainable for all workers. This is an injustice to the communities we serve, and to union workers whose labor is being devalued. Eliminating the

NYC Compost Project and GrowNYC's compost funding is anti-sustainability, anti-environment, anti-union, and anti-New York.

Some people may believe that the inclusion of the Department of Sanitation's curbside composting program through the brown bins and the abundance of the orange smart bins means that community composting is no longer needed. This is NOT true. Community composting keeps the processing of our food scraps local to New York City, and yields nutrient-rich finished compost for parks, gardens, street trees, and participants of our composting programs. This process cannot be replicated with the brown bins or the orange smart bins, where most of the food scraps collected through these programs are converted into biogas and not compost, with excess biogas being flared back into the atmosphere and contributing to a worser, unhealthy environment. The compost created because of community composting goes BACK into communities to improve their soils, the biogas produced from brown bins and smart bins do not. I implore you to ask, as citizens of New York City, why the Department of Sanitation is marketing their curbside program as "composting" when much of the organic waste they collect is not actually being made into compost? This is greenwashing and they have not been entirely transparent or honest with the public about what is happening to people's organic waste and exactly how much organic waste they collect is truly being composted.

We, the employees in community composting, are the ones who have been doing decades worth of composting education and outreach and giving people from all ages and all walks of life with tangible opportunities to learn about composting through hands-on workshops, volunteer activities, internships, and jobs. We are the ones collecting food waste from residents in all neighborhoods, as far south as Bensonhurst in Brooklyn and as far north as Norwood in the Bronx, and transporting the materials to our partner composting facilities like Earth Matter on Governor's Island, Big Reuse in Queensbridge Park, and the Queens Botanical Garden, where everything is composted locally on-site, and returning that compost to the very people we collected from to nourish their gardens, lawns, street trees, houseplants, and rejuvenate local soils. We are the ones providing the in-person, face-to-face daily and weekly interactions in all 5 boroughs of NYC to answer people's questions about composting methods, recycling initiatives, and innumerable ways to be less wasteful and more sustainable in this urban environment of almost 9 million people.

My own knowledge about composting came from being an intern at Earth Matter, and then becoming a Master Composter through the Lower East Side Ecology Center's Master Composter program. It's because of this wealth of knowledge I can empower my participants in southern Brooklyn on food waste diversion, composting methods and the stewardship of street trees, plants, and community green spaces. I'm devastated at the thought of failing these underserved communities who I have cultivated meaningful, personal relationships with and soon I can no longer provide for them. Both Earth Matter and the Lower East Side Ecology Center are affected

by these budget cuts. While they too have been able to sustain some of their composting operations with partial funding, it won't last. The wonderful composting education opportunities I was afforded may not be available to others in the future because these organizations won't have the necessary funding to continue their composting operations at full capacity.

I live in fear and uncertainty that if community composting is eliminated, my participants in Brooklyn will have no options for separating out their food waste except through curbside "composting", which, as I stated earlier, is complete greenwashing. In addition, curbside "composting" has not been implemented well, with many of my participants having difficulty utilizing curbside "composting" due to a variety of environmental barriers. This is why it is a tremendous help to them to have the additional option of community composting locations in their own neighborhoods where we accept their food scraps for composting, and for us to be on-the-ground field workers who can provide answers to their questions about curbside. By cutting community composting jobs, people's accessibility with composting education will be diminished significantly. The city cannot sustain a successful curbside organics collection program without working alongside community composting. Please give this program another chance; we do immense, life-changing work on such a small budget.

The City Council needs to restore the funding for GrowNYC and The NYC Compost Project programs, and to keep union workers employed through the rest of the year to keep a roof over our heads. We deserve to remain at the very jobs we have the heart and passion for, and to continue serving the local communities who depend on us for community composting options. The Council must fight to fully restore this program by ensuring sufficient funding for Community Composting in the 2024 budget this Spring, and also mandating that this program exist through legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Nathalie Huang

Dear Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management,

I'm writing in support of community composting, which I have been using for many years, by dropping my compost off at NYC farmers' markets. This program is such an important aspect of sustainable city life and it is an innovative aspect of living in New York City. In other US cities that I have visited, such as Los Angeles, and European cities, such as Prague and Berlin, this sort of program does not exist. It is vital that cities reduce the production of waste and this is a low cost, healthy and powerful solution to lessening the flow of garbage going into landfills. It is also a valuable program because it builds community and enables concerned citizens to get involved and be part of the solution to making New York City a better place.

Sincerely, Alice Arnold

Department of Biology

Room J526
City College of New York
Convent Ave. at 138th St.
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212 650-6800
Fax: 212 650-8585

Dear Council Members:

Thanks to the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste for convening this hearing about NYC's process for disposing of organic waste. I am writing to strongly encourage the restoration of city funding--and support-- for community composting.

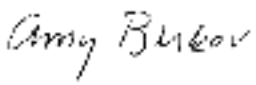
My name is Dr. Amy Berkov. I am a recently retired faculty member in the CCNY Dept. of Biology, and a 44-year resident of Manhattan's East Village. I am also a community gardener. I initially became familiar with the ground-breaking work by the Lower East Side Ecology Center via their initial recycling bins outside my garden, and have been dropping off my food waste for composting for almost three decades. A year or two ago I estimated how much food waste I personally had dropped off at the farmers market for conversion to compost:

Composting since: 1996
Number of weeks: 1150
Estimated pounds per week: 4
Total pounds diverted from waste stream, and not available to rats: **2.3 TONS**

Community Composting is an important tool— for addressing the root causes of climate change, and mitigating our thriving rat populations. Community composting has also made strides towards a ***critically important mission***: educating the public about human impacts and how our collective behavior threatens the planet on which we all depend. Community composting educates urban residents, trains volunteers, provides employment, and ***empowers all of us*** to make decisions that address root causes of environmental ills.

We should be making Community Composting more, not less, available! If we lose community composting now, we will lose decades of progress towards NYC's sustainability goals. That represents a very costly loss, in the long term. I hope that you will consider the importance of community composting, and restore funding in the upcoming NYC budget.

Sincerely,



Amy Berkov
aberkov@ccny.ccny.cuny.edu

Dear Commissioner Tisch, Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Chair Abreu, and Esteemed City Councilmembers:

I am a proud sanitation nerd and compost fanatic, and I have a deep respect and gratitude for the Department of Sanitation's work and workers. I am a proud graduate of the Compost Project's Master Composter program and am currently enrolled in the Sanitation Foundation's Trash Academy. In support of composting programs, I have canvassed in the heat of summer to spread the word about brown bin collection, sifted and spread finished compost over plant beds in Staten Island, chopped and shoveled decomposing veggies in Queens, separated plastics from tossed food on Governors Island, and turned entire windrows by hand in Red Hook. Alongside fellow compost enthusiasts and our nonprofit teachers – all of them New Yorkers committed to healing our climate and getting closer to our land, our food, and our waste – I've witnessed and learned not just the scientific process of microbes and worms breaking down organic matter and transforming it into nutrient-rich soil, but the unquantifiable value of the community and purpose that community composting programs have built. This is my 3rd time in five years submitting testimony on behalf of composting programs and begging the City Council to save them from proposed budget cuts. I am begging again today - please don't let the mayor burn my community down.

Big Reuse, Lower East Side Ecology Center, Earth Matter, Staten Island and Queens Botanic Gardens, Queensbridge, Gowanus Salt Lot, Red Hook – all the host sites of the Compost Project – are a network of transformers who make up the large 5-boro compost family that's been in development for decades. Over a hundred jobs have been cut at these sites due to the rug being ripped out from under them, and I have to say that this time I'm not just disappointed or heartbroken, I am ashamed and I am angry.

Why are we here again? Are we not witnessing together the climate emergency that scientists have been warning us about for decades now? Do we not understand the inextricable relationships between soil health, water quality, people's health, and environmental disaster? If you're confused about how these things directly relate to compost, please allow me to break it down. Planting more trees is a great way to catch a hard rain before it all flows into our Combined Sewer Overflow, which then backs up and floods our streets again and again; but have you ever looked in a tree bed and seen soil that looks more like concrete than dirt? No water is soaking into those beds – they need aeration and amendment with compost to soak up that rainwater, and this is true not just in tree beds but in all of our parklands, which make up 14% of the city's area (that's a lot of land that needs compost to soak up the rain).

In the modules presented so far in Trash Academy we have heard a lot about data, how trash is weighed, volumized, and ideally will be contained. We've learned the history of DSNY and its deep-rooted connection and mission to keeping New Yorkers healthy. But despite the fact that, by DSNY measures, ⅓ of residential waste is organic, the solutions for its proper disposal are barely an afterthought. Yes, the city si ramping up brown bin collection again, after confusing fits and starts, and yes, I have advocated for that curbside program in my past testimony before this body. But today I feel disheartened and deeply upset that almost all of the brown bin collection is

being processed anaerobically, that is, in a way that produces harmful methane just like a landfill does, and that this methane is being burned off in flares the way gas pumps do in West Texas, except this is right here in Queens. Here is where the compost connection to people's health comes in. I can't believe I have to say this, but maybe it's not a great idea to burn methane when you're trying to get to zero emissions and keep asthma rates down. Organic waste should be turned into COMPOST that goes right back into our soils, not burned and shipped off to a landfill as nearly all our waste is now.

Just as harmful as turning organic waste into a pollutant of our air, is the way this practice turns NYC residents' attitude toward the brown bin program into skepticism and mistrust. Former Chair of this Committee, Councilmember Sandy Nurse, has said that New York could save money *if it could get enough residents to participate* in composting programs, due to economies of scale. If the mayor is cutting community composting in order to save money, he is not looking at the big picture. The key to saving money is to getting residents to participate in composting, and the key to participation is BUY-IN. No one is buying into separating organics and schlepping a brown bin to the curb if it isn't actually being turned into compost. Shame on us for paying to ship our compost up to Massachusetts or burn it off in Queens instead of investing in local processing centers and supporting the network of community composters who make real compost that goes right back into the ground, right here in the city. Instead of cutting community compost programs they need to be RAMPED UP. You have graduates from the Master Composter program ready for a job, a grant, a role in educating the public, in running collection sites, in training and hosting volunteer groups to help with processing, and in getting residents to BUY IN – all this labor is much more cost effective than shipping our waste to other states or burning it off.

Saving our environment and saving money are important, but what about the unquantifiable benefit of those little orange tents and community gardens and drop-off sites all over the city who are educating folks, making children curious, supporting infrastructure, and creating community around something that every New Yorker interacts with but doesn't always connect with – their food. Those volunteers and nonprofit workers in their orange T-shirts and tents are what create BUY-IN because people see the compost, smell it, can touch it and witness the transformation of scraps into black gold.

If this testimony sounds personal, it is. I am part of a community that is being trashed for a tiny fraction of what it is and what it does – something much bigger and more valuable than any dollar amount that may be saved on the bottom line. It feels like a kick to the curb after decades of conversations, teaching, and learning, of building a system that is working, for you and for all New Yorkers, a system that should be nurtured and fed instead of cut off and burned down. Please reinstate funding for community composting programs and invest in the fine work of the community leaders who keep it running. It's for all of us.

Thank you for your time, attention, and care.
Amy Plattsmier
Community Organizer, Tehama Trees & Trash

February 27, 2024, City Council Hearing – Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Andrea Brecker Statement

Proactive planning to divert acceptable organic waste for composting needs governmental support. I realize that every NYC undertaking by elected officials becomes an odyssey through a bureaucratic maze. Processing organics apart from black bag trash that is not eligible for recycling will reduce the trash that is headed is destined to be unreclaimable garbage.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony. My name is Andrea Lieske. I am a Harlem resident and I am staff at Earth Matter NY on Governors Island. I also used to be staff of the New York City Compost Project hosted by Earth Matter for 7 years. I am an avid composter and user of the smart bins in our neighborhood.

I applaud the City for committing to have mandatory organics curbside collection in all of NYC and being committed to create a sustainable and equitable city. However, with cutting all funds to Community Composting and no commitment to on going compost, recycling and zero waste education as well as compost demonstration sites, the efforts will not be successful. They will only be lip service.

There are many studies about the importance of community engagement, education, and involvement for the success of composting and recycling and the City would do well to put their money where their mouth is. Community Composting has the additional effect of building community which is such an important thing for any just city.

I would like to petition the council, the mayor and the DSNY commissioner be serious about NYC's sustainable future and start by reinstating funds for Community Compost which is a mighty and successful program.

Thank you.

Andrea Lieske

NYC COUNCIL HEARING COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
2/27/24 AT 10:00AM
Anita Chan's Testimony

My name is Anita Chan, a lifelong NYC resident, a composter, an Earth Matter NY board member, and a member of 350NYC WasteNot. I've cared about being responsible for what I discard since I was young through my family teaching me to not litter and to throw out trash in the right places. And when I was a teenager, I was introduced to composting at East New York Farms, a community organization composting at a local level. As we discuss NYC's infrastructure for handling and processing organic waste, I want to emphasize that we cannot do so without including community composting.

The Mayor's recent budget cuts caused a loss of several green jobs and a huge setback to organic waste diversion, improving street cleanliness, rat mitigation, and NYC's progress towards sustainability goals. Where I live, there are "brown bins" from the organic curbside collection program and "orange bins" from the Smart Bin program, but they cannot replace the "green bins" at community food scrap drop off sites and all of the staff who engage and educate the public. While I support having universal and diversified access for all individuals to organic waste diversion, the current state of the brown bins and smart bins is a waste of money without robust compost education, much of which has been conducted by the now defunded NYC Compost Project. Its host organizations Earth Matter NY, Big Reuse, Lower East Side Ecology Center, and the 4 botanical gardens remain resilient but still require additional funding to sustain and grow their positive impacts. GrowNYC and numerous other nonprofits have also massively contributed and continue to contribute to the success of organic waste diversion through community education and engagement, food scrap collection, and local processing.

While it is true that the capacity of existing composting sites cannot handle all of the organic waste that is produced in the city, turning organic matter into compost locally should be prioritized as the method of organic waste diversion above anaerobic digestion and certainly above landfilling and incineration. We need to cut down on the miles organic waste travels by increasing the number of processing sites throughout the boroughs that would also conduct public education and outreach. When you participate in community composting, you are able to trace your food scraps to a processing site and know that it has been composted and will be used for good. The go to sites shouldn't be the Staten Island compost site and Newtown Creek for anaerobic co-digestion where New Yorkers have little transparency on. We need to utilize empty lots, parks, gardens, and in-vessel composting for large buildings.

Community composting should be funded through the city, not by private donations. The city is responsible for the collection of all waste streams, they must take steps to ensure its success, and for organic waste, it is a mistake to cut out community composting. The existing infrastructure from community composting is proven effective, the city needs to properly fund it and let them lead on the expansion of organic waste diversion.

Anne Manon Falcon
New York City Resident – Borough of Manhattan
[redacted]

Dear Committee on sanitation and Solid Waste Management,

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony in support of continued funding for community composting programs in New York City. My name is Anne Falcon, I'm an NYC resident, and I am a passionate advocate for sustainable practices that not only benefit our environment but also enhance the overall quality of life for our residents.

I would like to highlight four key reasons why supporting community composting is crucial for the well-being of our city: mitigating the rodent problem, reducing waste management costs, minimizing our carbon footprint, and the essential role community composting organizations play in educating communities.

Firstly, New York City has long grappled with a persistent rodent problem, and community composting programs play a pivotal role in mitigating this challenge. By diverting organic waste from traditional waste bins to composting facilities, we effectively eliminate a major food source for rodents, thereby reducing their abundance. This not only enhances the cleanliness of our neighborhoods but also contributes to a healthier and safer living environment for all residents.

Secondly, community composting is a powerful tool in reducing the sheer volume of waste that needs to be transported out of our city. As we divert organic materials to composting sites, we decrease the overall load on our waste management system. This, in turn, translates to a reduction in the frequency and scale of waste removal operations, leading to significant cost savings. By investing in composting programs, we are not just managing waste; we are implementing a cost-effective solution that benefits both our environment and municipal budget.

Furthermore, by reducing the need for constant waste transportation, we actively contribute to a decrease in the carbon footprint of our city. The trucking and transportation of waste generate substantial greenhouse gas emissions. Not only that, but food waste, when disposed of in landfills, is broken down through anaerobic digestion, which releases methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO_2) over a 100-year period. Community composting programs directly address this issue by promoting a more localized and sustainable approach to waste management. As we cut down on the miles traveled by waste trucks, we not only save costs but also align ourselves with the broader goals of environmental sustainability and climate action.

Thirdly, community composting is a powerful tool in reducing the sheer volume of waste that needs to be transported out of our city. These organizations connect with and educate local communities about the importance of composting in a way that resonates and fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility that is often more challenging to achieve through citywide programs alone. According to Department of Sanitation's own report, "Community composting play[s] an important role in supporting citywide organic waste diversion through OCP. They raise awareness about what compost is and its benefits through outreach and education, and by using compost to grow food and care for green spaces in NYC neighborhoods…. They are useful resources."

Lastly, investing in community composting aligns seamlessly with the legal requirements set forth by Local Law 87 of 2023, which "requires DSNY to create a Zero Waste Plan and to increase waste diversion from landfill and incineration through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling." Community composting provides a practical and effective avenue for waste reduction and diversion.

In conclusion, funding community composting programs is not just an investment in waste management; it's an investment in the health, cleanliness, and sustainability of our beloved city. It addresses the rodent problem, reduces waste management costs, minimizes our carbon footprint, and fulfills DSNY's legal obligations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at either [redacted] or [redacted].

Together, let's continue to build a city that thrives on responsible and eco-friendly practices.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Manon Falcon

Statement by: Anne Schoeneborn

I have been involved in community composting in Brooklyn for well over 10 years. I have experienced first-hand how enriching it is—both for us humans and the natural environment—to have spaces where people can come together to compost their community's food scraps and be witness to the process of organic waste turning into "black gold." My vision of a New York City that responsibly manages its organic food waste involves BOTH: 1) an effective, mandatory curbside composting system that includes effective outreach to buildings and a well-designed process that actually results in the composting of organic waste (see San Francisco as a model); and 2) a vibrant community composting landscape that enables individuals to participate in the process themselves, at a hyper-local level. #2 has too many public health and environmental benefits to ignore: it builds community, builds local knowledge, supports mental and physical health, and enables true carbon-neutral organic waste management. Let's move NYC into a new era where we deal responsibly with our organic waste!

Honorable Committee Members:

I urge you to restore city funding for community composting. While we know the program should be temporary until such time as the city Sanitation Department can ramp up a full composting program it serves several vital interests for all communities across the city.

1) Until a real ramp up occurs, it provides a way to reduce at least some of the waste heading out to the landfills. In a city as large as New York, what's a small level of participation, does provide significant environmental benefit.

2) Composting supports low-cost fill and fertilizer within the communities participating. It's money that doesn't need to be spent on fill and fertilizer in participating neighborhoods.

3) It ties the participants to environmental improvement and helps cultivate an on the ground awareness of the value of reducing waste and environmental citizenship. I believe it will help accelerate acceptance of sanitation dept composting once that is able to ramp up.

4) It will be viewed as sign of goodwill and community support from the sanitation department to the participants and their neighbors.

For these reasons, I request and urge you to restore funding for community composting.

Thank you,

Barry Tuch

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is testify regarding the 2/27 City Council meeting regarding NYC infrastructure.

A a concerned NYC resident, I would like to voice my support for the citys's composting program.

I realize it is not an easy program to run, but given the amount of waste that is created, and the limited amount of recyclables that are actually recycled, composting is hugely benefial materials out the waste stream.

I support maintenance, expansion and education surrounding the program, and hope the council hears the collective concerns.

Thank you for your time,

Cara White
[redacted]
Brooklyn, NY 11215

[redacted]

From: Carl Zimring <czimring@pratt.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 9:01 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL HEARING - COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - 2/27/24- 10AM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL

[redacted]

This testimony is in reference to the resolution "Calling upon the NYC Dept of Sanitation and the Dept of Parks and Recreation to continue to engage and collaborate with local communities to encourage and allow community composting to be carried out on parkland"

I endorse this resolution. The history of effective waste management depends on valuing the expertise of experienced people in the community who know the value of the collected materials. Restoring funding to community composters and engaging the community more (not less) for outreach and education is the City's best chance of having successful and long-lasting organic waste diversion practices.

Thank you,
Carl Zimring

Carl Zimring | Professor of Sustainability Studies
PRATT INSTITUTE
200 Willoughby Avenue | DeKalb Hall 108 | Brooklyn, NY 11205
phone: 718-687-5958 | czimring@pratt.edu

[redacted]

February 27, 2024

Dear Councilmembers,

I write to provide testimony and to ask you to save community curbside composting in New York City. The City should be doing everything it can to both reverse course and mitigate disaster caused by climate chaos, thereby setting an example nationally. The community composting program is a concrete way to lead by example, and to involve and educate residents about its many benefits. I don't see how NYC can afford to *not* continue this program. It is irresponsible for municipalities to continue to allow massive levels of food waste to become part of our garbage stream and landfills, when community composting is such a positive and beneficial solution. Climate chaos is happening now, the tipping points are upon us: Abrupt thawing of the Arctic permafrost. Loss of the Amazon rain forest. Collapse of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets. Once the world warms past a certain point, these and other events could be set into swift motion, scientists warn. We have already reached the 1.5 degrees C. above pre-industrial average temperatures beyond which we are likely to begin to experience ecological collapse. We just experienced the hottest year in history, the glaciers are melting, the sea levels are rising, deforestation is occurring at an alarming rate, hastening the sixth mass extinction. And people are dying. At this juncture in our world, New York City should be leading the way in doing everything we can to mitigate it.

The benefits of composting – from cutting down on waste that gets buried, which not only causes dangerous emissions of gasses but can also contaminate the soil and local groundwater, to creating usable byproducts that improve our soil and even produce clean energy (the latter of which is an opportunity for private/public partnerships). It seems completely backward that our city is even considering getting rid of something that so many people are using successfully and that actually benefits the world we live in.

I live in the Bronx. Curb-side composting is relatively new in our community (a couple of years old). Our building successfully fills at least three of the large brown bins a week with compost waste. The building next to ours saw what we were doing and have also begun to participate in composting. People in this city WANT to compost.

I remember visiting Portland, OR, where my daughter attended college ten years ago, and being amazed at the curbside composting program they had in place. I was so proud of our own city when parts of NYC piloted the program before the pandemic. NYC's leadership provides needed models for other communities to follow. It would be a disgrace for NYC to abandon this successful program and move backward on this issue!

My daughter is in her early 30s, and she and her partner are reluctant to bring children into this world because it is burning up, and those in power are making excuses for not taking adequate steps to slow and reverse the growing destruction. We need more programs like community composting, not fewer! We deserve city-wide programs that respect nature, and put human beings back in balance with nature, so that our children and their children can have a liveable

future. Many young people share my daughter's and her partner's reluctance. This is not right. We–You–have a responsibility to take actions that will ensure that our planet will be livable for humans and other species for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Carla Scheele
Bronx, NY

Dear Members of the New York City Council,

I write to urge the restoration of funding to community composting programs. These programs play a vital role in promoting sustainability, reducing waste, and fostering environmental stewardship within our communities.

Community composting empowers residents to actively participate in waste diversion efforts, supporting soil health, local agriculture, and mitigating climate change. Recent funding cuts have severely impacted these programs, limiting services and shutting down operations.

Investing in community composting is an investment in our city's future.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Carly Schonberg

Composting should be a no-brainer. Smelly garbage? Gone. Rats? Gone. And most important, methane leaking into our atmosphere? Gone. Community, country, and world-wide composting would go a long way toward saving our planet. It's one of the easiest, cheapest, and safest ways to do it. No mining, no factories and way fewer greenhouse gases. Just the way nature always meant it to be.

Carol Robins

Carole Maisonneuve
Testimony to 27 Feb. 2024's hearing of NYC Council's Sanitation Committee

Dear Chair of the Sanitation Committee,
Dear Council members,

I have the honor to testify as a resident of New York City since 2009, a city which my husband, and our three children call home.

We have been consistently collecting our organic waste for over a decade now, using at times mobile collection points provided by the city, which were suspended with the pandemic, our own building's compost bin, Harlem's community gardens and urban farms composting facilities, and the newest Smart Compost Bins.

I wish to testify to express my strong disappointment about the Smart Compost Bins, and, generally, the so-called compost program run by the city, on the one hand, and the budget cuts that non-profit organizations such as Grow NYC, LES Ecology Center, Big Reuse and Earth Matter, have recently undergone, on the other hand. Such cuts jeopardize the city's capacity to recycle organic waste into natural fertilizers for now and the years to come, and represent a huge missed opportunity.

Designating these orange food scrap collection bins, and NYC's residential organic waste collection program, as a "compost" program is fallacious at best. Compost is not what comes **in** these bins, but what comes **out** of a complex and well-balanced composting process. What comes in are just food scraps. Using the term "compost" is misleading – whether it is intentional or not, and this practice should cease immediately.

Additionally, anaerobic digestion process is an energy-intensive system which also triggers pollution in itself, while depriving farmers from much-needed natural fertilizers. The biogas it produces contributes to carbon gas emissions and climate change. While it is evidently better than using fossil fuels, we should bear in mind that another far more environmentally-friendly solution – composting – is not being seriously considered. Actual composting is the true circular economy that NYC's Council has been calling for.

As a concerned citizen, I am urging you to:

- **rename NYC's "compost" program** to reflect what it is: nothing more than a food scrap or organic waste management program.
- **reinvest immediately into community composting by reinstating budget allocations to the previously mentioned organizations.**
- invest, now and in the long term, in educational campaigns aiming at raising awareness of New Yorkers of the critical importance of actually composting organic waste, and the benefits – including reduced costs for taxpayers – that such an actual composting program would trigger. Awareness should also be raised about the significant difference between actual composting and anaerobic digestion.

I thank you for your attention.

Best regards,

Carole Maisonneuve

I am a long term resident of the Upper West Side. I attended the February 27 hearing of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management on the Community Composting Program remotely. I am writing to add my voice to the demand that the Administration restore, and baseline, funding for the Community Composting program.

DOS's statement that its curbside organics collection is the "largest and easiest" program misses the mark.
Folks like me, who support community composting, understand that a city of approximately 9 million people needs larger scale solutions in order to be able to divert organics from the landfill.
That said, community composting is a critical program and should be seen as an important complement to the City's plans to have the entire city participate in curbside organics collection.
Community composting provides key educational supports for organics recycling, generates important community connections (e.g. by working with community garden and local groups), supports the City's other "green" projects, funds green jobs, and most importantly, provides incentive and motivation to participate in the city's organics collection program and to do it right.

Making it "easy" for people to participate doesn't mean that people will participate, or participate well.
I got interested in composting when DOS had a pilot program at my local greenmarket, where if you brought in your organics every week for 10 weeks (or so) you received a small bag of compost in return. I dutifully collected and toted my family's organic waste for several weeks. Participating in that program was eye opening and, strange as it may sound, life changing. It got me committed not only to organics recycling but opened my eyes to how much waste we all generate and started me on a path of working consciously to reduce my footprint. (For example, composting led me to participate in the Sanitation Foundation's Trash Academy which I will be completing later this month.) As a result, when the City allowed buildings in my neighborhood to participate in optional curbside organics pickup, I lobbied my building's board and management company to participate, which we eventually did. However, there has been nothing "easy" about the participation—there are ongoing challenges with building residents sorting their trash (and, yes, organics) properly and with having the building staff understand the need to keep the organics separate from the "black bag" trash (there was an unfortunate tendency at times for the staff to put the two together, because it was easier to dispose of that way, even though we had separate organics recycling bins.) It is good that there will eventually be an enforcement mechanism and penalties for noncompliance, but we all know that there is no way that that will be enough to ensure compliance with the mandated curbside organics collection program or ensure its success. It will take concern and interest of individual New Yorkers.

I would also like to suggest that DOS use the term "organics collection" rather than "composting" on its orange and brown bins, to avoid misleading people about what in fact is happening with their food scraps that they drop off. Organics collection is a short phrase that people can understand.

The funding for the Community Composting Program is a minuscule part of the City's budget. The program has been successful and still has an important, and I would say, increasing role to play, as the City faces additional challenges with it waste disposal/treatment on account of climate change. A program that gets people interested and involved in working to protect their environment, and costs a mere $6-7 million a year, is not what the Administration should be cutting.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Caroline Press

The good habits in my life stemmed from convenience. Yet it was the connection that occurred because of that accessibility that cemented those habits and transformed my daily life. Without community composting how will New Yorkers feel inspired to learn how, do it correctly and see the transformation of waste come to life? Sure, resolute folks will continue. Yet what about the everyday New Yorker who can learn to convert a practice of waste into a caring action? Please remember, the more caring actions we do, the more loving we become. As a result, we have a more connected, happy, and green NYC. Choose to be a leader in sustainability. Believe community connection and outreach are important. Advocate for transformation from composting and beyond.

Christine Spencer

I am a 12-year resident of NYC, and I value community composting.

For myself, as a way to keep my regular trash volume to a minimum.

For the community, to raise awareness of the importance of diverting organic waste from the landfill and using it for regeneration instead.

For the organizations running it, providing valuable & purposeful jobs to NYC residents.

For the City, as a long-term investment in our future and a symbol of our aspiration to be our best selves.

Please restore this funding – these programs more than pay for themselves in reduce spending elsewhere.

Daniel Lowen

Thank you Speaker, Committee Chairs, and Council members for the chance to testify today,

I am here today on my day off from work as a Parkie. I am going to talk about my experience as a former worker in the Sanitation funded NYC Compost Project, a worker at a NGO Parks Stewardship Group, a former DOE employee, a Parks employee, and a Sanitation and Parks volunteer that has been in the field on the tough side of the Bloomberg administration's cancellation of recycling and the Compost Project from 2003 to 2005, the Great Recession in 2008, Superstorm Sandy, working through the Covid pandemic, and several hiring freezes by the City Agencies. I am coming from the experience of working with these two or three Agencies, and I know that others in the chamber today will tell you the same difficulties in all of the Agencies.

My message today is one that elected officials often forget, the big capital projects and programs that you get praise for securing funding for, will fail if you don't fund the people that make the projects come to life and work as described.

For the Compost Project, I want to testify that we would not have curbside collection of compostables and curbside collection will fail without the outreach, education, and processing power of the staff of the Compost Project. Without 20 plus years of the Compost Project, residents would not know what composting is, would not be supportive of curbside compost collection, and would not be able to properly separate their waste into the brown bins. We would not have Master Composters going back into their communities to help the Department of Sanitation teach people how the recycle and compost. We would not have shown communities that compost can be collected and processed in their communities without smell or pest problems. And we will not have the outreach necessary to make citywide curbside compost collection work properly and it will fail due to lack of community support and proper separation of waste.

For Parks and Sanitation cuts, our parks and other public spaces will not be clean and safe, bathrooms will be unusable, facilities will not be locked and unlocked in a timely manner, and service requests will take much longer to be corrected. The cancellation of the Parks Opportunity Program cut thousands of staff that not only cleaned the parks, collected the garbage and litter, maintained the bathrooms, but also cut off the stepping stones that allowed for local, diverse, inclusive, and equitable hiring of our future city workers. Additionally, the lose of colleagues, the additionally work, and the Play Fair staff leaving work on June 29th not knowing if they had a job the next week causes extreme loss of moral and quality of work among the Park workers that left behind.

In conclusion, these cuts of agency staff and budgets, will lead to all of the great projects and programs that this Council and Mayoral Administration have created to fail and not be spread to the communities that need them most: Curbside Composting will not work! Parks and public spaces will not be clean nor safe, especially in the communities that need them most! Rat abatement will not work! Pre-k and 3-k will not be universal! Bike and bus lanes and pedestrian crosswalk daylighting, which are already way behind schedule, will not continue to be built! The restaurant sheds will not be inspected or have rules enforced! Big resiliency

projects through small playground improvements will not be maintained and will not deliver the promised protection when they are most needed in the communities that need them most! I could go on and on, but I will stop and leave you with the charge: please protect the essential city funded staff that make the City work.

In solidarity,
Daniel Tainow

To the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management:

My name is Dani (they/them) and community composting needs funding restored and a long term commitment dedicated to its support because the people involved provide a vital service in reducing waste. I studied ecology in college and graduated with the knowledge that what happens to the earth happens to humans, meaning we are not separate from the trees or the birds or the worms or the dirt. We are not separate from water. In my practice of reducing food waste, community composting programs have also served as a space of continued learning for how to care for the earth and for each other. It provides nourishment and hope.

New York City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

New York City cannot meet its waste management goals – and its goals for organics waste management – without community composting.

Given the limits and problems with DSNY organics waste management, community composting should be increased – not cut off at the knees.

Community composting creates a great product with minimal harmful emissions. It also provides a forum for community interaction, environmental education and sharing ideas about waste reduction and transformation.

Community composting will not solve NYC's huge waste management problems, but it is essential that these programs be continued. Community composting is low cost, low emissions and highly educational and motivating.

FUND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING. Funding should be increased rather than cut.

Dara Hunt

Composting is crucial to sustainable waste management and keeping it maximally accessible for New Yorkers is key to all of us being able to play our part in preserving our ecosystem.

David Patrick Gallagher

My parents, partner and I live on Roosevelt Island. We were two of the many apartments that would drop off compost every Saturday at the Farmer's Market, supported by many layers of volunteers and organizations. We were grateful for the opportunity to give our compost a second life, something that we would certainly do if we had our own homes. It is sad now to be living in a place that is more distant from the life we would choose to live, a feeling that our City's values have skewed from our own. By cancelling compost collection, I believe the City not just puts itself backward, but faces backwards. The future, if there is a decent one to be had, will be circular and sustainable. Composting was a good step in that direction.

If the problem is a lack of funding, let us take it from those whose externalized costs are not currently accounted for. Every time I go for a walk on Roosevelt Island, I pick up litter from Starbucks, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, unnamed plastics manufacturers, and many more. There is a plogging club on Roosevelt Island that also does the same. But the tide of litter is never stopped. These companies have plenty of money to spare, Coca-Cola made 45 billion in 2023, Starbucks nearly 30 billion.

Why do we live in a world, in a city, where everyday citizens must pick up their trash, but compost is cancelled? New York City can do better.

David Wen Riccardi-Zhu

USCC Factsheet: Compost and Its Benefits[1]

What is Compost?

Compost is the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material that has been sanitized through the generation of heat and stabilized to the point that it is beneficial to plant growth. Compost bears little physical resemblance to the raw material from which it originated.


Photo: Larry Strong

Compost is an organic matter resource that has the unique ability to improve the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of soils or growing media. It contains plant nutrients but is typically not characterized as a fertilizer.

How is Compost Produced?

Compost is produced through the activity of aerobic (oxygen-requiring) microorganisms. These microbes require oxygen, moisture, and food in order to grow and multiply. When these factors are maintained at optimal levels, the natural decomposition process is greatly accelerated. The microbes generate heat, water vapor, and carbon dioxide as they transform raw materials into a stable soil conditioner. Active composting is typically characterized by a high-temperature phase that sanitizes the product and allows a high rate of decomposition, followed by a lower-temperature phase that allows the product to stabilize while still decomposing at a lower rate. Compost can be produced from many "feedstocks" (the raw organic materials, such as leaves, manures or food scraps). State and federal regulations exist to ensure that only safe and environmentally beneficial composts are marketed.

Benefits of Compost and its Effects on Soils and Plants

Thanks to its many attributes, compost is extremely versatile and beneficial in many applications. Compost has the unique ability to improve the properties of soils and growing media physically (structurally), chemically (nutritionally), and biologically. Although some equate the benefit of compost use to lush green growth, caused by plant-available nitrogen, the real benefits of using compost are long-term and related to its organic matter content.

Benefits of Using Compost

- Improves the soil structure, porosity, and density, thus creating a better plant root environment.
- Increases infiltration and permeability of heavy soils, thus reducing erosion and runoff.
- Improves water holding capacity, thus reducing water loss and leaching in sandy soils.
- Supplies a variety of macro and micronutrients.
- May control or suppress certain soil-borne plant pathogens.
- Supplies significant quantities of organic matter.
- Improves cation exchange capacity (CEC) of soils and growing media, thus improving their ability to hold nutrients for plant use.
- Supplies beneficial microorganisms to soils and growing media.
- Improves and stabilizes soil pH.
- Can bind and degrade specific pollutants.

Physical Benefits

Improved Structure

Compost can greatly enhance the physical structure of soil. In fine-textured (clay, clay loam) soils, the addition of compost will reduce bulk density, improve friability (workability) and porosity, and increase its gas and water permeability, thus reducing erosion. When used in sufficient quantities, the addition of compost has both an immediate and long-term positive impact on soil structure. It resists compaction in fine-textured soils and increases water holding capacity and improves soil aggregation in coarse-textured (sandy) soils. The soil-binding properties of compost are due to its humus content. Humus is a stable residue resulting from a high degree of organic matter decomposition. The constituents of the humus act as a soil 'glue,' holding soil particles together, making them more resistant to erosion and improving the soil's ability to hold moisture.

Moisture Management

The addition of compost may provide greater drought resistance and more efficient water utilization. Therefore, the frequency and intensity of irrigation may be reduced. Recent research also suggests that the addition of compost in sandy soils can facilitate moisture dispersion by allowing water to more readily move laterally from its point of application.

Chemical Benefits

Modifies and Stabilizes pH

The addition of compost to soil may modify the pH of the final mix. Depending on the pH of the compost and of the native soil, compost addition may raise or lower the soil/compost blend's pH. Therefore, the addition of a neutral to slightly alkaline compost to an acidic soil will increase soil pH if added in appropriate quantities. In specific conditions, compost has

[1] Excerpted from the Field Guide to Compost Use, ©2001 The United States Composting Council

been found to affect soil pH even when applied at quantities as low as 10-20 tons per acre. The incorporation of compost also has the ability to buffer or stabilize soil pH, whereby it will more effectively resist pH change.

Increases Cation Exchange Capacity

Compost will also improve the cation exchange capacity of soils, enabling them to retain nutrients longer. It will also allow crops to more effectively utilize nutrients, while reducing nutrient loss by leaching. For this reason, the fertility of soils is often tied to their organic matter content. Improving the cation exchange capacity of sandy soils by adding compost can greatly improve the retention of plant nutrients in the root zone.

Provides Nutrients

Compost products contain a considerable variety of macro and micronutrients. Although often seen as a good source of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium, compost also contains micronutrients essential for plant growth. Since compost contains relatively stable sources of organic matter, these nutrients are supplied in a slow-release form. On a pound-by-pound basis, large quantities of nutrients are not typically found in compost in comparison to most commercial fertilizers. However, compost is usually applied at much greater rates; therefore, it can have a significant cumulative effect on nutrient availability. The addition of compost can affect both fertilizer and pH adjustment (lime/sulfur addition). Compost not only provides some nutrition, but often makes current fertilizer programs more effective.

Biological Benefits

Provides Soil Biota

The activity of soil organisms is essential in productive soils and for healthy plants. Their activity is largely based on the presence of organic matter. Soil microorganisms include bacteria, protozoa, actinomycetes, and fungi. They are not only found within compost, but proliferate within soil media. Microorganisms play an important role in organic matter decomposition which, in turn, leads to humus formation and nutrient availability. Microorganisms can also promote root activity as specific fungi work symbiotically with plant roots, assisting them in the extraction of nutrients from soils. Sufficient levels of organic matter also encourage the growth of earthworms, which through tunneling, increase water infiltration and aeration.

Suppresses Plant Diseases

Disease incidence on many plants may be influenced by the level and type of organic matter and microorganisms present in soils. Research has shown that increased population of certain microorganisms may suppress specific plant diseases such as pythium and fusarium as well as nematodes. Efforts are being made to optimize the composting process in order to increase the population of these beneficial microbes.

Additional Benefits of Compost

Some additional benefits of compost have been identified, and has led to new uses for it. These benefits and uses are described below.

Binds Contaminants

Compost has the ability to bind heavy metals and other contaminants, reducing both their leachability and absorption by plants. Therefore, sites contaminated with various pollutants may often be improved by amending the native soil with compost. The same binding affect allows compost to be used as a filter media for storm water treatment and has been shown to minimize leaching of pesticides in soil systems.

Degrades Compounds

The microbes found in compost are also able to degrade some toxic organic compounds, including petroleum (hydrocarbons). This is one of the reasons why compost is being used in bioremediation of petroleum contaminated soils.

Wetland Restoration

Compost has also been used for the restoration of native wetlands. Rich in organic matter and microbial population, compost and soil/compost blends can closely simulate the characteristics of wetland soils, thereby encouraging the re-establishment of native plant species.

Erosion Control

Coarser composts have been used with great success as a mulch for erosion control and have been successfully used on sites where conventional erosion control methods have not performed well. In Europe, fine compost has been mixed with water and sprayed onto slopes to control erosion.

Weed Control

Immature composts or ones which possess substances detrimental to plant growth (phytotoxins), are also being tested as an alternative to plastic mulches for vegetable and fruit production. While aiding in moisture conservation and moderating soil temperatures, immature composts also can act as mild herbicides.

A Bright Future

With these many benefits and its myriad of applications, from the traditional growing of plants to novel uses in stormwater management and climate change mitigation, the production and use of compost has a bright future indeed!

US Composting Council
www.compostingcouncil.org

About the USCC: The United States Composting Council (USCC) is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry. For more information visit www.compostingcouncil.org

To the Honorable NYC Council Members:

Having the ability to compost food scraps has proven to be wonderful for our environment. I have attached the following link from the US Composting Council that states the many vital ways composting helps us: https://www.compostingcouncil.org/page/CompostBenefits

In addition:

1) I have attached Composting Council's detailed piece on the Benefits of Composting

2) I extracted the following list for you to see:

Benefits of Using Compost

- Improves the soil structure, porosity, and density, thus creating a better plant root environment.
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- Improves water holding capacity, thus reducing water loss and leaching in sandy soils.
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- Can bind and degrade specific pollutants

Most of my own waste that headed for composting removed a good 25 to 33% from my ordinary garbage. Reducing a good amount of garbage from the regular city collections comes with a significant reduction in garbage collection, thus creating savings for the city.

Composting is a "win-win" situation for the city, the companies it houses and their residents. I implore you to bring back composting for the good of us all!

Thank you & appreciate your consideration,
Deborah J Drucker

February 26, 2024

New York City Council
Committee on Sanitation
and Solid Waste Management

Please restore city funding for community composting. This is a vital aspect of the organic waste diversion program.

Sincerely,
Deborah Johns
[redacted]
Bronx, NY 10463-3116

Community composting is a vital part of living in New York City that should not be eliminated. It brings people in the neighborhood of different ages, races, ethnicities and religions, together over a common goal/interest. Community composting provides New Yorkers with a regular and effective way to take part in the fight against climate change that is tangible, not abstract. As such, even when (if!) the city is able to fully compost all the organic waste in brown bins, there will still be a need and a place for community composting.

Deirdre McMennamin
Prospect Lefferts Gardens

Hello, my name is Denise Lekowski and I am a NYC Master Composter who has volunteered with communities at Compost for Brooklyn, Q Gardens, Shore Road and Isabahlia Gardens. In many cases, these drop off sites function as the only means for residents to compost their food scraps and has helped to eliminate excess landfill waste.

Due to my current work schedule, I have been dropping off food scraps at my local Green Market/drop off site in Bay Ridge (and sometimes also Union Square) which is the only way for me to compost. I am enormously grateful to Council Member Justin Brannan and the extremely dedicated Grow NYC employees who have been there almost every single Saturday, rain or shine to make composting a reality for Bay Ridge. I am happy to see them there every week and worry what will happen to these wonderful people serving our City, if their jobs are eliminated.

The proposed elimination of composting would undercut much of the progress this City has made in diverting 8.3 million pounds of organic waste from landfills each year which has resulted in a huge reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Composting has also proven effective in reducing rats in NYC. The plan to cut this project is short-sighted and has potential to have long-term damaging implications, setting the City back further from its sustainability goals. We only need to look around us to recognize that composting and other sustainability projects are needed more than ever. The recent floods that shut our city down a few months ago are but just one example. Indeed, this is not a project we can afford to lose.

Today we urge the City Council to ensure that the City continues to make compost a reality and not toss away the progress we have made in the past few years. The NYC Compost Project and Coalition includes a community of 9 organizations, 115 jobs and 53 union positions. We cannot understate the urgency of this project and pray the Council ensures that this most important priority not be left behind in the budget process.

Thank you.

Please restore the city funding for community composting programs. NYC Sanitation's curbside composting program is based on bin collection, enforcement and ticketing only. That will not get people to care. That doesn't encourage community engagement and cooperation. But community composting does. Urbanites have been bringing their food scraps since 2011 when NYC Sanitatio's program was cut off. GrowNYC currently operates 52 neighborhood scrap drop off sites serving 7,000 regular weekly participants, diverting over 25 tons of food scraps from landfills this week. It's an opportunity for neighbors to meet, talk recipes, gardening, what's happening in their community, that's what makes the difference. Community composting brings people together, curbside composting does not. That coming together is an opportunity for education about environmental concerns, both local and far reaching. Farmers markets, community gardens, clothing drop offs, fabric recycling, Big Reuse , Build it Green, Materials for the Arts combine to make a big difference for learning and bartering and getting necessities at economical prices in our current crazy economy. Any money spent on them is well spent

Eileen Elizabeth Jones

Dear Friends on the City Council,

I have lived in New York City since 1989. I have been a devoted Greenmarket shopper for most of that time and have composted my food waste at the Union Square market ever since the program started. It gives me tremendous satisfaction to contribute to the virtuous cycle of composting, to reduce my carbon footprint, and to reduce the amount of food going into landfill. I have been proud of our city's programs. When we also began to install the curbside composting bins, I was proud of those also and sent pictures of them to friends who live elsewhere as another reason to love NYC.

Please restore and enhance funding for these vital programs. We must do everything we can to make New York City greener, and composting is a vital part of that effort. We need to go forward, not backward, and there is no time to waste!

I want our city to be a leader and a pioneer in sustainability. Please continue to make us proud.

Sincerely,

Liz

The Reverend Elizabeth G. Maxwell
[redacted]
New York, NY 10011

Hi! My name is Ella Mack and I’m a Brooklyn resident who wants to restore funding for community composting and to focus curbside composting on actual composting rather than generating biogas to support natural gas infrastructure. Thank you!

Community Composting is important for our city!
Composting helps manage the staggering amount of food waste our city generates by turning it back into soil instead of letting it rot in the landfill and turning into methane. Even the organics that the city collects and feeds into the larger anaerobic digesters turn it into methane and then burns it because there's not yet a way to actually use that gas to power homes - like it's supposed to. Community composting is an effective tool to combat the generation of greenhouse gases and to deal with the waste we New Yorkers produce in a responsible way. We need to follow in the footsteps of the 2019 Climate Mobilization Act. The only way we are going to meet our climate goals is if we do everything we possibly can. Community composting is one of those ways!

Ellie Glicklich-Cohn

Written Testimony of Emily Bachman Before the NYC Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Oversight Hearing on the City's Infrastructure to Handle and Process Organic Waste

February 27, 2024

Thank you, Chair Abreu, and members of the Committee for this opportunity to testify on the importance of **community composting**. I am Emily Bachman, and I led the Compost Program at GrowNYC from 2013-2021. My testimony is based on my previous work experience, as well as my participation in composting initiatives as a resident of central Brooklyn for the last decade.

Inconsistent funding is inefficient.

The Department of Sanitation's (DSNY's) current approach to service delivery for organics recycling is driven by an admirably bold vision that is being pursued at all costs, without sufficient evidence or analysis of its efficacy in terms of facilitating sustainable behavior change or maximizing landfill diversion and beneficial reuse. In their pursuit of efficiency, the Department has cut the most cost-effective programs in their portfolio—community composting programs that were outsourced to nonprofits from the start to save the City money and provide the flexibility to deliver nimble programming designed to meet diverse neighborhood needs.

In early 2020, both the Curbside Composting and City-funded community composting programs were experiencing record-high participation rates and planning for continued growth. I was managing GrowNYC's 76 food scrap drop-off sites (FSDOs) across all five boroughs, and sounding the alarm with DSNY that we were running out of local processing capacity. Then COVID-19 simultaneously increased demand for composting further and caused financial challenges that led to budget cuts. GrowNYC and New York City Compost Project (NYCCP) programs were dismantled in a matter of weeks: Over 100 City-funded employees were laid off or reassigned, vehicle leases were terminated, storage units were emptied. Curbside Composting was cut soon after that, and hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who had been composting were told to put their organic waste in the trash.

By the summer of 2020, thanks to an outpouring of advocacy, a small portion of the City budget for community composting was restored, and we started to rebuild what had been dismantled. We hired staff, most of them previous employees, leased new vehicles, re-engaged with partner organizations, and planned new schedules and routes to reopen food scrap collections at 18 drop-off sites around the City. By the new year, we were grappling with record-breaking participation rates at all of the reopened sites. In the spring of 2021, another round of steadfast advocacy led to the full reinstatement of City funding for GrowNYC and NYCCP at FY20 levels, and the program continued to grow. That summer, feeling confident in the state of the programs and exhausted by the whiplash of the previous year, I decided to move on to another role.

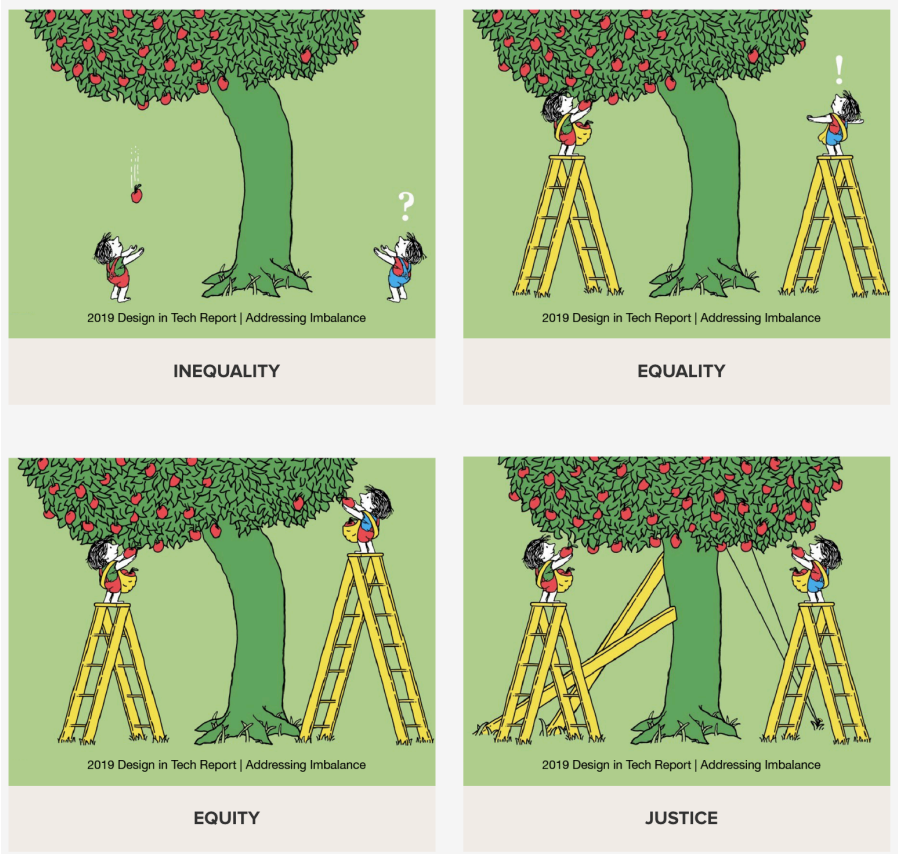
Unfortunately, the rollercoaster ride of funding, disinvestment, advocacy, and funding has continued to challenge those who work for and utilize these programs. Recent experience shows that a budget cut is a massive step backward and that extended periods of budget uncertainty weaken program efficacy, not to mention the mental health of the people who staff

the programs. These vital environmental programs and their staff are stuck in survival mode, kept from the priority of addressing climate change when the sense of urgency to act should be paramount.

Over reliance on private funding results in inequality.

When community composting is publicly funded, the City can and has set geographic priorities for service delivery to advance environmental justice and citywide goals. When the private sector funds public programs, there is no guarantee that equity and justice will be considered, and inequality results. In 2020, when the City cut funding for community composting, a private funder came forward to soften the blow to GrowNYC. The funder's priorities were to maximize exposure of their brand to affluent populations and to maximize tonnage of food scraps collected, and the funding was therefore used to reopen three high-performing FSDOs in some of the wealthiest neighborhoods of New York City: Tribeca, the West Village, and the Upper West Side. The scale of private funding was small, short-term, and driven by motivations that led to unequal service delivery for New Yorkers. In 2021, the City reinvested in community composting, and equitable service delivery was prioritized once more, all to have another round of cuts and stopgap private funding repeated once again in late 2023. It has been incredibly disheartening to see the City make this mistake twice in such a short period of time.

Figure 1. Inequality, Equality, Equity, Justice



Source: 2019 Design in Tech Report, Addressing Imbalance

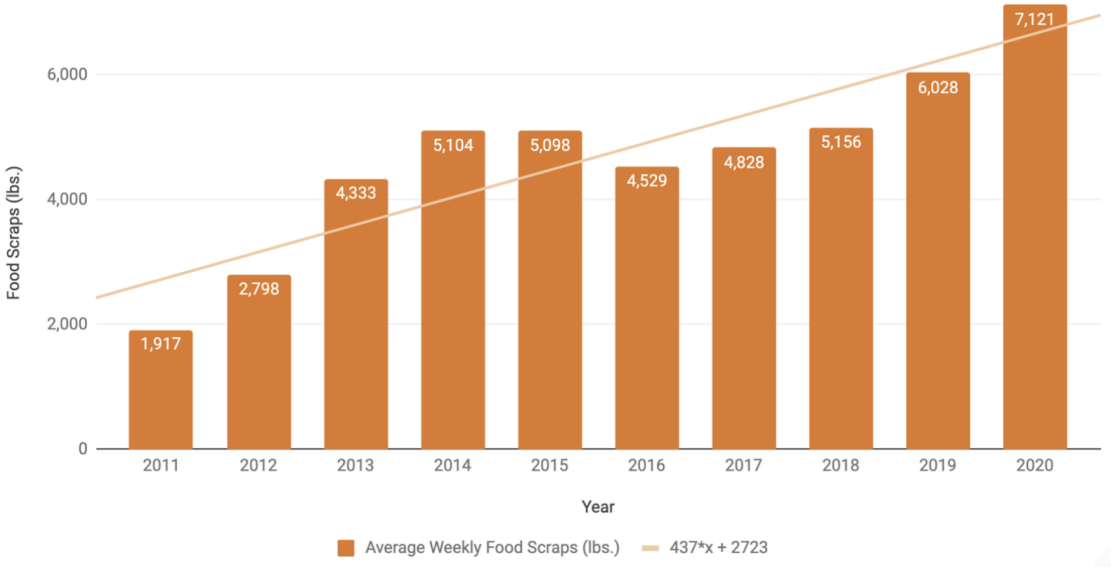
Universal Curbside Composting is a step toward equality, not equity or justice.
The current DSNY goal of providing universal access to an easy-to-use Curbside Composting program is an admirable step toward equality, but falls far short of equity or justice. Attaching one's ability to compost to one's housing and providing the same level of service to all residential buildings regardless of type, quality, or access to capital is guaranteed to deliver better results for the lucky few New Yorkers living in higher-quality housing. A low-income or rent-stabilized tenant, for example, has little leverage to advocate for adequate heat, hot water, and basic building maintenance, let alone building-facilitated participation in source separation and proper setout of organic waste. And while plans to make the program mandatory and to impose fines on buildings that don't participate will help ease the current burden on tenants to motivate their landlords to participate, we know that effective motivation for behavior change requires carrots, not just sticks. City-funded community composting, outreach, and education has historically provided that motivation, and can continue to do so if properly funded.

DSNY's contracts with NYCCP host sites and GrowNYC were their greatest assets for building participation in zero waste initiatives. In a bureaucracy where hiring takes months at best and flexible work schedules are few, these nonprofits gave the City the nimbleness and flexibility to adapt programs, messages, and staff to various neighborhoods, cultures, and seasons, meeting communities where they are rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all approach on the entire city. These public-nonprofit partnerships combine pragmatism and idealism to provide higher quality, more effective programming than either the City or the nonprofits could provide alone.

Universal access requires a multi-pronged approach.
The history of Curbside Composting rollout from 2011-2020 shows that over and over again, when Curbside service expanded to a neighborhood, the FSDOs in that area saw an immediate (approx. average 10%) dip in participation but rebounded within a few years, all while curbside tonnage increased (see Figure 2, for example).

The side-by-side growth of participation in both FSDOs and Curbside Compost collections in the areas surrounding them suggests that these programs work together to provide access to composting services and promote participation across programs. A truly effective residential organic waste collection system for NYC will feature a combination of staffed FSDOs, Smart Bins, and Curbside Composting working together and filling in each other's gaps. By increasing overall delivery, visibility, and education of composting options and behavior, a multi-pronged approach promotes participation in the act of composting across programs.

Figure 2. Compost at Grand Army Plaza Greenmarket, March 2011-March, 2020



Timeline Notes:

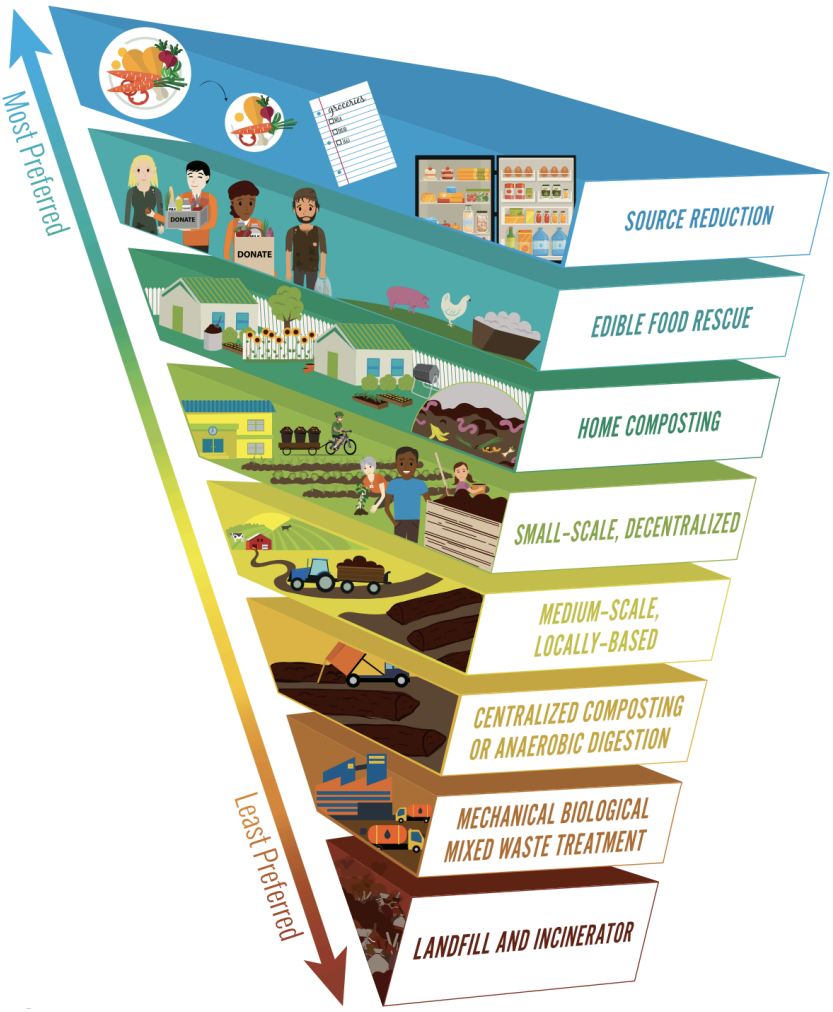
- 2013 (Spring) - Curbside Composting Expanded to Windsor Terrace
- 2014 (Spring) - Curbside Composting Expanded to Park Slope
- 2015 (Fall) - Curbside Composting Expanded to Gowanus
- 2020 (Spring) - Curbside Composting Suspended Citywide & Grand Army Plaza FSDO Closed due to budget cuts related to COVID-19

Source: GrowNYC, 2021

Community composting offers co-benefits and should be prioritized.
Even the most idealistic among us would not argue that the entirety of New York City's organic waste could be processed through community composting alone. We know that the significant space requirements of composting are a limiting factor in a dense urban environment, and that a multi-pronged approach that includes local anaerobic digestion and regional composting facilities is required. But we also know that our local law enacting residential curbside organics collection (Int 0244-2022) calls on DSNY to "maximize the usable composting of organic waste." To that I would add that small-scale, decentralized community composting should be maximized first and foremost (see Figure 3).

In past administrations, DSNY has made efforts to align waste management practices with the hierarchy above. City funding for DonateNYC, the Master Composter Course, NYCCP, and GrowNYC targeted the top 5 most preferred methods of food waste reduction. Current and proposed funding prioritizes the bottom three least preferred methods. The reasons to prioritize community composting abound: reducing emissions from hauling waste to distant facilities; increasing the availability and reducing the cost of soil amendments for stewardship of local green infrastructure; increasing opportunities for meaningful local green jobs; and demonstrating the composting process to build knowledge of and confidence in the overall system to name a few.

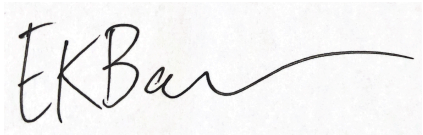
Figure 3 - Hierarchy to Reduce Food Waste and Grow Community



Source: Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), 2017

Community composting facilities and programs play an essential role in the City's overall organic waste management strategy. They have been key to building trust and participation in zero waste programs, and the need for that work to continue in tandem with the expansion of mandatory universal Curbside Composting is clear. I urge the City Council and DSNY to re-establish a commitment to community composting, both as a matter of policy and funding.

Thank you for your consideration,



Emily Bachman
emilykbachman@gmail.com

February 26, 2024

To: Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Re: City Funding for Community Composting

I am writing to urge you to maintain and/or restore city funding for community composting. In order for New York City to attain its climate goals, we need more than the city-run brown bins—we must have community training and buy-in for composting, which means LOCAL, COMMUNITY-LED programs. New York City should be a leader in sustainability and climate resilience—community composting is a great program that can help us as a city reach that goal.

Sincerely,

Eva Kolodner
[redacted]
Brooklyn, NY 11215

To whom this may concern:

Please, please consider keeping our community compost program. I live in a high rise apartment that doesn't accommodate weekly compost pick up. Dropping off my weekly compost at the farmers market is one of the many highlights of the weekend.

I feel like a more involved member of the community by completing this action and showing up each week.

Thank you,
Farin

2/28/24

Public Statement for Committee meeting 2/27/24 10am on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

To the Committee members,

As the Committee takes into consideration the value and future of Community Composting projects in New York City, I would like to put forth my statement as a member of the public, not formally associated with any composting group or organization. I am a lifelong resident of Bayside, Queens. I've composted in my yard and, since their availability in my area, have religiously utilized the brown bins for our household compostables. The brown bins provide a safe and sanitary means of composting and limit the interest our neighborhood racoons, cats and opossums have in our trash, with their firm locking mechanism. I've also participated in Manhattan and Queens composting collection through NYC Grows and local parks, which provides a connection and joy with the composting process, and faith in the value of it, that cannot be replaced by the brown bins.

This is to say, I believe that composting in New York City needs to be a multi-pronged approach, with local organizations and public collection points, brown bins and larger collection services, being not only allowable but encouraged and funded. Organizations such as the Big Reuse, the Queens Botanical Gardens, and Earth Matter that provide services for composting within communities for gardens, parks, restoration and remediation projects fulfill not only the function they promise but provide a human connection to the impact these projects have. They provide educational opportunities, and allow people to see the (sometimes literal) fruits of their labor and effort that the brown bins cannot provide.

Sincerely,

Fiona Fogarty, M.P.H.

NYC needs to continue and expand the composting program. In these environmentally challenging times we need to demonstrate that composting is an important part
of the overall needed solutions to climate issues. It is not hard to do and needs to be done
now, not later.

Fred Cray

I urge the City Council to restore/expand funding for community composting, and to work more closely with organizations that are doing it. Community composting saves money for the city, as well as for the residents who rely on community gardens to supplement their weekly food consumption.

It also helps fight climate change by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere by food scraps either rotting in landfills, or by flaring off excess methane at the city-run Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility.

Please restore this funding so NYC can do its part to combat climate change and help its residents have healthier lives.

Thank you,
Greg Schneiderman

Statement of GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools to the New York City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Oversight Hearing - The City's Infrastructure to Handle & Process Organic Waste.

February 27, 2024

Key points in written testimony:

- GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools *is the* educational arm of a 13 year partnership with DSNY and NYCPS to provide operational training and student engagement for NYC public schools for recycling and curbside compost compliance. **Funding for this critical programming has been cut from NYC's Preliminary Budget.**
- We provide valuable training, troubleshooting and, when necessary, escalation of issues to our agency partners, so that school-based staff can adequately perform their roles that are essential to the success of curbside composting.
- We empower NYC students, the next generation of NYC's leaders, makers and doers to take climate action in their schools through sorting their waste, and to bring that knowledge to their homes, where taking out the trash (or rather, recycling and compost!) is one of the most frequently designated chores of young people beginning to contribute to household tasks.
- As of late March, all schools may have curbside composting service, but not all schools are fully participating, requiring further guidance to properly take advantage of the service change. Education is an iterative and ongoing process, especially in schools.
    - The pace of the roll out to over 1200 schools in 2 years did not allow for the deep education and training/troubleshooting necessary for the systems to become fully established. We laid the groundwork for success, but ongoing support is most critical at this time.
    - Not all schools new to the service welcome the change and require greater support to institutionalize the process.
    - Schools experience high turnover of populations: staff, administrators and students. The people reached today are not the people present next year.
    - Schools enrolled in Curbside Composting prior to this last 2-year expansion, have not received direct on-the-ground support since first enrolling, and many have consequently experienced major backslide in their participation and diversion rates – this must be addressed to ensure the success of the program.
- **We are respectfully requesting restoration of our 2.5M budget for education and outreach so that we can continue the work that is not yet done: supporting schools so that they can fully participate in the curbside composting program allowing them to divert 86% of their waste from landfill. This is critically important for our City's sustained ability to reduce climate changing greenhouse gas emissions.**

Dear Chairperson Abreu and Members of the Committee,

I would like to thank the Chair and Committee for their strong support of the GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools Program and waste education for New York City public schools. For more than 13 years, GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools (ZWS) has been the educational partner of DSNY and the NYCPS Office of Energy and Sustainability, providing education and operational support to PreK – 12 public schools across all five boroughs. Our programming has been instrumental in increasing recycling and curbside compost collection rates in the largest school system in the United States. We support essential staff in schools so that they can implement the waste management systems necessary in their large buildings–populated with several hundred to several thousand students and staff–and we prepare the next generation of New Yorkers, providing them with the tools to understand the importance of waste reduction, composting and recycling and effectively practice these critical behaviors in school and at home.

Like my colleagues from the Compost Project, Big Reuse, WE ACT, GrowNYC Zero Waste Programs (FSDO and Stop 'n Swap) and all those involved with the Save Our Compost Coalition, I am expressing my disappointment and deep concern that the preliminary budget slashes, once again, funding for community composting programming, including no allocation for important educational programs that support NYC public schools achieving their zero waste goals.

GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools Overall Impact

Our work has a measurable impact. From Fiscal Year 2015 to Fiscal Year 2019, the first 100 ZWS receiving support from GrowNYC improved their organics tonnages 103%, compared to a 22% improvement along other school compost collection routes during that same time. MGPC tonnages improved by 74% at schools receiving our support, while decreasing 7% along other routes. During the time we were focused exclusively on the 100 schools in this 2016 rollout area, schools on other routes that did not receive the services we had previously been providing citywide, had capture rates for MGPC that DECLINED. Based on this, we know schools need our hands-on education and technical support in order to effectively participate and ultimately divert their waste from landfills. **They perform significantly better with help. Eliminating the GrowNYC Zero Waste School program by cutting our funding, directly and significantly inhibits their ability to access this critical support.**

For the past two years, GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools has been supporting all schools newly enrolled in curbside composting. This year alone, our 21 field-based staff are supporting a staggering 776 schools in 494 buildings, and have made, to date, over 1800 building site visits (where they engage each school at the site). At each visit they meet with multiple stakeholders in each school.

A productive full day at a school may include:

- ➢ Check in with the already trained custodial staff (who we trained during an earlier visit).
- ➢ Training for school aides on how best to guide students to sort their waste in the cafeteria.
- ➢ Student education such as
    - Meeting with a green team that already exists
    - Meeting with the Sustainability Coordinator to plan for forming a Green Team
    - or visits to all classrooms of a certain grade level to provide a lesson on sorting in the cafeteria, composting and the climate connection
- ➢ Check in with the administration to resolve new concerns/issues with curbside composting or to schedule an upcoming school wide engagement like assemblies.
- ➢ Data collection: constant bin set up in the cafeteria, consistent servicing of bins by cafeteria staff, contamination rates in bins, proper set out or storage of materials depending on the school's collection schedule.

We do A LOT in a school on a given day to support all members of the community so that they are all able to do their part for a smooth running waste management system that includes clean, uncontaminated, containerized, separated piles of waste put out on the correct day for collection by DSNY.

Our Budget Request to City Council & Mayor

It is vital that the City Council takes action that demonstrates to students across the city that adults in leadership are serious about tackling the climate crisis which directly impacts their future. City Council and Mayor Adams must support programming that enables NYC students and their schools to successfully participate fully in curbside compost collection.

As the City approaches the goal of mandatory citywide curbside composting, it is not the time to sever established relationships with partners that have the strong institutional knowledge and developed resources to provide much needed, proven support for schools. These partnerships allow the City to continue increasing equitable access and growing the awareness required to expand the base of knowledgeable participants.

We respectfully request that the preliminary budget restore the 2.5 million necessary to maintain GrowNYC's Zero Waste Schools training and education programming in schools. We are a high-impact, low cost program that builds environmental leadership

and stewardship among NYC public school students while we work with them to divert school waste along DSNY curbside compost routes. Further, we support the request of our colleagues for the restoration of funding essential to maintain the community of composting that has led the city to this point. It is premature and ill-considered to cut this comparatively small amount of funding that has provided the base and continues to grow the number of participants diverting waste through food scrap collection in any of the number of ways that are now available.

Our programming makes a difference in schools, at the curb and beyond.

Thank you Chairperson Abrue and the Committee for your support and for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Respectfully submitted
Kate Wimsatt
Director, GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools
kwimsatt@grownyc.org; 646-771-9600

Because pictures are worth a thousand words, we recently started an account to share the work that we do everyday in hundreds of schools: instagram.com/grownyc_zws
We are a small, but growing presence and are excited about this new way to engage with schools since the discontinuation of the school-based ZWS social media platform used in previous years.

PLEASE RESTORE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COMPOSTING AND OUTREACH IN OUR CITY!

We applaud the Mayor's curbside compost pick-up in several boroughs. However, the program is not yet in place for all neighborhoods, and large apartment buildings in Manhattan do not yet have a system in place for compost storage and pickup.

We rely on non-profit groups such as LES Ecology, Big Reuse, and GrowNYC to maintain their current composting sites in parks and greenmarkets such as St. Vartan's, Union Square, Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, and Asphalt Green in Manhattan.

Importantly, the aerobic method to break down food scrap compost, which is used by these non-profit organizations, releases much less greenhouse gas than the methane-producing anaerobic tanks that the city is investing in. Plus, the outdoor aerobic method generates soil for landscaping.

In addition, non-profit community compost teams provide essential education to the public. Explaining the methods and benefits of composting to the public is essential to ensure that city residents understand how to compost their food scraps. Most people don't know the mechanics, and are unaware of the benefits of composting, to reduce landfill waste and fight climate change.

Yes, we know that you are doing your best to deal with the city's serious budget crisis. Yet reducing the small amount of funds that support community composting is not a responsible way to trim the budget.

PLEASE RETURN COMMUNITY COMPOSTING TO THE CITY BUDGET, AT LEAST UNTIL MANDATORY CURBSIDE COMPOSTING BY THE CITY IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED, AND WORKING WELL THROUGHOUT ALL FIVE BOROUGHS.

<u>Reply to Fresh Direct’s routine survey 12/8/23</u>

STOP USING SO MUCH PLASTIC!

Combine small fruits and vegetables into one bag, instead of many plastic bags containing one item each.

Instead of clamshell plastic boxes for cookies, salads, etc., use small cardboard boxes taped closed with masking tape, as Whole Foods does.

Allow us to return our big Fresh Direct bags for reuse.

While Fresh Direct's food and delivery and excellent, your plastic waste is destroying our environment.

Jacqueline Crawley

Dear Committee on Sanitation and Waste Management,

My name is Jasper Hartnett. I am a NYC resident, proud member of the GrowNYC Workers Collective, and the Garden Coordinator for GrowNYC's Green Space Department. I firmly believe that NYC needs a robust and long term compost plan, and that the funding that was cut for the city's compost programs should be reinstated. The majority of the city's composting programs are only asking for $7 million of funding, which is less than 1% of the city's annual budget. I think it is ludacris that the city has defunded these essential programs while increasing the budget of institutions such as the NYPD, which do not require such a vast increase in their budget.

Composting should be viewed as an essential part of NYC's budget proposals. Not only are there numerous crucial environmental benefits that can be attributed to composting, there is also the added benefit that compost has on building communities and supporting community projects such as community gardens. I have seen these effects first hand across many different socio-economic communities.

There is power in collective action, and NYC's decision to defund composting programs has created powerful opposition across the city, and you can only expect that to grow. We will not let up.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jasper Hartnett

Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
27 Feb 2024

Chairperson Shaun Abreu and committee members,

I am a climate justice advocate and Brooklyn resident who is frustrated that community composting has been cut from the city budget. Composting is a potent solution to climate change and food waste. Composting must be part of New York City's climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience plans. Maintaining a robust composting program will help NYC manage rat populations and meet our greenhouse gas emission reduction targets (as outlined in NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act). Producing compost within NYC and using it in our parks, community gardens, street tree pits, and yards has the potential to help us prevent flood damage, among other benefits, by improving our local soil's ability to store carbon. Keeping our compost in NYC will also help us prevent methane emissions, which have 84-87 times more heat-trapping potential than carbon dioxide over a 20 year period and pose significant risks to public health.

We must expand municipal and community composting efforts in NYC. Successful implementation requires compost outreach and education. Fortunately, existing community composting organizations, including GrowNYC, Big Reuse, LES Ecology Center, Earth Matter NY, New York Botanical Garden, Queens Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, already provide these crucial services. I urge the city council to increase city budget funding for these community composting partners. I also urge the city council to divert all food and yard waste to composting partners instead of sending it to Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, where most of it is converted into methane gas.

Rat population management
Rats are just trying to survive, just like the rest of us. Instead of using resources to kill them, we should be addressing the root causes of rat overpopulation. Trash bins and bags full of food scraps are left out on our streets day after day. Current New York City policy offers our resident rat population a daily gourmet buffet. Where there is a food source, rodents will multiply. Separating our food scraps into secure compost bins would help reduce their food sources. Another solution for managing rat populations is to expand our local green spaces and add more foliage. Rats will not seek shelter in homes, restaurants, and businesses if they have somewhere else to go. Our compost could support that project as well.

Our food scraps can prevent flood damage

Composting our food scraps and keeping them in NYC can help us with climate adaption and resilience on top of preventing landfill emissions. New York City community compost partners currently divert more than 8.3 million pounds of organic waste from landfills each year and turn it into nutrient dense compost that can be used in our parks, community gardens, street tree pits, green roofs, and yards. Adding compost to soil helps it absorb more carbon and improves soil health. Increasing carbon absorption improves the sponge effect of local land, which prevents flooding, drought, and erosion. Preventing floods will substantially reduce property insurance rates and disaster repair and cleanup costs. Improving soil health will also reduce our irrigation expenditure and improve the quality of local waterways. Using compost to enrich our street trees will also help reduce the urban heat island effect and improve our air quality, which would reduce our public health expenditures on illnesses linked to extreme heat and air pollution, like heat stroke and asthma. We should be actively increasing our local capacity to convert food waste in to compost to be used improve local soil health.

Methane emissions reductions
New York City residents and visitors produce over 1,000 tons of food and yard waste every single day. Most of it ends up in methane-emitting landfills. For every 1,000 tons of food waste landfilled, an estimated 34 metric tons of fugitive methane emissions are released (EPA, 2023). Composting and anaerobic digestion can achieve a 95% methane reduction efficiency when compared to landfilling organic waste, according to EPA estimates (RMI, 2023). We should not be sending our food and yard waste to landfills. We should also stop sending our food and yard waste to Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant where most of it is converted into methane gas. Not only is methane heating our planet faster than carbon dioxide, it is making us sick. Methane emissions are linked to high rates of asthma and chronic lung diseases. Reducing asthma alone could save millions of tax dollars per year. Asthma-related Medicaid costs in NYS exceeded $532 million in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012-13. When all non-Medicaid hospitalizations and treatments associated with asthma were counted, the overall cost of asthma to New York State in SFY 2012-13 rose to $1.3 billion.

We still have time to secure a liveable future for all
Finally, for anyone who does not understand why we need to pursue deep, rapid, and sustained greenhouse gas emissions reductions immediately, I will briefly assert a few facts about climate change:

1) The level of scientific consensus among actively publishing climate scientists is incontrovertible: over 99% of climate scientists agree that humans are causing climate change, primarily through greenhouse gas emissions (Environmental Research Letters, 2021). Climate scientists have been studying the greenhouse

effect since the 1820s and have been sounding the alarm about greenhouse gas emissions since the 1950s.

2) We can prevent global temperatures from rising further. Climate scientists have agreed since 2001 that temperatures will stop rising and will stabilize once we reach net zero carbon dioxide emissions (IPCC AR3, 2001). The rate of temperature rise will slow down as soon as we start reducing carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions, which will give us more time to adapt. Global temperatures will fall once we reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC SR 15, 2019). Deep, rapid, and sustained greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors are needed by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5°C or 2°C (IPCC AR6, 2023).

3) It's not too late (IPCC AR6, 2023). We still have time to limit warming to 1.5°C or 2°C, which will prevent catastrophic climate tipping points from being triggered. However, the window of opportunity to secure a liveable future for all is rapidly narrowing. Fortunately, we already have cost-effective systemic solutions that will halve emissions by 2030. We need to increase the speed and scale of implementation of these existing solutions within this decade. Composting food waste is one of them.

4) Climate scientists have known since the 1970s that extracting and burning fossil fuels, including natural gas, is one of the primary drivers of greenhouse gas emissions. Projected CO2 emissions from existing fossil fuel infrastructure without additional abatement will almost guarantee temperature rise above 1.5°C (IPCC AR6, 2023).

5) Every tenth of a degree of warming we prevent will affect the lives and livelihoods of billions of people (IPCC AR6, 2023).

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jen Rand

February 24, 2024

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to urge you to ensure that community composting remains active in NYC. **Climate change is at a critical juncture in our world and New York City should be leading the way in doing everything we can to mitigate it**. There is plenty of evidence that points to the benefits of composting – from cutting down on waste that gets buried, which not only causes dangerous off gassing but can also end up contaminating the soil and local groundwater, to creating usable byproducts that improve our soil and even produce clean energy (the latter of which is an opportunity for private/public partnerships).[1] **It seems completely backward that our city is even *considering* getting rid of something that so many people are using successfully and that actually benefits the world we live in**.

I currently live in the Bronx. Curb-side composting is relatively new in our community (just a couple of years old). Our building successfully fills at least three of the large brown bins a week with compost waste. The building next to ours saw what we were doing and have also begun to participate in composting. **People in this city WANT to compost**.

Before moving to the Bronx two years ago, I lived in Brooklyn, where we had been composting before Covid hit. People who visited us from out of state were amazed that our city was so advanced in its thinking around this issue, lamenting that they did not have a similar program in their region of the country. When I go visit family in Michigan, I am horrified by how much garbage is amassed without composting as an option. **Please do not move NYC backward on this issue!**

The last thing I want to add is that David Buckel, who set himself on fire in Prospect Park in 2018 to protest our use of fossil fuels, was my nextdoor neighbor. The morning of his death I ran into his husband, Terry, as he was rushing into the park (I had no idea that he was about to discover his husband's death). The news of David's death was devastating to all who knew him (those associated with composting in NYC and the LGBTQ+ communities for whom David fought). David was not just my dear neighbor and Terry's husband and dad to Hannah but he was also someone who cared very deeply about our planet. He helped to establish the NYC Compost Project and the Added Value Red Hook Community Farm composting, which became one of the most successful composting sites in the country that does not rely on any fossil fuels. His protege, Domingo Morales, continues his work and has helped to spread composting into other areas like the Bronx.[2] **Please, in David's name, and in the name of our children who are inheriting this planet that is literally burning, do not end this program**.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tammi
Bronx, NY

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[1] "Composting 101," last accessed February 24, 2024 https://www.nrdc.org/stories/composting-101#benefits; LJ Lawson, "How Cities Are Turning Food Into Fuel," last accessed February 24, 2024, https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2019/11/21/food-waste-fuel-energy-sustainability-070265

[2] John Leland, "What Endures After a Climate Activist's Suicide: Grief, Anger and Hope," last accessed February 24, 2024, https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/19/nyregion/david-buckel-climate-activist-suicide-fossil-fuels.html

We need Community Composting (Green Bins Programs) in NYC

For the past two months, the Food Scrap Drop Off has ceased to exist. As a New Yorker living on Roosevelt Island, the Food Scrap Drop Off every Saturday next to the green market was a beacon of community engagement. Volunteers collected food scraps that were then sent locally to the Queensboro Bridge in Long Island City. This allowed tons of material (that would have otherwise turned into greenhouse gasses) to feed city trees, parks and community gardens and in that way sinking more CO_2 into the soil.

With this weekly event, Islanders came together and learned about the vital aspect of composting in our fight against climate change. Now, food scraps are abandoned next to the orange bins creating more risk for the development of rodents, less opportunities exist for composting and a precious resource is now going to landfill creating methane gas, a far more dangerous gas than carbon dioxide in the increasing temperatures that we are feeling every day.

More than 200 families in this small community came together. Elderly or single household residents found one additional place to meet with the rest of the community. As an intergenerational place, people met and talked mostly about food scraps but also about other local topics. This weekly community opportunity has now disappeared and with it some of this informal community building.

In addition, the now deceased program allowed New Yorkers to be educated about climate mitigations provided by organizations such as Big Reuse, LES Ecology, the Botanical Gardens, GrowNYC, Earth Matter… Through these organizations, my wife was able to complete a Master Composter program and spread more through her work and through the community ways of reducing climate change. She was able to share her newly acquired knowledge in her community garden and during events on Roosevelt Island. With the cut of public fundings, these programs have now disappeared completely.

Even abroad, when talking to family in Europe, New York City was considered to be at the forefront of climate mitigation through our composting program. With the current budget cut, this leadership will be lost. Entire countries like France are now adopting general composting

mandated by the state and local communities are working on developing their solutions. New York should not go backward on this issue but reinforce the value of community composting and on diversifying and expanding, not reducing this critical solution to fight global warming. Restore the cut budget and make plans to improve and develop more solutions rather than less. New York needs to become more of a leader in the green economy, not less.

Jerome Dutilloy

Hello to the City Council!

I'm writing to share my support of continued funding for community composting projects.

It's wonderful and great news that the city is interested in bringing composting to all five boroughs through the Sanitation Department and I truly hope that will work out. However, we are only at this place as a city thanks to the hard work that has been done by community composting organizations. We need these organizations to continue to thrive if we are actually going to see composting be something that is successful across the five boroughs. These community organizations have been doing this work for a long time and know the process in and out. We rely on them to not only lower our methane emissions as a city but to distribute the compost around to other organizations that use it for good. If these organizations lose their funding, we will be looking at a significant drop in composting overall and a huge backstep that will take many many years to get back on track.

Please continue to fund these important organizations!

Thank you,
Jessi Highet

I have been composting organic waste for over twenty years. For many years, I used the organic material to enrich the soil around my house-for gardening, for supporting vegetation in my backyard, which is part of the shorefront coast line on Jamaica Bay. Over the years, the amount of waste and refuse that I have saved to turn into compost/mulch must add up to tons of material.

At some point realized I couldn't keep integrating more and more composting material into my own landscape. The advent of composting collection by NYC Dept of Sanitation(as well as other Re-Use collectives)has been a lifesaver. I'm able to dispose of a great deal of organic material that would've ended up in landfills, to be used to help sustain other NYC projects that are bigger than my own little backyard.

I feel it's necessary to continue collecting organic waste/compost and using it strategically, instead of dumping additional methane producing material into landfills.We as New York City residents should do anything we can, no matter how small, to preserve a healthy future here in NYC, as well on this beautiful planet.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.
Joan Marie Delahunt
[redacted]
Broad Channel, NY11693
[redacted]

Good Morning, Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion….

My Name is Joanna Lacey and food waste has been a concern of mine for a long time. I began composting 40 years ago and saw the wonderful benefit that the mature compost had for our garden.

In various posts for Earth911 (As Joanna the Green Maven) I wrote about how even an apartment dweller can curb waste and contribute food scraps municipally to be turned into compost for residents to pick up. Scraps can even be donated to a community garden, as I do.

The challenge here in this part of Queens (Richmond Hill/Kew Gardens) is that we can only donate on Thursdays between 8 am and 12 pm on Metropolitan Avenue. Most of us work and I believe would be reluctant to drive scraps anywhere. And we wouldn't want to leave scraps unattended to attract rats and other vermin.

I think that the solution is to have more drop off points or composting events like NYCompost does. One suggestion that I wrote in a letter to NYCompost is that we should be able to drop off food waste at the Farmer's Market that is in Forest Park every year. It's a very popular event and a great opportunity to divert food waste from the landfills!

Keeping food scraps out of our garbage cans will go a long way to help keep the rats and vermin like racoons and opossum from invading our streets and yards.

Please make Food Drop Off easy and convenient!

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the city's disastrous decision to eliminate its community composting program. This program provides significant benefits to New York City on a relatively small budget.

Compost enhances the ability of soils to act as a carbon sink and mitigate stormwater runoff. Adding compost to neighborhood parks, street trees, and community gardens can absorb up to 80% of a four-inch rainfall.

With under 5% of the city's organic waste currently being diverted, low participation in municipal composting is a problem that cutting the community compost program will worsen. The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) should find $6 million in its $1.9 billion budget to preserve the program.

In the long term, DSNY could institute measures that both save costs and help achieve their zero waste and containerization goals. For example, DSNY could cut redundant trash collection on the 37% of city streets that are home to one- or two-family residences that currently get twice- or thrice-weekly pickup. If residents correctly separated recycling and organics, that trash would fit in a single bin per week. Once-a-week collection could save the city millions of dollars.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Pfister

Community composting is needed to reduce NYC's carbon emissions in a way that also benefits our land, our neighborhoods, and our civic engagement. When the St. James Church / Elmhurst community food scrap collection site shut down, I am forced to throw my food scraps into my building's general garbage because the building management has hidden the composting bin. This goes into the landfill, to help exactly nobody. While DSNY's curbside composting program is ambitious, it has not been fully realized; the new responsibilities placed on building staff means that community members like me are unable to compost the way that I have been doing for years.

Furthermore, community composting has also introduced me to other members of my local neighborhood, and created a social network that would not exist otherwise. We are passionate about bettering New York City and ensuring that we are protecting the land for future generations. Additionally, the compost has been shown to improve drainage, which cannot be said for bio-fuel.

Please fund Big Reuse and other local organizations who have been doing grassroots work for years. Considering the negligible amount of funding needed to keep these organizations running compared to the overall city budget, the city is being penny wise, pound foolish.

Joyce Huang

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Judith Dieckmann and I live in Brooklyn. Despite a paucity of easy options, I have been composting in NYC since 1990. When I lived on the Lower East Side, I took my compost to a community garden via rollerblade. When I moved to Brooklyn, my compost commuted next to me on the subway (usually at my feet) so I could leave it at the Union Square Farmers Market. When GROW NYC started collecting compost at all farmers market I thought it couldn't get better. When curbside collecting stopped at the cross street short of my home but my neighbors on the other side made room in their bins, I thought it couldn't get better. When Big Belly collection points were installed around BedStuy I thought, well, it's a trek but I'll get my steps in. I even just shook my head when I saw a man unlock a BigBelly and pee into it. When curbside composting *finally* came to my block, I couldn't wait to drop compost outside my door. At last. Both of my tenants were so excited as well. Their waste production has *HALVED*. Our building puts out one 55 g landfill bag of garbage a week. ONE. Not one per thrice a week pick-up. One in 7 days.

While I was dropping off compost at various Grow NYC collection points, I engaged with so many different neighbors from all walks of life. Everyone produces organic waste. Everyone. I never, ever met a cranky person dropping off their compost. Organic waste collection brings people together in community. The folks who work at GrowNYC want only to make our city better. Each and every one of them contributes to a better city. Can you truly say that about every city agency? I can't.

But, more importantly, I have yet to see a rat at a compost drop off. I have yet to see a rat chew its way into a city compost bin. Every day I see organic waste on the street. I see it because we still have an alarming deficit of rat-proof public waste receptacles. I see it because people are not always able to put the black bags out after 8p (because as we all know this makes zero sense as rats are…nocturnal) and the bags are shredded open at all hours and the contents strewn. If everyone was brought on board with organic waste, and by that I mean educated and habituated in a respectful and honoring way, our city would be VASTLY improved. Our streets would be cleaner thus allowing our sanitation crew to do their jobs more quickly and easily, the rat population would be a bit smaller (until we finally get them on birth control but that's another battle), the city would smell less of garbage, and the environment would benefit in ways we can't even begin to measure. When I first moved here in 1986, I could barely see a star in the night sky. Due to efforts undertaken upward, our celestial panorama is much more visible. NOW it is time to direct our efforts to the street.

Thank you for reading.
Judith Dieckmann

February 27, 2024

To the City Council:

I want to join the testimony on behalf of city composting, including the Community Composting programs. These programs should be supported and expanded, not cut or reduced. They are indispensable for addressing the climate crisis, educating and empowering city residents to improve our environment, and furthering our sense of community. Curbside composting has worked beautifully for our building, and I had hoped that by now it would be mandatory. New York should be leading the country on this, not moving 3 steps back for every 2 steps forward. And the Community Composting is particularly important. It primarily impacts communities that are otherwise often overlooked and neglected. It makes compost available for growing food and beautifying neighborhoods. It is unconscionable to cut funding for such an important, successful program.

It takes years to build these programs, to convince people to participate and then to build the participation into a habit. I was so upset when New York City's thriving composting program, to which many had devoted so much time, energy, money, and heart, was put on hold as COVID hit. I was tremendously relieved when it was at least partially restored. It is shortsighted for us now to do anything other than move forward full speed, full commitment.

Please do everything that you can to support and promote composting. We will ALL benefit!

Sincerely,
Judy Fletcher

1) Written Testimony for February 27, 2024 To: City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Community Composting is vital to our city's infrastructure. Community Composting keeps our neighborhoods connected and cleaner with constant education about varied methods to handle compostable materials and divert them from landfill. They provide essential food scrap drop off collection sites and hyper local real composting to rebuild our city soils.

I personally am writing to the City Council for the fourth time, and I remain disappointed, disgusted, and shocked by the mismanagement of my taxes in cutting this program when other programs that are far more wasteful are fully funded to continue. I am tired of writing to Committees and Council Members and Mayors who do not listen and who do not even answer.

The NYC Compost Project's composting sites, teaching events, and food scrap drop off sites across the city do not pollute neighborhoods near highways or neighborhoods with lesser income or higher racial diversity.

The NYC Compost Project composting sites, teaching events, and food scrap drop off sites across the city divert thousands and thousands of pounds of organic waste from landfill and from transport across the city and then return this to communities in the form of soil amendment after hyper local compost processing.

The NYC Compost rebuilds essential soils across NYC and brings life to parks and gardens and people. Soil is the base of all life and an important greenhouse gas sink. It is a falsehood to believe that we are not connected to our urban soils and the plants that bring us oxygen and joy.

The NYC Compost Project builds real people to people connections for resilient communities, teaches constantly in many diverse ways as it brings people closer to nature, our true home.

The NYC Compost Project educates and helps the curbside brown bin programs become more successful.

The NYC Compost Project keeps neighborhoods across NYC cleaner and filled with life. The orange smart bins may a be necessary part of the NYC plan, but they are just a place where plastic bags of scraps left on the top or sides pile up and make our streets less friendly and less beautiful.

The NYC Compost Project is one way that we can truly mitigate global warming, and you have cut this essential and inexpensive service that brought only connections and ripples of mutual aid and neighborhood advocacy and life to our city, our home.

The NYC Compost Project employees and volunteers ALWAYS answered my letters and queries and listened carefully to my community's needs (unlike the Mayor and the City Council.) Since 2014, I never sent them an email or called them or stopped by a site without a professional response.

Restore and refund all the NYC Compost Project funding and programs immediately to NYC for our futures together.

2) Written Testimony December 11, 2023 To: City Council Hearing Committee on Finance
From: NYC volunteer for Haki Food Scrap Drop Off, Roosevelt Island Community Garden, and Master Composter Program participant 2023

Save all the NYC Community Compost programs from financially short-sighted and unwise budget cuts!

This means saving all the green bin food scrap drop off sites, all the important NYC compost producing sites (Earth Matter site, Big Reuse sites, Queens Botanical Garden site, the future LES site, as well as the Master Composting program.

The top reasons are the following:

- These programs are part of very steady people to people social infrastructure across NYC. These are places where thousands of New Yorkers volunteer, learn, and connect, thus keeping us all safer and more resilient in the face of future crises. They help mental health, equity issues, and reduce loneliness. New York City needs our neighborhood sites for connection and health. Read the research on urban health and the importance of these kind of people engagement opportunities and sites as compared to very broken "broken window" policing practices and philosophies that have been proven ineffective.

- These programs are essential parts of NYC's green infrastructure and are needed to meet NYC climate goals. Food scraps sent to landfill in faraway states are expensive and release methane gas into the atmosphere, a pollutant worse than CO2. However, removing food scraps from sidewalk street trash prevents rats by eliminating their food source. Green bin programs process food scraps hyper locally with constant volunteer resources, thus reducing more greenhouse gases and providing a carbon sink in healthier urban soils with the compost give backs. Composting is one of the top 100 solutions to reversing global warming.

- Urban soils with compost amendments are proven to boost absorption of flood waters during storm surges and a strong flood mitigation strategy. Study NYC websites about combined sewage overflow and rain gardens. Study what wiser cities are actively working on and achieving with rain gardens and composted soils. Why remove something that works for problems that will only increase in severity in coming years? This should instead be an area of investment not complete decimation.

- Saving the green bin food scraps for compost program will protect 115 NYC jobs. As a 2023 participant who completed the Master Composting program, I have witnessed first-hand the high-quality work of these jobs at sites across the city. The energy and professionalism are unmatched. The people who fill these jobs are amazing in their work that combines a passion for earth, people, equity, and solutions! I would be proud to work with these people and I also find that they are constantly trying to do better in their jobs. Quite unfortunately, I cannot say the same about some city leaders or some other city or some DSNY funded initiatives in NYC. In 2023, I learned and connected with people and sites across the boroughs due to this Master Composter program which meant that I completed 45 plus hours of workshops, volunteering, and visits. I am a teacher with 30 years' experience and a master's in education and feel qualified to say that the Master Composter program is a very high-quality educational program. To gut this program, which is running so well and teaching so many people about ways to compost, ways to volunteer regularly, ways to reduce global warming, ways to rebuild local soils, to connect appropriately and wisely with neighbors, and to mitigate rat proliferation in NYC – this is an extremely unwise decision financially.

- The misleading orange and brown bin programs have no people connections and no education and do not produce any real compost locally to rebuild local parks, street trees, and community spirit.

Restore the Community Compost green bin programs to the city budget. Listen to the New Yorkers who vote, who volunteer, who mitigate climate change at no cost to NYC, who actively work for the people and the health of this city alongside the people in the jobs that you are about to gut unwisely. Listen to the people who voted for this Mayor and who are so very disappointed. Listen to the people living close to and caring for urban nature, parks, garden sites and neighbors. We are the people who will put in volunteer time on top of our full-time jobs to help NYC. We are the New Yorkers who make this city a great place to live and this is shocking.

We are New Yorkers who care about our NYC neighbors and neighborhoods far more than the Mayor and DSNY Commissioner seem to care. Please listen to us and save the financially wise and high-quality programs that make up Community Composting (green bin programs and jobs) in NYC.

Thank you to the amazing Community Compost programs and to these NYC workers in the 115 jobs of Community Composting. Gratitude to all for making all these programs possible with their commitment to community, equity, pollution reduction, and health. This participation in composting has contributed to making our NYC neighborhoods more sustainable and more livable in incredible ways.

3) Written Testimony December 7, 2023 To: Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Save NYC Community Compost (Green Bins Programs). For the health and safety of NYC ongoing, I am asking that NYC change the city budget cuts that eliminates Community Composting (Green Bin) programs. Active community connections help people and improved soil biodiversity and plantings in our neighborhood help storm surge resilience.

The community compost programs like the NYC Compost Project (Big Reuse, Lower East Side Ecology, Earth Matter, Snug Harbor) and Grow NYC play a vital role in our city. These 115 essential green jobs mean that NYC

- diverts over 8 million pounds of organic waste from landfills.
- gives finished compost to over 335 community groups and thousands of individuals.
- creates storm resilient soils across the city that mitigate flooding.
- provides compost education to over 600,000 New Yorkers and educates constantly about ongoing rat prevention.

This essential service supports New York's climate goals. Other parts of composting in the city (orange and brown bins) are not in any way of this quality and do not create hyper-local, real compost. In addition, orange and brown bins programs depend on the outreach of these essential green bin programs. NYC Compost Project and Grow NYC jobs with green bin programs give back and give back more to our city and to our planet and to our people.

Compost is one of the top 100 solutions for global warming and these local programs work. Healthy social infrastructure is the way forward for resilient, diverse, democratic societies.
These long standing, successful, people and environment programs and jobs must not be cut, but should be permanently assured and thrive for the future of NYC.

The Community Composting (green bin program) is part of the health and safety for our people locally in all NYC neighborhoods.

https://www.flinders.edu.au/content/dam/documents/research/bgl/Fulbright-Lecture-Series-Pub8.pdf

https://drawdown.org/solutions/composting

4)Written Testimony Letter Submitted in 2020
Not too long ago, in 2020 community composting faced similar challenges, below is my letter from that date

Good morning,
My name is Julia Ferguson and I serve with the Roosevelt Island Garden Club as chair of Outreach. We are a 40-year-old volunteer run community of gardeners on Roosevelt Island who have actively supported, benefitted from, and worked alongside NYC Compost (for education, advice, food scrap drop off programs, and compost give backs) through both Big Reuse and Grow NYC.

Our gardens and our broader community have been revitalized through this work. We have learned so much in our community and connected with so many neighbors both on Roosevelt Island and city-wide as a result of these programs. In this testimony, we ask that the city not decimate its Climate Justice and Zero Waste plans and goals by eliminating opportunities for organics recycling and composting. Composting has

brought all ages of our gardening group and also broader community of 15,000 people on Roosevelt Island together. Because of NYC Compost programs our community has diverted over 100,000 pounds of food scraps from landfills.

Please reinstate 7 million into the budget to reopen NYC Compost programs. Composting connections and is a wise use of our fiscal and natural resources. In addition, the ripple effects for our environmental health and our children's futures are priceless. This is an equitable solution that is cost effective.

Please be clear in a 2020 vision for NYC and our planet. This vision should be one with healthy people, healthy air, healthy soil and filled with climate justice solutions that will save money long term and save lives. Please listen carefully to @SaveOurCompost goals and plans.

Below are only a few examples of how important this work is to our Roosevelt Island community and to NYC:
Partnerships and More Partnerships through Composting
http://www.rigarden.org/ri-garden-blog/ri-day-partnerships-for-compost-and-planting
http://www.rigarden.org/ri-garden-blog/full-circle-from-food-scraps-to-school-garden
http://www.rigarden.org/ri-garden-blog/nyc-compost-project-and-big-reuse-on-roosevelt-island
Outreach/Service Events for all Ages: Cornell Tech to P.S. 217
http://www.rigarden.org/ri-garden-blog/nyc-compost-official-pumpkin-smash-on-roosevelt-island-2019-third-annual-event
http://www.rigarden.org/ri-garden-blog/cornell-tech-volunteers-with-roosevelt-island-garden-club
http://www.rigarden.org/ri-garden-blog/compost-connection-worms

Sincerely,
Julia Ferguson
volunteer with
Roosevelt Island Garden Club
www.rigarden.org "RIGC - In Earth We Trust"
rigardenclub@gmail.com RIGC Board

I urge you to please restore NY’s city funding for community composting!

Thank you,

Jussara

I have long taken my food scraps to the drop-off site in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn on Saturdays. It's been a convenient way to do something concrete for the environment. Keeping my food scraps out of a landfill, and preventing them from emitting methane (the worst greenhouse gas) is really important to me. I was very upset to learn that the new "composting opportunities" presented by Eric Adams DON'T CREATE COMPOST AT ALL. Instead, they are being turned into gas, and mixed with sewage.

If the gas does end up going into the electric grid – there's been many delays - that's fine. But COMPOST is different and important too. It sequesters gas, and it is the best fertilizer for plants and gardens of all kinds. Our community programs' compost have supported the NY Botanical Garden, for example, and some compost goes back to the people who bring the food scraps. The community compost program also does important educational programs in the schools. It takes up FAR LESS THAN ONE PERCENT of Sanitation's budget. It's efficient. It works. We need it. Please don't take it away from the city.
Karen Peterson

City Council needs to restore city funding for community composting. This funding supports

- More than 115 green jobs
- Diverts more than 8.3 million pounds of organic waste from landfills each year.
- Produces and distributes hundreds of thousands of pounds of compost to over 325 community groups, parks, 85 street tree care events, and thousands of individuals each year.
- Engages over 1,000 yearly participants in Master Composter activities through food, farming, and composting opportunities across the city.
- Provides compost outreach and education to over 600,000 New Yorkers annually, making them aware of food waste's contributions to the climate crisis while providing the opportunity to address this critical issue.

I am a member of a community garden and we have lost the support of BigReuse for our community compost collection due to the funding cuts. We are just one instance of the major impact these cuts have had to the NYC community and our efforts to help the environment.

Thank you.

Kathleen McEneaney

Community composting ensures that food waste actually gets turned into usable compost unlike the brown bin system where food waste is being biodigested and *maybe* turned into energy. NYC Compost Project is an important asset to the city and should be protected and expanded.

Waste Reduction: New York City generates a vast amount of organic waste daily, contributing to overflowing landfills and environmental issues. Community composting helps divert this organic waste from landfills, reducing the city's overall waste and promoting a more sustainable waste management system.

Environmental Impact: Composting helps mitigate the environmental impact of organic waste decomposition in landfills, which produces harmful greenhouse gases like methane. By funding community composting, the city can actively contribute to reducing its carbon footprint and combating climate change.

Soil Enrichment: Compost is a valuable resource for improving soil quality. Supporting community composting initiatives means producing nutrient-rich compost that can be used to enhance local soil, promoting healthier plant growth, and reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

Community Engagement: Investing in community composting fosters a sense of environmental responsibility and community engagement. It provides an opportunity for residents to actively participate in sustainable practices, raising awareness about the importance of waste reduction and environmental stewardship.

Educational Opportunities: Community composting programs offer educational opportunities for residents to learn about composting techniques, the environmental benefits, and the broader context of waste management. By funding such initiatives, the city can invest in environmental education and empower its residents to make informed, eco-friendly choices.

Local Agriculture Support: The compost produced through community initiatives can support local urban agriculture. By providing nutrient-rich soil amendments to community gardens and urban farms, the funding helps strengthen the local food system and encourages sustainable, locally sourced produce.

Job Creation: Funding community composting projects can create jobs, ranging from composting site managers to educators and outreach coordinators. This not only contributes to local employment opportunities but also supports the growth of a green economy in the city.

Public Health Benefits: Proper waste management, including composting, contributes to cleaner neighborhoods and improved air and water quality. By reducing the volume of organic waste in landfills, community composting can positively impact public health and create a more livable urban environment.
Kelsey Kahn

February 26, 2024

To the City Council of New York:

Please consider funding the composting program. The amount of food waste that ends up in the environment is appalling and contributes greatly to global warming. Using compost bins becomes a habit, not dissimilar to bringing our own bags to the grocery store, and once ingrained, it's an easy way to clean up our world!!

Thank you.

Kerry K. Peet
[redacted]
New York, NY 10001

Kevin Doyle
[redacted]
NY, NY 10011

[redacted]

City Council Hearing on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management,

I am asking for there to be an effort to renew financial support for community compost in NYC. Composting is the thing that reduced our waste footprint more than any other single thing and having it as a community offering is crucial to reducing landfill and waste in the city.

Please fund this beyond the gracious gift someone made, to make it an official council/city funded program into the foreseeable future.

Thank you!

- Kevin Doyle

Dear NY City Council,

Please support city composting. I drop off my composting each week to the Greenmarket near me on Sundays. It is the only way I can compost and it makes such a difference in the amount of trash I have for a landfill. The composting bins are always filled at my Greenmarket and many people drop off their composting. Please support this, I am so grateful that our city has easy composting for city residents.

Sincerely,

Kristen Bar

Dear Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management,

For ten years now, my garbage hasn't stunk. Why this miracle? Community composting. Keeping our orange peels, coffee grounds, carrot peelings, egg shells, onion skins, apple cores, tea bags, fruit pits and seeds, etc etc etc, out of the kitchen trash and in the freezer does the trick. And what does it take? Once a week I take the frozen-solid food scrap container out of the freezer, dump the contents into a paper bag, and drop the whole thing in the green bins that my local community org–Lower East Side Ecology Center–provides, on my way to the subway. This qualifies as a miracle to this city girl.

My quality of life is a minor thing, however, compared to the aggregate: mountains of healthy compost that brings our city parks, school gardens, and balcony retreats back to life.

And keeping the methane out of the landfill???? EVEN BETTER!!!!

Please please please. From home to school to our very Earth–let's support our community composting organizations as they reduce–just a little bit–our impact on this place we call home. We don't have another.

Thank you for reading.

Larissa Harris

Support Community Composting
Testimony from Leonard Librizzi

The City Council and the Sanitation Department should restore the cuts made to Community Composting Projects. Over the years the Department of Sanitation has flip flopped on supporting composting in general and now community composting. Community Composting funding is just a drop in the bucket of the overall Sanitation budget yet it provides a service whose benefits far outweigh the cost. It is a way for any resident of New York City to make sure that their food scraps get composted and the product used in city parks, community gardens and private residences. Additional benefits include reducing The City's waste steam and providing meaningful jobs. Please support the residents of New York City that want to do their part to make this a more livable city.

I call on you to restore full funding to community composting in the current NYC budget. Community composting programs run by organizations including Grow NYC and Big Reuse educate the public on the importance of separating food from their other trash to significantly reduce methane from landfills. Their work has been instrumental in launching the city's curbside composting program, but that work is far from done, and there will always be a need to keep educating the public.

These organizations also manage compost piles, by far the cleanest use of food scraps, and the most beneficial in multiple ways, from feeding trees to mitigating storm runoff. During the pandemic when funding was cut and compost collection shut down, Big Reuse reopened its Salt Lots site, and I walked three miles roundtrip weekly to keep my food scraps out of landfill. I was moved to see how many other people did too. Big Reuse did it because sustainability is their core mission. I did it because I have been educated about the benefit to the environment, and once you know, you want to be part of the effort to help, in this simple way.

In order for the city's own curbside composting program to work, people need to be on board with it, and they need to know how to use the bins. I've seen shockingly little municipal communication about this program. I personally know two buildings (one with 20 apartments, one with 70) in two separate Brooklyn neighborhoods where curbside composting is mandatory, each with one brown bin for the whole building, and even that one not properly used. I have to assume there are hundreds such buildings, and I have to assume the city is aware of this. We should be talking about increasing funding to the organizations dedicated to community outreach. While collecting food scraps they also teach people how and why to use the city bins. They talk to people one on one, people see their neighbors participating, and this is by far the most effective way to get people involved.

Funding Community Compost outreach by these organizations is cost-effective. They already have a track record of success with both compost management and community education. Cutting their funding is shortsighted and wrong. Restore their full funding now.
Liza Lorwin

Testimony on behalf of the Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Boards
before the New York City Council
Oversight hearing regarding The City's Infrastructure to Handle & Process Organic Waste
February 27, 2024

The Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and Bronx SWABs have previously recommended[1] that the City prioritize composting over the current PlaNYC proposed co-digestion for processing the city's residential and commercial organics streams. Our testimony extends our previous recommendation to the infrastructure required to support composting.

We believe the infrastructure needed to support composting will be at least as cost-effective as anaerobic co-digestion – the City's preferred plan. If planning and infrastructure for composting are done right, composting can be competitive with the predominant process we employ now, which is disposal of organics as refuse to landfill and incineration. If the environmental[2] and social harms avoided by composting organics rather than disposal as refuse and the social benefits of composting and compost are factored into the cost-benefit analysis, as they should be, the competitive advantage goes to composting.[3]

The infrastructure discussion has often been clouded by concerns about processing capacity constraints that are cited as an obstacle to a successful organics program in New York City. These constraints are no longer an issue.

The current composting capacity of the City's organics processing at the Freshkills facility on Staten Island has recently been expanded by – according to Mayor Adams, an impressive "2,000 percent"-- to 104,000 tons per year. Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility organics processing capacity through anaerobic co-digestion is estimated between 65,000 and 130,000 tons per year. Today, therefore, just these two facilities can process between 169,000 - 234,000 tons of organics per year or 15 - 21 percent of our total residential organics per year.

To put this current organics processing capacity into perspective: by 2025 after the full rollout of curbside organics collection to all boroughs, we estimate at best with a full year's participation 110,000 tons or 10 percent of the 1.1 million tons total organics discarded will be diverted from refuse by City residents for separate collection and processing.

These simple back-of-the-envelope numbers indicate that we likely have some time before we start to encounter processing constraints even as we roll out mandatory curbside collection to the three remaining boroughs of Staten Island, Manhattan, and the Bronx.

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[1] 2023.06 all-SWAB statement on PlaNYC proposed co-digestion solutions for processing the city's residential and commercial organics streams.pdf
[2] See Appendix 1, EPA: LIST Chemicals in biosolids (2022)
[3] See Appendix 2, EPA Biosolids Pie Chart

As a reminder, recycling's progress is instructive. Recycling of metal, glass, plastic, and paper was made mandatory in 1989. Today in 2024, after 30 years of education, outreach, and enforcement, and one notable stop and start, New York City's capture rate for all recycling streams combined – excluding organics – has stagnated at 50%. It is unlikely that we will experience the participation necessary to achieve a 50% capture rate anytime soon with organics without meaningful education and outreach.

Without New York City residents participation in the mandatory curbside organics collection program, it will not matter what our organics processing capacity is or will be. This is where the importance of the New York City Compost Project must be recognized as a necessary component to fully reach infrastructure processing capacity. The mandatory requirement and associated enforcement is necessary but not sufficient to achieve and maintain a sustained participation rate.

Appendix 1 EPA: LIST Chemicals in biosolids (2022)

(2-Butyl-4-chloro-1-{[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl]methyl}-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methanol ● (2E)-4-(Dimethylamino)-4-oxobut-2-en-2-yl dimethyl phosphate ● 2,4-Di-tert-butylphenyl 3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzoate ● 4,4'-Methylenebis(2,6-di-tert-butylphenol) ● [(2R,3R,4E,6E,9R,11R,12S,13S,14R)-12-{[3,6-Dideoxy-4-O-(2,6-dideoxy-3-C-methyl-alpha-L-ribo-hexopyranosyl)-3-(dimethylamino)-beta-D-glucopyranosyl]oxy}-2-ethyl-14-hydroxy-5,9,13-trimethyl-8,16-dioxo-1 1-(2-oxoethyl)-1-oxacyclohexadeca-4,6-dien-3-yl]methyl 6-deoxy-2,3-di-O-methyl-beta-D-allopyranoside ● (3R,4S,5S,6R,7R,9R,11R,12R,13S,14R)-6-{[(2S,3R,4S,6R)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3-hydroxy-6-methyloxan-2-yl]oxy}-14-ethyl-7,12,13-trihydroxy-4-{[(2R,4R,5S,6S)-5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-4,6-dimethyloxan-2-yl]oxy}-3, 5,7,9,11,13-hexamethyl-1-oxacyclotetradecane-2,10-dione (non-preferred name) ● 1,2,3,4,6,7,8-Heptabromooxanthrene ● 3-Hydroxyestra-1,3,5(10),7-tetraen-17-one ● 8-Chloro-1-methyl-6-phenyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine ● 2,3,3',4,5',6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3-Ethyl 5-methyl 2-[(2-aminoethoxy)methyl]-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-6-methyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate ● 2,2',3,4,4',6,6'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Tetrachloromethane ● 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9-Octachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 2,2',3,4',6'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Docosane ● 1,1'-(2,2,2-Trichloroethane-1,1-diyl)bis(4-chlorobenzene) ● Antimony ● 1,3,5-Triazine-2,4,6-triol ● Cholesta-5,24-dien-3beta-ol ● (1R,3r,5S)-3-(Diphenylmethoxy)-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane ● 2,2',4,5'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',4,5,5'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● 2,2',3,3',4,5-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,4'-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Calcium ● Silver ● 2,2',3,3',4,4',5,6,6'-Nonachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2-Dihydroacenaphthylene ● ● 4-Amino-N-(5-methyl-1,2-oxazol-3-yl)benzene-1-sulfonamide ● 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,11,11,12,12,12-Henicosafluorododecyl 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-heptadecafluorodecyl hydrogenato phosphate ● Dibutyl hydrogen phosphate ● O,O-Diethyl O-[6-methyl-2-(propan-2-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl] phosphorothioate ● 2,2'-(Ethane-1,1-diyl)bis(4,6-di-tert-butylphenol) ● 2,2',4-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',6,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● N-Phenylaniline ● 1,2,3,4,7,8,9-Heptabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 1,2,3,7,8,9-Hexachlorooxanthrene ● 2,3,3',4,4',5-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● O,O-Dimethyl S-[2-(methylamino)-2-oxoethyl] phosphorodithioate ● Sodium ● But-2-enal ● ● 2-(Diphenylmethoxy)-N,N-dimethylethan-1-amine ● 4-Nitrophenol ● Methanedithione ● 4-(Butan-2-yl)-2,6-di-tert-butylphenol ● 2,2',4,4',5,5'-Hexabromo-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 5beta-Cholestan-3alpha-ol ● 3,3',4,5,5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',4,5',6,6'-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,3-Xylene ● Benzyl 4-hydroxybenzoate ● 2,4,4',6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 4-Amino-N-(4,6-dimethylpyrimidin-2-yl)benzene-1-sulfonamide ● 2,3',4,6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,5,6,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',5,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,1'-[Ethane-1,2-diylbis(oxy)]bis(2,4,6-tribromobenzene) ● 2,2',4,4'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,7,8-Pentachlorooxanthrene ● 4,4'-(Propane-2,2-diyl)diphenol ● 1-(4-tert-Butyl-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-dinitrophenyl)ethan-1-one ● 2,3,5,6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,1'-Oxybis(pentabromobenzene) ● Silicon ●

1-Cyclopropyl-6-fluoro-4-oxo-7-(piperazin-1-yl)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ● ● Sulfur ● (9R)-6'-Methoxy-8alpha-cinchonan-9-ol ● Anthracene ● 2,2',3,4,5',6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4',6,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,4,7,8-Hexabromooxanthrene ● 4-(2,4,4-Trimethylpentan-2-yl)phenol ● 2,3,3',4',5,6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,6-Dinitro-N,N-dipropyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline ● 2,3',4,4'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Trichloro(fluoro)methane ● 5-Amino-1-[2,6-dichloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethanesulfinyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxamide ● N-(1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-Heptadecafluorooctane-1-sulfonyl)-N-methylglycine ● Bis(2-methylpropyl) hydrogen phosphate ● Tris(2-butoxyethyl) phosphate ● Mercury ● (2S,3S)-5-[2-(Dimethylamino)ethyl]-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,5-benzothiazepin-3-yl acetate ● 2,3,3',5,5',6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,7,8-Pentachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● Beryllium ● (5aR,6S,9S,9aS)-6,7,8,9,10,10-Hexachloro-1,5,5a,6,9,9a-hexahydro-3H-6,9-methano-3lambda~4~-2,4,3lambda~4~-benzodioxathiepin-3-one ● 2,4,6-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● Benzene ● 3,4-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Tris(2-methylpropyl) phosphate ● 1-(2H-1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-N-methylpropan-2-amine ● (1S,4S)-4-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-N-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-amine ● 2,2',3-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Yttrium ● 1,1,1-Trichloroethane ● 2-(2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxy)propanoic acid ● Ethenylbenzene ● Heptadecafluorononanoic acid ● 4,6-Diamino-1,3,5-triazin-2(1H)-one ● 2,2',3,4,5,5',6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,7,8-Pentabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● Propyl 4-hydroxybenzoate ● Cobalt ● 2,3,4,5,6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (4S,4aS,5aS,6S,12aS)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3,6,10,12,12a-pentahydroxy-6-methyl-1,11-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,5a,6,11,12a-octahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● 7-Chloro-1-methyl-5-phenyl-1,3-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one ● 2,2',3,4,4',5-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,4,4',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2-(4-{2-Hydroxy-3-[(propan-2-yl)amino]propoxy}phenyl)acetamide ● Magnesium ● 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene ● 2,2',3,3',5,5',6,6'-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 6-(Dimethylamino)-4,4-diphenylheptan-3-one ● Methyl (2E)-2-[(1,4-dioxo-1lambda~5~,4lambda~5~-quinoxalin-2-yl)methylidene]hydrazine-1-carboxylate ● 5-Chloro-2-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenol ● Aluminium ● Iodine ● 5-[3-(tert-Butylamino)-2-hydroxypropoxy]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,3-diol ● 2,2',3,4,4',5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,3',4,6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Thallium ● (4S,4aS,12aS)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3,10,11,12a-tetrahydroxy-6-methyl-1,12-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,12,12a-hexahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● (4S,4aS,6S,8aS)-6-[(1S)-7-Chloro-4-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2-benzofuran-1-yl]-4-(dimethylamino)-3,8a-dihydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene-2-carboxamide ● 2,2'-(Ethane-1,2-diyl)bis(5-aminobenzene-1-sulfonic acid) ● 3,3',4,5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● N,N-Dibutylnitrous amide ● 3-Chloro-4-(diethylamino)-4-oxobut-2-en-2-yl dimethyl phosphate ● 2,4-Bis(2-methylbutan-2-yl)phenol ● 2,2',3,4,4',6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Bis(1-chloropropan-2-yl) hydrogen phosphate ● Cholest-5-en-3beta-ol ● (2S)-N-Methyl-1-phenylpropan-2-amine ● Estra-1(10),2,4-triene-3,17beta-diol ● Estra-1,3,5(10),7-tetraene-3,17alpha-diol ● 2,3,4,7,8-Pentabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● (4S,4aS,5aS,6S,12aS)-7-Chloro-4-(dimethylamino)-3,6,10,12,12a-pentahydroxy-6-methyl-1,11-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,5a,6,11,12a-octahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● Methyl 3,4-dihydroxybenzoate ● rel-(1aR,2R,2aS,6R,6aR,7S,7aS)-3,4,5,6,9,9-Hexachloro-1a,2,2a,3,6,6a,7,7a-octahydro-2,7:3,6-dimethanonaphtho[2,3-b]oxirene ● 2,4-Dichloro-1-(4-nitrophenoxy)benzene ● 2,2',3,4',5,5',6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 5-(2,5-Dimethylphenoxy)-2,2-dimethylpentanoic acid ● 2,3,7,8-Tetrabromooxanthrene ● 1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-Heptadecafluorooctane-1-sulfonamide ● 2,2',3,5,5',6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Dibutyl benzene-1,2-dicarboxylate ● Hexabromobenzene ● Phenol ● 1,4-Dichlorobenzene ● 2,2',3,4',5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',4,6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',5,5'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',4,5',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,4-Dichlorophenol ● (4R,4aS,5aS,6S,12aS)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3,6,10,12,12a-pentahydroxy-6-methyl-1,11-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,5a,6,11,12a-octahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● ● Lead ● 2,3,3',5'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,4,6,7,8-Hexachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 2,2',3,3',4,5,5',6,6'-Nonachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Dipropyl hydrogen phosphate ● 2,3',6-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,5-Tetrabromo-4-(2,4,6-tribromophenoxy)benzene ● Methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate ● 1,4-Dinitrobenzene ● N~1~-{2-[({5-[(Dimethylamino)methyl]furan-2-yl}methyl)sulfanyl]ethyl}-N'~1~-methyl-2-nitroethene-1,1-diamine ● Hexacosane ● 2,2',4,4',5,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3-Methoxy-17alpha-19-norpregna-1,3,5(10)-trien-20-yn-17-ol ● Rubidium ● 4,6,6,7,8,8-Hexamethyl-1,3,4,6,7,8-hexahydroindeno[5,6-c]pyran ● Potassium ● Chrysene ● 4-Chloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',4,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,6-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Chromium ● 2,3,3',4',5,5',6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Molybdenum ● 2,2',3,4',5,5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (4R)-1-Methyl-4-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclohex-1-ene ● 1,2,3,7,8-Pentabromooxanthrene ● Phenylmethanol ● Solanid-5-en-3beta-yl 6-deoxy-alpha-L-mannopyranosyl-(1->2)-[beta-D-glucopyranosyl-(1->3)]-beta-D-galactopyranoside ● Stigmast-5-en-3beta-ol ● 2,2',3,3'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4,4',5',6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3-Chloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',5,5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3,3',4,4'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',4,5',6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',4,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4',5,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl

● 1,2,3,4,6,7,8-Heptachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 2,3,4,5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3',4',6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',4,6,6'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,6-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,3',4,4',5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2-Ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate ● ({[(2R)-1-(6-Amino-9H-purin-9-yl)propan-2-yl]oxy}methyl)phosphonic acid ● 1-Phenylpropan-2-amine ● 1,2,3,6,7,8-Hexachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● Hexadecane ● N,N-Diethyl-3-methylbenzamide ● 1,2,3,5-Tetrabromo-4-(3,4,5-tribromophenoxy)benzene ● 1-Nitrosopyrrolidine ● Methyl (1R,2R,3S,5S)-3-(benzoyloxy)-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-2-carboxylate ● Ethyl bis(4-chlorophenyl)(hydroxy)acetate ● 2,4-Dibromo-1-(4-bromophenoxy)benzene ● 2-Methylnaphthalene ● Cyanide ● Heptadecafluorooctane-1-sulfonic acid ● 2,2',4,4',5,5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',5,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Phenanthrene ● 1,1'-Biphenyl ● 2,3,4,6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1-Ethyl-7-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-1,8-naphthyridine-3-carboxylic acid ● 4,4'-Sulfanediylbis(2-tert-butyl-5-methylphenol) ● Benzene-1,4-dicarboxylic acid ● 2,3',4,4',5,5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2-(Methylsulfanyl)-1,3-benzothiazole ● 5-Amino-1-[2,6-dichloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carbonitrile ● 2,3,4,4'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2-(2,3-Dimethylanilino)benzoic acid ● 2,4-Di-tert-butylphenol ● 1,2-Dibromo-2,2-dichloroethyl dimethyl phosphate ● (4R,4aS,5aS,6S,12aS)-7-Chloro-4-(dimethylamino)-3,6,10,12,12a-pentahydroxy-6-methyl-1,11-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,5a,6,11,12a-octahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● Butan-2-one ● ● (2S,3S)-2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5-[2-(methylamino)ethyl]-4-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,5-benzothiazepin-3-yl acetate ● (1r,2r,3r,4r,5r,6r)-1,2,3,4,5,6-Hexachlorocyclohexane ● N,N-Dimethyl-1-(10H-phenothiazin-10-yl)propan-2-amine ● Cerium ● 3,4,4',5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (4R,4aS,12aS)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3,10,11,12a-tetrahydroxy-6-methyl-1,12-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,12,12a-hexahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● 2,2',3,4,6,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3',4,5'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,4'-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 4-Nonylphenol ● ● 2-[4-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)phenoxy]-2-methylpropanoic acid ● 1,1'-(2,2-Dichloroethane-1,1-diyl)bis(4-chlorobenzene) ● 4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-Undecafluorooctanoic acid ● ● 5-Amino-1-[2,6-dichloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethanesulfinyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carbonitrile ● S-{2-[(Benzenesulfonyl)amino]ethyl} O,O-dipropan-2-yl phosphorodithioate ● 5H-Dibenzo[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide ● N-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)acetamide ● Benzenethiol ● Tetraphenyl (propane-2,2-diyl)di(4,1-phenylene) bis(phosphate) ● 2,2,4,4,6,6,8,8,10,10-Decamethyl-1,3,5,7,9,2,4,6,8,10-pentoxapentasilecane ● Sulfate ● 2,3,3',4',5,5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● O-Ethyl O-(4-nitrophenyl) phenylphosphonothioate ● 2-Chloronaphthalene ● 2,3,3',6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',4,4',5,6'-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (4R,4aR,5S,5aR,6S,12aS)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3,5,6,10,12,12a-hexahydroxy-6-methyl-1,11-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,5a,6,11,12a-octahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● 2,4-Dibromo-1-(2-bromophenoxy)benzene ● Dichloromethane ● 2,2',3,3',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 5beta-Cholestan-3beta-ol ● rel-(1aR,2R,2aR,6S,6aS,7S,7aS)-3,4,5,6,9,9-Hexachloro-1a,2,2a,3,6,6a,7,7a-octahydro-2,7:3,6-dimethanonaphtho[2,3-b]oxirene ● 5-[3-(Dimethylamino)propylidene]-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d][7]annulen-10-ol ● 5-Amino-1-[2,6-dichloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carbonitrile ● 2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-5-{[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino}-2-(propan-2-yl)pentanenitrile ● Barium ● Estra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,16alpha,17beta-triol ● Bromide ● Triphenylene ● (2S,3R)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3-methyl-1,2-diphenylbutan-2-yl propanoate ● Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate ● 2,2',3,3',5,6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',5-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4',5-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● Pregn-4-ene-3,20-dione ● 3,4'-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (2,4-Dichlorophenoxy)acetic acid ● (3S,4R)-3-{[(2H-1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)oxy]methyl}-4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperidine ● Bis(2-ethylhexyl) hydrogen phosphate ● 2,2',3,4,5,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1H-Indole ● 1,2,3,4,6,7,8-Heptachlorooxanthrene ● 1,2,3,7,8,9-Hexachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 9-Fluoro-3-methyl-10-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-7-oxo-2,3-dihydro-7H-[1,4]oxazino[2,3,4-ij]quinoline-6-carboxylic acid ● 2,3,3',4,4',6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3,6-Dimethylphenanthrene ● S-(2,3-Dichloroprop-2-en-1-yl) dipropan-2-ylcarbamothioate ● ● (3R,4S,5S,6R,7R,9R,11R,12R,13S,14R)-6-{[(2S,3R,4S,6R)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3-hydroxy-6-methyloxan-2-yl]oxy}-14-ethyl-12,13-dihydroxy-4-{[(2R,4R,5S,6S)-5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-4,6-dimethyloxan-2-yl]oxy}-7-methoxy-3,5,7,9,11,13-hexamethyl-1-oxacyclotetradecane-2,10-dione (non-preferred name) ● 4,4'-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4,4',5,6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9-Octabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 2,3',4,4',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4,4',5,6,6'-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● (1R,2R,3S,5S)-3-(Benzoyloxy)-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-2-carboxylic acid ● Stigmastan-3beta-ol ● ● Diethyl hydrogen phosphate ● 2,3,3',4',5',6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Androst-4-ene-3,17-dione ● 2-Hydroxy-5-({4-[(pyridin-2-yl)sulfamoyl]phenyl}diazenyl)benzoic acid ● O,O-Dimethyl S-[(4-oxo-1,2,3-benzotriazin-3(4H)-yl)methyl] phosphorodithioate ● 5-Ethyl-8-oxo-5,8-dihydro-2H-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]quinoline-7-carboxylic acid ● 1,4-Xylene ● 2,3,3',4,4',5,6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,4,7,8-Hexabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 17alpha-19-Norpregna-1,3,5(10)-trien-20-yne-3,17-diol ● 3,5-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● 2-Methylphenol ● Vanadium ●

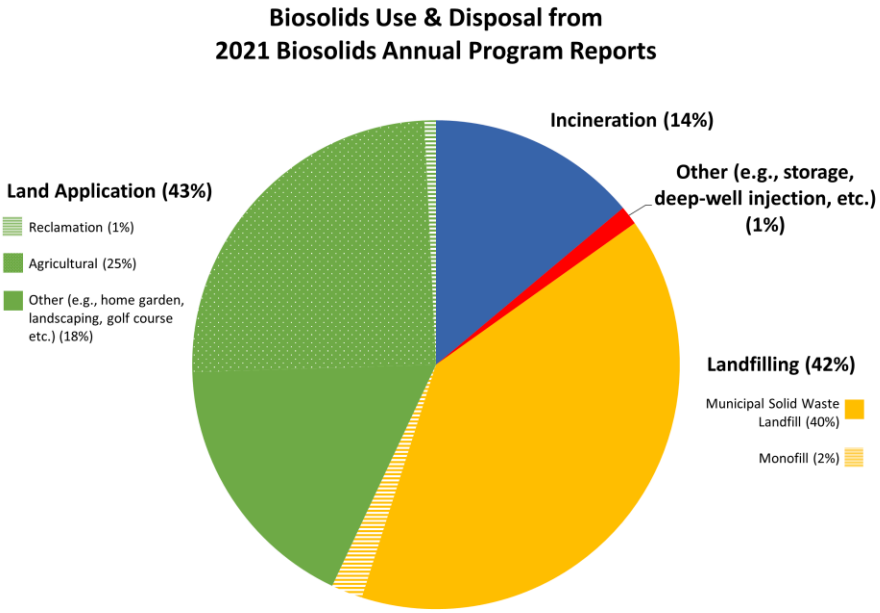
(3R,4S,5S,6R,7R,9R,11S,12R,13S,14R)-6-{[(2S,3R,4S,6R)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3-hydroxy-6-methyloxan-2-yl]oxy}-14-ethyl-7,12,13-trihydroxy-4-{[(2R,4R,5S,6S)-5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-4,6-dimethyloxan-2-yl]oxy}-10-{[(2-methoxyethoxy)methoxy]imino}-3,5,7,9,11,13-hexamethyl-1-oxacyclotetradecan-2-one (non-preferred name) ● 2,2',4,5,6'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,3'-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,6,7,8-Hexachlorooxanthrene ● 2,3,3',5',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (24R)-Ergost-5-en-3beta-ol ● ● 3,3',4,4',5,5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,4,7,8,9-Heptachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 1,2,3,4,5-Pentabromo-6-ethylbenzene ● 3-Methyl-1H-indole ● 2,2',4,6,6'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (2R,3S,4R,5R,8R,10R,11R,12S,13S,14R)-2-Ethyl-3,4,10-trihydroxy-3,5,6,8,10,12,14-heptamethyl-15-oxo-11-{[3,4,6-trideoxy-3-(dimethylamino)-beta-D-xylo-hexopyranosyl]oxy}-1-oxa-6-azacyclopentadecan-13-yl 2,6-dideoxy-3-C-methyl-3-O-methyl-alpha-L-ribo-hexopyranoside ● 2,3',4,4',5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2-[Bis(2-chloroethyl)amino]-1,3,2lambda~5~-oxazaphosphinan-2-one ● 4-Amino-N-(pyrimidin-2-yl)benzene-1-sulfonamide ● Fluoranthene ● 2,3-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1-{2-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-2-[(2,4-dichlorophenyl)methoxy]ethyl}-1H-imidazole ● 1-Methyl-4-(propan-2-yl)benzene ● ● 2,3,3',4,5,5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● 2,3,7,8-Tetrabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 2,2',3,3',4,5,6,6'-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Copper ● 2-(4-Methylcyclohex-3-en-1-yl)propan-2-ol ● 3,3',4,5'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3',4,4',5',6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 4,4',4"-(Butane-1,1,3-triyl)tris(2-tert-butyl-5-methylphenol) ● 2-(Acetyloxy)benzoic acid ● Nickel ● Decane ● Dimethyl benzene-1,2-dicarboxylate ● 2-Propylpentanoic acid ● 1,1'-(Ethane-1,2-diyl)bis(pentabromobenzene) ● Benzo[ghi]perylene ● 2,3,4',5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,4,4',5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● 1-Phenylethan-1-one ● 2,4-Dichloro-1-(4-chloro-2-methoxyphenoxy)benzene ● 2,4,4'-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2-Dichloropropane ● Dimethyl (2,2,2-trichloro-1-hydroxyethyl)phosphonate ● Boron ● 6-Amino-1,3,5-triazine-2,4(1H,3H)-dione ● 2-Methylpyridine ● (3R,5R)-7-[2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-phenyl-4-(phenylcarbamoyl)-5-(propan-2-yl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl]-3,5-dihydroxyheptanoic acid ● 2,5-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 4-Methylphenol ● (1R,2R,3R,4R,5S,6S)-1,2,3,4,5,6-Hexachlorocyclohexane ● 2-[(2-Chlorophenyl)methyl]-4,4-dimethyl-1,2-oxazolidin-3-one ● 1,4,5,6,7,8,8-Heptachloro-3a,4,7,7a-tetrahydro-1H-4,7-methanoindene ● Trichloromethane ● Heptafluorobutanoic acid ● Butyl 4-hydroxybenzoate ● 2-(3-Benzoylphenyl)propanoic acid ● 2,3,3',4-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',4,5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 4-Chloro-3-methylphenol ● Fluoride ● 1,3,7-Trimethyl-3,7-dihydro-1H-purine-2,6-dione ● 2,3,3',4',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,3,5-Triazine-2,4,6-triamine ● (1aS,1bR,2R,5R,5aS,6R,6aS)-2,3,4,5,6,7,7-Heptachloro-1b,2,5,5a,6,6a-hexahydro-1aH-2,5-methanoindeno[1,2-b]oxirene ● 2,3,3',4',5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3',4',5,5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Tricosafluorododecanoic acid ● 9,10-Dimethoxy-5,6-dihydro-2H-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]isoquinolino[3,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium ● 2,2',3,4,5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (2S,5R,6R)-6-{[(2R)-2-Amino-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetyl]amino}-3,3-dimethyl-7-oxo-4-thia-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane-2-carboxylic acid ● Triphenyl phosphate ● N,N-Diethylnitrous amide ● Pentadecafluorooctanoic acid ● 3-Chloroprop-1-ene ● N,N-Dimethylnitrous amide ● 4,4'-(Propane-2,2-diyl)bis(2,6-dibromophenol) ● 1,2-Dibromo-4-(2,4-dibromophenoxy)benzene ● 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-Heptadecafluorodecane-1-sulfonic acid ● 3,3',5,5'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1-tert-Butyl-3,5-dimethyl-2,4,6-trinitrobenzene ● 1,3,5-Trichlorobenzene ● 2,2',3,3',4,6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3-Methoxy-17-methyl-5alpha-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxymorphinan-6alpha-ol ● (4S,4aR,5S,5aR,6R,12aS)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3,5,10,12,12a-pentahydroxy-6-methyl-1,11-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,5a,6,11,12a-octahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● 1,1'-Oxybis(2,3,4,6-tetrabromobenzene) ● 1-[(2-Chlorophenyl)(diphenyl)methyl]-1H-imidazole ● 2,2',3,4,4',5,6'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,3',4'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● N,N-Dipropylnitrous amide ● 3alpha-Hydroxy-5alpha-androstan-17-one ● Icosane ● 2,2',3,4,6'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4',5,6,6'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● [(Ethane-1,2-diyl)bis(oxy)ethane-2,1-diyl] bis[3-(3-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)propanoate] ● 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,13,13,14,14-Dodecachloro-1,4,4a,5,6,6a,7,10,10a,11,12,12a-dodecahydro-1,4:7,10-dimethanodibenzo[a,e][8]annulene ● 2,2',3,4,5-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,6,7,8-Hexabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● Tris(1,3-dichloropropan-2-yl) phosphate ● 2,2',3,5',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',4,5,6'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,3,5-Tribromo-2-(2,4-dibromophenoxy)benzene ● 2,2',3,4,4',5,5'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Diphenyl hydrogen phosphate ● 2,2',3,4',5,6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Propan-2-one ● 2-{4-[2-(4-Chlorobenzamido)ethyl]phenoxy}-2-methylpropanoic acid ● 2,3,5-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3',5'-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',5-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 17beta-Hydroxyestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3-yl benzoate ● 3,3',5-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Hentriacontafluorohexadecanoic acid ● 2,2',6,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● N'-(4-Chlorophenyl)-N,N-dimethylurea ● 2,2',3,4,5,6,6'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d][7]annulen-5-ylidene)-N,N-dimethylpropan-1-amine ● 2,3,4-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2-Dichlorobenzene ● (2S)-2-(6-Methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)propanoic acid ● 3,3',4,4',5-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3-Hydroxyestra-1(10),2,4,6,8-pentaen-17-one ● Zinc ● 1,2,3,5-Tetrabromo-4-(2,4,5-tribromophenoxy)benzene ● 2,2',3,4,4'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Dibenzo[b,d]furan ● 1,1'-Oxybis(2,4-dibromobenzene) ● Hexan-2-one ● ● 3-Hydroxyestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-17-one ● 2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-5-{[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl](methyl)amino}-2-(propan-2-yl)pentanenitrile ●

Tris(1-chloropropan-2-yl) phosphate ● Caesium ● 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorooxanthrene ● 2,2',3,6,6'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Benzoic acid ● N-Pentanoyl-N-{[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl]methyl}-L-valine ● 2,4',6-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Henicosafluoroundecanoic acid ● 2,3',4-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',4,4',6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 4-Amino-N-(6-chloropyridazin-3-yl)benzene-1-sulfonamide ● 2,3',4,5,5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Benzo[e]acephenanthrylene ● Tetraphenyl 1,3-phenylene bis(phosphate) ● 2,2',3,3',4,5,6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Iron ● Hexanoic acid ● 1,1'-Oxybis(2,4,5-tribromobenzene) ● Tetraphene ● 4-Hydroxybenzoic acid ● 2,2',3,3',4,5,5',6'-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Triethyl phosphate ● 2,4,5-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',5,5',6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,3',4,4'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 4-Amino-N-(4-methylpyrimidin-2-yl)benzene-1-sulfonamide ● 1-Methylphenanthrene ● 2-Hydroxybenzoic acid ● 4-[2-(tert-Butylamino)-1-hydroxyethyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenol ● 2,2'-Bioxirane ● Titaniumato ● 2,6-Di-tert-butylphenol ● 2,3,4',6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (Methanesulfonyl)methane ● 2-(1,3-Thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazole ● Trimethyl phosphate ● Perylene ● 2-Chloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (1R,2S,3r,4R,5S,6s)-1,2,3,4,5,6-Hexachlorocyclohexane ● ● Benzo[pqr]tetraphene ● 2,3',5,5'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 5-[(4,5-Dimethoxy-2-methylphenyl)methyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine ● Tin ● Heptacosafluorotetradecanoic acid ● Bis(2-ethylhexyl) benzene-1,2-dicarboxylate ● O,O-Dimethyl O-[3-methyl-4-(methylsulfanyl)phenyl] phosphorothioate ● Ethyl 4-hydroxybenzoate ● 2,2',4,4',6,6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Nonafluoropentanoic acid ● 2,2',3,3',4,4',5,6-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Dioctyl benzene-1,2-dicarboxylate ● 2-Benzyl-4-chlorophenol ● Manganese ● 2,3,4,7,8-Pentachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 5-Chloro-N-(2-{4-[(cyclohexylcarbamoyl)sulfamoyl]phenyl}ethyl)-2-methoxybenzamide ● 1,2,3,7,8,9-Hexabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● ● N-Methyl-3-phenyl-3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy]propan-1-amine ● Estra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17alpha-diol ● 2,2',3,3',4,5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (5aR,6S,9R,9aS)-6,7,8,9,10,10-Hexachloro-1,5,5a,6,9,9a-hexahydro-3H-6,9-methano-3lambda~4~-2,4,3lambda~4~-benzodioxathiepin-3-one ● 2,3,3',4,5,6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Arsenic ● 2,5-Di-tert-butylphenol ● 1,3-Dichlorobenzene ● N,N-Dimethyltriimidodicarbonic diamide ● 2,2-Bis(chloromethyl)propane-1,3-diyl tetrakis(2-chloroethyl) bis(phosphate) ● 2,2',3,3',4,4',5,5'-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,3',4,5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1-[4-(2-Methoxyethyl)phenoxy]-3-[(propan-2-yl)amino]propan-2-ol ● Benzo[k]fluoranthene ● (4S,4aS,5aS,6S,12aS)-7-Chloro-4-(dimethylamino)-3,6,10,12,12a-pentahydroxy-1,11-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,5a,6,11,12a-octahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● Bis(2-butoxyethyl) hydrogen phosphate ● 1,3,5-Tribromo-2-(2,4,5-tribromophenoxy)benzene ● Methyl 7-chloro-6,7,8-trideoxy-6-{[(4R)-1-methyl-4-propyl-L-prolyl]amino}-1-thio-L-threo-alpha-D-galacto-octopyranoside ● N''-Cyano-N-methyl-N'-(2-{[(5-methyl-1H-imidazol-4-yl)methyl]sulfanyl}ethyl)guanidine ● 2,2',3,3',4,4',6,6'-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,4,5-Pentabromo-6-(2,3,4,6-tetrabromophenoxy)benzene ● Pentachlorophenol ● Naphthalene ● Dodecane ● ● Toluene ● ● 1-(3,5,5,6,8,8-Hexamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-yl)ethan-1-one ● 3,3',4-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Tetradecane ● 2,2',3,3',4,5,5',6-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,3',4,4',5,5'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Chlorobenzene ● (4S,4aS,5aR,12aS)-4,7-Bis(dimethylamino)-3,10,12,12a-tetrahydroxy-1,11-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,5a,6,11,12a-octahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● 2,2',3,3',4,4',5-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,5,5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (3aR,7aS)-2-[(Trichloromethyl)sulfanyl]-3a,4,7,7a-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione ● Tris(2-ethylhexyl) phosphate ● N-Phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide ● 1,2,3,4,5-Pentabromo-6-(2,3,4,5-tetrabromophenoxy)benzene ● 2,3,3',5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Pyrene ● N,N-Diphenylnitrous amide ● 6-Fluoro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-7-(piperazin-1-yl)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ● 3,4',5-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,4,7,8-Hexachlorodibenzo[b,d]furan ● (1R,2S,3r,4R,5S,6r)-1,2,3,4,5,6-Hexachlorocyclohexane ● 2-Methylpropan-1-ol ● 2,2'-Methylenebis(4-chlorophenol) ● 2,4,6-Tri-tert-butylphenol ● (22E)-Ergosta-5,7,22-trien-3beta-ol ● 2-[4-(2-Methylpropyl)phenyl]propanoic acid ● (2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxy)acetic acid ● 2,3',4'-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Bis(3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-heptadecafluorodecyl) hydrogen phosphate ● 2,4,5-Trichlorophenol ● 2,3',4,5',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3',5',6-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Chloroethane ● 2,3'-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3,4-Dihydroxybenzoic acid ● 2,3',4',5',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Henicosafluorodecane-1-sulfonic acid ● 1-Cyclopropyl-7-(4-ethylpiperazin-1-yl)-6-fluoro-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ● 4-Amino-N-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)benzene-1-sulfonamide ● O-(4-Bromo-2,5-dichlorophenyl) O-methyl phenylphosphonothioate ● Propanenitrile ● 17-Methylmorphinan-3-ol ● 2,3,4,6,7,8-Hexabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 1,7-Dimethyl-3,7-dihydro-1H-purine-2,6-dione ● 2,2',4,5,5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● (1S,4R,4aR,5aS,6R,9S,9aR,9bS)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10,10,11,11-Dodecachloro-1,4,4a,5a,6,9,9a,9b-octahydro-1,4:6,9-dimethanodibenzo[b,d]furan ● (4S,4aS,12aS)-7-Chloro-4-(dimethylamino)-3,10,11,12a-tetrahydroxy-6-methyl-1,12-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,12,12a-hexahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● Trimethylsilanol ● 1,2,3,7,8,9-Hexabromooxanthrene ● Nonadecafluorodecanoic acid ● 5alpha-Cholestan-3beta-ol ● 2,2'-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Octacosane ● Methyl 6,8-dideoxy-6-{[(4R)-1-methyl-4-propyl-L-prolyl]amino}-1-thio-D-erythro-alpha-D-galacto-octopyranoside ● 3-(Dibenzo[b,e]oxepin-11(6H)-ylidene)-N,N-dimethylpropan-1-amine ● Triacontane ● Tris(2-methylphenyl) phosphate ●

4-Amino-N-(2,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-4-yl)benzene-1-sulfonamide ● Octadecane ● Octabromooxanthrene ● 2,2',3,4,5,5'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (5S)-1-Methyl-5-(pyridin-3-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one ● [2-(2,6-Dichloroanilino)phenyl]acetic acid ● 2-[{4-[(7-Chloroquinolin-4-yl)amino]pentyl}(ethyl)amino]ethan-1-ol ● 3,4,4'-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1-Nitrosopiperidine ● 2-Methyl-1,3-dinitrobenzene ● 2,2',3,4',5,6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 3beta-{[2,6-Dideoxy-beta-D-ribo-hexopyranosyl-(1->4)-2,6-dideoxy-beta-D-ribo-hexopyranosyl-(1->4)-2,6-dideoxy-beta-D-ribo-hexopyranosyl]oxy}-12beta,14-dihydroxy-5beta-card-20(22)-enolide ● 9H-Thioxanthen-9-one ● 3-Hydroxy-17-methyl-5alpha-4,5-epoxymorphinan-6-one ● Tetracosane ● ● 3-Phenyl-3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy]propan-1-amine ● O,O-Diethyl O-(3,5,6-trichloropyridin-2-yl) phosphorothioate ● Tetraethyl diphosphate ● 5-[(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)methyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine ● ● 2,3,3',5,5'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (22E)-Stigmasta-5,22-dien-3beta-ol ● Octachlorooxanthrene ● 2,2',3,4,4',5,5',6-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● N,N'-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)urea ● 2,2',3,3',4,4',5,5',6-Nonachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 4-Aminobenzene-1-sulfonamide ● Tridecafluoroheptanoic acid ● 2-(4-Chlorophenoxy)-2-methylpropanoic acid ● Bis(2-methylphenyl) hydrogen phosphate ● 2,2',4,4',5-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● N-(4-Chlorophenyl)-N'-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)urea ● 1,1'-(2,2-Dichloroethene-1,1-diyl)bis(4-chlorobenzene) ● 2-Methylprop-2-enenitrile ● 1,2,4-Tribromo-5-(2,4-dibromophenoxy)benzene ● Nitrobenzene ● Tributyl phosphate ● (E)-1,2-Dichloroethene ● 2,2',3,3',4,4'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1-[(Naphthalen-1-yl)oxy]-3-[(propan-2-yl)amino]propan-2-ol ● 2,3,3',4,4',5',6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● N-Ethyl-N-(1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-heptadecafluorooctane-1-sulfonyl)glycine ● 1-Phenylethyl (2E)-3-[(dimethoxyphosphoryl)oxy]but-2-enoate ● 2,2',3,5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,3',5,6,6'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,4-Tetrabromo-5-(2,3,4,6-tetrabromophenoxy)benzene ● Selenium ● 2-Chloro[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ol ● 1,1,2-Trichloroethene ● Nonafluorobutane-1-sulfonic acid ● 1,2,3,4,6,7,8-Heptabromodibenzo[b,d]furan ● 1-Ethyl-6,8-difluoro-7-(3-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ● (2S,5R,6R)-6-{[(2R)-2-Amino-2-phenylacetyl]amino}-3,3-dimethyl-7-oxo-4-thia-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane-2-carboxylic acid ● 2,2',3,3',4,5',6'-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 4-Chloro-2-{[(furan-2-yl)methyl]amino}-5-sulfamoylbenzoic acid ● 2,3,4,4',5,6-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Tripropyl phosphate ● 3,3'-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2-Xylene ● 4-Methylpentan-2-one ● Undecafluorohexanoic acid ● Strontium ● 2,2',4,4',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 5-Amino-2-hydroxybenzoic acid ● 1,2,3-Tribromo-4-(2,4,5-tribromophenoxy)benzene ● 2,3,3',4',5-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,2,3,4,7,8-Hexachlorooxanthrene ● 2,3,3',4,5,5',6-Heptachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-Heptadecafluorodecyl 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl hydrogen phosphate ● 2,4',5-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● Dibenzo[b,d]thiophene ● 2,6,10,15,19,23-Hexamethyltetracosa-2,6,10,14,18,22-hexaene ● 2,3',5-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Bis(1,3-dichloropropan-2-yl) hydrogen phosphate ● 2,3,4,4',5-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3,3',4,4',5,5',6-Octachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● ● 2,3',4',5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 6-Phenylpteridine-2,4,7-triamine ● 1,2,3,6,7,8-Hexabromooxanthrene ● (1R,4S,4aS,5S,8R,8aR)-1,2,3,4,10,10-Hexachloro-1,4,4a,5,8,8a-hexahydro-1,4:5,8-dimethanonaphthalene ● 14-Hydroxy-3-methoxy-17-methyl-5alpha-4,5-epoxymorphinan-6-one ● 2,4,5-Trimethylaniline ● 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-Tridecafluorooctane-1-sulfonic acid ● Tetrachloroethene ● ● Benzyl butyl benzene-1,2-dicarboxylate ● Ethylbenzene ● 4-(Dimethylamino)-1,5-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1,2-dihydro-3H-pyrazol-3-one ● Bis(3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl) hydrogen phosphate ● Chloromethane ● Tris(4-tert-butylphenyl) phosphate ● 2,2',3,4,6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3',4',5'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,5-Dimethyl-2-phenyl-1,2-dihydro-3H-pyrazol-3-one ● 1,2,3-Tribromo-4-(2,4-dibromophenoxy)benzene ● Dimethyl 2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)pyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate ● ● 1,4-Dioxane ● 4-Chloroaniline ● 2,3,4',5,6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,4,4',6'-Hexachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,5,6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',6-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,4-Dichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 5-Amino-1-[2,6-dichloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfanyl]-1H-pyrazole-3-carbonitrile ● 17beta-Hydroxyandrost-4-en-3-one ● 3-Methoxy-17-methyl-5alpha-4,5-epoxymorphinan-6-one ● 3,4,5-Trichloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (4S,4aR,5S,5aR,6S,12aS)-4-(Dimethylamino)-3,5,6,10,12,12a-hexahydroxy-6-methyl-1,11-dioxo-1,4,4a,5,5a,6,11,12a-octahydrotetracene-2-carboxamide ● 2,2',3,5'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 1,1'-Oxydibenzene ● 1,2,3,4,5-Pentachloro-6-nitrobenzene ● 2,2',3,3',4,4',5,5',6,6'-Decachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,2',3,5,6'-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● Tridecafluorohexane-1-sulfonic acid ● 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene ● [1-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl]acetic acid ● Prop-2-en-1-ol ● 2,2',3,4',6-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● 2,3',4,5-Tetrachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● (2S,5R,6R)-3,3-Dimethyl-7-oxo-6-(2-phenoxyacetamido)-4-thia-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane-2-carboxylic acid ● 17-Hydroxy-17alpha-19-norpregn-4-en-20-yn-3-one ● 2,2',3,3',4-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● rel-(1R,3aS,3bR,9aR,9bS,11aS)-11a-Ethyl-1-ethynyl-1-hydroxy-1,2,3,3a,3b,4,5,8,9,9a,9b,10,11,11a-tetradecahydro-7H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-7-one (non-preferred name) ● Pentacosafluorotridecanoic acid ● Methyl

3-[(dimethoxyphosphoryl)oxy]but-2-enoate ● 2,3',4,4',5-Pentachloro-1,1'-biphenyl ● S-{[(4-Chlorophenyl)sulfanyl]methyl} O,O-diethyl phosphorodithioate ● 1-Ethyl-6-fluoro-4-oxo-7-(piperazin-1-yl)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ● 2,6-Di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol ● (2S,5R,6R)-6-{[3-(2-Chloro-6-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-1,2-oxazole-4-carbonyl]amino}-3,3-dimethyl-7-oxo-4-thia-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane-2-carboxylic acid ●

Appendix 2 - [EPA Biosolids Pie Chart]



"Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management"

Dear City Council,

Please restore funding to a citywide program of composting food waste.

We are in a dire environmental emergency. The global temperature of the Earth Is increasing and the poles are melting at an accelerated pace. Species in the ocean and on land are disappearing.

When food rots in landfills it produces methane gas. Methane is a greenhouse gas and it adds to the heating of our planet.

We all have to do our part to protect the next generation.

Sincerely
Marcia Annenberg
[redacted]
NYC 10040

[redacted]
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Tuesday 27 February 2024

New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear New York City Council Members:

As a resident of Jackson Heights, Queens, I am writing to urge you to restore full funding for Community Composting in New York City.

Community Composting is a small part of the city's budget that pays large dividends in reducing the quantity of greenhouse gases that we put into the atmosphere. Because of the way organic waste decomposes in the composting process, it improves carbon sequestration in the soil and by prevents methane emissions.

Beyond the environmental benefits, Community Composting is something that brings people together. Every week at the Jackson Heights Green Market, neighbors bring our kitchen scraps to the compost bins as a community endeavor. Our kids see what we are doing and learn how small, everyday actions can add up to larger environmental benefits when we commit to them as a community.

I strongly urge you to support our neighborhood efforts by providing full funding to New York City Composting. Only you have the power to do this. We are looking to you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Samu

Dear City Council,

I am a concerned citizen who wants to live in a sustainable New York City and I understand that community composting has been cut.

The New York City Compost Project and GrowNYC serve millions of New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs, providing food scrap collections, organics processing, composting outreach and community education. I petition you today to save these programs in light of announced budget cuts.
Community composting organizations, including GrowNYC, Big Reuse, LES Ecology Center, Earth Matter NY, New York Botanical Garden, Queens Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden collectively:
• Divert more than 8.3 million pounds of organic waste from landfills each year.
• Produce and distribute hundreds of thousands of pounds of compost to over 325 community groups, parks, 85 street tree care events, and thousands of individuals each year.
• Engage over 1,000 yearly participants in Master Composter activities through food, farming, and composting opportunities across the city.
• Provide compost outreach and education to over 600,000 New Yorkers annually, making them aware of food waste's contributions to the climate crisis while providing the opportunity to address this critical issue.
• Operate 6 community composting sites - providing the most sustainable and equitable form of organics waste management.
Cutting community composting and outreach programs will result in the elimination of these invaluable services and the loss of over 115 green jobs.
Community composting programs transform New Yorkers' waste into valuable resources, providing essential soil for our parks, gardens, and playgrounds. These programs serve as a crucial tool in combating climate change. Furthermore, given the anticipated delays in the expansion of the Curbside Composting program, the success of such an initiative in New York City hinges on a robust outreach and community composting network to educate and engage residents.
I urge the Mayor and City Council to halt these massive cuts and to guarantee full funding to these programs for the future. These cost-effective programs contribute to a more liveable city with fewer rats, cleaner streets, and healthier soils, while cutting waste destined for landfills or incinerators.

Sincerely,
Maria Fernandez
Astoria, NY

Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management,

I have been composting my entire life as one of the few things I lovingly do to give back to the environment and nature, specially when not separating organic waste is such a waste.

Please restoration of city funding for community composting to support all the hard work of people who have been doing their part pound by pound of their household food scraps. This is key for sustainable and resilient cities of the future.

Marilynn Holguin

Good morning, Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Marisa DeDominicis, I am a co founder and ED of Earth Matter NY Inc. a compost facility located on Governors Island

I will make this short. Unfortunately, it's not sweet.

We request the City Council include $7m in the FY 25 budget to restore community composting funding.

Why? Since 1994, DSNY has invested in the 8 community composting groups that have successfully put composting on the NYC map. Our work is a major reason why new yorkers advocated for municipal composting.

I am thrilled that there is mandatory municipal composting. I commend the City Council and the Mayor for passing this milestone.

The success and continuance of the city's investment needs to include and expand the work of community composters. There is a continued need for our education and processing of compost in order for our food scrap diversion rates to increase from its current, below the DiBlasio administration's diversion levels.

Earth Matter's Compost Learning Center is a place New Yorkers come to, and see their food scraps that they dropped off at their local farmer market, or on Governors Island being transformed into compost, right before their very eyes.

Last year we processed 750 tons of organics and distributed 200 tons of compost to public open green spaces. New Yorker can better understand, and be motivated to participate in composting when they see and believe their scraps are being composted..

The small amount of the FY 25 budget needed to support earth matter and our 7 sister organizations' compost work assists the city's efforts exponentially.

In addition to restoration of our budget and support of the compost related bills before you, I request your support of the Preconsidered Bill, formerly Int 1100-2023" which would provide for large parks to compost.

City Council members, please make the FY 25 budget sweeter by supporting and increasing investment in NYC compost related green jobs, helping make our soils healthier, our grass greener, and reduce the amount of our food scraps currently exported, to be incinerated or landfilled, which we all know despoils our soil, air and water.

Thank you for this opportunity, Marisa

As a parent and a doctor of public health, I am extremely concerned about climate change and want to protect my child and future generations from even worse climate upheaval. Methane emissions from rotting food are an important contributor to overall greenhouse gas emissions. Effective composing ensures that decomposing food acts as a carbon sink, rather than as a carbon emitter.

Unfortunately, due to short term thinking, funding for community composting has been cut. It may be that the Mayor and others feel that methane emissions from food are a drop in a big bucket, and that money is tight. If we don't address the drops in the bucket, we are doomed. No source is big enough on its own; we know what needs to be done to slow climate change. We have to do it. Community composting will make a difference in carbon emissions; it will make soil where the composting goes more productive; it will foster a sense of community; and it will drive participants to think about other things they can do to stop climate change.

Marta Schaaf

Honorable Council Members,

Since it's inception the NYC Compost Project has diverted tons of waste from landfills and turned that waste into a useful, climate friendly product - compost!
That compost helps nurture and sustain the city's many community gardens and other sites, keeping them healthy and blooming for all to enjoy.
The project also provides jobs for those interested in entering the field of sustainable waste practices.

One of the key elements to having a successful outcome in such a project is consistency - getting people into the habit of separating food scraps, bringing them to their community garden or drop-off site at a Greenmarket, or using the bins provided by the city.

It takes some time and effort to get used to doing it, but once it becomes part of your household routine, you realize how easy it is and how much less trash you are throwing into the waste stream.
And the added bonus of getting back compost is a great incentive.

To break that momentum now would undo all the good work of the previous years, not to mention putting more food waste garbage on the streets, where we are already battling a serious rodent problem.

We are at a critical time, if we want to survive on this planet, we have to keep making changes to how we consume and get rid of our waste - I urge you to keep the NYC Compost Project funded!

Respectfully,
Mary Feaster
Staten Island, NY

Monday, February 26, 2024

Written comment to City Council and DSNY re: hearing on NYC's infrastructure for handling and processing organic waste

I am writing to encourage the restoration of city funding for community composting. Compared to the relatively low cost of this program, composting provides an outsize benefit to the city and the environment. Besides benefitting the soil, compost programs also provide important educational opportunities to get New Yorkers thinking about our role in the ecosystem and how a more holistic view on waste management can help build a more sustainable future for the city and the planet.

Thank you,
Max Gudmunson

Testimony for NYC Council Hearing
On Sanitation + Solid Waste Management
Tu 2-27 @ 10 am

Honored Council,

I want to please with you to introduce composting throughout NYC.
My private composting has reduced my waste by over 50%.

My reasonings

- composting can reduced household waste by over 50%.

- Returning vegetable waste to become soil is an easy, low-cost contribution to reducing our CO2 footprint.

- Bio bins make it easier to keep streets rodent-free. Rats do eat through plastic bags, not through solid plastic bins.

My requests:

- different size bio-waste bins – for different household sizes.
- Any other refuse can go to bio-fuel – and I hope the City can explain what the energy savings/cost is of this process.

Thank you for your consideration and your work for NYC,

Mechthild Schmjdt Feist
(Manhattan East 20-ies)

TO: Councilman Abreu, Committee On Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
FROM: Melissa Chow

Written testimony for community composting

Feb 28, 2024

Dear Councilman Abreu,

I am a resident of Manhattan, District 3. For well over a decade, I have been collecting my food scraps in my freezer and making weekly trips to Union Square to drop them off at the community compost collection point. I was thrilled when the program expanded and if I was able to time it right, drop it off at either Madison Square Park or on 8th and 23rd, so I didn't have to walk as far with 5 lbs of frozen compost on my shoulders.

While I am also grateful to now have the drop off bins on various street corners of my neighborhood, I do not wish for these to replace the programs run by Grow NYC, Big Reuse and other groups. These community programs provide a valuable service of actually creating compost from the waste, whereas the waste that is collected in the DSNY bins will go to Newtown Creek for processing, and while it's better than the other alternative of it going to landfill it should be entirely possible to have both programs.

I believe the more options we are able to provide residents to make it easier for them to develop the habit of composting, the more likely they are to adopt it. We need these programs to help reduce the amount of waste we send to landfills out of state, and to help make the city a more sustainable place to live. Please restore the budgets for community composting.

Thank you very much for your time and dedication to our city.

Sincerely,

Melissa Chow

TO: Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
RE: Organic Waste & Community Composting

I had no idea how much organic waste I actually *wasted* -- until I began composting my banana peels, old lettuces, and apple cores at the Union Square Farmers Market some 30 years ago. And it has changed my life. It makes an enormous difference to drop it off each week at the market – where it can be processed into compost and soil that I buy there and use for my plants – making a circle of goodness. Even the plastic bags I use to collect my organic waste in can be dropped off, to be recycled, as well.

Community composting is something low-maintenance to continue. In a world of ever-growing pollution, and especially, in a city of millions of people, “recycling” organic waste is one relatively small thing that many people can participate in, that has enormous wonderful repercussions. It’s a no-brainer. So much money is wasted on things that perish or pollute. I urge you to continue to process organic waste to make our city – and the world, a better place.

Yours,

Melissa Eagan

Testimony in support of Organic Waste

Submitted by: Melissa Moschitto

It is critical that we maintain - and *expand*! - organic waste recycling in New York City. There are numerous benefits to organic waste recycling. Diverting food waste away from landfills helps to mitigate methane emission and allows us to use this waste for other beneficial purposes. It also helps to keep rodents at bay. As a city, we need to be progressive and forward-thinking, not regressive. Please support and expand organic waste in our city! We should be at the forefront of environmentally beneficial practices.

February 26, 2024

Dear Council Members:

Re: Feb 27 @ 10AM “Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management”

I will start with a simple ask.

“My grandson needs a cleaner, cooler, greener planet! Please help that happen!”

Composting organic waste can reduce more than 50% of the greenhouse gas emissions that are produced when this waste is dumped in a landfill. It is also one of the least expensive ways to help reduce global warming.

Composting also a community builder! In over 2 years of actively bringing my organic waste to bins in the drop off site near me, I have seen many residence of my neighborhood show up, with everything from small bags to large containers hauled in shopping carts, often waiting in line to fill up large bins.

Please ensure that the city continues to fund this vitally important initiative that will attend to everyone’s needs!

Michael Raab
[redacted]
New York, N.Y. 10003
mcr@corcoran.com
[redacted]

To whom it may concern,

Compost programs are invaluable to NYC communities in a time where sustainability is so important. We know that brown bins do not create true, useable compost, nor do the app-based curbside receptacles. The opportunity to compost your organic scraps and receive rich soil to nourish our parks and houseplants in return is a true blessing.

And when people are given the choice to compost, they use it. My local farmer's market in Greenpoint, BK had a weekend compost program that was very popular. When funding was taken away, a local store offered a once-a-week drop-off but was inundated with too many scraps for one bin. The pilot program ended because it was literally crushed under the weight of the people that needed it.

Now the closest program is a park in Williamsburg much farther away, but the rise in traffic to the scrap bin since the closure of Greenpoint's has been clear. It's obvious, the program was and is successful, and if you give people the opportunity to do good they will. We cannot rely on philanthropy to let this program hang on by a thread when it can be saved by the city.

Thank you for your time,

Morgan Sobel

Community Composting is very important to me. It provides a huge range of benefits for communities and the natural environment. I hope you'll do everything in your power to restore it.

Nathaniel Elijah Sivin

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
462 36th Street, 3F, Brooklyn, NY 11232 | www.NYC-EJA.org
On the ground — and at the table.

Testimony on the City's Infrastructure to Handle and Process Organic Waste Pursuant to Int. No. 55- Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
New York City Council
February 27, 2024

Founded in 1991, the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 citywide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA empowers its member organizations to advocate for improved environmental conditions and against inequitable environmental burdens by the coordination of campaigns designed to inform City and State policies. Through our efforts, member organizations coalesce around specific common issues that threaten the ability of low-income communities of color to thrive. NYC-EJA is led by the community-based organizations that it serves. NYC-EJA is also a founding member of Transform Don't Trash (TDT), a longstanding coalition of environmental justice, labor, and climate organizations working to transform New York City's sprawling solid waste management systems to be far more equitable, efficient, sustainable, and safe for workers and the communities most affected by solid waste infrastructure.

In New York City, over 24,000 tons of garbage are produced daily, generating massive transportation and pollution impacts to and from privately owned and operated waste transfer stations along the waterfront. The current solid waste system is an ongoing environmental injustice, in which 75% of the City's waste is still trucked in and out of a handful of low-income communities and communities of color. The vast majority of this garbage generated by businesses and buildings citywide passes through communities with some of the highest rates of asthma such as North Brooklyn, the South Bronx, and Southeast Queens. Despite laws intended to change this, these communities of color continue to deal with far more than their fair share of heavy truck traffic, safety hazards, pollution, noise, and odor that other neighborhoods are spared. For this reason, **NYC-EJA is here to express our strong support of Intro 055 of 2024**, which would require DSNY to begin using municipal marine transfer stations to accept commercial waste. Passage of this legislation would hasten the long overdue transition of NYC's waste export system from a polluting truck-based one to a water barge-based system, where one barge can replace the capacity of 48 eighteen wheel tractor trailer "long haul" trucks from spewing pollutants into these communities.

While the total amount of waste handled at private transfer stations in NYC has decreased approximately 17% since the implementation of Local Law 152 of 2018 (the "Waste Equity Law"), newly released data from the Department of Sanitation shows that the system remains

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
462 36th Street, 3F, Brooklyn, NY 11232 | www.NYC-EJA.org
On the ground — and at the table.

grossly unfair and unequal. Just four community districts still handle 75% of all NYC's private waste. Additionally, private waste transfer stations are more likely to be sited in communities with a higher percentage of people of color living below the poverty line and bring with them truck traffic, noise, and health-harming emissions according to NYC Comptroller's recently released audit report on the City's Fair Share compliance. While there are 24 waste facilities crammed into these overburdened community districts, a total of 45 other districts have no waste facilities at all.

Reducing emissions and pollutants from trash removal operations is necessary for the climate and health of all New Yorkers. City government can lead the way in spearheading environmental protection, by going deeper than providing surface-level programmatic design without thorough implementation efforts. Mayor Adams and the City Council should take immediate steps to relieve these communities of excessive truck traffic, pollution, and odors, while reducing the miles that are driven by dangerous and polluting waste trucks e on New York City Streets. We call on the Mayor and City Council to Pass Intro 055 of 2024, which would require the City to begin accepting commercial waste at publicly-owned Marine Transfer Stations, thereby significantly reducing the number of dirty, dangerous diesel garbage trucks spewing co-pollutants into already overburdened neighborhoods. Environmental justice communities have long advocated for this step, which is required by the Solid Waste Management Plan passed by the City almost 20 years ago but has still not been implemented by DSNY.

The fight for waste equity, cleaner air, healthier and safer communities continues as we work to ensure not only that the City handles its trash and siting of waste transfer stations more equitably, but also reduces its greenhouse and co-pollutant emissions by transitioning to greener, alternative modes of solid waste management. NYC-EJA alongside TDT looks forward to continued engagement with the Committee on Sanitation, and Council Members representing impacted communities to ensure that we continue to make rapid progress toward a more sustainable and just future.

I am a committed composter and have been participating in community composting since collection began at the Union Square Greenmarket. I compost for the health of our planet, to reduce waste in landfills and to return nutrients to the earth. I am continually amazed by the commitment, knowledge and persistence of the people who have coordinated, fostered and introduced community composting to New Yorkers. When citywide composting was first introduced, I was excited, believing that DSNY was building on the years of composting wisdom that had been had gained through the work of the Lower East Side Ecology Center, GrowNYC, our various Botanic Gardens and others. I was dismayed to find that less than 1/3 of organic waste collected was actually being used as compost, the rest was being given, for free to National Grid. And yet the DSNY curbside composting program seems poised to takeover community composting.

Funding for community composting must not be cut. It is extremely important that composting remain a local activity, trucking food scraps across the city greatly offsets the environmental advantages of composting. Communities should be able to benefit directly from the recycling of their food scraps. Involving community members not only reduces waste but will eventually lead to better health through education and awareness, children who grow up with an understanding of their ecosystems will make better health and environmental decisions for the rest of their lives, enriching the soil in our our green spaces from parks to tree pits will lead to more shade, increased air quality and greater water retention during periods of excessive rainfall. Carting food scraps throughout the five boroughs to create biogas for National Grid will not.

Please save community composting, the invaluable opportunities it creates and its green jobs.
Thank you
Nina Meledandri
[redacted]
Brooklyn, NY 11216
[redacted]

Dear City Councilmembers,

I write today to urge you to restore funding for community composting in New York City. I am a Brooklyn resident, a community gardener, and a graduate of the Earth Matter compost apprenticeship. Compost is not waste, it is the regeneration of waste. The beauty of compost is that it processes waste into a super-rich nutrient additive to make plants and soil flourish. I know this because I was fortunate enough to serve as a compost apprentice and learn about composting and gardening practices in community with others. Places like Earth Matter and Big Reuse and the Lower East Side Ecology Center are gathering places for New Yorkers to learn about responsible care for the unique ecology of New York City. These spaces are rare in the city and serve to educate and inspire New Yorkers to live in harmonious relationship with the land, animals, plants, and people around them. Please restore full funding for these programs and ensure that these vital organizations can continue to serve New Yorkers.

With Love and Care,
Patrick Mohr

City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
Tuesday February 27th @10:00am

Subject: Support Funding for Community Composting

Dear members of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management,

I am writing to express my strong support to continue restore funding for community composting initiatives across New York. The program provides a vital stopgap while city Sanitation Department ramps up a full composting program, and serves the interests of all communities and stakeholders across the city.

1. Until citywide composting is widely available, community composting affords a way to reduce some of the waste we send to landfills. In a city as large as New York, even low levels of participation have an outsized impact on reduction of solid waste, lowering costs for the city. Additionally, it reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with organic waste decomposition, helping the city reach its ambitious emissions reduction goals.
2. Composting supports low-cost till and fertilizer within the communities that participate, lowering costs within the communities that participate in these programs. Nutrient-rich soil can be used to support local agricultural initiatives, contributing to food security and resiliency within those communities.
3. Community composting provides a vital “hands-on” approach to tie city residents to environmental improvement. It provides a platform to educate city residents on the value of waste reduction, drive sustainable practices, and encourage environmental stewardship.
4. Community involvement in composting will help drive adoption and acceptance of an eventual DSNY-led citywide composting once the program is fully ramped.

Thank you for considering my comments on this vital issue.

Phillip Tuch
[redacted]

February 27, 2024

Dear NYC Council Members:

I am writing to request that you restore neighborhood composting. I am a resident of Chelsea in Council District 3, and have used the composting site on 8th Avenue at 24th Street for many years on a weekly basis.

The compost collection by the Lower East Side Ecology Center is beneficial to the City of New York in many ways—from reducing the sanitation waste to creating organic material to nourish new plants and flowers. I hope that you can appreciate this service.

I encourage you to restore neighborhood composting for the future generations of residents who will benefit from such service.

Sincerely,

Phyllis C. Waisman

February 27, 2024
Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
Testimony from Rebecca Elzinga

My name is Becca Elzinga and I am a resident of the Sunset Park Brooklyn and a graduate of the 2019 Master Composter class hosted by the Lower East Side Ecology Center through the NYC Compost Project. I am testifying today in support of NYC's community composting and the many programs that make it possible.

The proposed cuts to the community composting budget are heartbreaking for our natural areas and our communities. Greenspaces are critical infrastructure for New Yorkers and the pandemic has further reiterated that fact. At a time when parks are more utilized than ever, extra precaution should be taken to care for soil health. Local composting is the best and most effective way to rebuild soils while diverting tons of organic waste from landfill.

Not only does compost strengthen the resiliency of our parkland, it fosters community involvement and empowerment. Park and garden groups create their own compost and rely on free donations of local compost to revitalize their spaces. Our neighborhoods thrive when these community groups have the resources they need to succeed. The technical support and education that city programs provide is critical in sustaining these groups and building the next generation of environmental stewards. I cannot overstate the value of programs like the NYC Compost Project and GrowNYC Zero Waste; they make me proud to be a New Yorker. Participating in the Master Composter course was an extremely rewarding experience that solidified my commitment to composting for life. It pains me to think of the livelihoods lost by these cuts, and the sudden destruction of New Yorkers' ability to live out their values and reduce their environmental footprint.

New York City cannot be a leader on climate if our natural areas, our compost yards, and our environmental programming are the first to be cut at every turn. The rollout of residential composting has been stunted and ineffective; community composting is a much stronger and proven path forward. I urge the City Council to restore funding for composting through a network of food scrap drop-off sites, food-scrap processing at existing DEC-registered sites, and technical assistance for neighborhood compost sites.

Thank you,
Rebecca Elzinga

February 27th, 2024

To the Chair of the Sanitation Committee and Council members:

I am an UWS resident concerned about the Climate Crisis and have always done my part to be environmentally conscious which has always involved composting by bringing my organic waste to the nearest greenmarket compost collections.

I thought I was lucky to live in one of the few districts in the city serviced by the city's curbside composting program, however I am deeply disappointed to learn that curbside composting is NOT composting but rather just processing of organic waste into bio fuel. Bio fuel production is anaerobic digestion and is an energy intensive system which produces methane and carbon gas emissions – which is what landfills do. Using the term "compost" is misleading and this practice should stop immediately.

Community composting programs on the other hand - run by the organizations GrowNYC, Big Reuse, LES Ecology Center, Earth Matter NY, New York Botanical Garden, Queens Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden – collectively transform New Yorkers' food waste into valuable resources, providing essential soil for our parks, gardens, tree beds, and playgrounds. These programs serve as a crucial tool in educating to combat climate change. Furthermore, given the anticipated delays in the expansion of the so called Curbside "Composting" program, the success of such an initiative in New York City hinges on a robust outreach and community composting network to educate and engage residents which these organizations are the sole providers of these outreach programs.

As a concerned citizen, I am urging you to:

- **Rename NYC's "compost" program** to reflect what it is: nothing more than a food scrap or organic waste management program.
- **Reinvest immediately into Community Composting** by reinstating budget allocations to the previously mentioned organizations.
- **Invest in educational campaigns** aiming at raising awareness of New Yorkers of the critical importance of actually composting organic waste, and the benefits – including reduced costs for taxpayers – that such an actual composting program would trigger. Awareness should also be raised about the significant difference between actual composting and anaerobic digestion.
-

I thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Regina Koehler

[redacted] West 107th Street [redacted] NYC

February 26, 2024

To whom it may concern:

Hello. My name is Rhonda Gura-Stock. I live in Riverdale in the Bronx, NY 10471. I have been placing my “food scraps” into the brown bins provided by NYC Dept of Sanitation for about 10 years now. When they stopped the program for a short time, I traveled to Hastings, where they take “food scraps.”

I am very glad that the NYC program accepts meat, chicken and fish “scraps” including bones, skin, etc. Like veggies, fruits, eggs, etc., they are organic matter that belong in the earth.

Reusable energy and compost to help grow healthy fruits and vegetables are both so important, especially given the earth’s current state where fossil fuels, etc, etc are ruining our earth.

It’s amazing how much less waste there is when we gather all our food scraps for composting and reusable energy. This is probably more important than recycling plastic because so little plastic is actually recycled, according to material I’ve read.

I thank you for your consideration regarding this matter,
Rhonda Gura-Stock

February 26, 2024

New York City Council

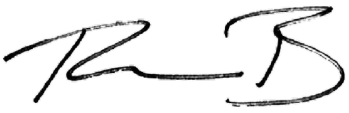
Attn: Community on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing today in support of continuing the Community Compost program, e.g. brown bin curbside compost collection. It is an important piece of waste diversion from landfills and has a positive impact on decreasing our carbon emissions related to waste management. Community compost pickup requires less travel to local composting facilities and the compost soil can be reused by a variety of people, both commercial and residential. Sending compost waste to landfills in far away Pennsylvania and/or the Finger Lakes region is inefficient and wasteful.

I am in support of continuing the Community Compost program, e.g. brown bin curbside compost collection. And I urge the Committee to do what's in its power to continue it.

Thank you,



Ron Barone
Columbia Waterfront, Brooklyn, NYC

February 25, 2024

To: City of New York City Council

Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Dear Chair Abreu, Committee Members and other Elected Representatives,

I write to respectfully request the Sanitation Committee and City Council add community composting to the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. As you know, Mayor Adams and DSNY cut **all** community composting in the November Plan PEG, effective this past December 2023. This has led to discontinuation of the NYC Compost Project and its community and education programs including the Master Composter Certification programs. Groups in NYC involved in community composting have laid off staff and cut programming because of these cuts. Some programs have survived with the support of temporary private funding but face complete elimination of their programs in the coming months. Despite the reassurance that no jobs were cut as a a result of the PEG, this is simply not true.

The sudden discontinuation of these community programs has led to confusion and a disruption to the habits New Yorkers have developed over time. The rationale for the cuts was that commuity composting is 'small and inefficient' and yet these cuts have led to waste and adding workers to the unemployment rolls. For many New Yorkers, once the community drop-offs ceased operations, thousands of pounds of food scraps are now being thrown into the garbage. Isn't it inefficient to cut food scrap drop-offs when not every borough even has curbside composting? Isn't it inefficient to cut community composting when not everyone can use a smart bin or has one near them? Isn't it inefficient to cut community composting when even in boroughs that have brown bins, many buildings are not using the brown bins? All of this inefficiency is only causing confusion and disruption to the habits people have developed of saving their scraps until the weekly trip to the market or a nearby drop-offs.

I have been so proud to be a New Yorker watching the City's community composting programs grow over the past decade. I received my first worm bin at a workshop led by the Lower East Side Ecology Center in 2009. Like many New Yorkers, I took my food scraps on the subway to Union Square. I was happy to see Master Composters in my Queens neighborhood start collecting food scraps at the

local farmers market. In 2012, I enrolled in the Master Composter Course at Queens Botanical Garden and devoted numerous hours to programs all over the city where processing food scraps was happening. I was part of a group of community composters that attended meetings at DSNY to discuss issues related to our concerns as we grew. I was part of Sunny Compost, mentioned in this 2014 report, https://dsny.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/about_2014-community-composting-report-LL77_0815.pdf. I now work part-time for GrowNYC as a Compost Coordinator where I talk to hundreds of people every week about all things compost.

It's mind-boggling to see NYC come so far to now simply decimate all community composting. The brown bin curbside program and the Smart bins are potentially great options and it's not surprising that the DSNY support of community composting will change. But it is inefficient and unwise to completely eliminate community composting. Please consider these ideas below.

Suggestions:

- Keep the community composting collection and processing operaitons funded for at a minimum of two more years until each borough has both curbside and Smart bin organics processing programs in place as well as fines for noncompliance with brown bins.
- Continue to fund the NYC Compost Project programs that provide education and outreach to students, Master Composter course takers and community members long-term.
- Continue to fund outreach and education programs to support the DOE curbside composting. Schools have new staff and students each year and will need ongoing support to ensure these programs are successful.
- Partner with the community composting groups to design education and outreach roles at greenmarkets and community gardens.

Please see addendum,"What is Lost Without Community Composting."

Thank you for reading my testimony. I look forward to your action to save community composting in New York City.

Ruth Groebner

What is Lost Without Community Composting

A child walking by a Greenmarket FSDO points out the toters full of food scraps and excitedly tells their parent how they learned about this in school.

An older adult stops by the FSDO at the market thanking the worker for providing a small bag of finished compost a couple of weeks earlier and shares how her plants responded so well to it.

A new arrival from Los Angeles stops by the market compost booth and asks what composting options are available in NYC.

A family walking by notices the green bins and ask what's the difference between these food scraps and the brown bins.

An older adult anxiously talks about how she tried to use the orange Smart bin but it wouldn't open and an FSDO staffer shows her how to download the appropriate app on her phone.

Several community members, often older adults, share greetings and updates about weather, local events, their lives, and thank the FSDO staff for being there each week.

A person drives up to the market with some yard waste they'd like to be composted, unaware of how the City takes yard waste now.

An engaged NYC resident signs up for the NYC Compost Project's Master Composter course and learns about the science of composting and gives numerous hours to community groups in all boroughs.

Community groups rely on Master Composters to volunteer at a wide range of programs including zero-waste events on Governors Island, library workshops, street tree care events and more.

A community garden that has accepted food scraps for several years receives support of organizations like BigReuse or Queens Botanical Garden to provide leaves or wood chips, or to take excess food scraps or finished compost, or provide bins and tools.

A local street tree care project receives logistical support to provide the finished compost and tools to the group.

Workers who have committed themselves to careers helping the environment by working in NYC's community composting infrastructure are laid off, losing stable work and in many cases, benefits.

POLICY BRIEF FOLLOWING A PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OF THE QUEENS RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE ORGANICS ("COMPOSTING") PROGRAM CALENDAR YEAR 2023

Major Points

- In 2023, only **4.3%** of the residential Curbside Organics that could have been collected in Queens for composting or anaerobic digestion, were in fact collected. The rest (95.7%) went out with the trash. The 4.3% rate is called the "capture rate".
- In 2023, around **300,000 tons of compostable organics went out for disposal with Queens refuse**. These quantities moved through Queens transfer stations. They ended in landfills and WTE incinerators in eastern U.S. states. About **12,700** tons of residential Curbside Organics, and about **5,100** tons of School Organics (which included an unknown percentage of Smart Bin drop off quantities) were collected for composting or anaerobic digestion locally.
- The capture rate, per household generation rate, and total tonnage of residential Curbside Organics is **lower today than it was in Queens under the previous administrations**, when it was already low.
- **Smart Bin tonnages do not make up for this poor performance.**
- Some Queens Districts perform better than others, but for 2023 none reached double digit capture rates. Regardless of year, month, or Community District, **the 10-year-old Program is underperforming by any metric** – total tonnage, per household quantities, or capture rate.
- Performance is always best in the Fall months of October, November and December. Performance is always higher in less dense districts. The reason for both trends is yard waste – leaves, grass clippings, prunings, and weedings.
- Metrics presented here are **standard to the waste management industry**, and calculable from DSNY Monthly Tonnage and Waste Characterization data posted on Open Data. All calculations referenced here can be re-run by any party. Full methodology is explained in the Performance Analysis companion to this Brief.
- The new residential Curbside Organics Collection Program can succeed, but the City's approach to this now 10-year effort **must fundamentally change**. Most important is **transparency** in Performance Analytics, and **responsiveness to public engagement around composting**.

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Executive Summary

I have conducted a Performance Analysis of the current NYC residential Curbside Organics ("Composting") Program that now serves the entire Borough of Queens, New York. The results reveal low levels of participation and tonnage. The Performance Analysis is a companion document to this Policy Brief.

For Calendar Year 2023, **Queens residents are setting out 4.3% of everything that they could for Curbside Organics collection. Almost 96% of food scraps, yard trimmings, and soiled paper in this Borough are going into the trash**.

A Decline Since 2018

NYC's residential Curbside Organics Program requires all residential buildings to set out food scraps, yard trimmings, and compostable/soiled paper at the curb for weekly DSNY collection. It is extended to all households, rather than only 1-9 unit buildings, which was the practice under a prior version of the Program. It offers more options for bags or bins than that Program, and is meant to be "a model that can actually serve the entire city". [i]

Despite these improvements, performance in Queens for CY 2023 is lower than it was for Queens Districts receiving collection in 2018 and 2019 (service was cut mid 2020). The prior Program already had low capture rates, but it outperformed the current Program on capture rate, per household generation rate, and even total tonnage, despite the fact that prior to 2020, fewer Districts and hundreds of thousands of fewer households enjoyed curbside collection.

The previous Program performed poorly, and at least for 2023, the current Program is performing even more poorly.

Capture Rate is

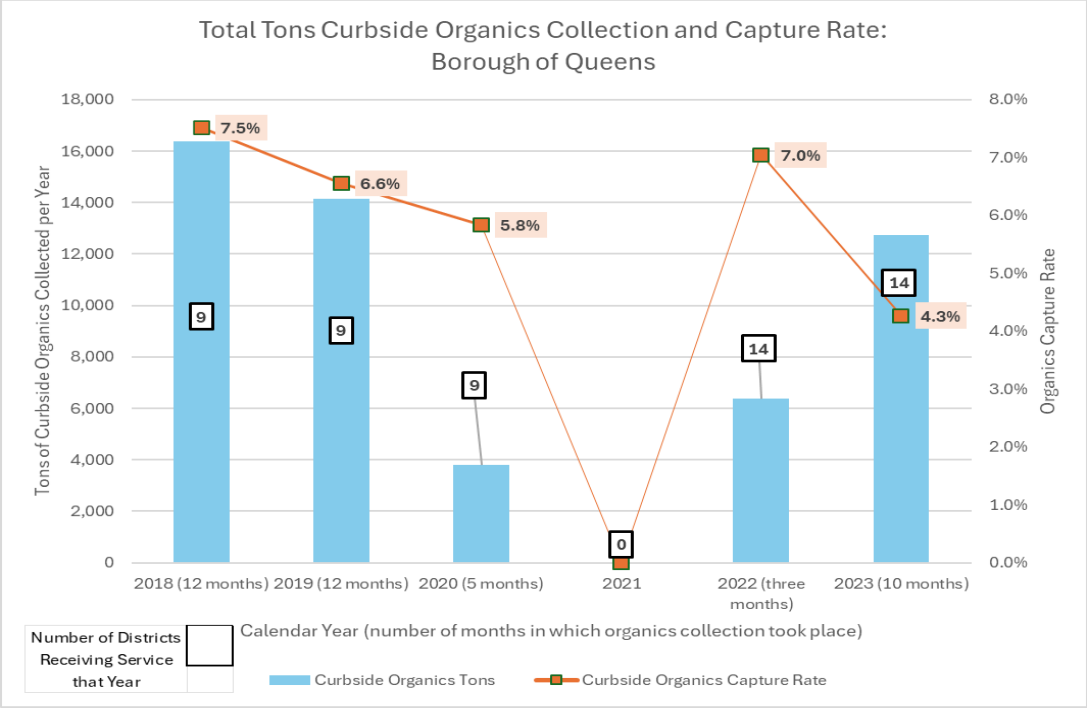
tons of Curbside Organics actually set out for organics collection [(total tons of organics left in refuse) + (tons actually set out for organics collection)]

Capture rate measures how much is being set out properly as organics vs. how much could be properly set out for organics if everyone participated fully

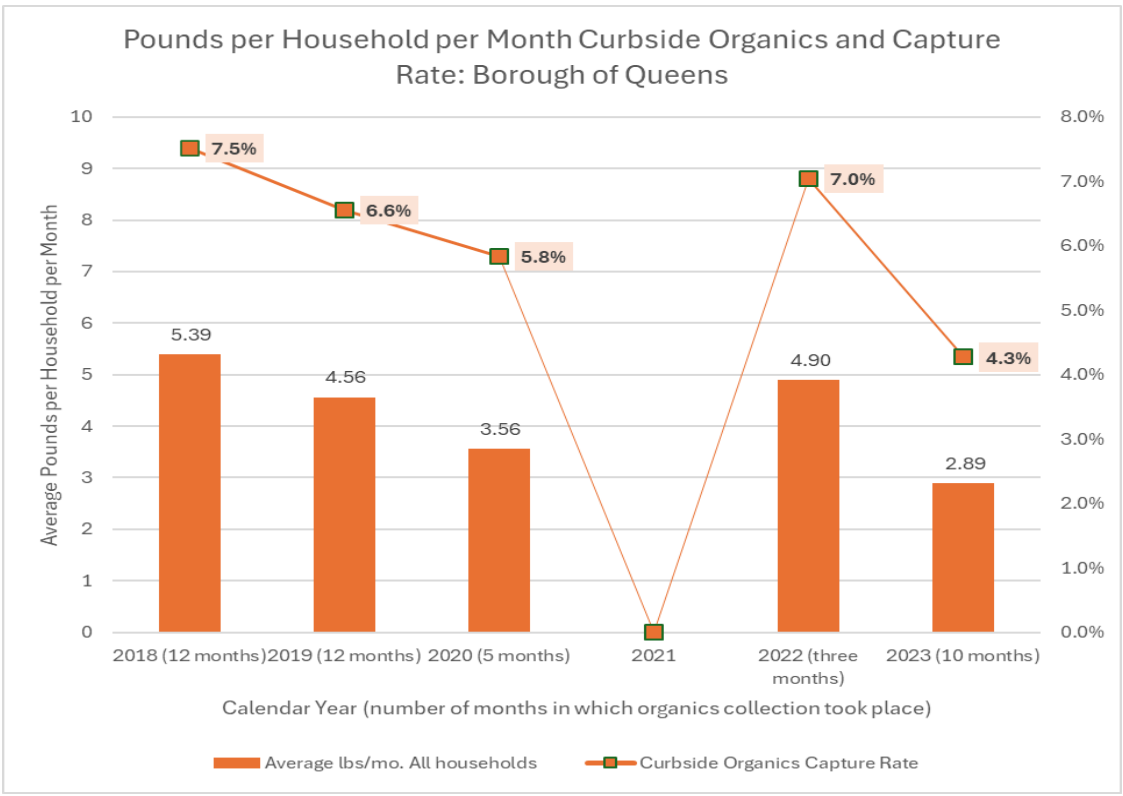
A 4.3% Queens capture rate for 2023 means that out of all of the tons of organics that Queens residents could set out, they are only setting out 4.3%, on average for any month in 2023.

This rate is considered low by waste management industry standards.

Note: For computational simplicity, I have excluded organics mistakenly placed in Paper and MGP Recycling Collections in the capture rate calculations. If I included these, the capture rates would be very slightly lower.



Data Source: DSNY Monthly Tonnages on Open Data; DSNY Waste Characterization Study 2017



Data Source: DSNY Monthly Tonnages on Open Data; DSNY Waste Characterization Study 2017

The new Program in Queens is performing no better or worse than "Legacy Opt-In" Districts in Brooklyn and the Bronx that opted to continue the prior curbside Organics Program pending full expansion of coverage in their respective Boroughs.

Calendar Year 2023 Curbside Organics Capture Rate and Average Monthly Pounds per Household Per Month

(averaged over 10 months because there was no January or February 2023 collection)

Queens Districts

	Avg. Capture	Lbs/hh /mo
QN01	4.2%	1.80
QN02	2.3%	1.16
QN03	1.4%	1.09
QN04	1.2%	0.84
QN05	4.0%	2.62
QN06	4.7%	2.18
QN07	3.6%	2.37
QN08	3.9%	2.37
QN09	6.5%	5.17
QN10	3.3%	2.71
QN11	8.1%	5.12
QN12	7.2%	6.15
QN13	5.1%	4.08
QN14	4.1%	2.54

Legacy Opt In Districts

	Avg. Capture	Lbs/hh/ mo
BK01	1.4%	0.74
BK02	6.0%	2.23
BK06	11.4%	3.86
BK07	4.6%	2.72
BX08	4.7%	1.91
MN06	0.9%	0.19
MN07	3.6%	0.92

Capture rate and pounds per household per month is the waste management industry standard for performance analysis of areas (Districts) with varying populations and months of service coverage in a year

Data Source: DSNY Monthly Tonnages on Open Data; DSNY Waste Characterization Study 2017

A Decade of Collection Inefficiency

Very little of the compostable material that could be picked up weekly at the curb by Sanitation trucks is, in fact, making its way into those trucks. This is not a new situation. Low performance has characterized the Curbside Organics Program since 2012, when the City started this effort.

The Program is back, but low resident participation remains. Substantially increasing participation will be needed to address hundreds of thousands of tons in Queens, and over a million tons Citywide, of organics currently sent to refuse disposal. This will require a new set of strategies that begin with more Open Data and regular, transparent performance analytics. It requires extensive attention to performance and needs of 10+ unit buildings and their workers, owners and tenants. High expectations

for an improvement under enforcement of the Mandatory aspect must be built on data and analytics. The City must test different combinations of intensive, extensive, year-round outreach and education until "what works" in conjunction with enforcement is identified and measured. All of this requires vastly more resources devoted to all aspects of outreach and education, as well as field and desk-scale program evaluation.

Given the current trajectory of the present Curbside Organics Program, the City's ability to meet its GHG reduction goals under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and related Local Laws is compromised. The Program risks future cancellation due to collection inefficiencies under such a low capture rate scenario. This is true even if, as the City's early assessments of Program success in Queens suggested, "The new program is built on a number of efficiencies that drive costs down, including the use of dual-bin trucks and a right-sizing of the workforce to reduce overtime."[ii] With such low tonnages, high collection costs are guaranteed.

Method of Assessment

The Performance Analysis that is the companion to this Policy Brief details the method by which I calculated performance measures, discusses why a prior assessment issued by DSNY in late 2022 do not hold after a year's worth of data, and highlights problems in transparency and untested assumptions in the current Administration's approach to getting Curbside Organics done. It urges more open data and public consultation, and regular performance analytics, published with transparent methodology on how calculations are made.

Residential curbside collection of Organics can succeed in New York City, but the approach that has been taken 2012 – 2024 must radically change. Recommendations follow, but what is most important is for the City to listen to small businesses that haul organics for local composting, community composting organizations, and New Yorkers themselves in order to design a Program that works.

Recommendations

1. *Pay attention to workers, owners, and tenants of 10+ Unit Buildings (in that order).*

There is a clear need for renewed, vastly increased attention to workers, owners, and tenants of multiple unit buildings, in particular 10+ unit buildings. These buildings face challenges to participation that stand unaddressed under the current Curbside Organics Program; these challenges have to do with storage and consolidation space, signage and onsite education, program consistency, concerns over enforcement, and most of all burdens on staff.

The hard-working porters, custodians, and superintendents who sort, consolidate, store and set out organics at the curb make or break all aspects of building-level waste management. These are often hidden jobs staffed by people who don't earn a great deal to begin with. They need respect, recognition and resources far more than their employers need tickets and fines under a future Mandatory scenario. Building owners and workers need to be listened to in formulating future plans to promote Curbside Organics Collection in any Borough, but especially in the planned expansion of late 2024 to the very dense Manhattan, and southern Bronx. Expecting multi-unit buildings to robustly participate in Curbside Organics without these resources is naïve, and runs contrary to all research and accumulated knowledge not only in NYC, but among cities throughout the U.S.

2. *Do not pin hopes for future turnarounds on mandatory participation.*

There are high hopes that enforcement of the Mandatory aspect of Local Law 85 of 2023 will turn the tide after a decade of low participation. According to recent news accounts, enforcement is set to begin in 2025. Once the Program is implemented Citywide and made Mandatory, the thinking goes, the problems that have beset the Curbside Organics Program will begin to subside. Such expectations need to be met squarely with real world information. Making the Program Mandatory in status ("it's not just a good idea, it's the law") may, or may not, provide an initial boost to participation.

It is certainly reasonable to think that if people and building staff know that the Program is Mandatory, some participation will increase. However, it is one thing to call a program "Mandatory". It is another thing to enforce that program with tickets, and to assess and collect fines as a consequence of violations. DSNY Enforcement staff assess recycling violations by inspecting the content of trash bags and recycling bins/bags, as well as verifying proper set-up, receptacles, and signage to facilitate recycling. DSNY Enforcement agents are required to attest to what they literally observed – not what

they think might be going on – when finalizing a ticket. At times, this requires opening and inspecting a bag or bin.

Recyclable paper, metal, glass, and plastics are relatively clean and distinct in comparison to food scraps mixed into, and smeared all over, refuse. Will it be reasonable to expect DSNY Enforcement staff to assess trash contents for the presence of food waste? Is it reasonable to expect porters to retrieve non-compostable items from Curbside Organics Bins; or even worse, to hand-pluck food items from the garbage? To make Curbside Recycling work in NYC, building workers definitely do this type of after-tenant cleanup to avoid tickets.

Plans for actual DSNY Enforcement (as opposed to promulgation of simple rule changes[iii]) need to be made public now. If collection efficiency gains are expected from Enforcement, such expectations must be analytically sound. **Even more important is to plan for what will happen if going to Mandatory does not increase the capture rate by much, and/or results in highly contaminated organics.**

In fact, there is reason to think that the level of ticketing, whether measured either in numbers of tickets issued, or amounts of fines paid, does not have a direct relationship with capture (or diversion, which tracks the capture rate). This sounds counterintuitive, but data trends don't show a relationship. Deeming a program Mandatory without enforcement may initially boost compliance. But looking at the 30 year history of the Curbside Recycling Program, issuing more tickets and fines doesn't seem to directly affect the diversion or capture rate, or lead to increased recycling tonnages. (See Figure 3 in attached Performance Analysis).

3. Value what you have devalued: community composting and microhauling.

Within NYC, there are anticipated capacity upgrades at the City's aerobic compost facility at Fresh Kills, Staten Island. Plans are in motion to deposit more slurried food scraps for codigestion with sewage sludge at the City's wastewater treatment plants. These industrial-scale outlets do provide near-term, flexible capacity for anticipated increases in Curbside Organics tonnages. But the end products of these methods – especially food scrap codigestion – do not make the most of the multiple, overlapping benefits of aerobic composting that are seen at medium and small-scale sites operating throughout the City. Such sites, managed by community enterprises and integrated into community education, food systems, and job creation, have had to fight against displacement and defunding threatened by a City government that **simply does not value the extensive return on investment they provide**. This must change.

Most stakeholders in NYC organic waste management recognize that the Community Compost movement, including organizations within and outside the now defunded 30-year old NYC Compost

Project, have been and will continue to be pivotal in educating and engaging the public about composting. Contrary to DSNY's assertion, their audience has never been the "truest of true believers."[iv] These groups have engaged people from all walks of life citywide. The influence and contribution of this movement is woven through the goodwill that composting enjoys in NYC and has been crucial to the development of policy. Through DSNY, or possibly through another city agency, funding for the NYC Compost Project must be restored. DSNY would be wise to consider community composters as allies in a very daunting task ahead of them: how to get capture rates beyond single digits.

Similarly, organics microhaulers and community-based farms and gardens need to be put at the front of the City's approach to organics diversion. During the many pauses in the City's now 10-year-old attempt to collect Curbside Organics, these groups have taken up the slack and have provided collection and composting services at a fraction of what it would cost the City. Staff of the NYC Compost Project have been available at short notice, and without need for pre-training, as contractors to supplement DSNY's limited outreach staff. During the pandemic, they, as well as organics micro-haulers, proved what they could do with their own labor power and entrepreneurship. There must be inclusion of these parties in all infrastructure/collection considerations, as well as outreach and education planning. Small is not necessarily "inefficient"; nor is large scale, for the moment at least, proving itself efficient.

4. Be forthright about program performance.

Perhaps the most important recommendation at present is not to let "spin" dominate a transparent discussion of Program performance.

For over a decade, New York City government has struggled to put tonnages behind claims of running the largest compost collection program in the United States. Certainly, in terms of New York City population, DSNY collection workforce, and waste generation in total, we are the largest. In terms of ambition to beneficially use organics, we may lead. But there is a huge gap between ambitious claims and measured results. This gap has been stark for over a decade, and persists to this day, in the face of years of data showing tiny measurable progress in tonnage terms.[v]

The tendency to use aspirational statements to position the City as a "leader" of some kind in sustainability obscures real action. Real action is measured in tonnages, and in tangible impacts on people's lives and what they value. In prior Zero Waste efforts, such as DeBlasio's "0 X 30" campaign, the spinning of "success" claims while underplaying performance data hindered progress and eroded

trust among the public. This applied at all times, but especially when success claims were followed by "pauses" of Program expansion and collection.

The first "pause" ceased Program expansions in 2018. The second suspended the Program in July 2020. The third interrupted collection for the months of January and February 2023. The fourth happened in November 2023, when "Adams and his team announced budget cuts that delayed the roll-out date for composting pickup in the Bronx and Staten Island, pushing it from March of this year to October — a change intended to save the city $4.8 million over two years."[vi] The first and last pauses had to do with Program expansion. The second and third to temporary cessation of service. These pauses generate not only confusion, but cynicism among many New Yorkers about the City's commitment to Curbside Organics Collection. A strong suggestion is this: **don't commit to what you can't follow through on**. Don't claim success that you cannot prove with tonnage.

5. Be forthright about organics collection costs.

It is imperative that the City not cite future collection inefficiencies, which derive from low participation, as a reason for further Program delay or cessation. We must face the fact that there will be substantial collection inefficiencies, and high per-ton costs, with a 4.3% Queens capture rate. These inefficiencies may, or may not, have improved under new agreements with the labor unions that represent Sanitation workers – this too needs to be part of public disclosure.[vii] If collection is now more cost-efficient in Queens, as DSNY has alluded to, then per ton costs, tons per truck shift, relays reduced, and other key metrics of efficiency have to be made public. Common knowledge in collection operations suggests that inefficiencies will begin to resolve with a 30% capture rate, and will continue to decrease (i.e. will get better) from there if participation is actively cultivated through continuous, community-based, outreach and education.

6. Be forthright about fates of collected organics.

People deserve to know where the organics they set out go. The current Administration has made progress in this area. Firms that receive and process Curbside Organics are now only located within NYC, including the Staten Island Compost Facility and the Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility. As compared to the prior Administration, there is more sharing of information on where organics go and what happens to them. But more needs to be known about the destinations and end uses of digested solids that started their life as food. There is also the issue of PFAS, which is already affecting how treated wastewater solids will be managed; future regulations will only increase in this area. The City must not oversimplify the benefits of what DSNY has elected to call the Curbside

"Composting" Program, which actually is not composting but collection of compostables for processing using anaerobic digestion in some cases. Anerobic digestion may have its place securing in near-term processing capacity for collected organics, but it is not in most cases transforming collections into nourishing soil amendment, and is not, by definition, composting.

7. Care for people and systems that turn organics into compost.

The City's present approach brands Curbside Organics collection as "more efficient" than Community Composting, which is sidelined into a "truest of true believers" niche activity. Relationships with Community Composters cultivated productively over 30 years are suddenly severed. There is Mandatory to look forward to, with ticketing and fines on the horizon. None of these approaches have shown results in data points and proven outcomes. None are consistent with an ethics of care in public policy.[viii]

We are in a new era of awareness of the catastrophic implications of Climate Change. Our communities are now threatened by flooding, heat, fires, and storm damage as never before. Lands needed to grow crops and build houses see soil erosion and fertility loss. Human and non-human health is taxed by accumulation of toxic substances in air, water, and ground. These and other features of Climate Change are linked with other concurrent ecological and social crises that unfold inequitably, cruelly affecting those without wealth and power the most. On some level, most of us feel anxious and uncertain about the future. The prospect is not rosy.

We must take a new path – and that path should be built with clean compost. This is no idealistic statement made without practical experience or direct stake. It is what most who work with organics and compost in NYC – within and outside City government -- already know. Compost heals and protects against current crises in complex, whole-greater-than-sum-of-parts fashion.

It is time to face the inefficiencies and inequities of the City's now 10-year approach to Curbside Organics Collection honestly and without spin, competitiveness, punishment, or aggression. The situation can improve, but the way things have been done by the City must radically change.

Details

On Smart Bins

The return of the newly structured Curbside Organics Program for residents has been paired with an innovation in organics drop off – the Smart Bin. DSNY has not reported tonnages from these bins as such by DSNY on Open Data, although they are said to be included with School Organics collections posted on this site. School Organics collections today are about three times more than they were in 2019, the last full year of Curbside Organics Collection. Some of the increased tonnage that DSNY labels as "School Organics" comes from Smart Bin participation.

However, as welcome as these additional tonnages are, they do not make up for the underperformance in the residential Curbside Organics Program, because this Program, which serves all residences with one-time weekly collection in front of their door, aspires to collect the lion's share of hundreds of thousands of tons of organics that are currently going out with trash. This is the Program that will be integrated with refuse and recycling collection, will occupy thousands of Sanitation workers and supervisors on daily routes, will serve all NYC residences, will lead to tickets and fines, and will entail complex logistical, cost, and labor-relations issues. As popular as they are with some New Yorkers, Smart Bins are supplementary to curbside collection, not meant to replace it.

This fact becomes evident when looking at the tonnages of potential, vs. actual, Curbside and School Organics Collections under various capture rate scenarios for the Borough of Queens. In the Figure below, the green bars show how the annual quantity of organics that could be collected in Queens under a 100%, 70% and 30% capture scenario. The orange and purple bars show actual capture in comparison. Citywide figures look similar, only three times larger.

Figure 1. Table 3. Data Source: DSNY Monthly Tonnages on Open Data; DSNY 2017 Waste Characterization. School Organics tons include an unknown portion of Smart Bin tonnages.

How to Test and Prove what Boosts Participation.

NYC citizens groups have been asking the City for 30 years to do more outreach and education. But what kind of outreach, what educational messages, and at what level of staffing and deployment? Is what sounds like a good idea really effective where it counts in terms of reducing disposal, diminishing contamination, or collection efficiency gains? Approaches have never been put to the test against measured performance in tonnages, capture rates, violations, or other measures.

DSNY must test outreach and education strategies in a quasi-experimental[ix] framework. with enough time, staff, and resources devoted to meaningful outreach and education to begin with. Starting with several low- and high-density Queens District sections, DSNY should undertake periods of intervention, lasting no less than three solid months, with varying strategies by District or District Section.[x] Such intervention may include, but must go beyond, periodic mass door knocking, direct mailers, and media advertising currently employed by DSNY. Given performance to date, these outreach methods have

not worked well enough. Shockingly, a quasi-experimental approach has never been tried in the 30-year history of recycling in NYC, much less its efforts at Curbside Organics collection.

Intervention strategies should be designed collaboratively with community representatives in each District, targeting not just organics but also paper/MGP recycling, textile reuse, e-waste collections, HHW diversion, and other Zero Waste programming. Collaboration and consultation must take sufficient time, and not be completed as a one-off set of public hearings. Collaboration and consultation should be planned and facilitated by individuals outside of DSNY but familiar to, and ideally part of, communities, rather than large consulting firms that serve the public sector generally. There is a clear need to take the time to design and refine outreach and education approaches in genuine dialogue with those familiar with community concerns. We need real input from multiple community-based organizations involved in community justice, safety, jobs, health, housing, as well as micro-scale organics hauling and onsite composting. Results of consultations must be documented and integrated into near, medium and long-range planning.

Comparison of pre- and post-intervention performance should be carried out at intervals, using metrics of capture rates, diversion rates, refuse tonnage reductions, and collection efficiency measures. Standard waste metrics may be paired with surveys of residential and building worker behaviors and opinions. Results should be posted publicly, accessibly, and in a timely fashion. This will cost money, and require staff, but DSNY already has the analytic and field capacity to do this type of assessment within its own ranks, as well as among its recently-severed partners in the NYC Community Composting sector.

If budgetary reasons prevent Performance Analysis and Program option development and testing, the City should be forthright about this and **should not substitute aspirational statements in place of proper analytics.**

Where do the Claims in this Document Come from?

All statements about tonnages, capture rates, enforcement rates, and other metrics are detailed in a Performance Analysis that accompanies this document, along with a full explanation of methodology.

Anyone can reproduce this work and put it to the test. The statistics reported here are derivable from knowledge of the tons per month of residential Curbside Organics and residential Curbside Refuse collected in Queens Districts, and Legacy Opt-In Districts. This information is published in the table called “Monthly Tonnages” on Open Data.[xi]

Calculation of a capture rate also requires Borough-specific estimates of the percentage of Organics in refuse. Estimates here are taken from the 2017 Waste Characterization Study on DSNY's website. There is a more recent Waste Characterization Study to 2017, but it has not yet been released by DSNY.[xii]

Numbers of households in a District come from the American Community Survey (ACS), a product of the U.S. Census, and the NYC Department of City Planning's attribution of 2021 ACS results to NYC Community Districts. For calculations before 2021, annual ACS values are used.[xiii]

The calculations here would show lower Queens capture rates and per household organics generation rates than if presented on a straight annual basis, as opposed to an average monthly basis, because many years did not see 12 full months of Organics collection (e.g. 2022 and 2023). The calculations presented here look only at months in which Organics collection took place, and average monthly findings across the year for an annual number. In all instances, I have been conservative in criticisms of performance. Alternate, straight tonnage calculations will show lower capture rates.

Conflict of Interest

I have not been paid or funded by any party to write this Policy Brief. I am the sole author of this document and all content is my own. I sell no product, service, technology solution, or commodity. I do not stand to gain financially, I am not a consultant and have no plans to contract with the City. I am affiliated with no political party or politician. I am a retired NYC civil servant, and pro-bono Advisor to Earth Matter, a community composting organization formerly funded under the NYC Compost Project. I am a paid faculty member at Baruch College, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs.

Acknowledgements

I worked at DSNY as an analyst and manager between 1998 and 2012, and then again from 2015 to 2020. I worked at the NYC DEP's Bureau of Wastewater Treatment between 2020 and my retirement at the end of 2022. Prior to my departure from DSNY in 2020, I learned a great deal from the hard-working Sanitation supervisors, superintendents, and Chiefs with whom it was my privilege to serve. These uniformed staff understand Performance Analysis. They see the consequences of performance every day – they know it, they live it, they are experts. This expertise extends to dedicated, creative, quantitatively skilled civilian analytic staff in Bureaus that support DSNY's core functions, as well as in the DEP's Office of Energy and Resource Recovery. When it comes to data science as applied to waste statistics, they know what they are doing.

Today, I work at Baruch College of Public and International Affairs where I teach students who are vitally interested in the topics discussed in this Performance Analysis. Some graduates are now working in sustainability careers in City Government, including Mayoral offices and the City Council itself. I also do work supporting the Community Composting movement in NYC, and have learned a lot from hard-working people in this space who think about matters differently.

I thank those in NYC's long-historied Community Composting movement for the vitally important work they do. I am grateful to my former colleagues at DSNY and DEP for all that they taught me. I acknowledge the generous engagement with officials at Seattle Public Utilities, as well as faculty colleagues at Baruch whose input and comments have improved this document. I look to my students – who value transparency, accountability, justice, and the ethics of care – for inspiration in this uncertain world.

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[i] City of New York. "Mayor Adams Announces Roadmap for Nation's Largest Compost Collection Program, Including Achieving Decades-Long Goal of Providing Curbside Service to Every New York City Resident", February 1, 2023, https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/084-23/mayor-adams-roadmap-nation-s-largest-compost-collection-program-including-achieving#/0

[ii] City of New York. "Mayor Adams Announces Roadmap for Nation's Largest Compost Collection Program, Including Achieving Decades-Long Goal of Providing Curbside Service to Every New York City Resident", February 1, 2023, https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/084-23/mayor-adams-roadmap-nation-s-largest-compost-collection-program-including-achieving#/0

[iii] . New York City Department of Sanitation. "Notice of Adoption of Final Rule Regarding the Residential Collection of Designated Recyclable Materials to Require the Source Separation of Organic Waste," October 21, 2023, https://rules.cityofnewyork.us/rule/requirement-of-source-separation-of-residential-organic-waste/

[iv] Howard, Hilary. December 1, 2023. "Composting's 'True Believers' Jilted as N.Y.C. Curbside Program Grows, New York Times

[v] . see NYC Get Stuff Done. 2024, "Expanding Curbside Composting," https://www.nyc.gov/content/getstuffdone/pages/curbside-composting, accessed 2/18/24

[vi] Gartland, Michael. "Mayor Adams hails faster compost process ahead of expanding program citywide," Daily News, January 4, 2024, n.p.

[vii] City of New York. “Mayor Adams Announces Roadmap for Nation's Largest Compost Collection Program, Including Achieving Decades-Long Goal of Providing Curbside Service to Every New York City Resident”, February 1, 2023, https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/084-23/mayor-adams-roadmap-nation-s-largest-compost-collection-program-including-achieving#/0

[viii] . Pla-Julián, Isabel, and Sandra Guevara. "Is circular economy the key to transitioning towards sustainable development? Challenges from the perspective of care ethics." Futures 105 (2019): 67-77.

[ix] .This is a form of Program Evaluation that replicates some of the experimental design aspects seen in laboratory research (control groups, statistical methods) but does not use randomization. It is common to use this method in public administration.

[x] . The principles of Program Evaluation, including the structuring of quasi-experimental approaches to testing, are well known. These skills are part of graduate training in social sciences, education, and public administration. There are many forms that a quasi-experimental inquiry could take. As a conceptual illustration, below is one framework involving four District Sections, testing the individual and combined effect of Outreach and Enforcement on tonnage, with comparison to a control Section, as well as the test sections over past and future periods.

Quasi-Experimental Design Conceptual Framework

		Test Year		
	Month	**7**	**8**	**9**
Section 001	Outreach strategy 1			
	Outreach strategy 2			
	Pre-Enforcement Warning			
	Enforcement			
Section 002	Pre-Enforcement Warning			
	Enforcement			
Section 003	Outreach strategy 1			
	Outreach strategy 2			
Section 004	Control			

	One or More Past Years												Test Year						One or More Future Years							
Month	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**	**8**	**9**	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**	**8**	**9**
Section	pre-measure												intervention												post-measure		

tonnages and violations are tracked weekly as a matter of course, no special effort needed

Helpful but not required: special measures such as surveys are taken in comparable months over a 3 year period. Special pre-measurement may be omitted, especially with geographic controls

An actual evaluation design would no doubt be different, but not difficult to develop.

[xi] . New York City Department of Sanitation. February 8, 2024. "DSNY Monthly Tonnage Data", Open Data Portal. https://data.cityofnewyork.us/City-Government/DSNY-Monthly-Tonnage-Data/ebb7-mvp5/about_data

[xii] New York City Department of Sanitation. “Waste Characterization: Reports for 2017, 2013 and 2005”, accessed January 20, 2024 at https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/resources/reports/waste-characterization

[xiii] NYC Department of City Planning. “Population: American Community Survey (ACS) Data Tables”, accessed January 24, 2024, https://www.nyc.gov/site/planning/planning-level/nyc-population/american-community-survey.page.page

Dear Committee,
Please allocate adequate funding for curbside and community composting and all city composting projects. The fate of our environment is crucial and composting is a practical solution and doable in our city. Our lives depend on it.
Thank-you,
sandye renz
PS I'll volunteer.

Dear Committee,
I am writing to advocate for restoring and increasing all the funding for community composting. I live in Gowanus, Brooklyn and have been an active volunteer and supporter of the composting efforts of Big Reuse. I witnessed the overwhelming community support for composting, even with the Salt Lot Compost Site being out of the way and hard to get to. The participation in all community composting efforts is astounding and heartwarming and especially in these times of climate frustration and worry.

Besides my personal experiences in Brooklyn I have been a composter all of my life and I have witnessed first hand all of the benefits of this practice. From the participants emotional satisfaction of doing the right thing for the planet and their community, to the passers-by enjoyment of a beautiful tree and tree bed nourished with the compost, this is the right practice to support. It is a wonderful educational experience for any age and it is a hands on effort with clear results. This is true circular sustainability—the waste from the food from the soil is returned to the soil ready to sustain new growth. This potential waste is kept out of the landfill, where it won't create harmful methane, and naturally processed to enrich the city's soil, in parks, tree beds, and public and private gardens.

Did I mention it saves the city money? Use the money that won't be needed to transport the tons of waste that isn't going to be composted to keep the toters on the streets so those toters can be enthusiastically filled.

Sincerely,

Sandye Renz

[redacted]

Brooklyn, NY 11215

Please continue the composting program in New York City. This program provides long-term environmental and economic benefits greatly needed in this city. Thank you.

sara shafaee

Community Composting is a vital service in NYC! It is extremely efficient and impactful. Community composting has united a beautiful, diverse community of New Yorkers who are truly building a greener city for everyone!

Community composters are fighting climate change in NYC and contributing to the state and city environmental goals. Unlike many of the city's organic waste diversion efforts, community composting programs create compost using the best practices to limit negative environment impact. Defunding this work is a step in the opposite direction. By defunding, the city is undermining a grassroots network of New Yorkers who are already activated and doing the boots on the ground work to protect the planet.

And of course, people (myself included) love the compost: it's used in parks, personal homes and community gardens. I ask that you restore funding for community composting immediately!

Sarah Wilson

Save Our Compost NYC 2024 Priorities

We are a coalition of New York City organizations working to support and expand community composting to uplift environmental and climate justice. The coalition formed in 2020 in response to city budget cuts, and was able to partially restore funding and defend the legal right of community scale composting on park land. Below are our coalition's priorities for 2024, as we face another devastating round of cuts proposed by Mayor Adams.

Priority #1: Preserve City funding for community composting programs.

Our coalition demands that the City reinstate $7 million per year in funding for community composting operations, including the 115 green jobs that facilitate the profound impact of community composting on both environmental sustainability and community engagement. In addition, our coalition demands that the City provides the previously promised $3 million for building out additional community composting sites to increase local composting capacity .

Our vision extends beyond mere financial support; we advocate for the integration of community composting into the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) organics strategy and the City's forthcoming update to the Solid Waste Management Plan, ensuring its seamless alignment with broader waste management, climate, and equity goals. When composting is integrated into communities, often transforming brownfields into productive green sites, it provides green jobs, workforce development, education, and volunteer opportunities, fostering community involvement and environmental education. Continuing the Master Composter Training program citywide empowers New Yorkers to take an active role in sustainable waste management practices. In supporting stewardship, urban agriculture, and community greening, our coalition envisions community composting not just as a waste management solution but as a catalyst for building resilient, interconnected neighborhoods that thrive on shared environmental stewardship.

Priority #2: Ensure that city management of organic waste prioritizes community composting solutions which bring the greatest positive social and climate impact

350NYC | Astoria Pug | Big Reuse | BKRot | Brooklyn Botanic Garden | Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board | Cafeteria Culture | Center For Zero Waste Design | Common Ground Compost | Earth Matter NY | Forest Hills Green Team | GrowNYC | GrowNYC Workers Collective, affiliated with the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union | Lower | East Side Ecology Center | National Wildlife Federation | Natural Resource Defense Council | New York Botanical Garden | New York Lawyers for Public Interest | New York League of Conservation Voters | North Brooklyn Neighbors | Nurture BK Compost | Queens Botanical Garden | Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden | WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Save Our Compost NYC 2024 Priorities

Our coalition is committed to ensuring that organic waste is composted by community based organizations, managed by the NYC Compost Project and funded by the City, yielding profound positive impacts on both social well-being and climate/storm resilience.

Community composting maximizes the potential for diverse and beneficial end uses, creating healthy soil to increase the benefits of green infrastructure - street trees, rain gardens and parks - which reduce flooding and cool neighborhoods. This not only fosters environmental sustainability but also contributes to the creation of vibrant, healthy, and resilient communities. Furthermore, our commitment extends to addressing waste equity, ensuring that the benefits of organic waste management are distributed equitably among all citizens. By forging a holistic and inclusive approach, we aim to transform organic waste management into a catalyst for positive change, concurrently enhancing environmental, social, and economic outcomes for our city.

Priority #3: Increase participation in composting programs and compliance with composting laws through education and outreach provided by workers at partner nonprofits and volunteer-led sites.

Our coalition is steadfast in the pursuit of increased composting program participation and compliance with composting laws through robust education and outreach efforts.

We commit to educating residents on the advantages of both Curbside Organic Waste Collection and community based composting, fostering widespread community engagement. Additionally, we champion community composting initiatives through targeted educational programs, empowering communities to embrace composting at a grassroots level. Furthermore, our coalition prioritizes outreach to businesses, clarifying and promoting compliance with commercial composting rules and the waste reduction goals of Local Law 199. By cultivating informed and involved citizens, we envision a city where sustainable waste management is a shared responsibility, contributing to a greener and more resilient urban environment.

350NYC | Astoria Pug | Big Reuse | BKRot | Brooklyn Botanic Garden | Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board | Cafeteria Culture | Center For Zero Waste Design | Common Ground Compost | Earth Matter NY | Forest Hills Green Team | GrowNYC | GrowNYC Workers Collective, affiliated with the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union | Lower | East Side Ecology Center | National Wildlife Federation | Natural Resource Defense Council | New York Botanical Garden | New York Lawyers for Public Interest | New York League of Conservation Voters | North Brooklyn Neighbors | Nurture BK Compost | Queens Botanical Garden | Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden | WE ACT for Environmental Justice

To my City Counselors,

To my City Counselors,

I am here today to address the city's decision to cut NYC's state-of-the-art Community Composting program by 100%, and report on the community impact it has had thus far.

The community of East New York is suffering heavy loss by your cuts. Allow me to share:

For context, I am the Compost Program Manager at **East New York Farms**!, a non-profit organization located in East New York, Brooklyn. Our mission is to organize youth and adults to address food justice in our community by promoting local sustainable agriculture and community-led economic development.

East New York has the highest concentration of community gardens in all of NYC. ENY also has disproportionately high levels of contaminated soil and food insecurity due to historic redlining, civic divestment, and environmental racism and injustice.

The East New York Farms! Compost Program collects food scraps locally from residents and community-based organizations and processes them into nutrient rich, nutritious "black gold" compost. We distribute compost directly to community members and gardens in our neighborhood to help restore their soil, and supplement organic nutrients for gardeners to grow their own resilient food system without pesticides or chemicals. Our compost operation is small, however, we process about 6,000 lbs of food scraps each season.

Big Reuse, who previously supported our capacity limitations for producing compost, helped us collect well over 12,000 pounds of food scraps from drop-off sites stationed in ENY. **Meaning, the NYC Compost Project tripled the amount of food scraps East New Yorkers diverted from the landfill, meeting community members' increased demand to compost locally**. With their support, 2023 was our most successful year on record for community composting in ENY, just in time for the city's budget cuts to take it all away.

Big Reuse also delivered over 28 cubic yards of nutritious finished compost to our site this season, which we distributed directly to community members. This work would not have been possible without the **Master Composter Program**, who has sent us over 30 volunteers to assist in the hard work of bagging and distributing compost to the community. **All of this programming receives funding from DSNY, which you have effectively disintegrated. Without Community Composting, we will not be able to get gardeners the compost they need, nor support the community demand for our Food Scrap Drop Off site.**

Community composting allows ENY to be self-reliant in remediating soil, growing resilient crops and food, and developing local sustainability. Our programming also invites participants to engage in education and community building opportunities, as composting occurs in-person, in their neighborhood, in front of their very eyes, clearly benefitting their community in real time, instead of being shipped off somewhere to get biodigested. Our programming directly engages NYCHA residents and those who have restrictions to access curbside composting.

Sra Feigelman, *Compost Program Manager - East New York Farms!*

To my City Counselors,

NYC has one of the oldest, and certainly **THE most impressive Community Composting initiative in the country.** Our organization has attended conferences and events where NYC compost programming is presented as an example for the rest of the US, and world to follow. **It is impossible for NYC to maintain this title without continuing to fund Community Composting.** It would be an absolute shame to see this program cease to exist.

Sra Feigelman, *Compost Program Manager, East New York Farms*

Sra Feigelman, *Compost Program Manager - East New York Farms!*

February 26, 2023

To whom it may concern,

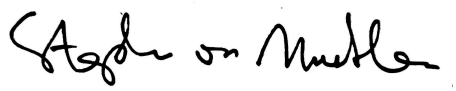
I have lived in NYC since I came here for college in 1990, and Brooklyn since 1995. I am now raising a family in Downtown Brooklyn / Ft. Greene. I helped start a community garden in 2008 (Myrtle Village Green). My wife is a founding teacher and the sustainability coordinator at a progressive elementary school in Ft. Greene (Compass Charter School). I have taken great pride in witnessing and participating in NYC's composting efforts in the last 15 years.

From building rat-proof composters for the garden using the NYC Parks Department's design to making custom tumblers for people's backyards to seeing composting becoming part of children's curriculum and watching Big Reuse's composting program flourish to using them for my small coffee business' organic waste, it has been heartening to see it all happen.

New York's community composting successes are one my favorite things to point to to show how effective New Yorkers in collaboration with their communities and City government are. It is our ability to roll up our sleeves and get things done for the better, and do it so well, that makes me proud to call New York City my home.

If this version of the City government continues to undo all the amazing work that we have done, it will be such a tragic waste of our energy. We have sustainable systems that are working. Why destroy them?

Sincerely,



Stephan von Muehlen

February 26, 2024

Good morning,

I, Susan Evans, am an employee at Big Reuse, which, before this past December's budget cuts, had a robust and vital community composting program funded by DSNY. While I still hold my job in a different area of the organization, 17 of my coworkers were laid off immediately after these cuts. These coworkers spent years building trust between New Yorkers and the very new project of city-wide composting. Instead of seeing this through and building upon their incredible work, Mayor Adams and Commissioner Tisch chose to de-fund community composting. Community composting not only builds community and connection between people and climate mitigation efforts, but it is also one of the most cost-effective ways to manage organic waste in NYC. Community composting made actual, physical compost. DSNY's composting program without fully-funded community composting programs like Big Reuse, Earthmatter, Grow NYC, the botanic gardens, and so many more, continues to rely on National Grid fossil fuel infrastructure. This is not what our city needs. I grew up on Staten Island and know first-hand how detrimental improperly managed waste (like a huge dump) can be on health and the environment. Community composting is a crucial piece of the puzzle to making NYC one of the largest cities on earth with sustainable organic waste programs.

I urge you to see the funding of these programs as an essential component to NYC's climate mitigation efforts. We need community composting.

Thank you for your time,
Susan Evans
11221

Dear New York Sanitation,

KEEP THE COMPOSTING!

Let's continue collecting fruit and vegetables (year-round) PLUS Christmas Trees and autumn leaves for our City's composting program. Rather than add another 17% to our landfills, we should make compost and replenish the soil of NYC parks and green areas.

To fight the climate change we (humans) caused, we should do everything possible to create a greener City.

NYSD already has the compost trucks and the city has organized a place for compost, then it's a waste to now end one of our "greener" and future-thinking programs, just as we've begun.

I should note that San Francisco, Seattle, San Antonio, Toronto, and Portland ae moving rapidly ahead. Will New York fall behind?

Cheers and thank you

Tamara Bedic

Request for restoration of community composting.

We at Prospect Farm (community garden in Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn) are dismayed at the fact that we no longer are able to engage in the composting partnership with Big Reuse. Producing compost for healthy soil and healthy food is a large part of our mission. Please restore funding.

Thomas Hinchen, Board President, Prospect Farm

The city's composting program is one of the most beloved and effective initiatives to address the issue of waste disposal in our gigantic city. I can only imagine how many millions of tons of organic waste have avoided the landfill and produced a useful product. Please make preservation of composting a priority.

Timothy Frasca

Trina Semorile
[redacted]
New York, NY 10035 – 3535

26 February 2024

New York City Council
Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Re: Testimony, Composting - Restore Funding

Dear Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management:

I am unable to attend the hearing in person or by telephone, so I am sending my testimony via e-mail.

Cutting funding for composting is penny wise and pound foolish. Composting prevents enormous amouts of compostable materials into land fill, which encourages serious environmental and air quality problems.

Composting aids public parks, gardens, and city trees, helping to keep them healthy.

I have been composting food scraps as long as it has been available in New York City. And while I do not get a Christmas tree, I strongly support the collection and chipping of the trees, which also provide mulch to keep the afforementioned protected and health, especially over the winter.

The ongoing problem of gutting essential services in New York City represents very poor short- and long-term management of the city; this is particularly true of the wide-ranging harm done to the health of our environment in denying the essential and needed budget to maintain these programs.

New York City was a latecomer to recycling of all types; this suffered regression when Michael Bloomberg became mayor and falsified statistics (aka “Statistics, more statistics, and damn lies”) to cancel recycling. Restoring recycling was a hardwon battle.

Cutting funds (or stopping composting altogether) would be a disastrous regression on every level. And contrary to Mayor Adams’s crying poor, the city is *not* on the brink of finacial disaster, requiring the destruction of essental public services. The mayor gave billions, unnecessarily, to the NYPD. Those funds should be restored to the agencies from which they were looted.

I ask that the City Council take action to preserve, restore, and increase funding for composting and other essential waste management, and look forward to your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Trina Semorile

My name is Wesley Straton, I am a novelist and bartender as well as a homeowner in Brooklyn (11207), and I am writing in support of community composting. Composting is one of the best and easiest ways for us to combat the real and worsening climate crisis by encouraging aerobic decomposition of organic matter and thereby vastly decreasing methane emmissions.

While I use and appreciate my curbside brown bins, like many other New Yorkers I began composting thanks to community services provided by groups like GrowNYC and Big Reuse. Their collection work is vital to our city's stated commitment to organic waste reduction, and their presence at subway stations and farmer's markets is more effective outreach than anything else I've seen from the city. Our city's path toward zero emmissions—and therefore a livable future—is dependent on community composting. These programs deserve more funding, not less. Thank you for your time.

February 26, 2024

To the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management in NYC—

I am writing to add my voice to the concerned citizens who want to live in a sustainable New York City, and would strongly recommend to the committee to save the NYC Compost Project.

For the past two years living in NYC, I've set aside my Saturday mornings to volunteer with our local community compost group on Roosevelt Island. I would climb out of bed during the hour of sunrise and bundle up to walk to Motorgate Garage, load up the compost bucket and wheel out the heavy toters, stacked two or three high, that we have for the island. I know that my peers — young professionals in their twenties — are likely sleeping in on their Saturday mornings, or heading out on various adventures around the city, but I am committed to spending a quarter of my precious weekend hours trundling the bulky bins down the riverside promenade, navigating the deceptively treacherous quarter mile of rough roadways and cracked sidewalks to make it to where we set up. Hauling around grimy bins and chopping up rotting food is certainly not the most glamorous way I could be spending my weekends in New York City, but it is something I and the seventy other volunteers on Roosevelt Island commit to because we want the opportunity for community composting to exist.

The Roosevelt Island community responds magnificently; every week, we have over two hundred participating households who stop by, drop off their food scraps, and share details about their week. The image of Roosevelt Island residents gossiping and catching up around big bins of food scraps may seem unexpected and honestly, quite humorous, but it's true. Every week, the composting station becomes a site of spontaneous community gathering. Harried office workers drop off their scraps briskly before rushing off to catch the subway; parents bring their children, and explain the process of decomposition and the importance of eco-conscious procedures. And every week, I am thanked by the residents who come by. We are out there in rain, and snow, and sleet; in summer heat waves, in smoggy days, and so long as we are out there, the residents will come as well. They thank us for being there; they wave, and say that they'll see us next week.

Community composting initiatives are both incredibly cost-effective as well as eco-friendly. Just the Roosevelt Island initiative alone has saved over 170 tons — *tons* — of food waste from going into landfills. The compost that is generated comes straight back to the island, where it fertilizes the trees, the vegetable beds, the seasonal flowers in the planters along Main Street. Residents can even take the compost home in little cups to feed their houseplants. 170 tons of food waste have returned to Roosevelt Island as compost and fertilizer, making the island a more beautiful and vibrant place to live. At the same time, it saves the city money — 170 tons of food waste stay local and don't have to be put on barges to be shipped to landfills in other locations. Fully volunteer-run, the Roosevelt Island group operates on a shoestring budget that goes towards the trucks to transport the food waste out and the compost back in. And the effects of our efforts are noticeable — our clean compost reduces vermin that would otherwise be attracted to the trash. Composting initiatives reduce landfill waste, keep streets clean, create fertilizer to help the sidewalk gardens and trees bloom. Hundreds of jobs are maintained through these green initiatives through GrowNYC, Big Reuse, LES Ecology Center, and the city's botanical gardens.

As the climate crisis grows more and more severe, we should be putting more effort behind eco-friendly initiatives, not less.

The NYC Compost Project is vital to our city's infrastructure. The NYC Compost Project keeps our neighborhoods connected and cleaner with constant education about varied composting methods. They provide essential food scrap drop off collection sites and local composting to rebuild our city soils. Informally, compost collection sites can become informal gathering spaces for communities to arise; so much of my love for living on Roosevelt Island comes out of the wonderful people I've met over, yes, smelly bins of decaying food scraps.

As a resident of New York City, I hope that the mayor and the city government will recognize the immense benefit community compost brings to the city at such a low cost. Community compost is already so volunteer-driven that the budget requirements are minimal; we just need the barest support from the city to maintain the existing infrastructure of transportation and processing. I hope that the Committee will hear the voices of concerned city residents, and fight for community compost initiatives, so we can continue the work we do already out of the love of our hearts.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Ye

The NYC Compost Project is vital to our city. It is one of the main reasons that as a lifelong New Yorker I still choose to live her despite having better opportunities elsewhere. My children (now 7 and 11) have grown up thinking composting our scraps is standard procedure, as it should be. As the World's City, we need to be at the forefront of what's right, just and sustainable. This is just one opportunity to do that. Please continue to generously fund NYC Compost

I support the restoration and expansion of city funding for community composting.

“For the past 30 years, New York City has funded community-based programs that spread the gospel of compost. What started as a few education and outreach sites at the city’s botanical gardens has grown into a vast network of more than 200 neighborhood food scrap drop-off locations where devoted New Yorkers enthusiastically deliver bags of rotting waste each week. Today, the programs employ 115 people and divert more than 8.3 million pounds of organic waste from landfills each year.”

This is a quote from an article entitled “Eric Adams Just Cut the Only NYC Compost Programs That Ever Worked” to me- it says it all. Community composting in NYC is a hard-fought and time-tested system that has, in my eyes, grown into the biggest and most comprehensive composting collaboration in this country. I’m proud to say I was there in 1996 at the composting site at the Staten Island Botanic Garden working as the *Assistant Compost Project Manager.* Side note, I loved that job.

The mayor should be *expanding* the funding for community composting not eliminating it- for so, so many reasons- including; The production of valuable compost that can be used to support the growth of NYC’s green infrastructure, building more absorbent soil that will help build resilience in the face of rain events, providing jobs for New Yorkers who have a passion for building soil and community.

Please restore and expand the funding for community composting.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Pamela Galvin <pgalvin626@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 8:28 PM
[redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Composting

[redacted]

Hello!

I respectfully want to note that composting on the large, community level is too important to stop supporting. NYC has so many problems; community composting serves to bring people together united for a good cause while managing waste and while creating something so powerfully useful for plants. The truly composted food and yard waste helps bring plants and trees to life, giving us better air to breathe. Compost in its true form helps mitigate flooding. Lastly, compost grows more plants proving more food and more aesthetic beauty for our city. It is too important to curtail.

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kate Kitchener

Address: _____

I represent: DSNY

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joshua Goodman

Address: _____

I represent: DSNY

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 2/27/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ryan Meroka

Address: _____

I represent: DSNY

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Javier Lojan

Address: _____

I represent: DSNY

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Pro Considered Bill Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition Intro 1100-2023

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marisa DeDominicis

Address: 179 Rivington St

I represent: Earth Matter NY

Address: Governors Island NY

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

Compost

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Erik Meijer

Address: _____

I represent: Grow NYC Workers Collective BWDSU

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. compost

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 02/27/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: WINSON WONG

Address: [redacted] 57TH ST, BROOKLYN NY 11219

I represent: AFTERLIFE AG

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. composting Res. No. _____

☑ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carol Robins

Address: [redacted] W. 85 St

I represent: self

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

compost

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lena Frey

Address: [redacted] Leonard Street

I represent: GrowNYC Makers Collective

Address: BWDSU

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

Compost

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Courtney Scheffler

Address: _____

I represent: Grow NYC Workers Collective

Address: RWDSU

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. compost

☑ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 2/27/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christine Datz-Romero

Address: [redacted] E 8th St

I represent: Lower East Side Ecology Center

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. Compost #55

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Community

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Justin Green

Address: [redacted] Clinton Ave [redacted] Brooklyn, NY

I represent: BIG Reuse

Address: 1 12th Street Brooklyn, NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 055 Res. No. 2024

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 2/27/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Celeste Perez

Address:

I represent: NYC Environmental Justice Alliance & Transform Don't Trash Coalition

Address:

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Compost

Date: 2/27/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Erik Menjivar

Address: [redacted] 121 Street [redacted] College Point, NY 11356

I represent: GrowNYC Workers Collective

Address:

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 2/27/2024

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christopher Leon Johnson

Address: [redacted] Buffalo Ave [redacted]

I represent: Self

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Community Composting

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 02/27/2024

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sra (Srr-Ah) Feigelman

Address: [redacted] Decatur St

I represent: East New York Farms!

Address: 613 New Lots Ave.

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Art Sussman

Address: _____

I represent: GrowNYC

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms