



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Implementing Commercial Organics Recycling in CT:

An overview of CT's Commercial Organics
Recycling Law

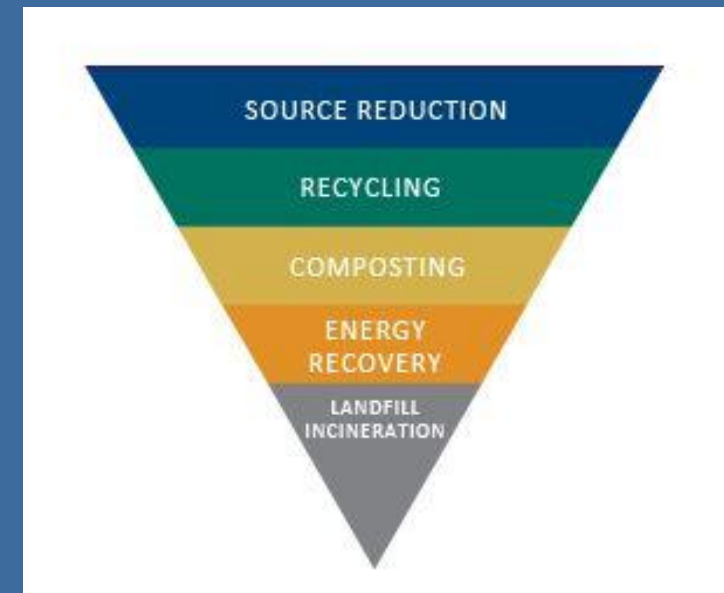
K.C. Alexander, CT DEEP Recycling Program
CRC Annual Meeting & Organics Recycling Conference
Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT
December 16, 2014



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

CT State Environmental Agency Perspective

- We are responsible for the waste we generate.
- We reduce, reuse and recycle first; recover energy; then dispose of what's left as self-sufficiently as possible per our solid waste management hierarchy.
- CT wants clean energy, jobs, economic growth.
- Wasted food has value that needs to be unlocked, with priority to feed hungry people.



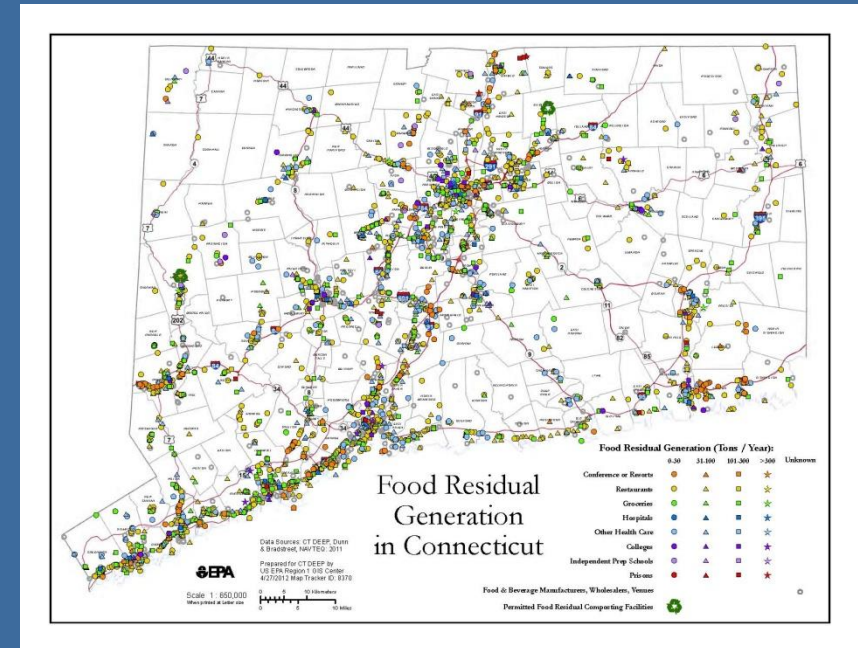
Laying the Groundwork for Organics Law

- Where are the food residual generators?
 - [Food Residuals Mapping Project](#)
- Strategies for handling organics
 - [Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan](#)
 - [Solid Waste Advisory Subcommittee on Organics](#)
 - Prioritize organics permit applications
- What is still in the trash?
 - [Statewide SW Composition & Characterization Study](#)
- PA 11-217 as amended by PA 13-285 [CGS 22a-226e]
 - [Organics Recycling Law](#)
 - [Recycling Means Business](#) – CT Signals Food Scrap Recycling Facilities are Welcome



Where are the Food Residuals Generated?

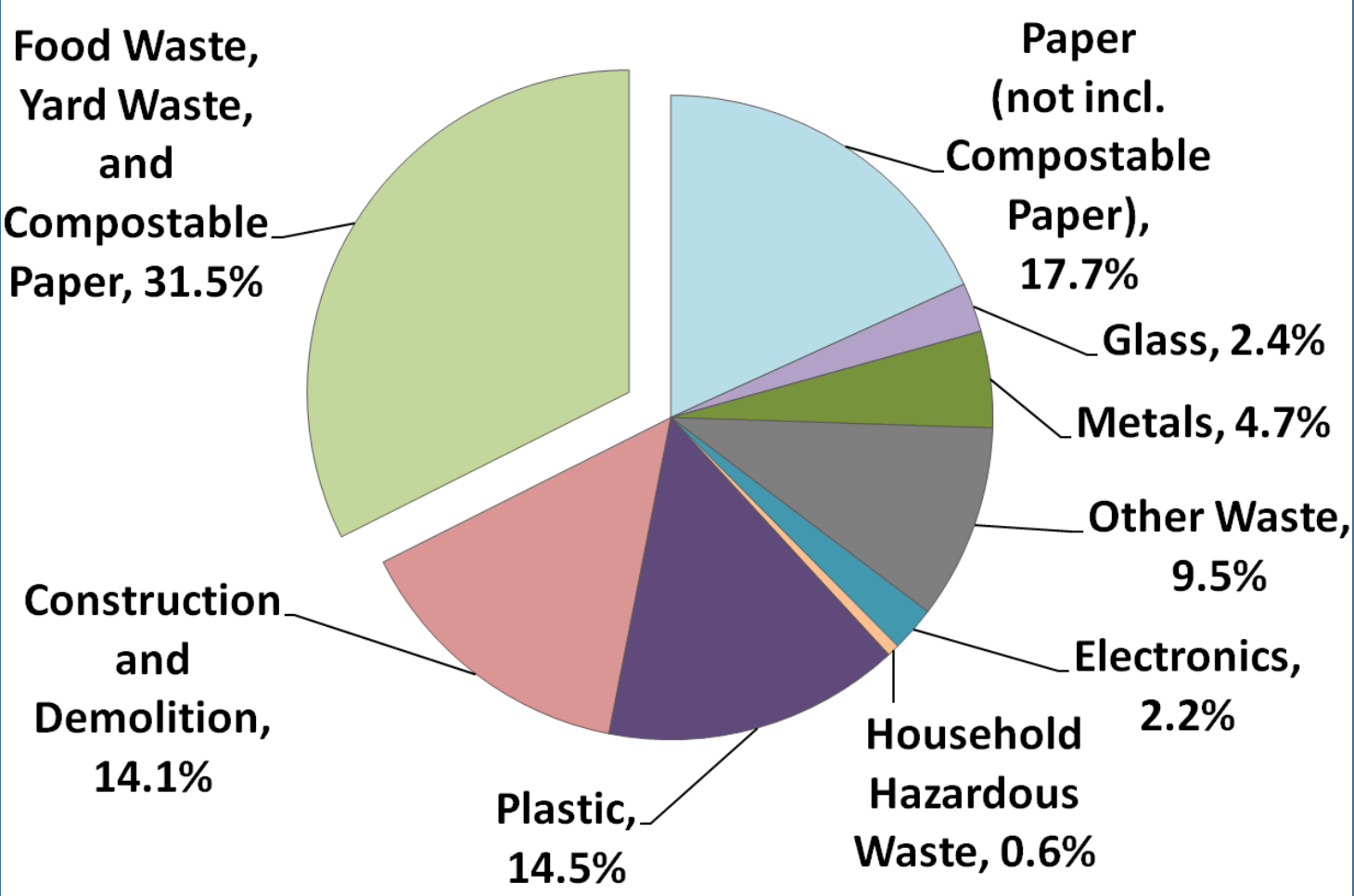
- Feedstock sourcing tool for potential facility developers
- Transportation, route density tool for haulers
- Recycling opportunity tool for generators
- SW planning tool for regulators



[Food Residual Generator Map and Database](#)



Compostables Still in CT's Trash (%)



Compostables Still in CT's Trash (by weight)

Compostable Materials By Weight

Overall Statewide Disposed

Source: CT Statewide Solid Waste Composition and Characterization Study Final Report 2009 – Table 6

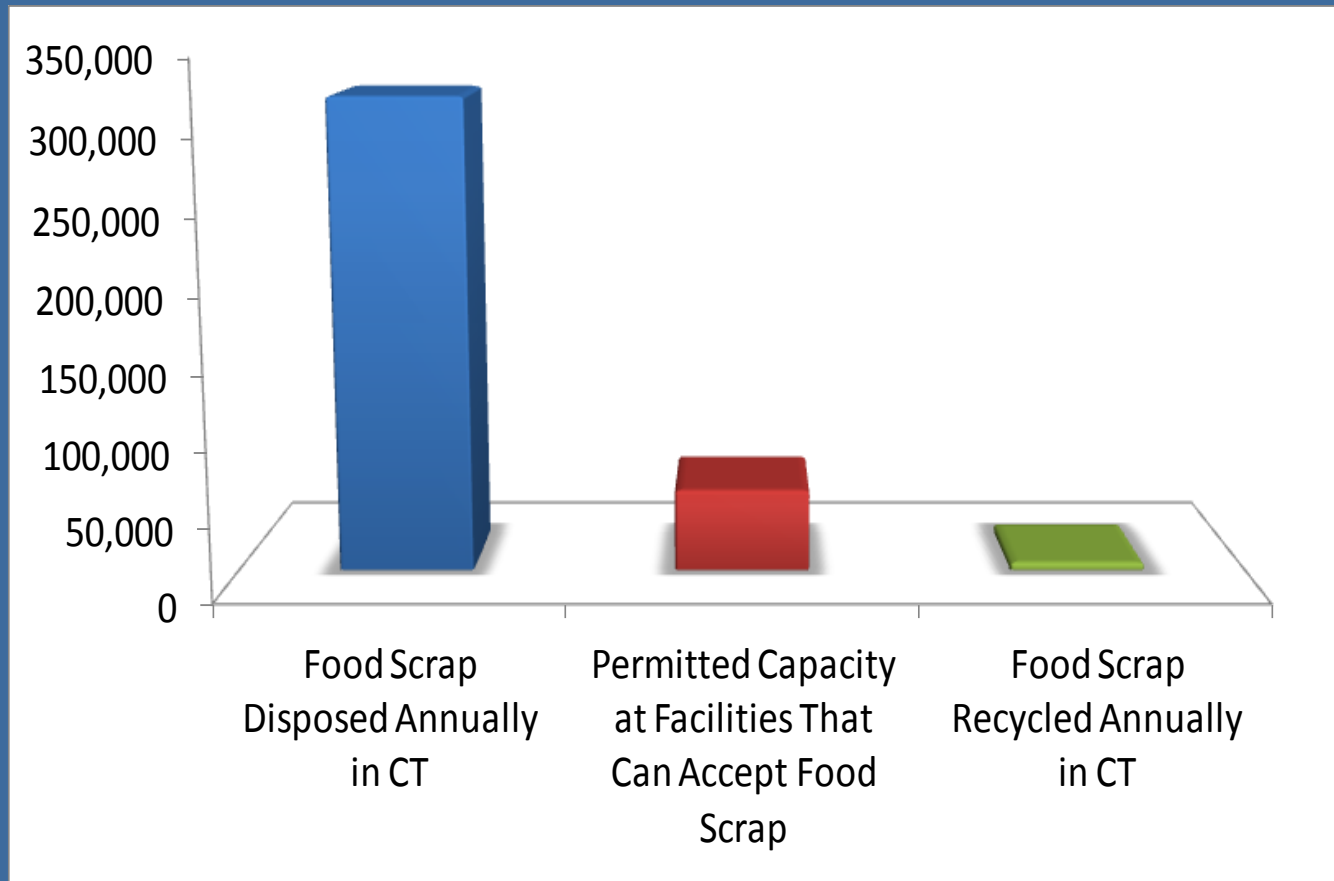
Material	Est. Percent	Est. Tons
Food Waste	13.5%	321,481
Compostable Paper	8.2%	195,185
Leaves & Grass	7.2%	172,408
Prunings & Trimmings	2.2%	51,550
Branches & Stumps	0.4%	10,149
Total	31.5%	750,773



Addressing Processing Infrastructure Gap

Food scrap processing capacity is currently inadequate.

Tons



Purpose of Organics Recycling Law

- Incentivize developers to locate in CT so that recycling options are more available – close gap!
- Get a valuable resource out of the trash and into local commerce as products and clean energy
- Save businesses money
- Promote clean energy (Anaerobic Digestion)
- Encourage economic development
- Move food scrap up the solid waste management hierarchy to a higher value use



Path of Commercial Organics Recycling Law

- First submitted to legislature in 2010, but failed
- Tried again in 2011, [P.A. 11-217](#) passed
 - Support from CT Food Assoc., CRRRA, CT Clean Energy Fund
 - Landmark legislation: CT was the first to pass statewide mandate
 - Since followed by VT, RI, CA, & MA (regulation); others trying
- Amended in 2013, Sec. 4 of [P.A. 13-285](#) to remove ambiguity (codified in CGS 22a-226e)
 - Set specific implementation dates
 - Clarify that can use any authorized site, not just ones w/in 20 mi.
 - Reduced SSOM generation threshold to half on Jan 1, 2020



Organics Recycling Law Summary

- **Applies to** food wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, processors, supermarkets, resorts & conference centers **that:**
- **Generate** an average projected volume of 104 tons/yr. of source separated organics, **and** are
- Within 20 miles of a SSOM processing facility.
- Must **source separate** and **ensure recycling** at any authorized facility that has available capacity and can accept food scrap.



Organics Recycling Law Summary (cont'd)

- Generation volume threshold reduces to 52 tons/yr. in 2020
 - On-site composting counts as compliance
 - Any permitted facility that receives SSOM must report to DEEP a summary of tipping fees charged
-
- Smaller generators will benefit because we're creating more options to recycle SSOM
 - Webpage about the Organics Recycling law (FAQ): www.ct.gov/deep/OrganicsRecyclingLaw



Definition of SSOM & Composting Facility

“Source-Separated Organic Material”

means organic material, including, but not limited to, food scraps, food processing residue and soiled or unrecyclable paper that has been separated at the point or source of generation from nonorganic material." [CGS 22a-207\(29\)](#)



“Composting Facility” means land, appurtenances, structures or equipment where organic materials originating from another process or location that have been **separated at the point or source of generation** from nonorganic material are recovered using a process of accelerated biological decomposition of organic material under **controlled aerobic or anaerobic** conditions. [CGS 22a-207\(28\)](#)



Supporting Implementation of the Law

- Prioritizing permit applications for AD and other food scrap recycling facilities
- Getting the word out to generators
 - Presentations, Articles, Newsletters, Web pages, Case Studies
- Enforcement
 - Gradual roll-out of enforcement to allow time for compliance
 - Support to processing facilities who identify non-compliers
 - Identify deficiencies in food scrap recycling during routine DEEP inspections and follow up with technical assistance.
 - Follow Enforcement Response Policy; Notice of non-compliance, notice of violation, administrative order, etc.



Progress in Infrastructure Development

- Three composting facilities permitted to take food scrap and another application pending
- Three applications received for Anaerobic Digestion (AD) of food scrap
- Other AD and composting facilities being “talked about” but no applications for these received yet



Bottom Line

- Each state's laws are a little different, but the collective message from CT and the Northeast is that we need food scrap recycling to happen, and we're willing to pass laws and regulations to help make it happen.
- Developers are listening to our message!



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www.ct.gov/deep/composting
www.ct.gov/deep/recycle



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