

Food Scrap Diversion and Management- Tip Sheet #2

Municipal Pilot Program Case Studies

CASE STUDY: Lebanon Solid Waste and Recycling Facility Food Scrap Recovery Pilot
TYPE OF PROGRAM: On site (in house) **# TOWNS WITH ACCESS:** 22
Households: 136 **# WEEKS:** 10 **# LBS COLLECTED WEEKLY:** 400+
COLLECTION: Dumpster **RESIDENT KIT:** Paid permit, bucket
COST SAVINGS COMPOSTING VS. LANDFILLING: 30% **END USE:** Landfill erosion control

In 2022, Lebanon offered a 10-week pilot program allowing residents to drop off food scraps at the Solid Waste and Recycling Facility. Participants prepaid to receive a permit to compost for one year, with 136 people signing up. The City also engaged residents with a web-based application called BetterBin to help users understand what was accepted and to track their contributions. Lebanon uses compostable and PFAS-free Biobags for odor and vector control.

PARTICIPANT IMPACT: As participants in the program pay closer attention to their food scrap waste and transfer that from the garbage to the compost bin, the amount of food scraps has decreased. The City has now incorporated food waste recovery and reduction education on a regular basis.

POINT OF EMPHASIS: The key to success for on-site food scrap recovery is access to carbon - whether it is leaves, ash, or chipped trees. Lebanon found that the volume of residents' leaves was not enough to support the volume of organic material to be composted so they purchased additional chipped material to add to their compost pile.

END USE: Lebanon uses their compost as landfill erosion control. This activity helps avoid the use of virgin soil products and has a huge benefit on landfill capacity.

OUTCOMES: Over 400 pounds of organic waste was collected and added to the yard waste piles to have an appropriate mixture of carbon and green material. As of 2023, the pilot has developed into a fully open service with drop off free to households, and a fee for commercial entities.



CASE STUDY: New London Public Works Department Pilot

TYPE OF PROGRAM: Pick Up (Contract)

CONTRACTOR: Renewal Compost

Households: 20

WEEKS: 28

LBS COLLECTED WEEKLY: 250 AVG

COLLECTION: Large can at Transfer Station

RESIDENT KIT: Bucket, compostable bags, directions

FUNDING SOURCE: Town Revolving Fund

TOWNS WITH ACCESS: 1

BUDGET: \$280 for 20 5-gallon buckets, one large collection can, \$37/week for pick up

With support from the Waste Reduction Committee, New London contracted with Renewal Compost to pick up food scraps weekly. Renewal Compost weighs the food scraps collected each week, which are then taken to a farm in Derry and made into finished compost.

PARTICIPANT IMPACT: The reason most participants joined the program was “to do our part” in reducing waste going to landfills and causing methane gas emissions, to turn food scraps into “something useful”/to help the environment, and to save the town money. Food scrap collection was considered “easy”, “effortless”, and worth the time. Participants were surprised by how much food they were throwing out, and how small and light bags of trash became without food scraps.

POINT OF EMPHASIS: Results of two resident surveys revealed a town-wide interest in food scrap collection, with 68% of respondents supporting the program. The convenience of being able to combine trash and recycling with food scrap drop off at the transfer station was also important.

END USE: Finished compost is sold by Renewal Compost.

OUTCOMES: After a successful pilot program, New London voters unanimously approved expanding the food scrap collection program to 160 households.

