

Diverting Food from Landfill

in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region

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Unwanted food makes its way to our landfills 96% of the time: The most undesirable route. Across this Region, people, schools, communities, and municipal staff are working hard to implement better strategies for unwanted food to provide value rather than sunk costs.

Composting Training: Successful Municipal and Institutional Design

UVLSRPC is coordinating a two-day training for municipalities and institutions, such as schools, to develop and maintain a food-scrap composting program. On-farm composting facility tour. The training will be held at the Sunrise Farm in White River Junction on Wednesday, August 28 and Thursday, August 29. Classroom in the barn and lots of hands-on activities. The primary trainer is Mark Hutchinson recently retired Extension Profession at the University of Maine and a former instructor at the Maine Compost School. He is currently an international consultant. Cat Buxton of Grow More, Waste Less will also provide training along with State personnel from both New Hampshire and Vermont. Come learn how to set up or enhance a composting facility for your municipality or institution.

View the agenda and register at <https://tinyurl.com/MuniCompost>.
For Questions, contact Victoria Davis vdavis@uvsrpc.org



Maine Compost School Training.

Sustainable Hanover Explores Options for Diversion

Sustainable Hanover is leading the food scrap diversion effort in Hanover. Two presentations were made to the group in the Spring of 2024 to explore community options.

The first presentation involved staff from the UVLSRPC sharing the logistics of a food scrap diversion pilot, and the option of hosting a home composting workshop with Cat Buxton of Grow More, Waste Less. Yolanda Baumgartner, Co-Chair of Sustainable Hanover, acknowledged the alignment of the program with the Town's Sustainability Master Plan. "The food scrap diversion program has produced a great jump start to this topic, which aligns perfectly with the zero-waste vision articulated in Hanover's new Sustainability Master Plan."

The second presentation was by Abbey Massaro of the Center for Ecotechnology, explaining grant-supported services available for restaurants and other commercial entities. Town officials are continuing conversations with restaurant owners to explore expanding efforts.



Compost collection tote in Eastman.

Eastman Composting Pilot Kicks Off

The Sustainable Eastman Committee has been actively planning its food scrap diversion program since January 2024, with committee members Jeanne Raymond and Cynthia Nichols leading the effort. Conversations with Town officials and Eastman community leadership determined that the best approach would be a pilot program with Eastman residents, who comprise approximately 85% of Grantham residents.

In June a two-month pilot program began with 20 households from the Eastman Community. Participants received an orientation, including a complimentary bucket with cover, countertop collection bin, and informational handouts. Community collection bins have been constructed and installed at an overflow parking lot at Eastman using a secured box construction with 4 60-gallon totes for depositing food scraps, and precautions taken to prevent rodent and bear concerns raised by residents. To date, the pilot is going very well. Eastman has contracted with commercial food scrap company We Recycle Food, a division of Nordic Waste Services for weekly pick up.

Home Composting Workshops

The Home Composting series continued in May & June 2024, with conversations in Grantham, Lyme, New London, and Goshen. Majestic Terhune (UVLSRPC) and Cat Buxton (Grow More, Waste Less) spoke to residents about the state of food waste in New Hampshire, why food waste diversion is important, food waste diversion options, and how to compost successfully. During the question-and-answer portion of the workshops, attendees and speakers discussed municipal efforts toward food waste diversion, potential local partners for composting initiatives, and UVLSRPC's composting work with schools in the region. Many of the 55 attendees across the workshops left with a compost bin and/or kitchen collector to start their composting journey. We are especially grateful for the support of the Lyme Board of Selectmen, Goshen Library Board of Trustees, New London Waste Reduction Committee, and Sustainable Eastman Committee, who provided the venues and helped to get the word out.



Terhune in Goshen ready for the home composting workshop.

Upcoming workshops in Unity (July 21), and Hanover (September).

Program Resources

MUNICIPAL TIP SHEETS! Topics include: How to start a Municipal Program, Pilot Program Case Studies, Collection & On-Farm Collaboration, Permitting, and Financial Considerations.

COMPOST COMICS! A series of five comics that tell the story of Corey who saves the world by decomposing in a compost pile.

A program of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
Funded by the USDA Solid Waste Program. Visit us at www.uvlsrpc.org/food-scrap

