

Diverting Food from Landfill

in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region

Published September 2023

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

RESIDENTS ENGAGE

The Home Composting Workshops in Enfield, New London, and Cornish demonstrated both the importance and accessibility of home composting to beginners and experts alike. Hosted in September 2023 with more to come (including Oct 20 in Orford NH), the workshops enabled residents throughout the region to hear from Compost Geek Cat Buxton, Composting Association of Vermont Director Natasha Duarte, & Compost Champion Cindy Heath. The sessions included a presentation and demonstration. The audience discussed and asked questions regarding their current compost setups, compost ‘myths,’ and creating composting movements within their respective communities. Approximately 45 people attended the workshops, including online attendees. In-person attendees received either an outdoor compost bin or smaller, countertop collection bin to take home.



Photo. Enfield workshop attendees leave smiling with a kitchen counter scraps bin.

Home composting resources can be found on our website, including future workshop opportunities. If you are interested in hosting a workshop, we would love to hear from you.

MUNICIPAL STAFF SEEK A PATH LESS TAKEN

This Summer, Compost Champion Cindy Heath conducted interviews with municipalities to determine interest and capacity for food scrap diversion. We were humbled to learn that many view diversion as a priority and are interested in engaging in municipal pilot programs or supporting household education. UVLSRPC looks forward to helping to further these priorities in the coming year!

Tip Sheets were developed for our municipal audience to learn about diversion strategies. A few are under development and will be available in Winter 2023. Topics include:

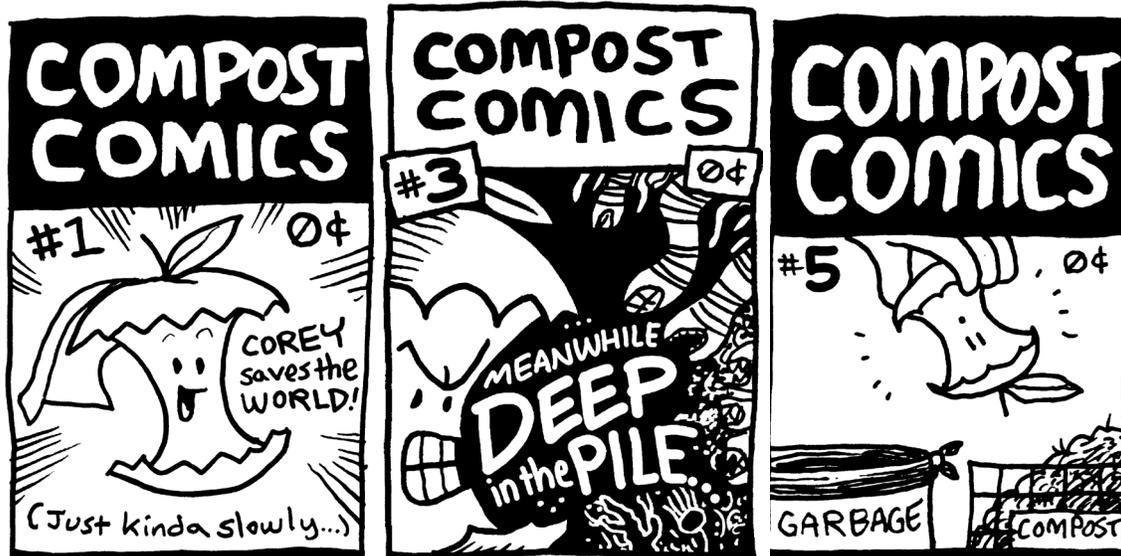
1. How to Start a Municipal Program
2. Pilot Program Case Studies
3. Collection & On-Farm Collaboration
4. Permitting Options
5. Financial Considerations
6. Advance Community Composting
7. FAQ and Additional Resources

COMIC MASTERMIND TAKES ON COMPOST

This Summer, Marek Bennett gave us the gift of COMPOST COMICS! A series of five comics that tell the story of Corey who saves the world by decomposing in a compost pile. It's a fun and educational series that can be enjoyed by children and adults alike. A great tool for our families, communities, and schools to make solving problems not only important, but fun!

The comics are easy to print from our website and a fun activity to fold. We will also be distributing them to our community public spaces.

- Find Corey: www.uulsrpc.org/food-scrap
- Receive copies this Winter 2023: ouyizeye@uulsrpc.org



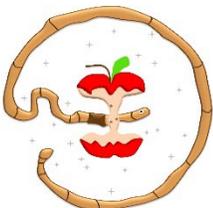
STATE PASSES HB300

The New Hampshire legislature has passed HB300. This requires anyone accumulating 1 ton or more per week of food scraps to divert from landfill. If there is no alternative within 20 miles, the requirement is waived. The requirement will start in 2025.

Receive Updates.

Sign up and tell us why! <http://tiny.cc/1fsbuz>

Whether you want to hear good news, act yourself, act with others, or just learn - we could have something for you.



A program of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
Providing technical assistance on food diversion from landfills
Funded by the USDA Solid Waste Program
Visit us at www.uulsrpc.org/food-scrap

