

A02467



COMPOSTING ORGANIC WASTE IN STATE AND MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS IN NEW YORK BILL



**FOOD
SCRAPS
&
YARD
WASTE**

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FACULTY ADVISOR: DR STEVEN COHEN

MANAGER: CELINE ANDRIANA

DEPUTY MANAGER: DANIELA FANDIÑO SANTOS

TEAM: ALAN CHAN, ASTRID GIRAUD, HAOYANG LI,
KANISHKA PANDEY, KUNYUE ZHOU, MARIA FLORENCIA
PEREZ, SARA HARIS, SILVIA VARGAS, YIWEI LIU

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Source: Where Nature Meets Climate, n.d.

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Executive Summary

This report evaluates New York State's proposed Composting Organic Waste at State and Municipal Buildings Bill (A02467), which seeks to mandate organic waste separation and recycling across state and municipal agencies. This legislative effort is aligned with the state's broader climate objectives under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), aiming to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050. Organic waste currently contributes significantly to the state's GHG emissions, highlighting the importance of addressing this issue through targeted policy measures.

California's successful implementation of SB1383 serves as an instructive case study, demonstrating that comprehensive planning, public outreach, educational programs, and consistent financial support are essential for the effective execution of organic waste recycling laws. Drawing from California's experience, this report outlines a phased implementation strategy for New York's proposed bill, emphasizing the need for early-stage preparation, educational outreach, and structured progress tracking to ensure compliance and efficacy.

Key components of Bill A02467 include the development of organic waste programs, separation and processing protocols, and annual reporting requirements. However, the bill's current framework lacks specificity in areas such as educational programs, reporting standards, and infrastructure planning, which could pose challenges during implementation. To address these gaps, this report recommends tailored educational initiatives, enhanced support for smaller municipalities, and flexible program designs that cater to New York's diverse regional needs.

The flexible approach allows for government units to **adopt one of two primary implementation options are proposed: (1.) on-site processing with shared facilities and (2.) contracts with private haulers for waste transport to private processing facilities.** Each option has unique benefits and challenges, but both require comprehensive training and reporting mechanisms. The report also emphasizes the importance of garnering bipartisan support and securing financial resources, such as grants or subsidies, to ensure the bill's successful rollout.

The report's proposed phased plan for the first year focuses on building capacity within the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) through hiring, training, and educational outreach. Metrics for tracking participation, plan submission, and educational engagement are outlined to monitor progress effectively. The plan also includes budget allocations for personnel services and operational expenses necessary for initial program development.

In conclusion, passing and implementing Bill A02467 will position New York as a leader in sustainable waste management and contribute significantly to the state's GHG reduction targets. By addressing infrastructure disparities, fostering educational outreach, and ensuring financial and legislative support, the state can create a robust framework for sustainable organic waste management that benefits all New Yorkers and sets a precedent for future environmental policies.

Introduction

This report examines New York State's proposed "Composting Organic Waste at State and Municipal Buildings Bill" (A02467) as a climate mitigation strategy focused on organic waste recycling. The report focuses on the Bill's mandate for organic waste recycling within state and municipal buildings, analysis of the political background, and presents a program design. The study outlines a planning-focused approach for the first year of implementation, emphasizing infrastructure, education, and operational readiness of the involved government units to reduce methane emissions and other environmental impacts associated with landfilling organic waste. This groundwork aims to ensure the policy's success in mitigating climate change and fostering sustainable waste management practices statewide.

Key Definitions

Agency: Means any department, agency, board, public benefit corporation, public authority, or commission.

Anaerobic Digestion: Process by which microorganisms break down organic (carbon-based) materials, such as food waste, grease, and wastewater solids in the absence of oxygen. This process produces biogas, a renewable energy source, as well as digestate or biosolids, residual materials that facilities can treat and use in beneficial applications. Co-digestion is the simultaneous anaerobic digestion of multiple organic materials in one digester, such as food waste and manure.

Compostable: Means all the materials in the product will (i) undergo degradation by biological processes during composting to yield carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds, and biomass at a rate consistent with other known compostable materials; and (ii) leave no visible, distinguishable or toxic residue, including no adverse impact on the ability of composts to support plant growth once the finished compost is placed in soil.

Composting: It is a form of organics recycling. It is the managed, aerobic (oxygen-required) biological decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms. Organic (carbon-based) materials include grass clippings, leaves, yard and tree trimmings, food scraps, crop residues, animal manure and biosolids. Compost products for commercial sale typically go through thermophilic composting, where compost reaches high temperatures that reduce pathogens. By composting the organic waste, and using the compost produced, all the nutrients and carbon can be returned to the soil to improve soil quality, support plant growth and build resilience in our local ecosystems and communities.

Municipal: Means a village, town, city, or county.

Organic Waste: Includes food, yard and tree trimmings, and other organic (carbon-based) materials in the waste stream. Materials included in the definition of organic waste vary by state and local jurisdiction (e.g., some state and local jurisdictions include lumber and manure). The term "organic" in this Bill refers to materials that allow what is mentioned in the "compostable" section.

Organic Waste Recycling: Also called organics recycling. In this context, it refers to collecting and processing organic waste that would otherwise be landfilled or incinerated, and turning it into new products, such as biogas (e.g., by anaerobic digestion,) soil amendments (e.g., by composting food scraps,) or soaps and bone meal (e.g., by rendering). Organic Waste Recycling can include solutions such as anaerobic digestion or composting, described in this document, among others.

Ongoing Organics Recycling Programs in New York State



Source: City Limits, 2024

Why is this program needed?

In 2019, New York State signed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) with the aim to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050 from 1990 levels. The CLCPA encapsulates sectors that are to be addressed in order to reduce GHG emissions, the waste sector is addressed as one of the seven sectors includes all aspects of waste management including specifically organics recycling. A specific portion of GHG emissions from this sector comes from organic materials that end up in landfills. The Composting Organic Waste at State and Municipal Buildings in New York Bill (A02467), henceforth “the Bill” seeks to address the portion of organic waste generated by state and municipal agencies. The portion of New York State’s municipal solid waste stream categorized as organic amounted to 68% in 2018 (NYSDEC, 2023). Only 19% of the State’s municipal solid waste are recycled, 39% of municipal solid waste are landfilled in state, while 28% is exported out of state to incineration plants and landfill across the Eastern United States (NYSDEC, 2023). Other environmental benefits the implementation of this bill seeks to achieve is to decrease habitat destruction due to landfills and limit leaching of pollutants into surrounding natural resources. The Bill will allow for all state agencies to implement a proper recycling program for organic waste thus laying the groundwork for wider future efforts to properly manage organic waste.

California Case Study: Bill SB1383

California Bill SB1383 passed in 2021 requires cities and counties to reduce their organic waste disposal by 75% in 2025, the main agency responsible for the roll out is Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). The legislation covers a wider scope compared to New York State Bill A02467, as it goes beyond public agencies to include all California residents, businesses, and multifamily complexes it also mandates certain measures regarding generated food waste and repurposing. It requires these stakeholders to separate organic waste into designated organic carts (WM Intellectual Property Holdings, LLC, 2021). These designated waste carts are to be made available by all towns, cities and counties. State jurisdictions will then be responsible for collecting and processing the collected organic waste. SB1383 also requires that state jurisdictions plan and conduct education and outreach efforts to all stakeholders that must manage their organic waste. There is jurisdiction training specifically aimed at state agency employees to gain a better understanding of organic recycling and the bills overall requirements. Together with CalRecycle there are tools available for jurisdictions to communicate with the various stakeholders covered by the bill to ensure SB1383 implementation. Moreover, infographic materials available for jurisdictions include presentations, videos and webinars, designed by the state to be customizable so that they can be tailored to the addressed audience. SB1383 has already shown results in the diversion of waste from landfills. In 2022, CalRecycle found that 75% of the region’s jurisdictions have successfully implemented the composting program; additionally, 11.2 million tons of organic waste has been diverted from landfills, an 13% increase from 2021 (Taxin, 2024).



Summary of Bill A02467

Source: BioCycle, 2020

In New York State, the obligation to conserve, improve, protect and prevent the detriment of natural resources is stated by the Environmental Conservation Law (Chapter 43-b, Article 1, Title 1). The law regulates the state waste management as part of the effort to protect public health, encourage urban and metropolis growth, and for the development of economically advantageous projects for collection, treatment and management (Article 27 “Collection, Treatment, and Disposal of Refuse and Other Solid Waste”, Title 1). However, no specific regulation for composting organic waste was included in this article. On January 26, 2023, the Democratic Party introduced in the New York State Assembly the “Composting Organic Waste at State and Municipal Buildings in New York Bill” (A02467). This bill amends the current Article 27 for state and municipal agencies to establish and implement a waste composting program one (1) year after its effective date.

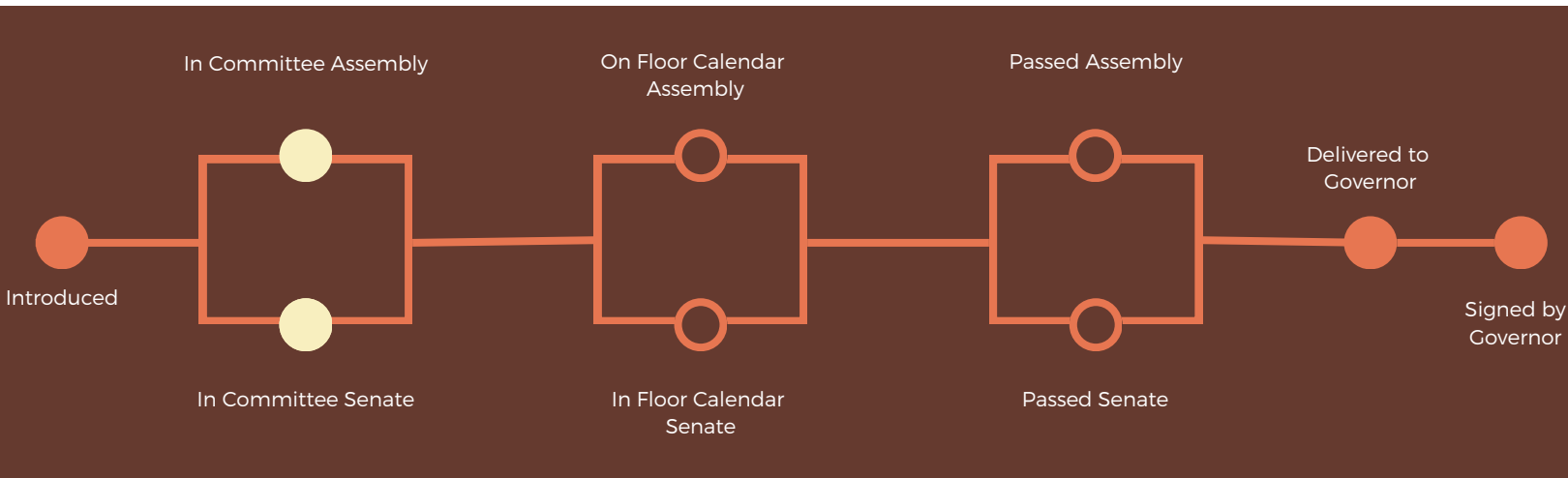
The Bill (A02467) requires that state and local agencies develop organic waste programs, enact separation of organic waste from other waste, and send the separated waste for processing. Depending on whether the agency has space for on-site processing or if the agency is sending waste to the facility, waste separation will happen differently by different regulated parties. The separation of organic waste should include waste that decomposes within 6 months to 2 years such as; yard trimmings, food waste, and food-soiled paper. Additionally, the Bill includes mandatory reporting requirements. Agencies must submit annual reports on program effectiveness and costs to the Department of Environmental Conservation. The latter, in turn, must publish a public report by December 2025, evaluating the effectiveness of the programs and the information on their costs and collection rates. Previous versions of this bill were introduced in previous legislative sessions but did not advance, and the current version has been under review by the Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation of New York State’s Assembly and Senate since January 3rd, 2024. Finally, the Bill’s objectives and requirements must adhere to other legal provisions of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and Title 6 of the Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR), since they both regulate waste management at a State level.

Overview of actors covered by the bill and key requirements

Actors	Key Requirements of the Bill
• State Agencies • Municipal Agencies • New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)	• Organic waste programs • Separation of Organic Waste • Processing of Organic Waste • Reporting

What is the current status of the bill?

At present Bill A02467 is in the Assembly Committee, it must attain the support of the Environmental Conservation Committee, then achieve support on the floors of the Assembly and Senate, before being signed by the Governor, presently Governor Kathy Hochul. For the Bill to be passed, Assembly members and Senators need to recognize its important contribution to accomplishing wider state goals, especially in mitigating climate change.



How will this bill be passed?

Bill A02467 follows the standard multi-step legislative process in the New York State Legislature. The bill is introduced in the Assembly, where it is assigned to a committee for review. In this committee, the bill is carefully examined and may be amended. If it passes the committee, it moves to the Assembly floor for a full vote. The bill requires a simple majority of 76 votes from the 150 total Assembly members (AM) to be enacted.

Once the Assembly passes the bill, it progresses to the New York State Senate. It follows a similar path: committee review, floor debate, and then a full Senate vote. In the Senate, 32 out of 63 votes are needed to pass the bill. If both chambers approve the bill, it is sent to the Governor for signature or veto. The Governor can either sign the bill into law, veto it, or allow it to become law without a signature after a specified period.



Who are the proponents of the bill?

The Bill was proposed by Democratic Party Member AM Harvey Epstein and co-authored by seven other party members. AM Epstein, recognized as a strong advocate for the diversion of organic waste from New York State's waste stream, was also one of the 76 Assembly co-sponsors of the CLCPA, thus recognizing proper organic waste diversion as a measure that contributes towards the state's new emissions reduction goal. While voting for Bill A5906 on the New York State Food Scraps Recycling and Food Donation Program, he shared a vision of having state owned buildings move towards composting in the next 5 years, to hence enact an "impact in the rest of the industry". Out of the 150 seats in the New York State Assembly, 100 are Democrats, research conducted by the Pew Research Center indicates that 59% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say climate change should be a top priority. Thus, the bill aligns well with the party's ong-standing commitment towards improving waste management, expanding recycling programs, and promoting clean and sustainable practices, as a means to address climate change and reducing environmental harm.

"We need capital investments beyond community composting - such as large anaerobic digesters - the [larger] volume [of organic waste] composted, the more interest people have"

-ASSEMBLY MEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN

Who are the opponents of the bill?

The opponents of the bill are less likely to be driven by their political standing; a key barrier for the bill to be passed is the recognition that organic waste recycling could be a source of economic return for state agencies rather than a cost. The nature of the Bill also subjects it to being overlooked and deprioritized by other bills that garner more public support and attention. Some may point that presently, local governments are incentivized to manage organic waste only because there is financial incentive to divert waste from landfills, given that the latter is costly to export out of state. Additionally, issues

that were of higher public concern in the 2022 election consisted of housing, education funding, and public safety and crime, which were issues that Republicans were especially vocal about. Opposition may also arise from certain local municipal governments, especially in rural areas. Beside the city, the rural area accounts for around 86.6 percent of the total state's land. Among the state's 40,907.28 square miles there are 53 counties. Urban residents are more likely to report issues like air pollution and excess garbage than those in suburban or rural areas, where these problems are seen as less pressing. For instance, 67% of urban residents view air pollution as a significant issue, compared to 49% in suburban areas and 39% in rural areas. These disparities contribute to resistance from rural representatives who do not perceive an immediate need for strict environmental regulations.

Garnering support and passing the bill

In 2019 – the Food Donation And Food Scraps Recycling Law, which requires that businesses and institutions that generate an annual average of two tons of wasted food per week or more must:

- a. Donate excess edible food; and
- b. Recycle all remaining food scraps if they are within 25 miles of an organics recycling facility

A5906, a follow-up bill which has been passed by the Senate and is currently awaiting the Governor's assent (has been approved by both houses). This follow-up bill would shift the threshold to one ton per week effective January 2026, and half a ton per week effective January 2028. The bill also removes the distance exemption for all generators. The move is part of broader efforts to reduce methane emissions from landfills.

Bill A02467 complements the Food Donation And Food Scraps Recycling Law, and the bill A5906, as it mandates organic waste recycling by state and municipal buildings, which includes food scraps.

Bill A5906 was proposed by both Democrats and Republicans (i.e. including AM Ed Flood, Republican) - thus there needs to be explored why there is no bipartisan support on our bill if similar issues have received bipartisan support before.

Bipartisan and financial support

The nature of the bill being passed relies on addressing the reservations that local municipalities may have related to the financial burden in implementing organic waste recycling programs. Bill A02467 presently remains under review by the Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation (henceforth "the Committee"). Notably, merely three of the thirty members of the Committee are sponsors or co-sponsors of the bill. Republican members of the Committee range in attitudes towards recycling. AM Jodi Giglio of District 2 has previously commented on the profitability of recycling certain materials, citing that there is "no longer a market" for certain recycled materials. Further, concerns regarding lacking existing infrastructure must be addressed. Thus the bill must gain support from the wide spectrum of democrats as well as republican lawmakers.

Moreover, providing stable and sufficient financial support is an important factor in the successful implementation of the program. Financial mechanisms to support infrastructure development and potential operations costs can be in the form of grants or subsidies. An example on a local scale, New York City restored more than \$6 million in funding for community composting programs after a period of budget cuts. The cuts had resulted in the closure of sites and layoffs in many community composting groups. Even with restoration, the broken-down infrastructure and programs require time to rebuild.

Program Design

Source: Harlem World, 2021

Regardless of political reality, our management simulation assumes the statute is enacted and implementation begins on January 1, 2025. Bill A02467 aims to amend New York State's existing Environmental Conservation Law to include specific regulations for the composting of organic waste specifically generated by state agencies. The successful passing of this bill would require an implementation of a state-wide organic waste recycling program for state agencies and municipal governments effective one year after its passing. In the following chapter we outline what the Bill requires and our recommendations on actions to be taken within the first year for agencies to develop and implement the program.

Summary of the key operating aspects of the program

In the following table, we describe the mandatory requirements that are included in Bill A02467. It summarizes the subsections that are to be included in organic waste recycling program in buildings occupied, owned, occupied, or operated by agencies:

Section	Description	Actors	When?
a	All compostable waste including food scraps, plant trimmings, food soiled paper, certified compostable garbage, and other recyclables have to be separated and placed in containers	State and municipal agencies in NYS	One year after the effective date of this section
b	Post and maintain signs with instructions on identifying and separating compostable waste from garbage and recyclables		
c	Ensure agency employees place compostable waste in labeled containers and not mix waste with garbage or recyclables	State and municipal agencies in NYS + their employees	
d	Ensure containers and latched at the time of the storage	State and municipal agencies in NYS	
e	Arrange for compostable waste to be transported separately from garbage and recycling		

Summary of the key reporting requirements

Apart from key operating aspects of the bill, the bill also outlines key reporting requirements of the bill that are to be implemented one year after program implementation.

Section	Description	Actors	When?
a	Report to the department of Environmental Conservation including but not limited to: i. The amount of compostable waste collected ii. The costs associated with such a program	State and municipal agencies in NYS	One year after the establishment of the composting program, and annually thereafter.
b	The department of Environmental Conservation have to post a report on its website detailing agency composting programs in the State including an evaluation of the effectiveness of such composting programs and information on costs and collection rates	Department of Environmental Conservation of NYS	December 1st, 2025 and annually thereafter.

Unspecified aspects of the bill

Although there are specified requirements of Bill A02467, there are several areas of discretion and undefined elements in the Bill's framework that give opportunity for different implementation approaches and implementation designs.

A. Whether there should be a development of an educational program or internal plan. An educational plan was developed to train state and local officials on proper waste management practices concerning organic waste separation, disposal, management and reporting.

B. Timeline indicating internal implementation of the composting program. The Bill only requires that a composting program be developed within one year of the bill being in effect. This uncertainty limits the capacity of the state and municipal building's boards to make anticipated decisions, consider constraints, work on the infrastructure changes or needs required, and allocate resources for the Bill's implementation.

C. The Bill does not define any specific technology nor process to be implemented. This ambiguity gives agencies freedom to adjust what waste management practices, however, can lead to wider cost inefficiencies with regards to identifying what practices suit them.

D. The Bill does mandate the state and municipal agencies to report (i) the amount of compostable waste collected; and (ii) the costs associated with such a program. It also does not specify what information that should be included in the public report by the Department of Environmental Conservation. There are no required key performance indicators to analyze the effectiveness of the Bill as the only data will be the quantity of organic waste and the costs, without taking into consideration methane emissions or other emissions (such as the ones arising from transportation), or byproducts from the organic waste treatment process, or income from the sale of the useful byproducts such as biofuel.

Our Proposed Program Approach



Deriving a best practice

There are differences in the way waste collection systems work across local and municipal agencies within the State. The success of the implementation of the Bill depends on not only the baselines that the Department of Environmental Conservation of New York State could establish as an authority of the Environmental Conservation Law, but also on deciding if this Bill will be funded by each city government independently or if the State government will provide additional funding to implement the program. It is important to note that “pay as you throw” models could increase costs to residents, especially low-income tenants, and lead to more illegal dumping, which in turn leads to seizing of public space that disproportionality affects outer-borough and low-income neighborhoods, generating environmental justice issues that needs to be addressed.

Case studies of different cities within New York State

In order to analyze what program design to outline we investigated waste management approaches of different localities within New York State. These case studies demonstrate that cities and areas each have different urban challenges and contexts, which then necessitate localized solutions to organic waste separation, collection and processing.

Troy

The City of Troy (51,401 inhabitants), classified as an urban area and part of the Capital District region, is located on the east side of the Hudson River just north of Albany, in upstate New York, and has a Solid Waste Management Annual Fee, with a current service rate of \$254 annually, per residential unit, due in two installments of each fiscal year to the City Treasurer's office. This "Annual Garbage Collection Fee," approved in 2017 for the City of Troy, helps the City improve solid waste collection services through more effective management of costs and implementation of environmental-friendly initiatives like composting and expanded single-stream recycling. The City developed an updated resource management and recycling program to reduce the volume of solid waste collected annually by the City.

Albany

Albany has a Waste Collection Fee that varies according to the residential homes of four units or less: one-family home is 90 USD, two-family home is 180 USD, three-family home is 270 USD, and four-family home is 360 USD (City of Albany, nd.). The collection is in charge of the Department of General Services. However, for all other types of occupancy buildings citizens have to contract private collection (Albany Neighborhoods, nd.). Regarding food waste and composting, Albany has a special program to manage and treat this kind of waste, and inhabitants have to pay it in addition to the waste collection fee if they want to participate. It works with two organizations: Radix Ecological Sustainability Center, which is in charge of weekly residential curbside food waste mainly with solar-charged electric cargo bicycles and tricycles, as well as composting in Albany's South End; and FoodScraps360, which is in charge of food waste and compostable packaging collection, and composting and gifting a bag of compost back to their customers, as well as selling compost.

New York City

The Department of Sanitation of New York City collects yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper to compost, and there is no need to sign up to receive this service. It is important to highlight that yard and food waste separation has recently become mandatory in Queens and Brooklyn. Additionally, all the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island residents can request a free brown bin for curbside composting (New York City 311, nd.). On October 7th, a wider pick up of residential organic waste was implemented due to Local Law 85, enacted on June 8th, 2023. This type of waste will be used for composting, fertilizing, and energy, and will help reduce the costs for the city, considering that it has been estimated that it spends more than \$400 million a year to transport 14 million tons of garbage to incinerators and landfills (Cohen, 2024).

Proposed First Year Plan

What goes
in this Bin?

Source: City Limits, 2023

Counties vary greatly in economic and demographic profiles, and hence each require tailor-made organics recycling plans, supplemented with metrics that indicate areas of the program that need to be subsidized or receive additional funding to maximize compliance. Moreover, there are significant infrastructure disparities within the State of New York. We propose a flexible program design such that counties, municipalities and state entities can choose what program best fits their needs and restrictions. Thus with a flexible approach, it enables municipalities time to address this and also provides them an option to decide whether they wish to develop these facilities in their regions or contract handling of organic waste to private haulers. We thus focus on what other factors could limit the successful implementation of the program:

1. Educational Programs
2. Infrastructure
3. Metrics based Guidelines for Agencies to follow

Thus, we focus on what needs to be done within the **first 12 months** of the Bill being enacted, requiring the NYSDEC to fulfil the following responsibilities within the first year;

- Educate the state and local agencies of the legal obligations to compost organic waste
- Ensure state and local agencies can describe the current status of each organic waste management system, including listing existing landfills, composting, anaerobic digestion sites, transportation infrastructure, and the current contractors to whom they delegate; and
- Ensure state and local agencies develop effective plans to compost organic waste in buildings under their jurisdiction.

(see master calendar in the Appendix)

The Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling of the NYSDEC presently has a total of three full-time Environmental Engineers and Manager. To fulfil the responsibilities outlined above, we propose that the Bureau add 3 Environmental Engineers and 3 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Organic Recycling Consultants for a minimum of 2 years.

Key Actions over the First Year

Bill Passes

Year 1: Planning

Year 2: Implementation Begins

**HIRING
CONTRACTORS
AND STAFF**
Q1-Q2

Done by:
Existing Environmental
Engineer and Manager

**DEVELOP
REQUIREMENTS
FOR RECYCLING
PLANS**
Q2-Q3

Done by:
Environmental
Engineers

**COMMUNICATE
REQUIREMENTS
WITH REGULATED
PARTIES**
Q3-Q4

Done by:
Consultants

**REVIEW
SUBMITTED
PLANS**
Q4

Done by:
Engineers and
Consultants



Source: BioCycle, 2013

Key Actions for Year 1

Within the first year of the bill passing, the Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) needs to ensure that most government units under the scope of the Bill have workable organic waste recycling plans for buildings under their purview. To achieve this, the Bureau has four key outputs that must be addressed to complete in this planning year

1	HIRING CONTRACTORS AND STAFF (Q1-Q2): Responsibility: Existing Environmental Engineer and Manager <i>Initial hiring efforts focus on building a capable team to support the program's operations.</i>
2	DEVELOP REQUIREMENTS FOR RECYCLING PLANS (Q2-Q3): Responsibility: Environmental Engineers <i>A comprehensive framework for recycling plans is designed during this phase</i>
3	COMMUNICATE REQUIREMENTS WITH REGULATED PARTIES (Q3-Q4): Responsibility: Consultants <i>Engaging stakeholders and providing clarity on program requirements ensures alignment and cooperation</i>
4	REVIEW SUBMITTED PLANS (Q4): Responsibility: Engineers and Consultants <i>Submissions are evaluated for compliance and feasibility, marking a critical step toward Year 2 implementation</i>

This phased approach empowers the Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling to closely track progress, adapt strategies based on actual needs, and optimize program outcomes effectively. A detailed hiring plan is included in the Appendix for further reference.

Metrics

According to the first year plan described above, the Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will educate state and municipal agencies on their responsibilities, assess existing waste management systems, and ensure agencies develop effective organics recycling plans. These efforts will prepare local agencies to meet regulatory requirements, reorganize operations, and prepare for full program implementation in the second year. Then, a performance management system will be required to track key metrics, promote continuous improvement, and guide necessary mid-course corrections.

As the success of this planning phase will lay the foundation for the broader implementation of organic waste recycling across New York's public facilities in the second year and beyond, the main metrics for the first year will be focused merely on the goals or activities that need to be done before the implementation of the program (as a part of the preparation,) consisting of the following:

1. Percentage of regulated government units (municipalities and agencies) engaged and participating in the program.

- a. Rationale:** Assessing the range of participation ensures that outreach efforts are inclusive and comprehensive.
- b. Objective:** Engage all required state and municipal agencies in the program.
- c. Measurement:** Number of regulated government units participating / Total number of regulated government units
- d. Feedback Action:** If participation is low, outreach efforts will be revised to target non-responsive agencies through personalized follow-ups, increased communication, and additional educational sessions.

2. Percentage of regulated-government-unit organic recycling plans approved by the NYSDEC

- a. Rationale:** Submission of detailed, high-quality plans demonstrates the ability to recycle compostable materials.
- b. Objective:** Ensure agencies submit complete and actionable organics recycling plans.
- c. Measurement:** Number of regulated-government-unit plans approved / Total number of regulated-government-unit plans
- d. Feedback Action:** Provide detailed feedback and conduct one-on-one consultations to improve the quality of resubmitted plans and the rate of approval.

However, other goals include conducting educational meetings and outreach, development and use of educational materials, and digital engagement, which also include different metrics of the progress and success of every goal. As a reference, the table below presents the summary of the proposed metrics for the first year, or planning year, of the program.



Indicators of Proposed Performance Management System

Goals	Indicators	Reporting Frequency
Municipality and Agencies Participation	Number of government units contacted and participating in each municipality/ Total number of agencies in the municipality.	Bi - Weekly
	Number of state agencies involved	Bi - weekly
Submission of good quality plans	Number of plans received from agencies	Bi - weekly
	Number of plans forwarded for final approval	Monthly
	Percentage of plans approved	Quarterly
Conducting educational meetings and outreach	Number of outreach events conducted	Monthly
	Number of participants across all sessions	Monthly
	Number of participants per session per agency	Monthly
Development and use of educational materials	Number of educational materials developed	Quarterly
	Number of government units receiving the materials	Quarterly
Digital Engagement	Number of visitors accessing information online	Monthly
	Email open rates	Monthly
	Webinar attendance	Monthly
	Social media interactions	Monthly
	Miscellaneous online engagement metrics	Monthly

Budget

The program budget allocates costs across two primary categories: Personnel Services and Other than Personnel Services (OTPS). The overall total budget for the program amounts to **\$2,449,059.06**, incorporating both direct staffing costs and other operational expenses. Personnel services accounts to **\$257,009.06**, fringe benefits included; OTPS amounts to **\$2,192,050**.

Breakdown of expected budget

	# Quarters	Annual Amount (\$)	Purpose
Personnel Services	3	\$91,381 annual salary Total: \$205,607.25	Annual salary, for three quarters, to oversee implementation plans in collaboration with local authorities.
Other than Personnel Services			
Travel	3	\$148,800.00	Covers transportation costs for staff and consultants traveling to program sites and meetings.
Lodging	4	\$20,250.00	Provides lodging for participants attending multi-day events or training sessions.
Meals	4	\$5,400.00	Covers meal expenses for staff.
Communication Costs	2	\$2500	Supports expenses related to communication, such as cell service and internet.
Consultants (Program Development)	4	\$1,500,000	Provides support for developing the composting program's framework.
Meetings and Occasions	4	\$496,000	Covers logistics, including venues, meeting accommodations, and audiovisual equipment for meetings.
Training Materials	1	\$1,500	Educational material Computers, smartphones
Office Supplies	4	\$800	
Printing Supplies	4	\$1,200	
Office Hardware	4	\$12,000	
Accommodations	4	\$3,600	Accommodation costs for program participants



Conclusion

Source: CivilEats, 2024

The Composting Organic Waste at State and Municipal Buildings in New York Bill (A02467) represents a pivotal step in aligning the state's waste management practices with the ambitious climate goals established under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). By mandating the separation and processing of organic waste within state and municipal buildings, the bill addresses a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions while promoting sustainable waste management practices. Drawing insights from successful models, such as California's SB1383, it becomes evident that comprehensive planning, education, and financial support are essential to drive effective program implementation.

The recommended approach outlined in this report highlights the importance of preparation, strategic outreach, and phased deployment to ensure the bill's successful roll-out. Key metrics and performance indicators will help track the progress of these efforts, providing transparency and facilitating adjustments as needed. Addressing challenges such as funding constraints, regional disparities in infrastructure, and the need for bipartisan support will be crucial to gaining the necessary legislative and public backing.

By investing in educational initiatives, fostering partnerships, and tailoring implementation plans to meet the unique needs of diverse communities, New York State can achieve effective organic waste management. This will not only reduce landfill waste but also support broader environmental sustainability goals, driving economic and ecological benefits for all New Yorkers. The successful adoption and execution of Bill A02467 can serve as a model for future waste management policies, reinforcing the state's commitment to mitigating climate change and promoting a healthier, more sustainable future.

Appendix

Table 1: Master Calendar for first year output

FIRST YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

#	Activities	PIC	Action Items	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	Funding	DEC	State Budget gets Finalized DEC Receives Allocation												
1	Organizational Setup		Phase 1 - Hiring Hire planned employees (3 full FTEs Environmental Engineers) Release Request for Proposal (RFP) for Contractors Complete Contractor Procurement Process												
		Existing Manager and Environmental Engineer													
		Existing Environmental Engineer	Conduct Census to Identify Relevant Municipalities, Agencies and their Buildings												
		Environment Engineers	Phase 2 - Developing Template Program Plans Conduct preliminary outreach to regions to develop 2-3 categories for template plans Develop template plans												
		Environment Engineers	Phase 3 - Education Develop content for education materials on composting law requirements Develop materials (brochures, slide decks, videos)												
		Environment Engineers	Phase 4 - Proposal Rubrics Develop Draft of Rubrics Get Deputy Commissioner's Approval Finalize Rubrics												
2	Performance mgmt. and Reporting	Environmental Engineers	Define Key Indicators of Success and Program Indicators Define process to measure indicators Define process to report indicators Develop Template for Reporting for Municipalities and Agencies												
3	Educational Outreach	Consultants	Prepare for educational outreach (outreach, scheduling etc...) Travel to all 62 states and solicit proposals Additional virtual FAQ sessions Manage questions, Q&A and requests for additional education and technical support												
4	Plan Review	Consultants and Engineers Consultants Consultants Engineers	Review Organic Waste Recycling Plans Identify Municipalities and Agencies that have to revise plans Provide remedial calls, discussion to revise plans Give green light and next steps for Municipalities and Agencies that can Commence												
5	Next Steps	Engineers	Internal Preparation for the Support, Monitoring of the Implementation of Organic Waste Recycling												

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Kristine Ellsworth

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New York State Assembly Member
District 74**

Harvey Epstein

Team

Celine Vien Andriana (Manager)

Daniela Maria Fandiño Santos (Deputy Manager)

Alan Chan, Astrid Giraud, Haoyang Li, Kanishka Pandey,
Kunyue Zhou, Maria Florencia Perez, Sara Haris, Silvia
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