



US Composting Council®

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New NYC Food Waste Recycling Law Will Have a National Impact, Say American Biogas and Composting Groups

WASHINGTON, DC—Yesterday, the New York City Council passed pathbreaking legislation requiring commercial food scraps from the largest food service establishments to be recycled. The new “Commercial Organic Waste” policy continues the momentum of similar state-wide policies requiring food waste recycling passed in Vermont and Connecticut and initiatives in cities like San Francisco, Austin, Portland and Seattle. Expected to be signed into law next week, Mayor Michael Bloomberg noted that “[this] initiative is a significant step towards our NYC goal of diverting more waste from landfills” – intended to reduce the City’s greenhouse gas emissions from waste disposal, and produce resources such as biogas and soil amendment products from what used to be regarded as wastes.

“NYC’s extraordinary action will be a shot of adrenaline to the growing biogas and compost industries which are ready, able and willing to manage organic wastes as a resource. This new policy fulfills a fundamental need for biogas and composting project development: a predictable and reliable source of organic feedstocks. With it, compost manufacturing facilities can produce a reliable supply of compost and biogas facilities can continuously produce biogas and digested materials for gardening and agriculture,” said Patrick Serfass, Executive Director of the American Biogas Council (ABC). “Project financing also flows more readily with more certainty in feedstock supply, and will create jobs, renewable energy and soil amendment products while reducing greenhouse gases.

“Nationally, this will bring attention to one of the easiest steps cities and states can take to improve the environment and economy: require organics in the waste stream to be recycled just like everyone should recycle glass, metal, paper and plastic.”

Combined with the City’s recent adoption of a law establishing organic resource collection pilots from schools and residences, and building on initial efforts by local haulers to begin the process of diverting organics, Intro 1162 extends the City’s intention to divert thousands of tons of food scraps from disposal in distant landfills to a range of better, local options – including composting and the production of biogas through anaerobic digestion.

“With the passage of this initiative, NYC is taking a bold and decisive step toward establishing a sustainable environment for its citizens. This move will benefit generations to come,” said Lori Scozzafava, Executive Director of the US Composting Council (USCC), “The USCC works closely with our partner, the ABC, the City and its businesses to make this new law an economic and environmental success. Our members have manufactured compost for decades and are prepared to lend their expertise as New Yorkers learn to manage their organic material.”

About the US Composting Council

Established in 1990, the US Composting Council (USCC) is the only national organization in the United States dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry. The USCC is a non-profit 501(c)(6) organization that also directs the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation (CCREF), a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, which administers public and private research and education activities. For additional information, visit www.compostingcouncil.org. Follow the US Composting Council on Twitter, <http://bit.ly/T9RCdt>, and Facebook, <http://on.fb.me/WrK1Yt>

About the American Biogas Council

The American Biogas Council is a 501(c)(6) trade association which represents 200 companies dedicated to maximizing the production and use of biogas from organic waste. Members include anaerobic digester developers/builders, engine and turbine manufacturers, farmers, wastewater utilities, landfill operators, engineering and law firms, financiers, nonprofits, universities and the entire biogas supply chain. www.americanbiogascouncil.org. Follow the ABC on Twitter, <http://bit.ly/WrKl9B>.

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USCC Contact: Leanne Spaulding
301.897.2715
leannespaulding@compostingcouncil.org

ABC Contact: Josh Lieberman
202.640.6595 x322
info@americanbiogascouncil.org