

LIFE / GREEN / GREEN LIVING

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Food waste today; feed, fertilizer and compost tomorrow

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Food waste collection for compost

VT Sustainable Jobs Fund

Food scraps and food waste are an emerging economic driver in Vermont, equally poised to support local agriculture and soil health. Cultivating Value from Food Scraps, is this year's theme at the **9th Annual Vermont Organics Recycling Summit** being held on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center. The Summit is hosted by the Composting Association of Vermont and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation.

The passage of **Vermont's Universal Recycling law** in 2012 bans disposal of food scraps and food waste in phases beginning July 1, 2014 with the largest generators, and culminating in a full ban July 1, 2020. Economic opportunities in diverting food waste from landfills is increasingly of interest to Vermonters. Livestock feed, [compost](#), and soil amendment production as well as compost-based products for erosion control and storm water management are all local economic opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs that are healthy for Vermont's environment.

The breadth of environmental, economic and climate change adaptation benefits from diverting food scraps and food waste out of landfills will be central in this year's keynote address by Britt Faucette, Ph.D., an Ecosystem Scientist, Certified Professional of Erosion & Sediment Control (CPESC), and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP). Dr. Faucette also serves as the Director of Research and Design Services for Filtrexx International.

The Vermont Organics Recycling Summit will feature multiple workshops including one for large food scrap generators who are required to comply with Vermont's phased-in Universal Recycling organics diversion landfill ban on July 1, 2015. Brian Jerose of Agrilab Technologies will help attendees learn how to capture thermal energy from composting. Ned Foley of Two Particular Acres and Josef Gorres, Ph.D of the UVM Plant and Soil Science Department will explore the pros and cons of community and on-farm composting methods. Efficiency and profitability of collection and hauling models will be addressed by Brent Arnold of Community Composting, Scott Baughman of Grow Compost of Vermont, Tyler Frank of Garbage to Garden, Kendall Hinkley of Garbage to Garden, and Steve Kraft of Community Composting. Additional workshops cover how stormwater and water quality are relevant while adapting to climate change, compostable products, food scrap management technology, and a policy and practice discussion on Universal Recycling.

Conference attendees range from state agency and solid waste district employees to food scrap generators and haulers as well as compost businesses, master composters, and students.

Participants can also network with organics diversion experts, regulators, and vendors including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Vermont Agency of

Natural Resources (ANR) and Universal Recycling, Composting Association of Vermont, Sodexo, Agrilab Technologies (large scale composting technology), Resource Management, Inc. (organic residuals & recycling service), Signature Marketing (food scrap dehydrator & compost bins), Filtrex (products for stormwater retention and landscaping), Sustainable Generation (organics recycling solutions & products), and FOR Solutions (aerobic in-vessel rotary drum compost maker) vendors.

Registration, sponsorship, and vending is available online at www.regonline.com/VORS2015. The \$60 registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, ice-cream social, and raffle.

The [Composting Association of Vermont](#) (CAV) is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting and promoting organics recycling that protects and benefits the environment. CAV advocates for the production and use of compost as a vital link between soil health and sustainable agriculture and communities.

Responsible for implementing the Universal Recycling law, the [Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation](#) is dedicated to protecting and improving the health of Vermont's people and ecosystems and promoting the sustainable use of Vermont's natural resources.

SUGGESTED LINKS

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