

## Meeting set in Warren County on March 15 to discuss composting opportunities in county

*New online survey open for residents to give thoughts on organic waste  
disposal in Warren County*

**WARREN COUNTY, NY** – Warren County is considering changes to the way food scraps and other organic materials are disposed of in the county, and Warren County leaders would like to hear the public’s thoughts on what should be done with these types of waste.

A community engagement session has been scheduled on the issue **Wednesday, March 15, 2023** at Warren County Municipal Center, beginning at 6 p.m. Those wishing to participate virtually will be able to do so via Zoom, and in-person attendance will be available as well.

The meeting will focus on local initiatives and the scope of an ongoing feasibility study on local composting in Warren County as the county develops an organic waste management plan to sustainably manage food scraps and yard waste.

Warren County has the opportunity to compost **33%** of its garbage, amounting to about **25,000 tons of food scraps and yard waste annually**.

During the meeting, Thomas Szabo, Warren County Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator, and representatives of GHD Consulting Services Inc., the engineering consultant with whom Warren County officials are working on the study, will offer a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session.

In addition, Warren County residents are asked to provide input on solid waste disposal options via a **new survey, [available online here](#)**.

**Warren County Public Works Superintendent Kevin Hajos said:** “Warren County Department of Public Works is committed to improving the way that food waste and other organic matter are handled in our county. Food waste accounts for approximately 33% of the waste stream, and processing organic waste at a composting facility is more economical and better for the environment than sending it to a landfill or incinerator.”

(Note: This project has been funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation).

Those who are interested in participating in the March 15 community engagement session via Zoom can email [lehmand@warrencountyny.gov](mailto:lehmand@warrencountyny.gov) for a link to log on.

The meeting will also be livestreamed and video archived on the Warren County YouTube page, [linked here](#). Go to Warren County [DPW’s web page here](#) for more information on local solid waste disposal.

*Note: Graphic attached with QR code linking to online survey*



## Warren County Wants Input on How We Manage Food and Yard Waste

Warren County produces about 25,000 tons of food and yard waste every year – that’s enough to cover **more than half of the former Magic Forest Theme Park!**

So, we are preparing an *Organics Management Plan* to identify potential strategies to compost this waste and divert it from landfills.

**We want your input on how we should manage food and yard waste in Warren County!**

What are other communities doing?

- Several communities, including Town of Bethlehem, Ulster County and Onondaga County allow residents to bring food and yard waste to a drop off location or municipal composting facility. The finished compost is sold or given away to residents and businesses.
- Some communities with compost facilities have private haulers that provide curbside food waste collection.
- Some New York State communities operate curbside collection programs and support community initiatives such as community gardens.

### What is compost?

A nutrient rich material that improves soil health.

### Why compost?

Composting is a sustainable way to manage food and yard waste, keep it out of landfills, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### Did you know?

Businesses that generate large amounts of food scraps will soon be required to recycle food scraps if they are within 25 miles of an organic recycler (NYS Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law).

### Did you Know?

Warren County could compost over 30% of the garbage currently being sent to landfills.

This project has been funded by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Visit our website to learn more  
<https://warrencountyny.gov>

**Complete the survey by  
March 31 to provide  
your input!**



<https://bit.ly/warrencountyorganics>