



MORETOWN AND NORTH HARTLAND, VERMONT

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**Re. Universal Recycling Law (H.627/H.628)
House Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Committee**

The original intention of the Universal Recycling Law was to build an infrastructure for a healthy system of managing organics and nutrients in the state. The vision of this law goes beyond solid waste. It encompassed a larger mission of sustainability, job growth and environmental conservation. The Universal Recycling Law is unique in its scope to affect other top priorities for the state in its full implementation.

- **Building Soils** – The Soils of Vermont are depleted. Vermont is known for its quality food and organic production. We do not want to import soils or fertilizers into our state. Composting the nutrients found in our food system actually adds to the value and assets of our state without importing soils or using chemical fertilizers.
- **Clean Water** Soil filters water. The higher the organic matter in soil the higher the waterholding capacity (for every 1% increase in organic matter waterholding capacity increases 20,000 – 25,000 gallons per acre). Compost builds soils and promotes strong root systems which prevent erosion into our watersheds. Compost cleans water.
- **Farm Nutrient Management** – the abundance of nutrients on our farms can be managed through a strong organics management infrastructure in the state. Compost facilities require the addition of farm manures and residuals (spoiled hay and feed).
- **Eliminates Greenhouse** gases by diverting organic material from being landfilled. Compost sequesters atmospheric CO₂
- **Build Vermont workforce.** Grow Compost has grown from a workforce of 4 FTE to 18 FTE in 3 years. This market employs Vermonters from every sector - laborers, drivers, engineers and high level managers. This market has the potential to become one of the highest growing job sectors in the state.
- **Increasing Food donations** for our vulnerable populations and the elimination of wasted food.

The continuation of the requirements for collection and source separation are **essential** for these benefits to be recognized in Vermont. The legislature can support and promote these important priorities by maintaining the fundamentals of the Universal Recycling Law.

- **Maintain the requirement and timeline for generators to separate food residuals.**
- **Maintain the requirement for haulers to collect food scraps in 2018**

In addition to upholding this important legislation, we ask our lawmakers to **increase** their support of these efforts.

- We need more enforcement
- We need more education and marketing of the importance of clean source separated food scraps.
- We need the Agency of Agriculture to be involved. This is an agricultural issue of nutrient management which benefits our food cycle throughout the state.

Respectfully Submitted,