



Cornell Waste Management Institute
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CWMI Update – August 2024

Recently Published

- **Improving Turf and Soil Health, Reducing Energy Use and Assessing Tick Populations by Mulching Leaves in Place** – Jean Bonhotal and Mary Schwarz. Received 27 Dec 2022, Accepted 17 Jun 2024, Published online: 10 Jul 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1065657X.2024.2370854>
- **The Effect of Denim Fabric as a Feedstock in Large Scale Composting of Manure/Bedding and Food Scraps** – Mary Schwarz, Wendy Alwala, Antonia Perju, Jean Bonhotal, Margaret Frey, Steven Pires, Mary Ankeny and Jesse Daystar. Pages 61-73 | Received 08 Nov 2023, Accepted 23 Apr 2024, Published online: 05 Jun 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1065657X.2024.2349081>

Educational Events and Resources

- **How to Plan a Pumpkin Smash Event for your Community** – Wednesday, August 14, 10 am – 11:30 am (virtual). Instead of throwing your leftover Halloween pumpkins or jack-o-lanterns into the garbage, some local governments and community groups host pumpkin smashes or pumpkin drop-off events where residents are invited to continue the family fun by smashing and/or dropping off their pumpkins for composting or feeding farm animals. Please join Tom Twente (Grow Amsterdam NY) and Dan Lilkas-Rain (Town of Bethlehem) to discuss planning a pumpkin smash event for your community. [Register here](#).
- **Compost Site Operator Workshop** – hosted by [CET](#) with support from NYS DEC. There will be 3 workshops (Mon, Sept 23, 2024, 7:45 am – 4:45 pm in Kerhonkson, NY, Wed, Sept 25, 2024, 7:45 am – 4:45 pm in Ithaca, NY and Mon Oct 28, 2024, 7:45 am – 4:45 pm in Winthrop, NY). All three are full-day events focused on best practices for composting food scraps. Each workshop will include a morning classroom session followed by an afternoon field session at a local compost site. The workshops will be led by James McSweeney of [Compost Technical Services](#) and [The 131° School of Composting](#). [Registration is required](#). Please register for only one workshop.
- **NYSAR3 35th Annual Conference and Trade Show** – November 19-21, 2024 (Early Bird Specials end 9/9/24), The Otesaga, Cooperstown, NY. This will be a hybrid event, offering both virtual and in-person attendance. NYSAR³ is thrilled to announce our state partnership with the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) in hosting **The National Recycling Congress** as a hybrid one-day event on November 19th. [Visit NYSAR3 to learn more](#). [Visit NRCRecycles.org to learn more](#).
 - **Student Research Poster Showcase Opportunity:** A student poster showcase will be held at the annual conference. A call for abstracts will be announced on August 26th. Please share this opportunity with any students or college faculty and staff members who may be interested. The theme of this year's conference is climate and circularity.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at CollegeCouncil.NYSAR3@gmail.com if you have any questions.

- **NYSAR3 Leadership Awards:** Call for nominations. Do you know people, businesses, and organizations, including not for profits, industry or community groups, and educational and government institutions who have labored tirelessly on waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and composting innovations and initiatives in New York State that deserve recognition? How about innovative waste reduction projects or public education and outreach campaigns? These innovations and initiatives should be held up as models of excellence. We invite you to put these achievements into words and complete a brief application to nominate a person, entity or project deserving such recognition. The awards will be presented during the Awards Luncheon held on the final day of NYSAR³'s Annual Conference & Trade Show. [Nomination deadline Fri, August 30.](#)
- **On-Farm Mortality, Roadkill and Catastrophic Events Composting Training** – Wednesday, October 16, 2024 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, 999 Flatbush Rd., Kingston, NY 12401. Cost is \$10. Space is limited, registration required. Light refreshments will be served. Join CCE Ulster, Cornell's Waste Management Institute, and Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency for a practical overview and approach to on-farm composting of livestock mortalities. Contact one of the previous institutions for more information.
- **TerraCon 2025:** February 4-5, 2025, Tacoma, Washington. Progressive death care is sweeping the world, and TerraCon is the place to learn all about it! [Tickets go on sale August 5, 2024.](#)
- **International Symposium on Animal Mortality Management** – The Eighth Triennial International Symposium on Animal Mortality Management will be held June 23 – 26 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. If you would like to be on the new updates email notification list, contact us [here](#).
- **Update on Cornell Soil Testing Resources and Services** – There have been some recent changes to the soil testing services offered by Cornell. Please see the updated information and resources on the *Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities* [Soil Testing](#) page, and contact Hannah Shayler at has34@cornell.edu with questions.

Grants and Opportunities

- **NYSAR3 2024 Community Reuse Grant** – Applications open now. Winners announced at our 35th Annual Conference and Trade Show, November 21. NYSAR³ has developed the Community Reuse Grant to recognize community-based partnerships, businesses, groups, or non-profit organizations whose work has or will lead to lasting benefits that enhance community quality of life and ensure stewardship of the environment. [Application deadline August 30, 2024.](#)
- **NY State Community Gardens Soil Testing Program:** The Department of Agriculture and Markets invites eligible organizations to apply for community garden soil testing through the [New York State Community Gardens Soil Testing Program](#). A total funding amount of \$40,000 is available to process up to 800 soil tests.

In the News

- **2023 Report on the Implementation of the NYS Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law now available** – The [New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling law](#) was passed in 2019 and took effect on January 1, 2022, requiring large businesses and institutions that generate an annual average of two tons or more of wasted food per week to donate edible food to the maximum extent practicable and to recycle remaining food scraps when there is a viable organics recycling facility with capacity within 25 miles. [View the 2023 Report to the Governor and Legislature on the New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling law \(PDF\)](#). [View Overview of 2023 Report to the Governor and Legislature \(PDF\)](#). The report is the second annual report required under the law and provides an update since the first annual report. It provides an overview of the implementation of the NYS Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling law since 2023, data from 2022, and DEC's efforts to develop a successful food donation and food scraps recycling program in New York State with assistance from established partners NYS Pollution Prevention Institute, Center for EcoTechnology and Feeding NYS.

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