

# Sustainability Advances in Southbury



SEPTEMBER 2022

## SOUTHBURY TAKES STEPS TO REDUCE WASTE

Sustainable Southbury, a group working to transform Southbury into a more sustainable community, announces the conclusion of their pilot food scrap recycling program they sponsored for three Southbury restaurants.

With a grant received from New England Grass Roots Fund, Sustainable Southbury was able to provide four months of weekly food scrap pick up by Curbside Composting. Each restaurant was provided with multiple 32 gallon bins, that were emptied each week by Curbside Composting, who then delivers the food scraps to one of the five commercial composting facilities in Connecticut.

The 1850 House, Nardelli's and KRU Juice Bar, all stated they were very impressed with the program. Through the recycling of food scraps, The 1850 House noted that their regular dumpsters had a decrease of rodent and bear activity while Nardelli's and KRU Juice Bar reported that they had substantially less garbage in their regular trash. After a brief training with their staff they all reported that diverting food scraps into bins was not hard.



**SUSTAINABLE SOUTHBURY IS SEEKING MORE GRANTS TO EXPAND THE PROGRAM AND CREATE A TOWN WIDE PROGRAM**

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## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LANDFILLING FOOD SCRAPS (FOOD SCRAPS IN TRASH) AND COMPOSTING?

Composting facilities contribute to global warming much less than landfills. Although composting any organic materials (like food scraps) does create methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) and carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) as it decomposes, there are several commonly used methods of aerobic composting that keep the production of methane to a minimum while composting. This results in less methane being released to the atmosphere than if the food scraps remained in the garbage. Finished compost is beneficial for plants.



## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ... CONNECTICUT IS FACING A WASTE CRISIS



Food scrap recycling programs are part of the solution. Curbside Composting notes that in the first three months of the Sustainable Southbury pilot, 3600 lbs of food scraps were diverted from a landfill, avoiding 2,196 lbs of  $\text{CO}_2$  from being released into the air which is the equivalent of not driving 2,503 miles. When town wide food scrap recycling takes place, the town has to pay less for hauling out trash because trash tonnage decreases.

## LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED WITH SUSTAINABLE SOUTHBURY'S PROGRAMS

**Learn more at:**

[www.sustainablesouthbury.org](http://www.sustainablesouthbury.org)

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