

Warren County

A person wearing a yellow sweater is shown from the chest down, holding a wooden cutting board with vegetable scraps (green leafy vegetables, orange carrot peels, and light-colored vegetable peels) and pouring them into a white metal compost bin. The bin has the word "compost" written on it in a simple, lowercase font. The background is a kitchen counter with a sink and some fruit (apples and oranges) in a bowl.

Community Engagement Session

March 15, 2023

Tonight's Meeting

Presentation

- Why is Warren County considering a Compost Program?
- Project Team
- About the Study
- Food and Yard Waste in Warren County
- Existing Compost Programs
- Compost Programs in Other Communities

Community Engagement Session

- Do you think Warren County should consider an organics management program? Would you consider participating? If so, what do you think Warren County should consider?

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.

Project Team



Why is Warren County considering a Compost Program?

A composting program would provide local businesses and residents a way to sustainably manage food and yard waste and divert this material from landfills.

Warren County received funding from the Climate Smart Community Grant Program to develop an Organics Management Plan



Why is Warren County considering a Compost Program?

NYS Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law

- Large generators of food scraps will be required to:
 - Separate and donate edible food
 - Separate and recycle all remaining food scraps if within 25 miles of an organic recycler
- Applies to generators of more than 2 tons of wasted food and food scraps per week on average

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)

- New York State Climate Act requires New York to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and no less than 85 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels.

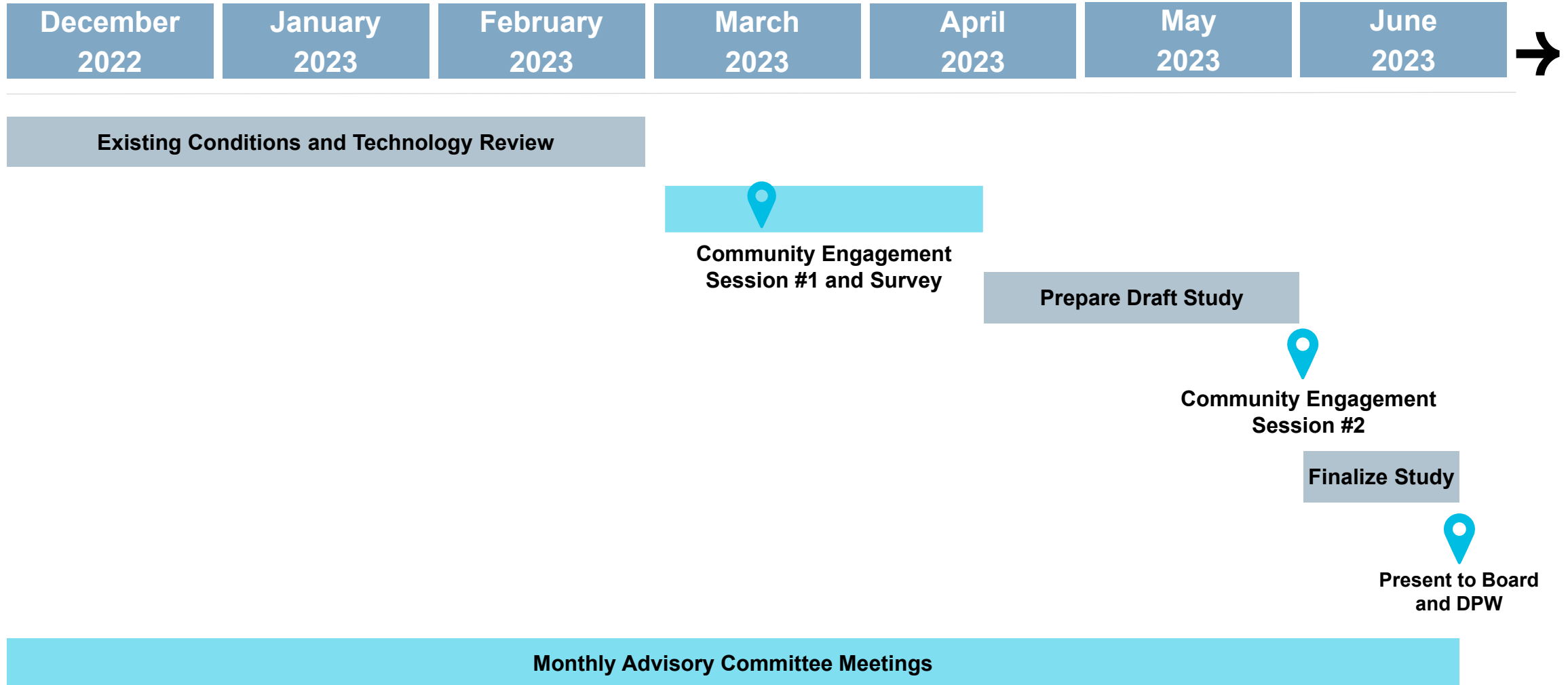
About the Study

The Organics Management Plan will include a set of recommended, interrelated strategies to meaningfully increase organics recovery, diversion from landfill, and conversion to compost.

The Organics Management Plan will

- Define and assess the present-day status of organic waste management in the County.
- Engage the input and feedback of stakeholders in a meaningful way.
- Consider composting technologies most suited for the County's specific local context and needs.
- Evaluate a pilot program for household organics composting.
- Evaluate the feasibility of a composting facility of sufficient size and capacity for a chosen technology.
- Compile the findings into a strategic Plan, including recommendations, costs, and implementation.

Schedule

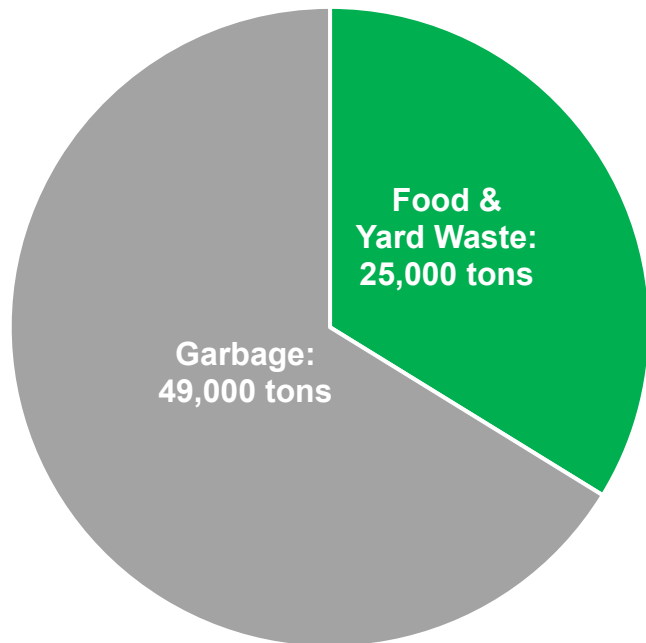


Food and Yard Waste in Warren County

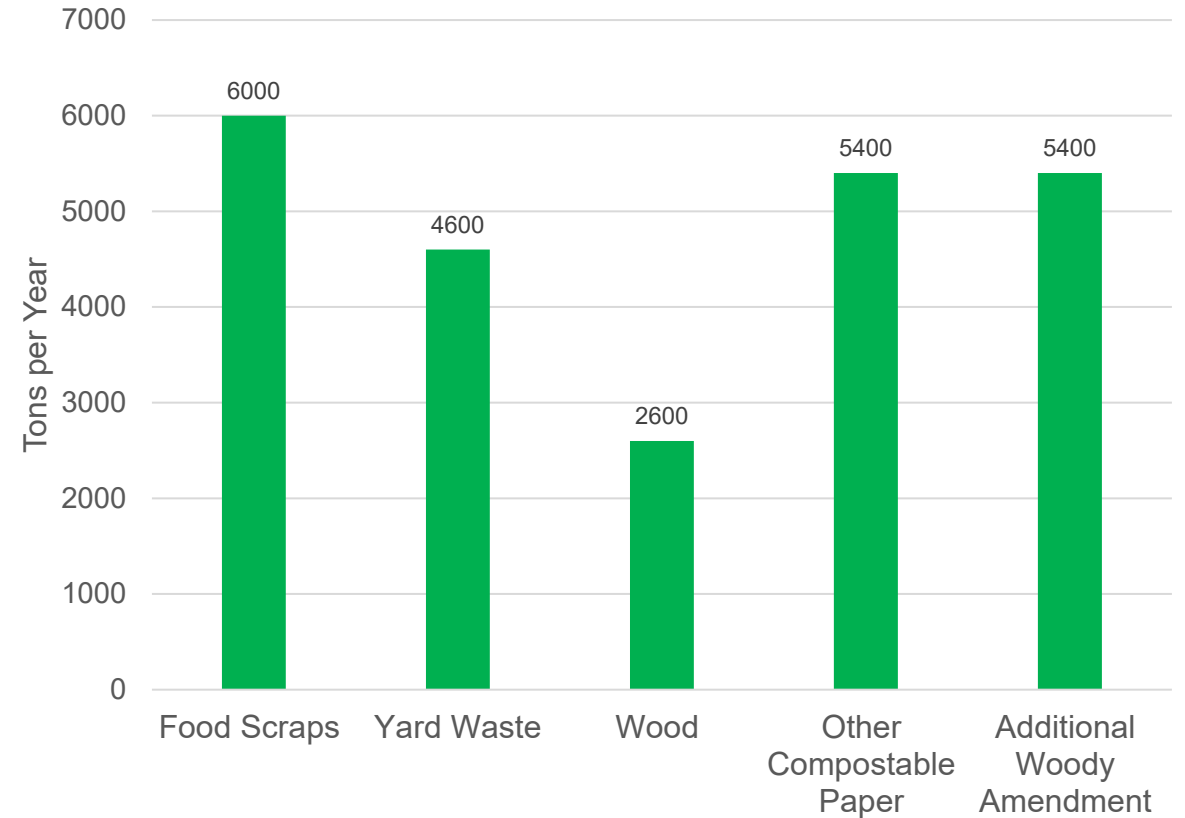
~25,000 tons of food scraps and yard waste are generated in Warren County every year

Warren County has the opportunity to compost ~33% of its garbage

Waste Generated in Warren County



What could be municipally composted in Warren County?



Existing Programs

Currently, there are no County-managed or centralized commercial organic waste composting facilities in the County.

Existing residential and business organic management programs in Warren County:

- Adirondack Worm Farm
- SUNY Adirondack Composting
- Tamarack Compost, Washington County
- Transfer Stations that manage yard waste:
 - Town of Queensbury
 - Town of Glens Falls
 - Town of Lake George
 - Town of Warrensburg



SUNY Adirondack (<https://www.sunyacc.edu/update-sunyadkdecember-2017>)

Compost Programs in Other Communities

Town of Bethlehem

- Turns yard waste and food scraps into high quality compost and wood mulch products.
- Accepts around 70,000 cubic yards of yard waste per year.
- Residents may shovel screened compost, leaf compost, or wood mulch for free.
- Town generates revenue by selling compost for commercial and non-resident uses.



Microsoft Bing (<https://www.bing.com/maps>)

Compost Programs in Other Communities

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

- Constructed in 2012 as a small pilot project and was expanded in 2016 and 2020.
- Residents can bring food to and yard waste to a drop off location or use a private hauler
- Operates an aerated static pile method for composting food scraps
- Since 2012 Ulster County has managed more than 19,000 tons of organics and manufactured over 10,000 tons of compost.



UCRRA (<https://www.ucra.org/waste-recycling/food-waste/compost-food-ucra/>)

Compost Programs in Other Communities

NYC Community Composting

- The curbside composting program collects food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard waste and turns it to compost.
- Extensive community initiatives: community gardens, master composter program, green infrastructure, education and outreach



Added-Value Red Hook Farm (<https://www.added-value.org/compost>)

Compost Programs in Other Communities

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

- Construction 2013 to 2014
- Daily capacity: 80 wet tons/day
- Used a stepped approach to implementation, including a business case, pilot program, permitting and development
- Residents can purchase a residential pass for \$20, unlimited yard waste drop off and take six cubic yards of compost for personal use.



Next Steps

**The input you provide tonight is important to inform the
Organics Management Plan**

Please also fill out our survey: <https://bit.ly/warrencountyorganics>

May 2023: Public Engagement Session #2 to present
draft Organics Management Plan

June 2023: Presentation of final Organics Management
Plan to County Board of Supervisors



Community Engagement Session



Do you compost your food or yard waste right now? Why or why not?

Would you and your neighbors consider participating in a compost program?

What did you like/dislike about the compost programs in other communities?

Do you have any questions or concerns about composting programs?