



# Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

# Moving Forward with Organics Recycling in CT: State Environmental Agency Perspectives and Initiatives

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March 10, 2014

Environment Council of Rhode Island 2014 Compost Conference



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

# CT State Environmental Agency Perspective

- We are responsible for the waste we generate
- We should reduce, reuse and recycle first; and dispose of what's left as self-sufficiently as possible per our solid waste hierarchy
- The likelihood of siting any new landfills (solid waste /ash) or RRF's is low
- CT wants clean energy, jobs, economic growth
- Wasted food has value that needs to be unlocked, with priority to feed hungry people.



# Laying the Groundwork for Organics

- Strategies for handling organics
  - Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan
  - Solid Waste Advisory Subcommittee on Organics
  - Prioritize organics permit applications
- What is still in the trash?
  - Statewide SW Composition & Characterization Study
- Where are the food residual generators?
  - Food Residuals Mapping Project
- CGS 22a-226e as amended by PA 13-285
  - Organics recycling law



# Compostables Still in CT's Trash (by weight)

## Compostable Materials By Weight

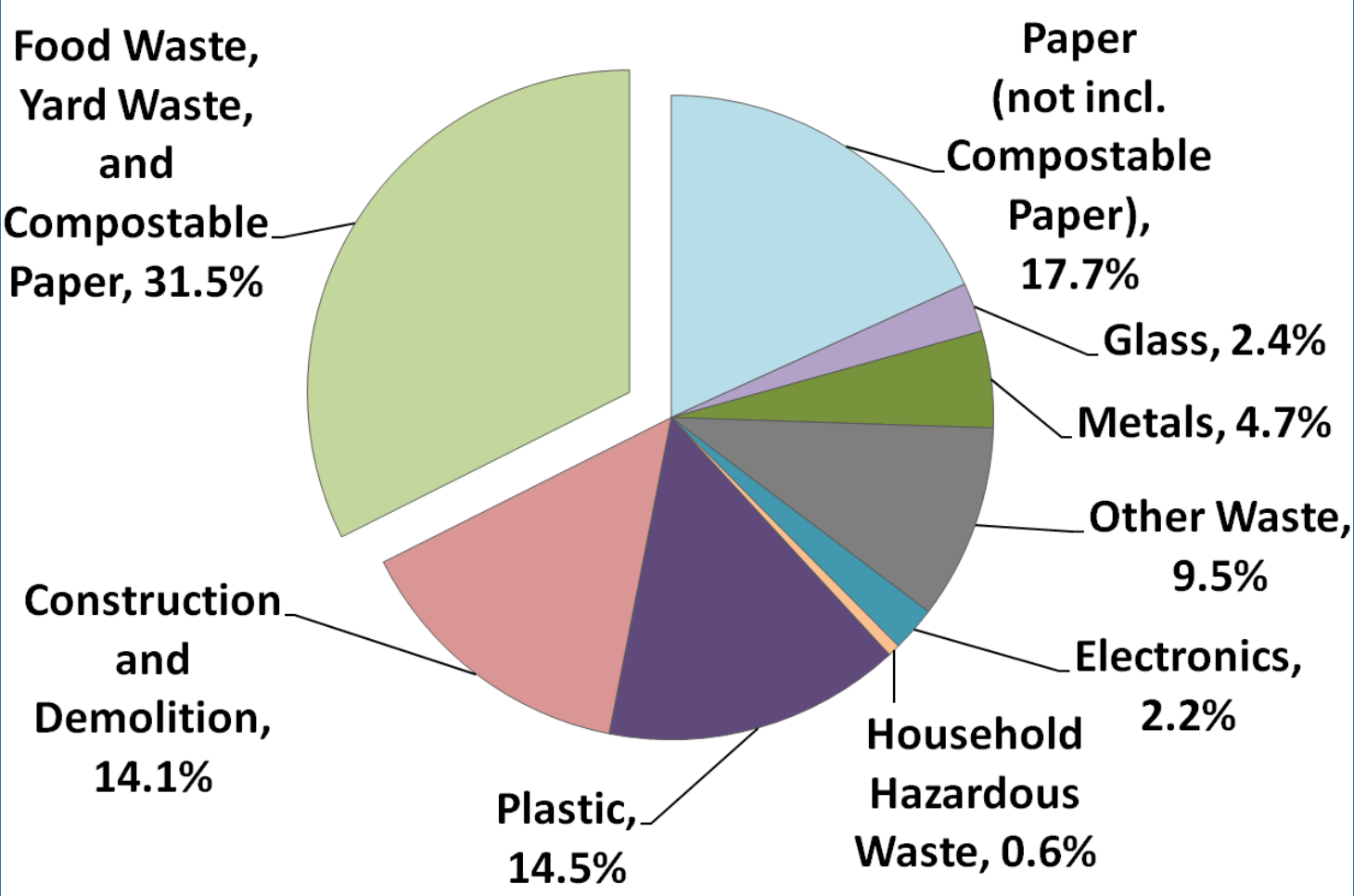
### Overall Statewide Disposed

Source: CT Statewide Solid Waste Composition and  
Characterization Study Final Report 2009 – Table 6

Material	Est. Percent	Est. Tons
Food Waste	13.5%	321,481
Compostable Paper	8.2%	195,185
Leaves & Grass	7.2%	172,408
Prunings & Trimmings	2.2%	51,550
Branches & Stumps	0.4%	10,149
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.5%</b>	<b>750,773</b>

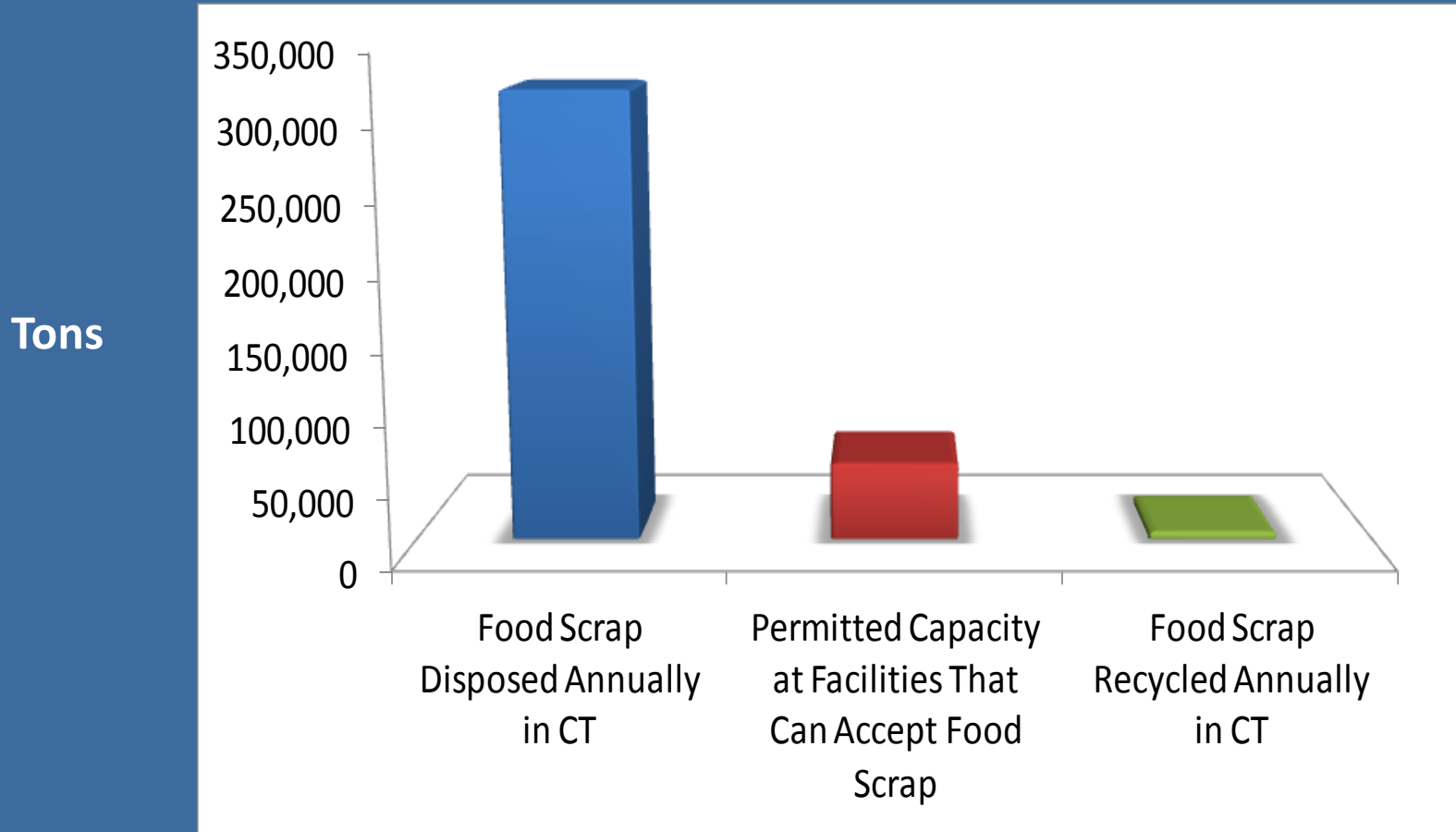


# Compostables Still in CT's Trash (%)



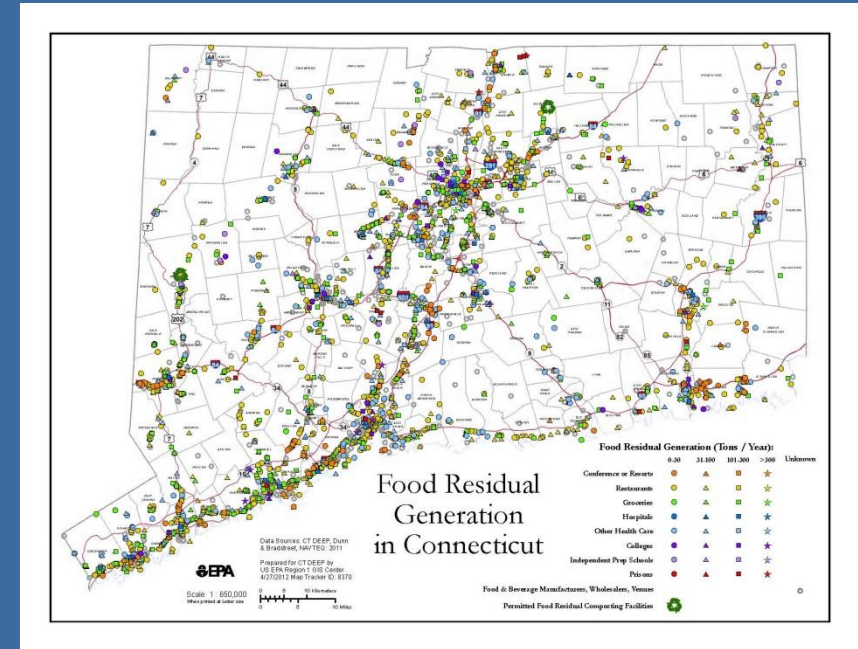
# Addressing Processing Infrastructure Gap

Food scrap processing capacity is inadequate.



# Where are the Food Residuals Generated?

- Feedstock sourcing tool for potential facility developers
- Transportation, route density tool for haulers
- Recycling opportunity tool for generators
- SW planning tool for regulators



[Food Residual Generator Map and Database](#)





# Purpose of Organics Recycling Law

- Incentivize developers to locate in CT so that recycling options are more available – close gap!
- Get a valuable resource out of the trash and into local commerce as products and clean energy
- Save businesses money
- Promote clean energy (AD)
- Encourage economic development
- Move food scrap up the SW hierarchy to a higher value use



# Organics Recycling Law Summary

- Applies to food wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, processors, supermarkets, resorts & conference centers that:
- Generate an average projected volume of 104 tons/yr of source separated organics, and are
- Within 20 miles of a SSOM processing facility.
- Must source separate and ensure recycling at any authorized facility that has available capacity and can accept food scrap.



# Organics Recycling Law Summary (cont'd)

- Generation volume threshold reduces to 52 tons/yr in 2020
- On-site composting counts as compliance
- Any permitted facility that receives SSOM must report to DEEP a summary of tipping fees charged.
- Would have liked to include more generator types like schools, institutions, hospitals, etc., and wider distance, but probably would have killed the bill
- These and smaller generators will benefit anyway because creating more options to recycle SSOM



# Progress in Infrastructure Development

- Three composting facilities permitted to take food scrap and another application just received
- One application received for AD and another anticipated soon
- Three other AD facilities and one other composting facility being “talked about” but no applications for these received yet



# Progress in Other Organics Recycling Efforts

- Town of Bridgewater doing a residential curbside collection pilot - hauled to commercial composter
- CEFIA RFP for AD - \$2M/yr for 3 yrs. All proposals to date include food scrap; one on a farm
- Expanded organics web pages and included a page on food waste reduction & recovery
- DEEP Leading by example - joined US Food Waste Challenge (on-site office composting)
- Discussing how to allow small-scale composting with less regulation; Prioritize large applications



# Bottom Line

- Each state's laws are a little different, but the collective message from the Northeast is that we need food scrap recycling to happen, and we're willing to pass laws and regulations to help make it happen!
- Developers are listening to our message!



# Contact

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[www.ct.gov/deep/composting](http://www.ct.gov/deep/composting)

[www.ct.gov/deep/recycle](http://www.ct.gov/deep/recycle)

