
Draft Scoping Document

Organics Management Plan

Prepared for

Monroe County DES

7100 City Place
50 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

September 2024

Monroe County Department of Environmental Services

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ABBREVIATIONS

CAP	Climate Action Plan
CAPAC	Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee
CSC	Climate Smart Community
DES	Monroe County Department of Environmental Services
DFSG	Designated Food Scrap Generator
ECL	Environmental Conservation Law
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FEV WRRF	F.E. Van Lare Water Resource Recovery Facility
GML	General Municipal Law
LSWMP	Local Solid Waste Management Plan
MWRR	Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOT	New York State Department of Transportation
NYSP2I	New York State Pollution Prevention Institute
OMP	Organics Management Plan
RAC	Recycling Advisory Committee
SEQR	State Environmental Quality Review
SSO	Source-Separated Organics

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Monroe County is currently in the process of developing an Organics Management Plan (OMP) to complement its existing Local Solid Waste Management Plan. The primary goal of the OMP is to reduce and divert organic waste from disposal, while supporting the county's existing goals for recycling, waste reduction, and reuse. Furthermore, as a certified Climate Smart Community, Monroe County aims to further its efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This is in line with its Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the strategies discussed in Section 2.0 of the plan.

The OMP will involve several tasks, including:

1. Characterizing and quantifying the organic waste generated in the County;
2. Developing a comprehensive account of existing programs and facilities available for managing organic waste;
3. Engaging the community and relevant stakeholders;
4. Developing cost-effective strategies for reducing and diverting organic waste;
5. Identifying financial frameworks for implementing these strategies;
6. Analyzing GHG reductions for each proposed strategy;
7. Developing a timeline for implementation;
8. Establishing goals to measure the success of these strategies
9. Quantifying the GHG reduction

The process will involve rigorous data gathering and solicitation of public input to ensure the needs and concerns of as many residents and businesses in the County are incorporated into the plan. This Draft Scoping Document provides the initial background sections of the OMP and an overview of the content to be addressed in the OMP; it is intended to allow the public to provide input on the OMP.

This plan is been funded in part by the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

2.0 RELEVANT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES

This section summarizes the existing regulatory framework and County policies relevant to organics management.

2.1. New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law and 6 NYCRR Part 350

In 2019, the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law was enacted in New York State. As a result, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has implemented 6 NYCRR Part 350, which became effective on January 1st, 2022. According to this law, designated food scrap generators (DFSG) who produce two tons or more of food scraps per week are required to:

1. Donate excess edible food; and
2. Recycle all remaining food scraps if there is an organics recycler (such as composting facility or anaerobic digester) within 25 miles.

The NYSDEC updates the list of DFSGs annually. In Monroe County, the NYSDEC currently identifies 66 DFSGs. All 66 DFSGs in the County are required to donate edible food. Of these, 23 are also required to recycle all food scraps to nearby organics recyclers, as capacity allows. Table 2-1 lists the 23 DFSGs required to recycle inedible food scraps in Monroe County.

Table 2-1: Designated Generators Required to Recycle Inedible Food Scraps¹

Name	Municipality	Est. Generation Tons/Week
Chili Hots	Rochester	≥2
Olive Garden (Jefferson Rd)	Rochester	5.9
On the Rocs Sports Bar and Grill	Rochester	2.3
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers (Greece Ridge Ctr Dr)	Rochester	3.4
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers	Webster	5
Rochester Institute of Technology	Rochester	22.8
St John Fisher College	Rochester	4.8
Walmart	Brockport	≥2
Walmart (Chili Ave Ste 7)	Rochester	2.7
Wegman's (W Ridge Rd)	Rochester	13.2
Wegman's (Pittsford Palmyra Rd)	Fairport	12.3
Wegman's (Penfield Rd)	Penfield	14.2
Wegman's (Empire Blvd)	Webster	10.8
Wegman's (Chili Ave)	Rochester	13.4
Wegman's	East Rochester	11.9
Wegman's	Brockport	11.9
Wegman's (Lyell Ave)	Rochester	11.4
Wegman's (E Ridge Rd)	Rochester	10.1
Wegman's (Holt Rd)	Webster	12.1
Wegman's (East Ave)	Rochester	45.5
Wegman's (Monroe Ave)	Rochester	12.7
Wegman's (Calkins Rd)	Rochester	11.6
Woodcliff Hotel and Spa	Fairport	≥2

A total of more than 244 tons of inedible food scraps per week is estimated to be generated by these 23 DFSGs. Appendix A lists information about all 66 DFSGs in Monroe County, released on January 24, 2024.

2.2. NYS Solid Waste Management Plan²

New York State released the State Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) on December 27th. Several of the goals included in the NYS SWMP could impact the County's approach to organic waste management, including:

- Prioritize wasted food reduction, food donation, and food scraps recycling programs and initiatives in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors. Notable action items:

¹ NYSDEC's 2024 list of DFSGs as of 1/24/2024 (<https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/dfsglist2024.pdf>)

² <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/41831.html>

- Support expansion to the existing Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling law to include smaller food scraps generators and eliminate the mileage limit for organics recycling facilities; and
 - Support food waste reduction and education strategies for school meals.
- Support the continued development of the organics recycling industry in New York State. Notable action items:
 - Allow composting facility operation on municipal park lands;
 - Promote additional recycling of all organics, including food processing waste and biosolids;
 - Provide additional financial assistance for organics recycling infrastructure and outreach, for both public and private facilities;
 - Provide guidance on starting a composting operation for source separated organics;
 - Provide guidance on starting a food scraps drop-off program that identifies regulations and factors to consider; and
 - Provide financial assistance for local, nonprofit, and small-scale organics collection and processing systems.
- Empower residents of NYS to properly manage excess food, reduce wasted food, and recycle their food scraps. Notable action items:
 - Provide financial assistance to expand food scraps drop-off programs and local-scale processing;
 - Continue to provide financial assistance to municipalities to expand residential food scraps collection services; and
 - Promote the development of community accessible composting opportunities.
- Improve and expand markets for products made from organic materials such as compost and digestate. Notable action items:
 - Partner with the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and industry associations to explore ways to increase the use of compost in large transportation and public works projects;
 - Promote the sharing of information between municipalities concerning successful organics management models and programs; and
 - Explore methods to use additional products locally, such as local compost networks with food growers, municipal tree programs, stormwater resiliency projects, individuals, etc.

From these goals and action items, it appears that the NYSDEC intends to provide financial and planning aid to further the organic waste recycling industry in the State. If this assistance comes to fruition, the County could leverage these resources when developing future organics programs.

2.3. Monroe County Local Solid Waste Management Plan

Monroe County issued its Department-approved Final LSWMP in July 2015 for a planning period of 2016 through 2025. It updates the LSWMP every two years through the required Biennial Update process, most recently in September 2023. Although specific implementation items have changed over time, these strategies remain integral to the County's LSWMP. As a supplement to the County's LSWMP, the OMP will address the relevant Program Strategies, including the following:

- LSWMP Program Strategy #3 – Increase Recycling at County-Owned Facilities
 - The County hopes to act as a model to other municipalities within the County to increase recycling by its staff and at County-owned or -operated facilities.
- LSWMP Program Strategy #6 – Support Yard Waste Composting Efforts
 - Promote the expansion of yard waste diversion and composting programs.
- LSWMP Program Strategy #7 – Organics Diversion Programs
 - Enhance organics diversion opportunities for residential, institutional, commercial, and industrial generators of organic waste materials. Increases in the diversion of organics/food waste by residents will be promoted, for example, through the County's website, compost demonstrations, and educational literature. Concerning institutional, commercial, and industrial generators of organic waste materials, existing food waste and other organics diversion programs in the County will be inventoried to identify successful programs and enhance opportunities. The County will also investigate the feasibility of diverting food waste from County facilities.
- LSWMP Program Strategy #8 – Monitor Management of Animal Mortalities
 - Monitor the progress and successes of animal carcass composting programs undertaken by others, such as Cornell Waste Management Institute and NYSDOT.

2.4. Monroe County Climate Action Plan

The County's CAP is "a comprehensive, strategic effort to address and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere and the related environmental and climatic impacts associated with rising GHGs."³ The CAP is divided into two phases, Phase I focused on County operations and Phase II County-wide emissions. Phase I of the County's CAP was approved in July 2022 and identifies recommended actions by sector to reduce GHG emissions specific to County facilities. Those relevant to organics management and this OMP are listed below:

- Evaluate processing capacity for composting of food waste organics;
- Maximize the diversion of organic waste from County facilities to disposal and the beneficial reuse of the organic material;

³ Monroe County Climate Action Plan, Phase I-Government Operations, July 2022. Available at <https://www.monroecounty.gov/files/DES/climate-action/report/CAP-Monroe-County-Executive%20Summary.pdf?v2>. Accessed 8/1/2023.

- Perform a solid waste audit of County facilities operations;
- Consider adopting a zero-waste policy for County facilities and parks, including recycling, repurposing, and composting components. Expand current recycling/trash policy and procedures. Investigate the feasibility of an organic waste program for County buildings/facilities; and
- Reduce waste generation and increase recycling at County facilities.

Specific Implementation Actions related to organics management, if any, included in the future Phase II CAP will be incorporated into the OMP.

2.5. Relevant City, Town, and Village Policies and Plans

Several municipalities within Monroe County are climate smart communities and/or have climate action plans; Table 2-2 identifies these municipalities, their CSC status, and whether or not they have a CAP.

Table 2-2: Monroe County Climate Smart Communities

Municipality	CSC Status ⁴	CAP (Yes/No)
Village of Scottsville	Registered	No
City of Rochester	Bronze Certified	Yes ⁵
Village of Pittsford	Registered	No
Town of Pittsford	Bronze Certified	No
Town of Irondequoit	Bronze Certified	No
Town of Henrietta	Bronze Certified	No
Town of Gates	Registered	No
Village of East Rochester	Registered	No
Village of Churchville	Registered	No
Village of Brockport	Registered	No
Town of Brighton	Bronze Certified	Yes ⁶

⁴ <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/participating-communities/>. Accessed 1/12/2024.

⁵ <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/climateactionplan/>. Accessed 1/12/2024.

⁶ <https://brighton-climate-action-plan-barton.hub.arcgis.com/pages/project-documents>. Accessed 1/12/2024.

3.0 TEAMS AND SUPPORTING PARTICIPANTS

This section provides an inventory of facilities and programs, both public and private, currently in operation that manage organics generated in Monroe County, including an assessment of whether these programs or facilities can or willing to expand to accommodate additional diverted organics.

This section will also detail available resources that the County can utilize to expand programs or increase efficiency. Existing food donation programs, private partners, and academic resources may assist the County in improving data collection, conducting education and outreach, identifying funding, and/or improving waste prevention or donation. Some existing resources already identified include FoodLink, the local food bank, and the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I), which provides technical assistance, training, and funding to promote sustainability and pollution prevention through programs related to sustainable manufacturing, supply chain sustainability, and food waste diversion, among others.

3.1. Existing Organics Management Programs

This section includes existing organics management programs and facilities within the County focused on organics recycling. This inventory was created using institutional knowledge of County-controlled assets, reviewing of the County's recycling data reporting system (ReTrac), reviewing of the most current NYSDEC active facility list available (current as of 12/22/21)⁷, and reviewing of the NYSP2I's Organic Resource Locator⁸.

3.1.1. Existing County Composting Facilities

Monroe County (the County) currently operates two composting facilities, which are located at 6 Avion Drive in the Town of Chili and 1571 Lake Shore Boulevard in the Town of Irondequoit. Both compost facilities currently accept yard waste, and the Van Lare Compost Facility is also registered to accept source-separated organics (SSO). An internal analysis was completed in 2021 to assess operational conditions and the role these facilities may play in the County's organics management strategies. A summary of the results is below.

3.1.1.1 Monroe County Avion Drive Composting Facility

The Avion Drive Compost Facility is registered to accept up to 10,000 cubic yards of yard waste annually from the service areas of the City of Rochester, the Town of Chili, and the Town of Gates, per 6 NYCRR Part 361-3.2(b)(1). The accepted yard waste material consists of leaves only and is delivered to the Facility by truck. This Facility has historically managed the leaves generated by the City of

⁷ NYSDEC Solid Waste Management Facility Information (Active & Inactive Lists); accessed on 9/19/23 (https://www.dec.ny.gov/fs/projects/SWMF/Information_Solid%20Waste%20Management%20Facility/Active%20&%20Inactive%20Facility%20Lists/)

⁸ P2I's Organic Resource Locator accessed on 7/14/2023 (<https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nysp2i/OrganicResourceLocator/>)

Rochester under the County and City’s Solid Waste Inter-Municipal Agreement. The County has been operating the Facility successfully since 2008, producing high-quality leaf compost that is given back to residents as well as City and County agencies for use.

The Facility is designed to accommodate the receipt and processing of yard waste, and the curing and storage of composted yard waste as well as the management of leaf leachate and stormwater in a manner that prevents or minimizes the degradation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources and protects public health and safety. The Facility Manual (dated November 2023) outlines the basic composting system and the operations and maintenance requirements to maintain a safe and properly operating facility. It presents plans for access controls, material confinement, process control, record keeping and reporting, dust, vectors, odor, noise, and a closure plan.

Presently, the Facility is not staffed full-time and inbound collection trucks with feedstocks are not weighed; incoming volumes are estimated based on delivery vehicle capacity. County DES staff monitors the Facility on a routine basis to perform visual observations, process feedstock material, manage the windrow piles, measure temperatures, and other general activities at the site.

3.1.1.2 Monroe County Van Lare Composting Facility

The County operates a registered compost site on F.E. Van Lare Water Resource Recovery Facility (FEV WRRF) property. Under a registration, this compost site can accept up to 10,000 CY of yard waste and 5,000 CY of SSO annually, in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 361-3.2(b)1. The Van Lare Compost Facility was constructed to handle additional volumes of yard waste that the City of Rochester generates at a centralized location instead of multiple smaller sites; it also collects manure from the Seneca Park Zoo. In addition, the FEV Facility is registered to take SSO.

The Facility is designed to accommodate the receipt and processing of yard waste, and the curing and storage of composted yard waste as well as the management of leaf leachate and stormwater in a manner that prevents or minimizes the degradation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources and protects public health and safety. The Facility Manual (dated October 2023) outlines the basic composting system and the operations and maintenance requirements to maintain a safe and properly operating facility. It presents plans for access controls, material confinement, process control, record keeping and reporting, dust, vectors, odor, noise, and a closure plan.

Presently, the Facility is not staffed on a full-time basis, and inbound collection trucks with feedstock are not weighed; incoming volumes are estimated based on delivery vehicle capacity. County DES staff monitor the Facility on a routine basis to perform visual observations, process feedstock material, manage the windrow piles, measure temperatures, and other general activities at the site.

3.1.2. Existing Private Organics Recycling Facilities

Several private organics recycling facilities have been identified as located or operating in Monroe County.

3.1.2.1 High Acres Landfill & Recycling Center

The High Acres Landfill and Recycling Center, located in the Town of Perinton owned and operated by WM, also has a permitted yard waste composting facility and a registered SSO composting facility operating on-site. These facilities accept materials by contract.

3.1.2.2 Impact Earth

Impact Earth provides organics hauling and recycling services in Monroe County. They have an operational composting site in Henrietta, which is currently going through the Part 360 permitting process.

3.1.2.3 Lorric Development Corp of NY

Lorric Development Corp of NY is located in Spencerport and was identified on the NYSDEC Active Facility List as a registered SSO composting site. This facility does not report data through ReTrac, nor are up-to-date annual reports available through the NYSDEC website. It is assumed that since it is a registration-level facility, up to 2,500 wet tons of SSO per year are accepted at this facility. It is still being determined if this facility is still in operation or has excess capacity for organics management.

3.1.2.4 Natural Upcycling/Noblehurst Farms

Natural Upcycling is an organics hauler that operates in Monroe County and partners with Noblehurst Farms, which operates an anaerobic digester in Livingston County. The Noblehurst Farms anaerobic digester co-digests food waste with manure. Because the anaerobic digester has finite capacity and has a maximum ratio of food waste to manure that can be accepted, Natural Upcycling partners with other organics recycling facilities as needed.

3.1.2.5 Re-Nuble, Inc.

Re-Nuble has been identified on the NYSDEC Active Facility List, although little information about this operation can be found. This facility is registered to accept SSO which is then processed for use as a growth medium in hydroponic farming. The exact type and quantity of waste accepted for processing are still

being determined, as well as whether this method is replicable or can be expanded.

3.1.3. Existing City, Town, and Village Programs

The City, Towns, and Villages within Monroe County will play a critical role in implementing the OMP. Many have existing yard waste collection programs and compost facilities, or sustainability goals that will aid in achieving the County's goals. The City, Towns, and Villages will also play a key role in implementing residential organics collection or diversion programs. Twelve towns and seven villages have been identified as owning and operating yard waste collection or composting programs.

3.1.3.1 Collection Programs

Full-scale municipal collection programs for source-separated food waste are yet to be known. After completing a successful organics collection pilot program, the City of Rochester recently expanded their collection program to include additional registrants and additional drop-off locations. The program is not open to all City residents. Residents can also contract directly with a private hauler in some municipalities to get food waste pickup.

Currently, the City of Rochester, all ten (10) villages, and 14 of the 19 towns in the County provide curbside yard waste collection services to their residents.

Table 3-1: Curbside Yard Waste Collection Programs in Monroe County

City	Towns	Villages
Rochester	Brighton	Brockport
	Chili	Churchville
	Clarkson	East Rochester
	Gates	Fairport
	Greece	Hilton
	Hamlin	Honeoye Falls
	Henrietta	Pittsford
	Irondequoit	Scottsville
	Mendon	Spencerport
	Ogden	Webster
	Penfield	
	Perinton	
	Pittsford	
	Riga	
	Rush	
	Sweden	
	Webster	
	Wheatland	

A more detailed description of the City of Rochester’s program, along with other food waste drop-off and curbside collection program case studies, is included in Appendix B.

3.1.3.2 Town and Village Composting Facilities

Many municipalities in Monroe County collect and process yard waste generated from residents. Twelve (12) towns and seven (7) villages own and operate yard waste composting facilities in the County. In most cases, the final compost product is made available for use by residents or used on local municipal projects.

Table 3-2: Municipal Yard Waste Composting Facilities in Monroe County

Towns	Villages
Chili	Brockport
Greece	Churchville
Henrietta	East Rochester
Irondequoit	Honeoye Falls
Mendon	Scottsville
Ogden	Spencerport
Parma	Webster
Penfield	
Pittsford	
Riga	
Sweden	
Webster	

3.1.4. Other Organics Management Methods

This section will identify the facilities available to manage organics streams other than those typically considered at the forefront when discussing organics management, i.e. residential or commercial food waste. Organics management methods for organics streams other than residential food waste will be essential to identifying and generating a comprehensive management plan. These may include land application facilities for biosolids and/or agricultural waste, animal feed facilities from food processing of agricultural wastes, and food donation programs for edible food.

Monroe County's prioritization of organics management methods will follow the EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy⁹; source reduction, feeding hungry people, and feeding animals will also be considered in addition to industrial uses (such as anaerobic digestion) and composting. For instance, food waste prevention and minimization will be prioritized above food waste management techniques to reduce the amount of material that needs to be managed. The following sections identify methods and facilities outside of the traditional organics recycling techniques that often subvert other lower-cost, lower-energy solutions.

3.1.4.1 Food Donation Programs

Two food waste prevention programs within Monroe County have been identified: Foodlink, Inc. and Flower City Pickers. Foodlink, Inc. is the regional food bank for Monroe County and adjacent Counties (Allegany, Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates Counties).

⁹ <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-hierarchy>; accessed 9/19/2023.

Foodlink is a membership-based food bank that connects edible food donation supplies with participating non-profit partners.

Flower City Pickers, Inc. is described as a “food rescue organization.” This organization utilizes volunteers to attend the City of Rochester Public Market to recover and categorize surplus food and produce that may otherwise go to waste. Depending on the “grade” of food, collected materials may be donated for human consumption, used by local farmers to feed livestock, or composted. According to the Flower City Pickers website¹⁰, this operation diverts approximately 113 tons of food waste per year to feed animals, 40 tons per year are donated to feed people, and 7 tons per year are diverted to composting.

3.1.4.2 Existing Land Application Facilities

The NYSDEC Active Facility List (current as of 12/22/21) lists one land application facility in Monroe County, Capfall Wine Cellars, which was permitted to manage non-recognizable food processing waste.

3.1.4.3 Existing Animal Feed Facilities

No animal feed facilities have been identified as operational in Monroe County.

3.1.5. Organics Haulers

A significant obstacle in managing organics is the collection of source-separated organics, especially from residential and commercial generators. This section will identify haulers operating in Monroe County that currently or have expressed willingness to collect source-separated organics for recycling. Dedicated organics haulers, such as Natural Upcycling and Impact Earth, and traditional waste haulers, such as Casella or WM, may also be solicited through the public bidding for interest in these programs, if applicable.

Two private haulers for source-separated organics have been identified as operating in Monroe County; they are available to residents or businesses on a subscription basis – Impact Earth and Natural Upcycling. Fees related to separate organics hauling are paid directly to these haulers; they are separate from other waste disposal fees paid through municipal or other waste collection services. Impact Earth also provides a drop-off option at multiple locations of farmers’ markets or co-ops for residents to bring their organics to a central collection point for recycling, also for a fee.

3.2. Existing Organics Management Resources

The County may also levy existing organizations to assist with implementing the OMP. This section describes the currently known entities that may play a role in the OMP, such as

¹⁰ <https://flowercitypickers.org/what-we-do>; accessed 9/19/2023.

FoodLink, Inc. and NYSP2I, and their potential roles in implementing the OMP. FoodLink is discussed in Section 3.1.4.1.

The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) is a collaboration of five research universities and manufacturing extension partnerships (MEPs) across the state, sponsored through the NYSDEC and Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and funded by Empire State Development¹¹. This organization provides technical assistance, training, and funding for businesses, communities, and non-profits in New York to promote sustainability and pollution prevention through sustainable manufacturing, supply chain sustainability, and food waste diversion programs, among others.

NYSP2I provides free online tools and resources related to organics management, including the Organic Resource Locator and the Food Waste Estimator. The Organic Resource Locator is an interactive mapping tool for identifying food waste generators and organics recycling outlets in a geographic area. The Food Waste Estimator is an interactive resource for estimating food waste quantities based on facility type. Both tools have been leveraged to identify and quantify food waste generated in Monroe County. NYSP2I also provides various guides, educational tools, and tracking spreadsheets that may be used in organics management programs.

¹¹ <https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nyssp2i/about-nyssp2i>; Accessed 07/28/2023.

4.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A Monroe County OMP Public Engagement Plan, under a separate cover, details the public's opportunities to provide input on the content of the OMP. The Public Engagement Plan can be accessed on the [OMP project website](#).

5.0 PRELIMINARY OMP OUTLINE

The following section outlines the preliminary topics to be covered in the OMP, along with brief descriptions detailing the purpose or general content. The purpose of this outline is to receive feedback from the public on other areas that should be included but are not listed, or to obtain valuable information that can be integrated into the OMP.

- Cover Sheet
- Table of Contents
- Abbreviations
- Executive Summary
- Main Sections of the OMP:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This section is included in the scoping plan and discusses the context and objectives for developing the OMP.

2.0 RELEVANT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES

This section is included in the scoping plan. It presents an overview of the current regulatory environment for organics management, as well as local and state policies that may impact the implementation of the OMP. The regulations and policies mentioned include the New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law (Part 350 Regulations), Draft New York State Solid Waste Management Plan, Monroe County Local Solid Waste Management Plan (effective through 2025), and Monroe County's Climate Action Plan.

This section does not cover the Part 360 series regulations, which govern the siting, design, and operation of solid waste management facilities, including organics recycling facilities. While these regulations are relevant, they will only be considered during the design and permitting of a solid waste management facility if pursued by the County. As of now, they are not deemed relevant to the planning process.

- 2.1. New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law and 6 NYCRR Part 350**
- 2.2. Draft NYS Solid Waste Management Plan**
- 2.3. Monroe County Local Solid Waste Management Plan**
- 2.4. Monroe County Climate Action Plan**

3.0 TEAM AND SUPPORTING PARTNERS

This section provides an inventory of public and private facilities and programs currently managing organics in Monroe County. It also assesses their capacity for expansion. Existing resources include food donation programs, private partners, and academic

resources like FoodLink, the local food bank, and NYSP2I. NYSP2I provides technical assistance, training, and funding for sustainability-related programs.

3.1. Existing Organics Management Programs

- 3.1.1. Existing County Composting Facilities
- 3.1.2. Existing Private Organics Recycling Facilities
- 3.1.3. Existing Town and Village Programs
- 3.1.4. Other Organics Management Methods
- 3.1.5. Organics Haulers

3.2. Existing Organics Management Resources

4.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

This section of the OMP is included in the scoping document. It will consist of the planned activities and efforts by the County to obtain input on the content of the OMP, as well as future efforts on education and outreach related to the implementation of the OMP following its finalization.

5.0 RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

This part of the OMP will provide details on the estimated amounts of organic waste generated in the County that need to be managed and addressed in the OMP. It will identify residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sources of organic waste, including pre- and post-consumer food scraps, food processing waste, yard waste, municipal biosolids, animal mortalities, and agricultural organics. The methods used to collect this data will also be discussed, primarily through self-reported data collected via the County's ReTrac reporting system, and projections based on waste composition published by the DEC. A waste composition study may also be conducted if necessary.

- 5.1. **Data Gathering Methods**
- 5.2. **Pre- and Post-Consumer Food Waste**
- 5.3. **Food Processing Waste**
- 5.4. **Yard Waste**
- 5.5. **Biosolids**
- 5.6. **Animal Mortalities**
- 5.7. **Agricultural Organics**
- 5.8. **Analysis of GHG Emission Reductions**

6.0 PROPOSED ORGANICS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND EVALUATION OF STRATEGIES

The objectives included in Section 1, information gathered in Sections 2 through 4, and public input received as part of this scoping process will be used to identify relevant strategies for organics management implementation. A preliminary list of strategies is

provided below, which is subject to change based on the data gathered and public input, as well as the success of the County's ongoing efforts towards organics management.

- 6.1. Food Waste Prevention**
- 6.2. County-Owned Facility Food Waste Collection Pilot Program**
- 6.3. Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Program**
- 6.4. Private Organics Recycling Developer Program (RFP)**
- 6.5. Alternative Biosolids Management**

7.0 RESOURCE NEEDS AND BUDGET

The County has already pursued several avenues to fund organics management programs, including grant programs, County funds, partnerships with municipalities, and public-private partnerships.

7.1. Grants

- 7.1.1. USDA's Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project
- 7.1.2. NYSDEC's Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program
- 7.1.3. NYSDEC's Municipal Funding for Food Scraps Recycling Initiatives
- 7.1.4. NYSDEC's Climate Smart Communities Grant

7.2. Climate Action Plan Funds

7.3. Public-Private Partnerships

8.0 IMPLEMENTATION STEPS AND TIMELINE

Once the strategies for the program are selected, a schedule will be developed to execute these strategies to achieve the County's objectives for organics diversion. The implementation schedule will be determined considering the County's approval processes, financial framework, and what is practical and attainable. A significant part of the organics management process will require adjusting personal habits or business operations, which will take time and involve considerable education and outreach.

9.0 PROGRAM GOALS

The final section of the OMP will identify goals against which the County can measure success of the selected strategies. These goals could include tons of organic waste diverted from landfills, reduced GHG emissions, reduced waste generation quantities, or other measurable metrics. This section will also detail the methods and frequency by which to collect and record this data.

The appendices of the OMP will consist of any supplementary information produced as part of this planning document.

APPENDIX A
Inventory of Designated Food Scrap Generators

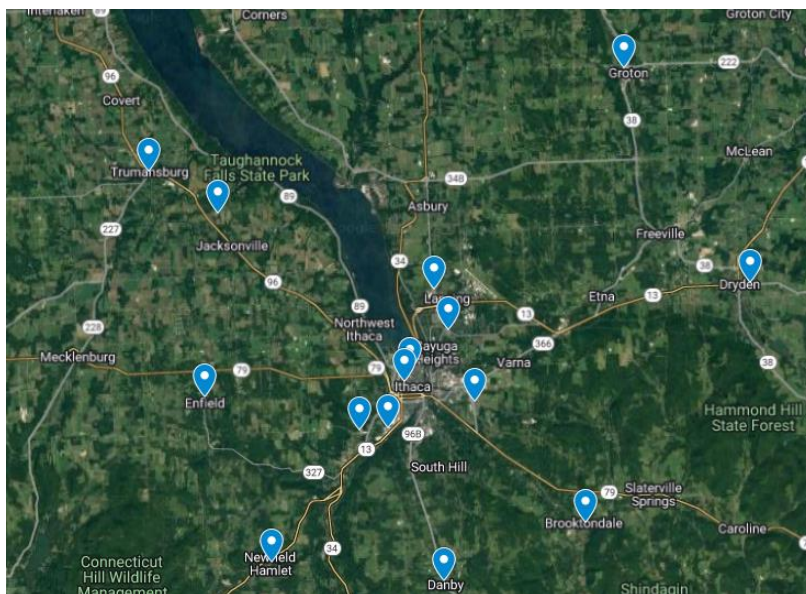
Name	Required to Donate	Required to Recycle	Municipality	Est. Generation Tons/Week
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill + Bar	X		Rochester	2
Bimbo	X		Rochester	35.8
Byrne Dairy	X		Rochester	84
Cheesecake Factory	X		Pittsford	4.8
Chili Hots	X	X	Rochester	2
Costco	X		Rochester	2
Cracker Barrel Old Country Store	X		Rochester	3.3
Dinosaur Bar-B-Que	X		Rochester	3.2
Diplomat Banquet Center	X		Rochester	2
Holiday Inn Rochester NY - Downtown	X		Rochester	2
Hyatt Regency Rochester	X		Rochester	2
Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center	X		Rochester	2
Longhorn Steakhouse	X		Rochester	2
Max of Eastman Place	X		Rochester	2
Monroe Community College	X		Rochester	2.8
Monroe County Jail	X		Rochester	2.7
Native Eatery and Bar	X		Rochester	2.1
Nazareth College Of Rochester	X		Rochester	3.6
Olive Garden (Paddy Creek Cir)	X		Rochester	7.3
Olive Garden (Jefferson Rd)	X	X	Rochester	5.9
On the Rocs Sports Bar and Grill	X	X	Rochester	2.3
Outback Steakhouse	X		Rochester	2
Red Lobster (W Ridge Rd)	X		Rochester	3.2
Red Lobster (Jefferson Rd)	X		Rochester	3
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers (Greece Ridge Ctr Dr)	X	X	Rochester	3.4
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers (Jefferson Rd)	X		Rochester	5.9
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers	X	X	Webster	5
Restaurant Depot	X		Rochester	2
Rochester Institute of Technology	X	X	Rochester	22.8
Rochester Riverside Hotel	X		Rochester	2
Seabreeze Amusement Park	X		Rochester	2
Snyder's-Lance, Inc.	X		West Henrietta	8.6
St John Fisher College	X	X	Rochester	4.8
Sticky Lips BBQ Juke Joint	X		Rochester	2.7
Tops Friendly Markets (Penfield Rd)	X		Rochester	2.4
Tops Friendly Markets (Mount Read Blvd)	X		Rochester	2
Tops Friendly Markets	X		Henrietta	2
TGI Friday's	X		Rochester	2
The Mall at Greece Ridge	X		Rochester	2
The Marketplace Mall	X		Rochester	2
The Strathallan Rochester Double Tree	X		Rochester	2
TRATA: The Restaurant at the Armory	X		Rochester	2
University of Rochester	X		Rochester	4.3
Walmart	X	X	Brockport	2
Walmart (Chili Ave Ste 7)	X	X	Rochester	2.7
Walmart (Hudson Ave Ste 2)	X		Rochester	2
Walmart (Dewey Ave)	X		Rochester	2.6
Wegman's (W Ridge Rd)	X	X	Rochester	13.2
Wegman's (Pittsford Palmyra Rd)	X	X	Fairport	12.3
Wegman's (Penfield Rd)	X	X	Penfield	14.2
Wegman's (Titus Ave)	X		Rochester	13.2
Wegman's (Empire Blvd)	X	X	Webster	10.8
Wegman's (Chili Ave)	X	X	Rochester	13.4
Wegman's	X	X	East Rochester	11.9
Wegman's (Latta Rd)	X		Rochester	11.9
Wegman's	X	X	Brockport	11.9
Wegman's (Lyell Ave)	X	X	Rochester	11.4
Wegman's (E Ridge Rd)	X	X	Rochester	10.1
Wegman's (Holt Rd)	X	X	Webster	12.1
Wegman's (East Ave)	X	X	Rochester	45.5
Wegman's (Mount Read Blvd)	X		Rochester	7.4
Wegman's (Monroe Ave)	X	X	Rochester	12.7
Wegman's (Hylan Dr)	X		Rochester	8.8
Wegman's (Calkins Rd)	X	X	Rochester	11.6
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.	X		Rochester	2.4
Woodcliff Hotel and Spa	X	X	Fairport	2

APPENDIX B
Organic Waste Programs Case Studies

Tompkins County, New York

Food Scraps Drop-off Program¹ – Tompkins County allows residents, businesses, institutions, and organizations to drop-off up to 10 gallons of food scraps and paper napkins/towels per day at one of sixteen (16) of their drop-spots. The drop-spots have toters for users to empty their food scraps into and are all supervised by an attendant with set hours (hours vary by location). The attendants are paid \$20/hour and cover shifts of 2.5 hours, 3.5 hours, and 4.5 hours. Cayuga Compost collects and processes the organic material. This program is free for users to participate in. The County provides countertop food scraps caddies to users free of charge at their Recycling and Materials Management office and at the sixteen (16) drop-spots; larger transportation containers are for sale at the Recycling and Materials Management office for \$12. Materials accepted in this program include: bread, grains, beans, nuts, eggs, dairy, fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, bones, paper towels/napkins, coffee grounds, paper filters, tea bags, and BPI-certified compostable bags. The following is advertised as not accepted in this program: compostable service ware, glass, metal, pet waste, plastic, utensils, and yard waste.

Map of Food Scraps Drop-spots



ReBusiness Partners Program² – Besides the food scraps drop-off program, Tompkins County offers assists local businesses, institutions, and organizations to reduce waste, increase reuse, recycling, and composting, and adopt green purchasing practices. Through this program the County's Department of Recycling and Materials Management offers:

1. a waste prevention consultation;
2. Access to tools and resources, such as recycling bins and decals, compost, recycling, and trash signage, and guidance information;
3. (3) support with staff training for waste reduction, reuse, and/or composting.

¹ <https://recycletopkins.org/recycling-and-composting/food-scraps-recycling/>

² <https://recycletopkins.org/other-programs-and-services/rebusiness-partners/>

Some examples of this program's scope include providing support for establishing recycling and composting programs, setting up food waste prevention and donation initiatives, troubleshooting programs to address issues such as contamination, creating a surplus equipment reuse procedure, evaluating takeout container options, and launching green purchasing efforts.

City of Troy, New York

Residential Food Scraps Drop-off Program³ – The City of Troy allows residents to drop-off food scraps and other compostable materials at the Troy Resource Management Facility. The drop-off location is staffed and has set open hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.); proof of residence is required to participate. Materials accepted in this program include: fruits, vegetables, pasta, grains, bread, cookies, cake, candy, coffee grounds, eggs, eggshells, meat, fish, bones, lobster shells, dairy, nuts, coconut shells, pet food, brown paper bags, tea bags, toothpicks, popsicle sticks, chopsticks, wooden utensils, house plants/flowers, napkins/paper towels, cardboard egg cartons, paper towel/toilet paper tubes, and oily pizza boxes. The following is advertised as not accepted in this program: plastic, cartons, take-out containers, mail envelopes, magazines, cereal boxes, plastic or waxed cardboard, disinfectant wipes, contaminated paper, fireplace wood or BBQ ash, produce stickers, meat packaging, mussel/clam/oyster shells, Styrofoam, “compostable” utensils, bodily fluids, compostable diapers or sanitary products, pet waste, cat litter, dead animals, grass clippings, laundry lint, dryer sheets, dental floss, and q-tips.

Curbside Composting Pilot Program⁴ – From September 29, 2021, to September 29, 2023, the City of Troy executed a curbside composting pilot program partially funded (75% match funding) by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The program was free for residents participating and was limited to 250 participants. The pilot was divided into three phases: (1) a 6-month duration with 75 participants; (2) a 6-month duration with 125 participants; (3) a 12-month duration with 250 participants. The curbside collection of the food scraps was contracted out to FoodScraps360, a local food scraps hauler that brings collected food scraps to the Town of Bethlehem’s composting facility. Throughout the pilot program, a total of 50.5 tons of food scraps were diverted from landfills through composting. At the end of the pilot program, the City decided to temporarily halt it as they applied for additional funding opportunities in pursuit of a potential future iteration of this program. The 250 participants were notified that should they choose to, they could continue diverting their food scraps curbside with a paid subscription to FoodScraps360, or they could participate in the City’s food scraps drop-off program instead.

³ <https://www.troyny.gov/1520/Food-Scrap-Drop-off>

⁴ <https://www.troyny.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1317>

City of Buffalo, New York

Residential Food Scraps Drop-off Program (Scrap It! Buffalo)⁵ – The City of Buffalo launched a food scraps drop-off program in 2018. This program has evolved over the years, as summarized in the table below:

Year	Drop-off locations & hours	Collection Period	Hauling and Composting
2018 ⁵	1 – MAP Farm Stand (Wed 4-6 pm)	June – July	Hauled by the City of Buffalo to Buffalo River Compost
2019 ⁶	1 – MAP Farm Stand (Wed 4-6 pm) 2 – South Buffalo Farmers Market (Sun 9 am-1 pm) 3 – North Buffalo Farmers Market (Thu 4-7 pm) 4 – Broadway Market (Fri 9 am-11 am) 5 – Downtown Country Farmers Market (Tue 10 am-12 pm)	June – September	Hauled by Natural Upcycling to Buffalo River Compost
2020 ⁷	1 – MAP Farm Stand (Thu 4-6 pm) 2 – South Buffalo Farmers Market (Sun 9 am-1 pm) 3 – North Buffalo Farmers Market (Thu 4-7 pm) 4 – Broadway Market (Tue 10 am-12 pm) 5 – Downtown Country Farmers Market (Thu 10 am-12 pm) 6 – Tops Friendly Markets (Mon 10 am-12 pm) 7 – Corner of Elmwood & Bidwell (Permanent)	June – September for all locations One year-round location: - Corner Elmwood & Bidwell	Hauled by Natural Upcycling to Buffalo River Compost
2021 ⁸	1 – Buffalo Promise Neighborhood (Tue 3-5 pm) 2 – South Buffalo Farmers Market (Sun 9 am-1 pm) 3 – Broadway Market (Wed 10 am-12 pm) 4 – Downtown Country Farmers Market (Thu 10 am-12 pm) 5 – Tops Friendly Markets - Jefferson Ave (Mon 4-6 pm) 6 – Tops Friendly Markets - Grant & Amherst (Thu 4-6 pm) 7 – MAP Farm Stand (Permanent) 8 – Corner of Elmwood & St. James Pl (Permanent)	June – September for all locations Two year-round locations: - MAP Farm Stand - Corner Elmwood & St. James Pl	Hauled by Natural Upcycling to Buffalo River Compost
2022 ⁹	1 – MAP Farm Stand 2 – Dog Ears Bookstore 3 – Corner of Elmwood & St. James Pl	Year-round	Unknown
2023 ¹⁰	1 – MAP Farm Stand 2 – Eugene V. Debs Hall 3 – Dog Ears Bookstore 4 – Corner of Elmwood & St. James Pl	Year-round	Unknown

⁵ <https://www.buffalony.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=234>

⁶ <https://www.buffalony.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=427&ARC=589>

⁷ <https://news.buffaloplace.com/2020/06/23/city-of-buffalo-scrap-it-residential-food-scraps-recycling-program/>

⁸ <https://buffalorecycles.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/COB-34More-FoodWaste-Info.pdf>

⁹ <https://buffalorecycles.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/COB-34More-RecyclingGuide-2021.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://149591165.v2.pressablecdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/COB-FoodScraps-Flyer-PermLocations-2023-scaled.jpg>

Materials accepted in this program include: vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, nut and egg shells. The following is advertised as not accepted in this program: meat, chicken, fish, greasy & oily food, dairy, animal waste, litter or bedding, coal or charcoal, coconuts, diseased or insect-infested houseplants, or biodegradable /compostable plastics.

Residential Curbside Food Scraps Collection Pilot Program (Scrap It! Curbside)¹¹ – In July 2023, the City of Buffalo launched a yearlong residential curbside composting pilot program partially funded (75% match funding) by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)'s Municipal Food Scraps Recycling Grant Program. The program is the next phase of Scrap It! Buffalo. It is free for residents to participate and is limited to 2,000 participants. The City contracts Farmers Pirates Compost, LLC, to collect and process the food scraps. Materials accepted in this program include: bread, cereal, coffee grounds/filters, dairy, eggshells, flowers/plants, fruits, paper bags, paper plates - not coated, paper towels, pasta, rice/grains, seafood/shells, tea/tea bags, tofu/tempeh, vegetables, and bpi certified compostable products. This program advertises the following as not accepted: corks, fats/oils, glass, gum, meat/bones, metal, plastic, pet waste, rubber bands, Styrofoam, twist ties, and produce stickers¹².

¹¹ <https://buffalorecycles.org/scrap-it-curbside/>

¹² <https://buffalorecycles.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ScrapIt-Curbside-List.pdf>

City of Rochester, New York

Residential Food Scraps Drop-off Program¹³ – The City of Rochester currently has a residential composting pilot program that is free to a limited number of residents. Enrolled residents drop-off food scraps and other compostable materials on a weekly basis during limited hours at the following three locations:

1. Maplewood Park (Tuesday 9am-2pm);
2. Cobbs Hill Park (Saturday 9am-12pm and Wednesday 1pm-4pm); and
3. Genesee Valley Park (Saturday 1pm-4pm and Wednesday 9am-12pm).

Materials accepted in this program include: All food scraps (fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, dairy, eggs, nuts, bones, shells, breads, cereals, grains, baked goods, pasta, coffee grounds, expired food or old leftovers), food-soiled paper products (napkins, paper towels, coffee filters, tea bags, paper takeout boxes), compostable products (“bio-plastics” labeled as BPI certified or commercially compostable), and small amounts of plant clippings, flowers, and leaves. The following is advertised as not accepted in this program: animal or human waste, diapers, fats, oil or grease, non-compostable takeout containers, Styrofoam, plastic, metal, or glass. The food waste collected is hauled by Impact Earth to Organix Green Industries, a vermicomposting facility located in Seneca Castle, NY.

¹³ <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/compost/>

The experience to
listen
The power to
solveSM

Barton
&Loguidice

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