connecticut compost conference

2024

We Speak for the Compost

Our Mission

The US Composting Council advances compost manufacturing, compost utilization, and organics recycling to benefit our members, society, and the environment.

Our Vision

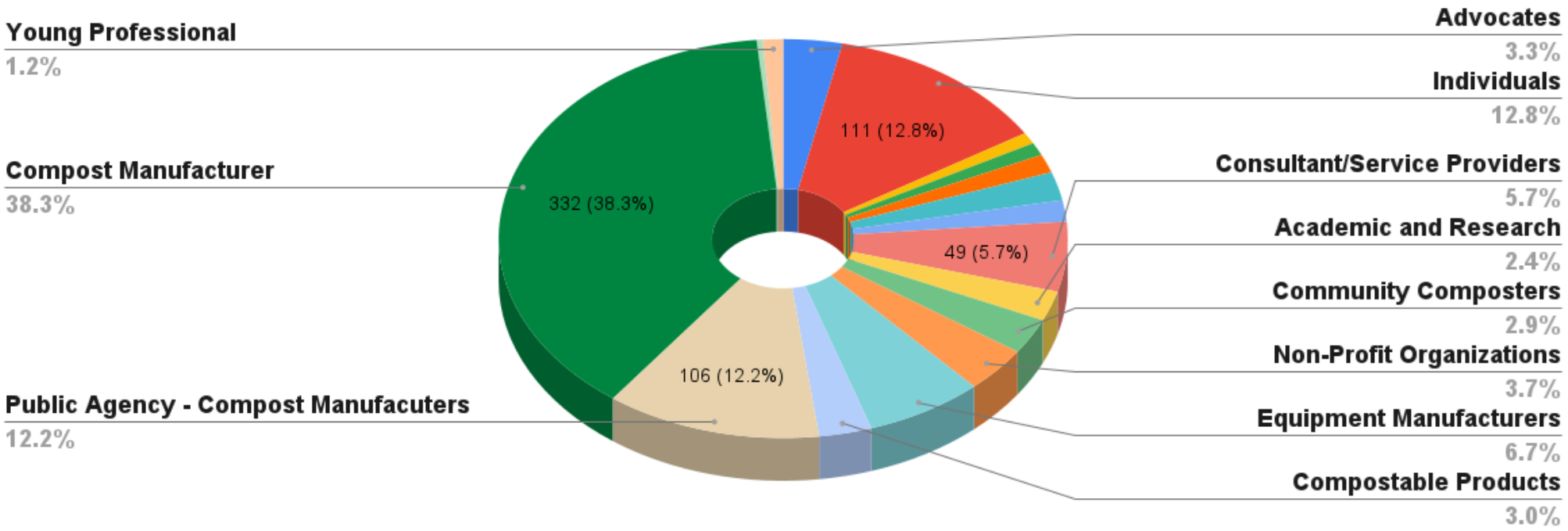
We believe compost manufacturing and compost utilization are central to creating healthy soils, clean air and water, a stable climate, and a sustainable society.

US Composting Council®

Advocate • Connect • Educate • Market

Who Do We Represent?

US Composting Council Members By Type 2023



Connecticut Members

Sam King Blue Earth Compost
Matt Heslin Clearspan Fabric Structures
Paul Darby Novamont
Maura Devellis Novamont
Dan Martens Novamont
Domingo Medina Peels & Wheels Composting
Brian Freeman Robinson+Cole
Frank Schuster Smile Beverage Werks
David Aldridge Southeastern CT Regional Resources Recovery
Joe Lucas III

www.compostingcouncil.org/memberjoin

GOOD TIMES for COMPOST!

LEGISCAN
BRINGING PEOPLE TO THE PROCESS

Register About Features Datasets LegiScan API Bill Tracking Search VOTE! Login

LegiScan Search

View Top 50 Searches

State:
All States
Select area of search.

Bill Number:

Find an exact number.

Full Text Search
compost
Search bill text and data. [help]

Search Reset

LegiScan Info

- 2024 Schedules
- Price List
- LegiScan API
- Weekly Datasets

Results for National legislative search about compost

Showing records 1 - 50 of about 589 results (0.001 seconds)

Edit Search Parameters

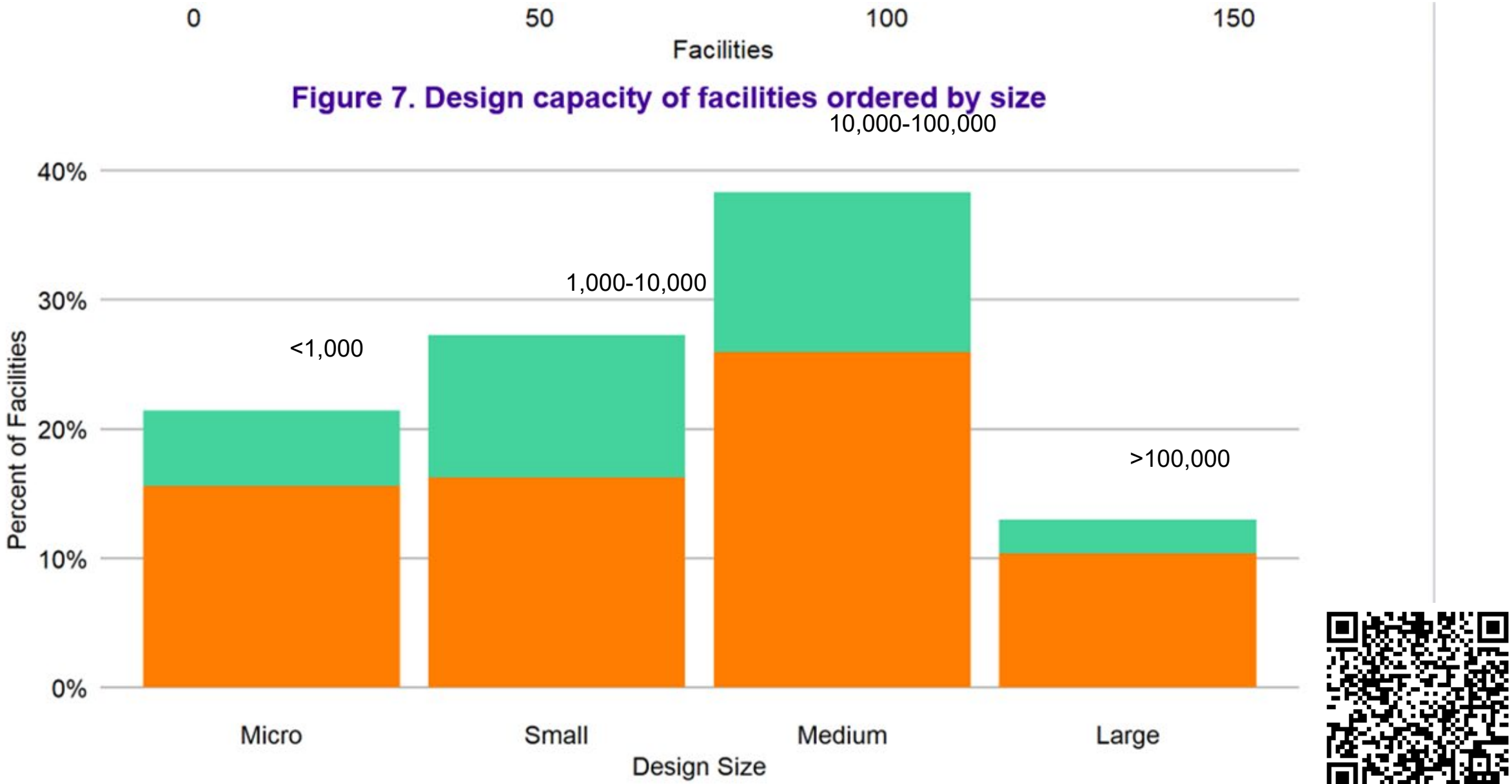
Create Search Alert

500-Plus Bills in 2023

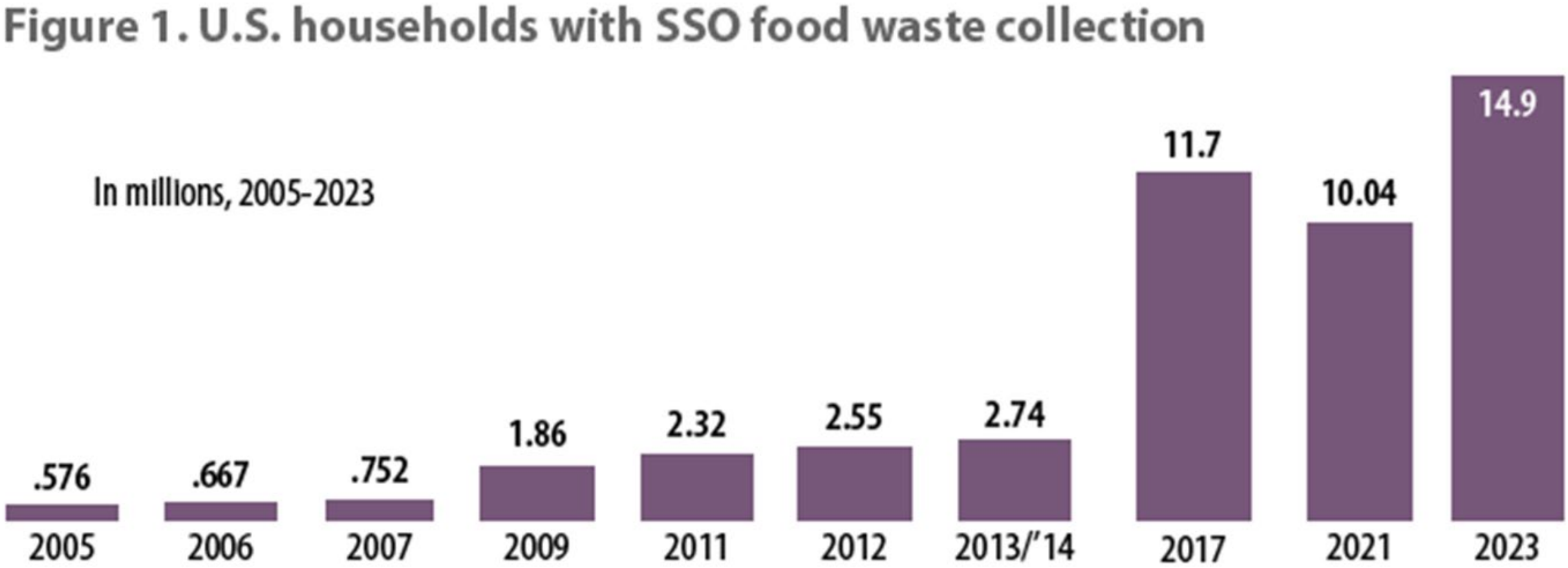
Match	State	Bill	Status	Summary/Title	Last Action
100%	WA	HB1033	Pass	Evaluating compostable product usage in Washington. [Detail] [Text] [Discuss]	2023-05-04 Effective date 7/23/2023.
99%	CA	ACR36	Pass	Compost Awareness Week. [Detail] [Text] [Discuss]	2023-06-02 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Res. Chapter 78, Statutes of 2023.
99%	RI	H7856	Intro 25%	STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- COMPOSTING AND ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION - Establishes Compost Fund to award grants related to reducing the amount of solid waste generated in the state. [Detail] [Text] [Discuss]	2024-03-01 To House Finance Committee

feedback

GOOD TIMES for COMPOST! Growth Measures



GOOD TIMES for COMPOST! Growth Measures



BioCycle CONNECT

GOOD TIMES for COMPOST!Grants, Private Equity and Financing

FEDERAL (since 2020)

USDA:

Composting and Food Waste Reduction ($12M+)

Climate Smart Agriculture ($104M)

Fertilizer Production ($500M)-34%-($15M)

EPA:

SWIFR $46M

Outreach and Education $12.7M

PRIVATE (ex): REFED,

Zero FoodPrint-$2.21M, 252 projects

GOOD TIMES for COMPOST! We are here!

The Recycling and Composting Accountability Act

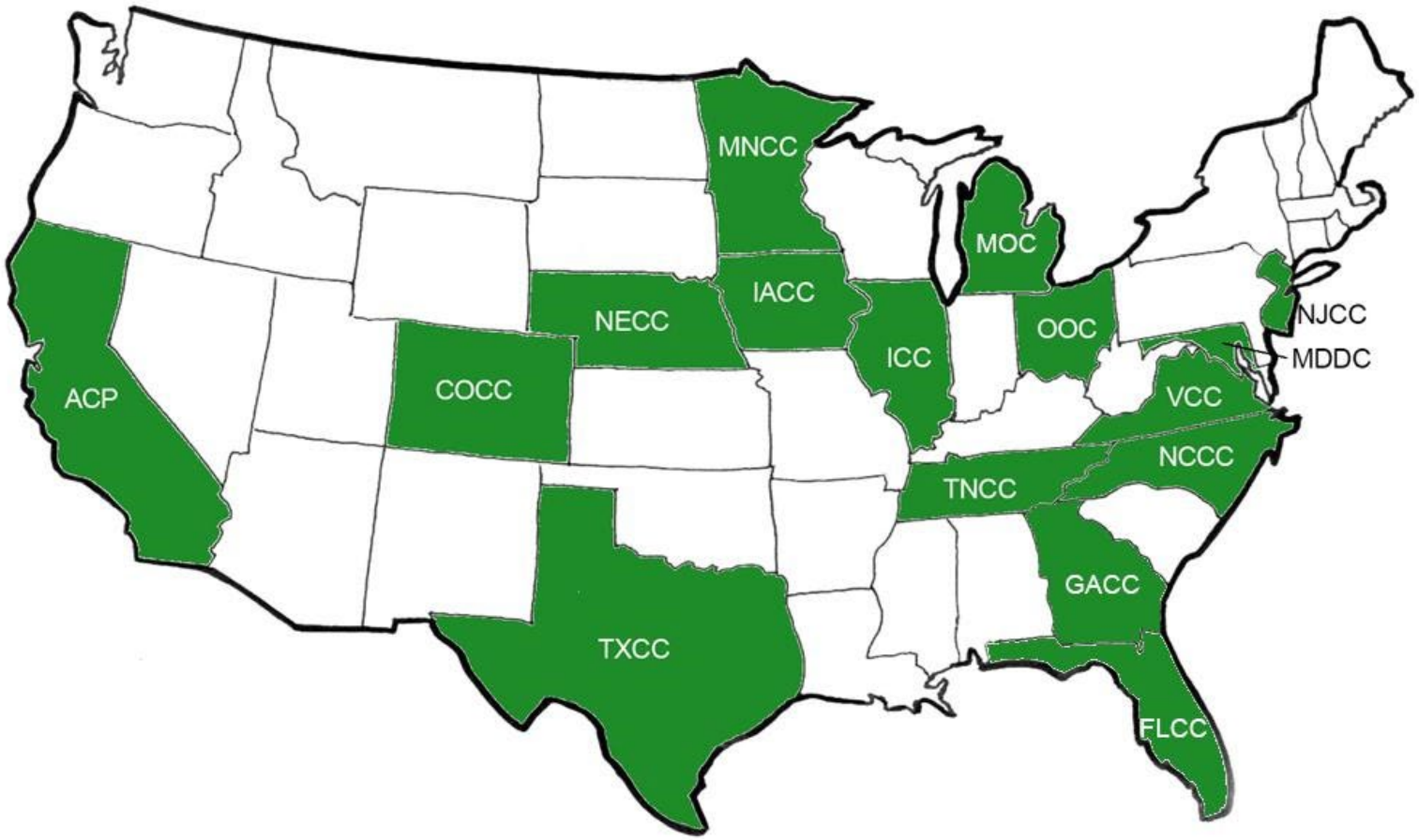
GOOD TIMES for COMPOST! USCC Metrics

MEMBERSHIP: 25% growth

COTCS-selling out

Conferences--doubled hit 1,600 in florida

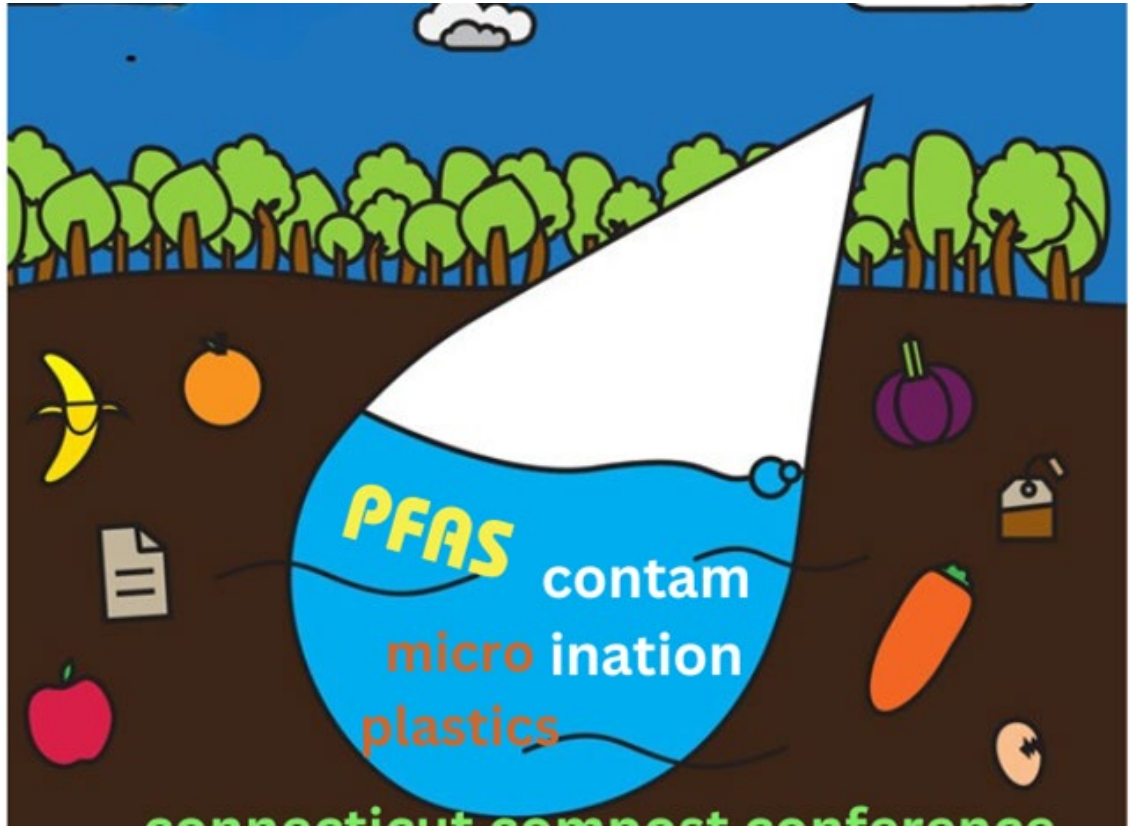
Grown to 15 chapters from 4



STATE CHAPTERS

The Speed Bumps!

- Emerging Contaminants
- (PH, PFAS, Microplastics)
- Contamination
- Consumer Education/ Misalignment

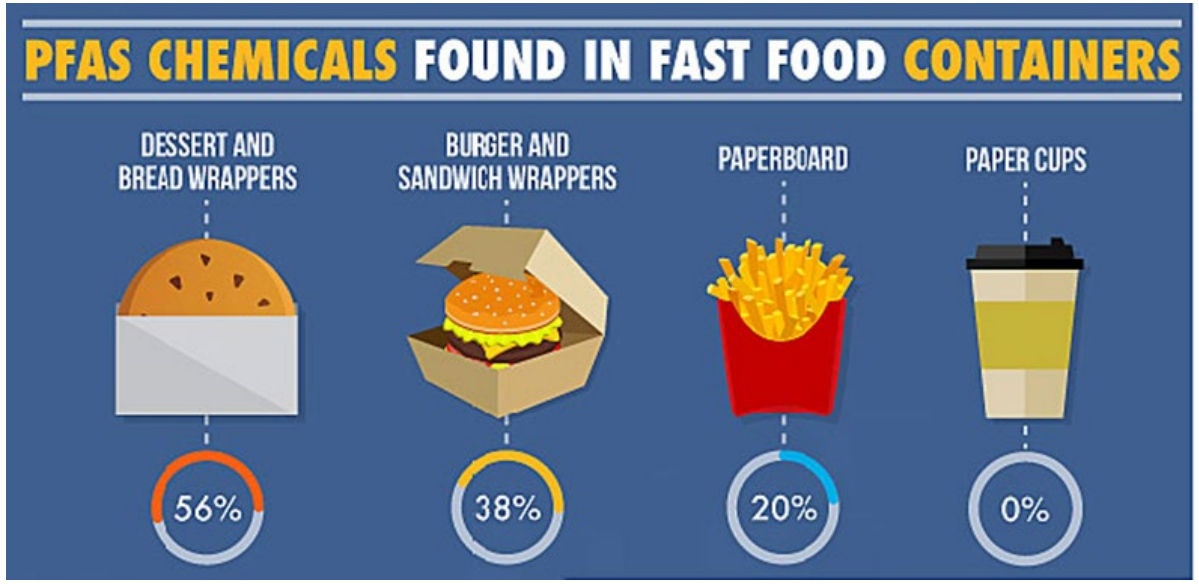


The Speed Bumps: PFAs

- Known for oil, stain, and water repelling properties
- Flame retardant
- Persistent and do not readily break down (Forever Chemicals)
- Their carbon-fluorine bond is strong and stable
- Highly mobile in the environment
- Due to this, PFAS have been found around the world, even on the North Pole

compostingcouncil.org/PFAS-and-compost

The Speed Bumps: PFAS



The Speed Bumps: PFAS

Feedstock—--Rainwater—Groundwater—-Air Emissions

The Speed Bumps: PFAS– Health Risks: Exposure Pathways

Implications of PFAS on human health and environment is known and must be quantified for appropriate action

- **Science based regulations**
- **Packaging and product choices**

EPA : PFAS Strategic Roadmap biosolids risk assessment for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), in biosolids.

Completion Dec 2024; currently in peer review

The Speed Bumps: PFAS Comparisons

PFOA/PFOS Product Comparison	PFOA	PFOS
	µg/kg (parts per billion) – dry wt.	
Microwave popcorn bags[a]	6 - 290	Not available
Concealer cosmetic[b]	2,335.0	ND
Furniture, apparel, bedding (max)[c]	22.5	2.1
Dental Floss[a]	3.0	Not available
Body lotion[b]	3.5	ND
US Household Dust (2001)[d]	142.0	201.0
Soil Background Levels (VT 2019)[e]	0.5	1.0
US Blood Serum Levels (1999-2000)[f]	5.2	30.4
US Blood Serum Levels (2017-2018)[f]	1.4	4.3
Yard Waste Bags[g]	0.8	0.2
US Compost Containing Food Waste[h]	4.7	1.7
US Compost without Food Waste[h]	0.3	1.9
ME, NH & VT Biosolids Compost[i]	12.0	8.7

The Speed Bumps: PFAS Case Study #1

Mass Natural

- 1987-began Mass Natural Compost Facility
- 2006-began taking paper factory sludge from Seaman Paper
- 2022: groundwater in region contaminated
- Put Mass Natural out of business
- Seaman Paper has denied any responsibility
- No background levels were tested

The Speed Bumps: PFAS Case Study #2 Pima County AZ

- 2019: Pima County placed a moratorium on landspreading of biosolids
  Dr. Ian Pepper-University of Arizona
- Biosolids went from a cost of $1.58M annually to $3.18 annually during the study and moratorium
- Findings: there is minimal transport of PFAS through the top soil and negligible concern for groundwater. PFAS concentrations rapidly decreased with depth.
- Pima County reinstated its land application program.

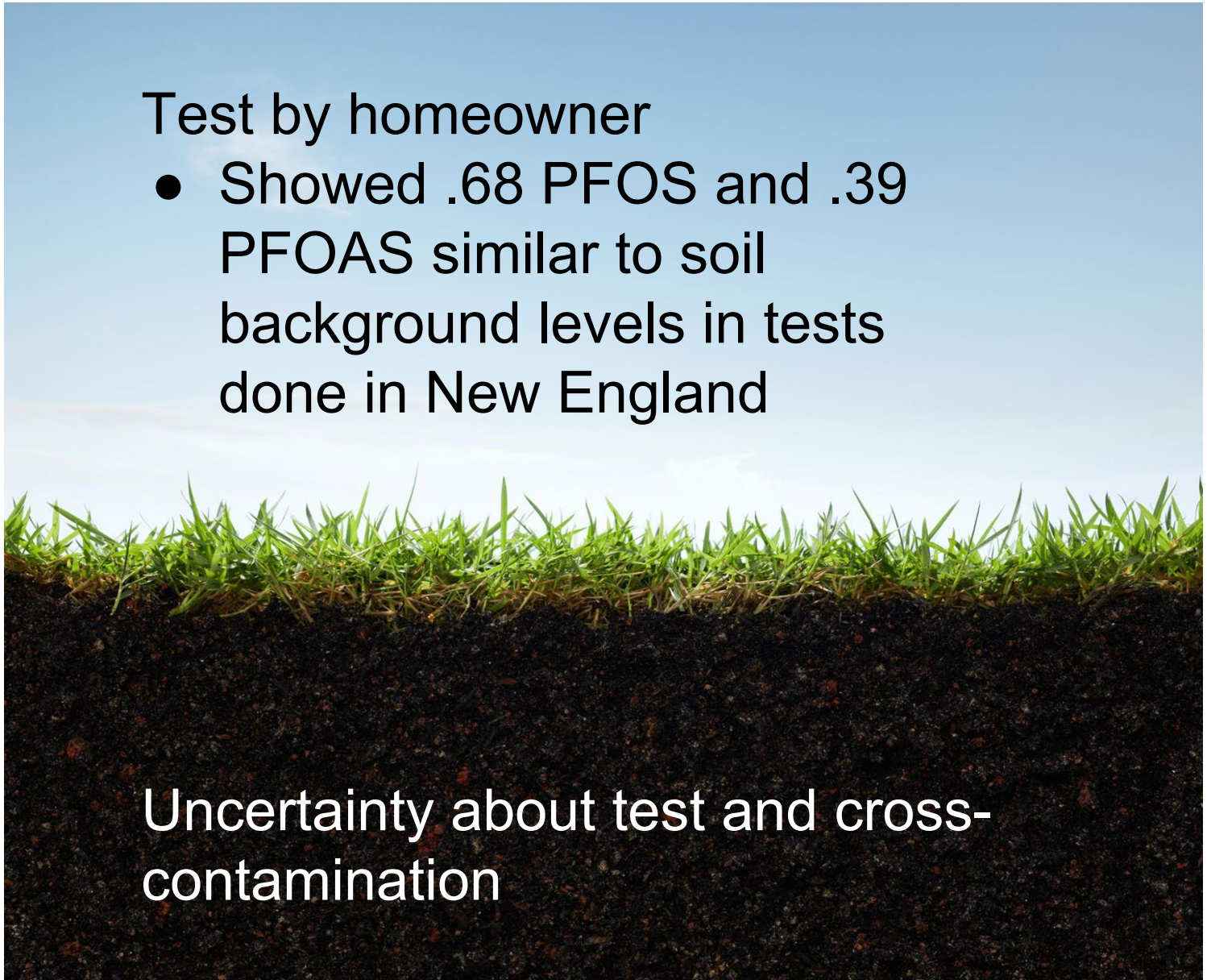
The Speed Bumps: PFAS Case Study #3 Kennebunkport ME

- Selling Class A biosolids compost for $5/ ton
- Shut down composting program-
- Landfilling in hazardous waste landfill at $150/ton
- Cost of installing a centrifuge to remove all the liquid for transportation

The Speed Bumps: The Benefits Outweigh the Risks

Complete bans of biosolids land application, composted or otherwise, eliminates these benefits as the biosolids are redirected to hazardous waste landfills or incineration.

The Speed Bumps: PFAS Case Study #4



The Speed Bumps: PFAS and CERCLA Designation

CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (SUPERFUND)

1. We are passive receivers.
2. CERCLA: “Polluters Pay”
   Compost facilities are NOT Superfund sites!
3. Composters HAVE been brought into liability.
   We need a guarantee.

The Speed Bumps: PFAS What Can Composters Do?

1. Evaluate your past & present feedstocks
2. Testing? Think it through.
3. USCC resources
4. Prepare for customers and media.
5. Shout the benefits of compost on your website and other communications!

What Can Advocates Do?

1. Educate others about the benefits of compost!
2. Watch local LTEs/ media stories for “apples to oranges” comparisons and non-science backed assumptions.
3. Follow USCC”s Compost Action Center to make your voice heard
   a. research on COMPOST plant uptake
   b. exempting composting from CERCLA so that the real polluters pay
4. Advocate in your state for bans on products containing intentionally added PFAS www.saferstates.com

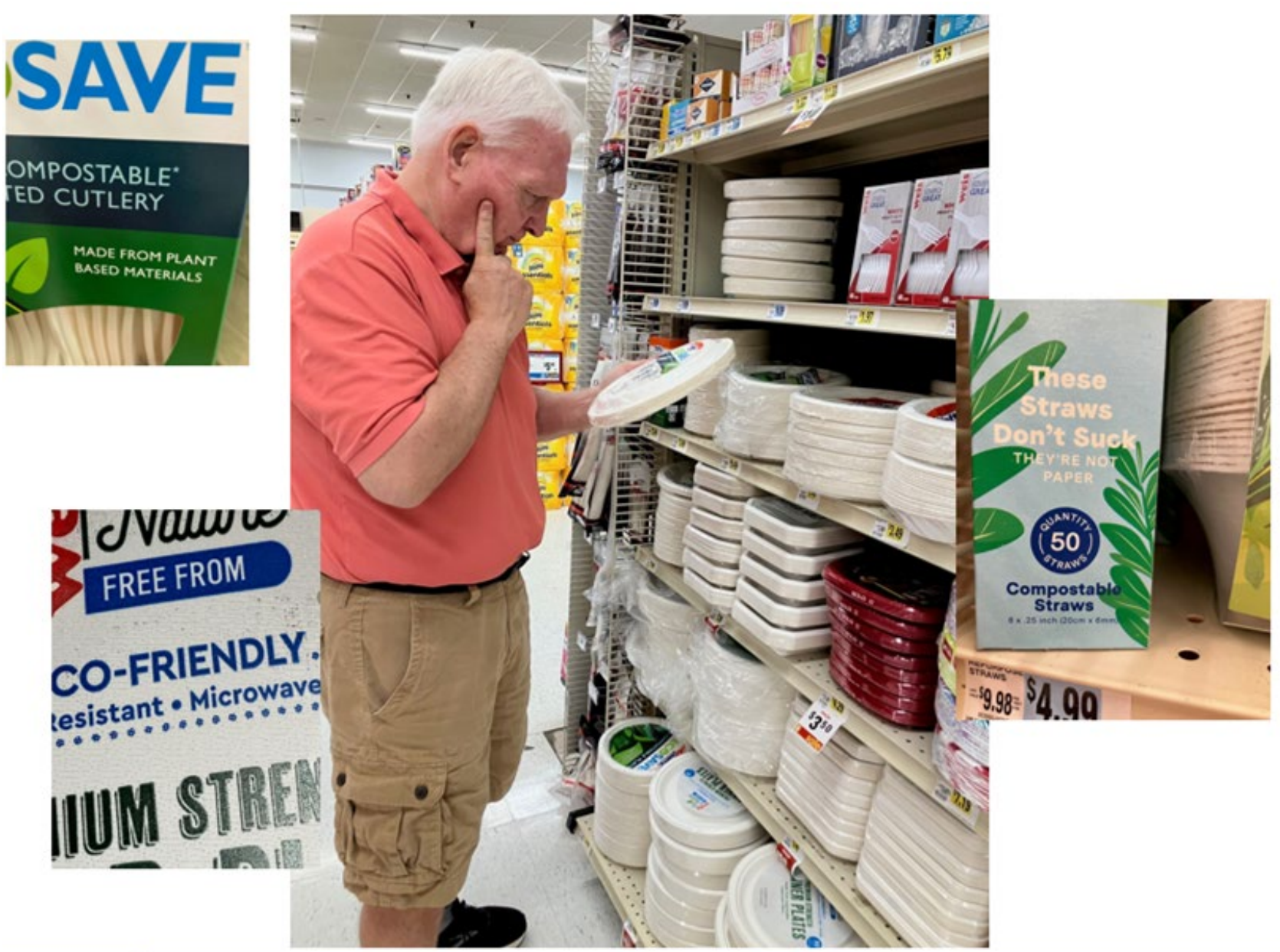
Speed Bumps: MICROPLASTICS: The Science is Underway

Eric Roy: Gap between scientists and media (Volker et al 2020)

"Most scientific studies (67%) frame microplastics risk as hypothetical or uncertain, while 24% present them as established	**In contrast, most media articles reporting on microplastic impacts (94%) imply that risks of microplastics exist and harmful impacts are highly probable • We need to rigorously evaluate the risks in Vermont, as well as the potential trade-offs of policy**

Speed Bumps: CONTAMINATION

Speed Bumps: CONTAMINATION



Speed Bumps: CONTAMINATION: Look Alike Products, Labeling and EPR

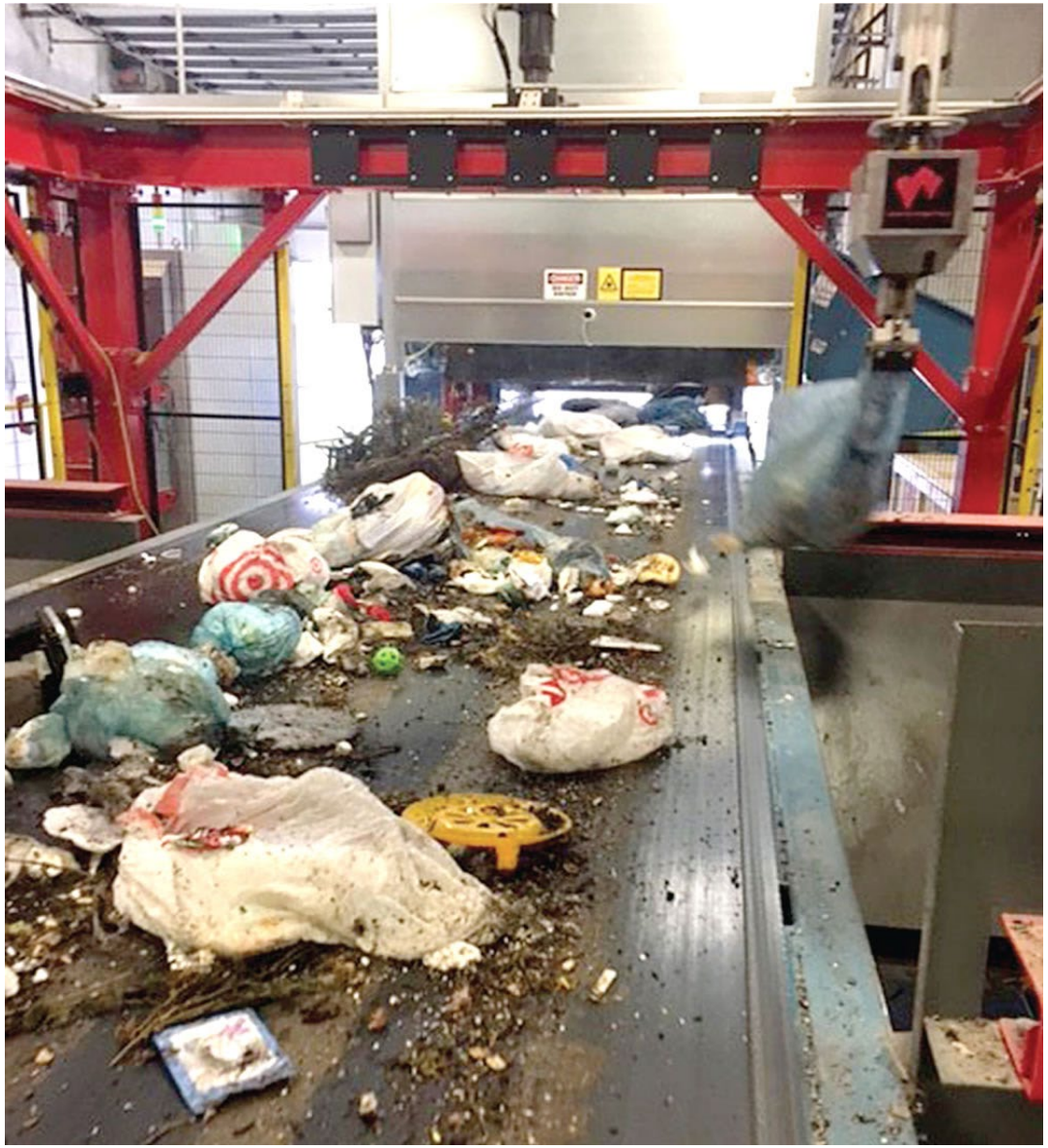
California, Colorado, Washington, Minnesota, Maryland

Key Labeling Principles:

*3rd Party Certification based on ASTM
*Encourage Field Testing as well as Lab Testing
*Green/Beige colors/striping depending on product
**Education and enforcement
- **no greenwashing allowed**

Speed Bumps: CONTAMINATION
Extended Producer Responsibility

California, Colorado, Oregon, Maine



Keys:

Needs Assessment

Seat on Producer Advisory Committee or PRO

Composting as a recipient of funding

Eco-modulation- higher fees for less recyclability/compostability

Other Things In Play

Infrastructure

- Permitting
- Zoning

Feedstock challenges

- VT Source Separation Policy
- Depackaging

Misnomers

- “Electric composters”
- “Composting” to describe any kind of pickup or product of organics recycling

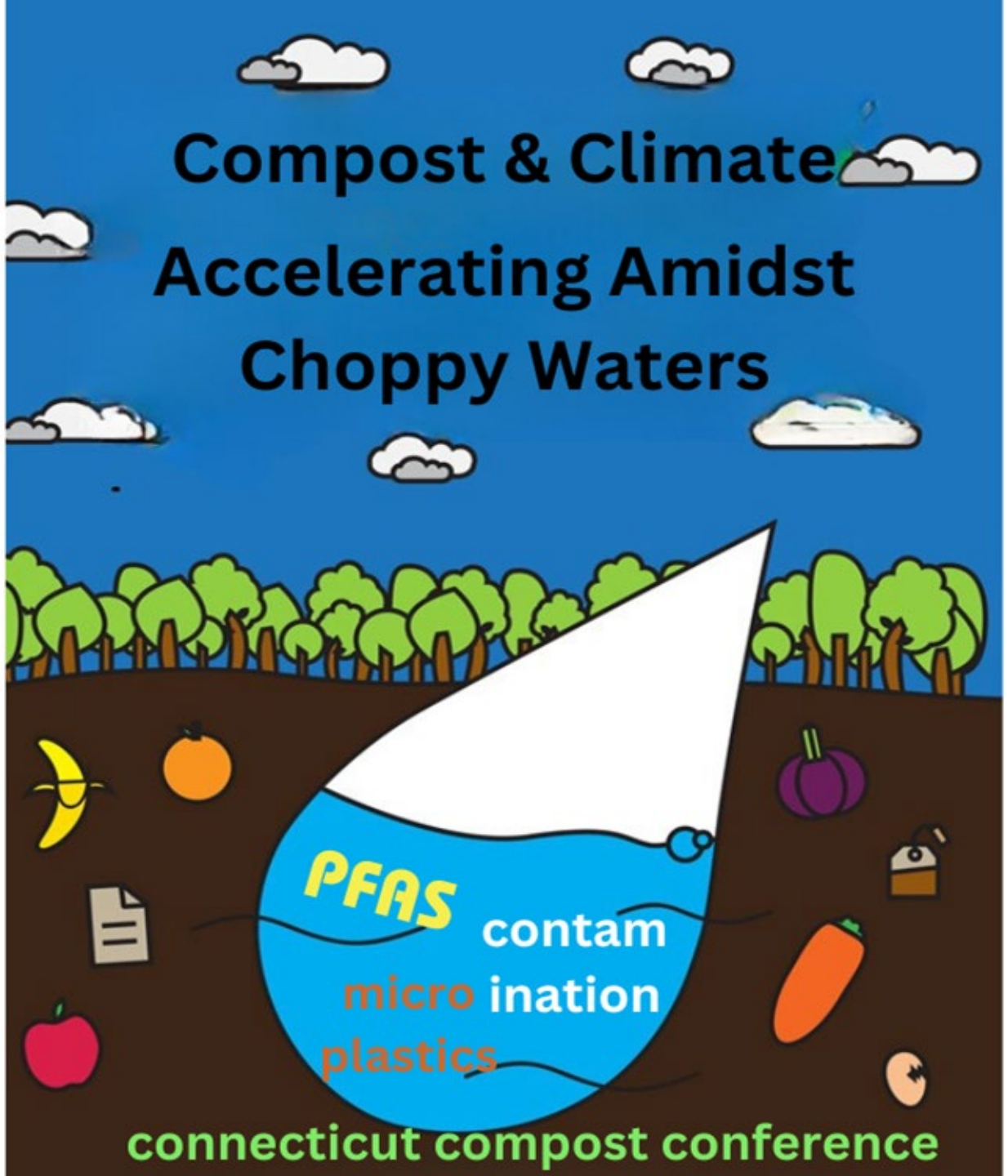
1,406 TOTAL SUPPORTERS

Don’t Forget --Why We’re All Here

Composting is important because:

Reducing methane emissions by removing organic waste from landfills is one of the most impactful and cost-effective ways we can make a difference in combating climate change

- ⅓ of the waste going into landfills can be composted and returned to farms, ranches and gardens where it originated
- It returns valuable nutrients to the soil and helps maintain soil quality and fertility.
- It reduces water use by increasing water retention in the soil and filtration during floods
- Reduces use of chemical fertilizers: compost enables improved plant uptake of nutrients
- It reduces use of pesticides – healthy soils help suppress disease



THANK YOU!!!

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