

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Czujpc6ub\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Czujpc6ub_c)

“ON-FARM COMPOSTING  
WITH YOUR COMMUNITY”

**Baylee Drown**, Founder of Long Table Farm

**Kristina White**, Town of Lyme Board of Select People  
and Executive Director of Lyme Land Trust

Created for the Connecticut Compost Conference, March 14, 2024



# INTRODUCTIONS

Name

Location

Composting Scale 1-10

One thing to learn today





KRISTINA  
WHITE

Select person

Executive Director Lyme Land Trust

Conn College Alum



# BAYLEE DROWN

Founded LTF 2014  
Farmed in MI and VT  
before  
MSFS GMC 2014  
Ag degree MSU 2009  
Holstein MI

Certified compost  
facility operator 131  
school





## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Be an active, good citizen
- Start with Schools
- Appreciate municipal services and servants
- Build community

<https://www.wfsb.com/video/2024/01/10/great-kids-school-green-team-starts-composting-program/>



# STATE LAWS



- Current law CT HB 664 CT organic Waster Recycling (businesses over 26 tons per year)
- Proposed bill SB 191 Strengthens and requires reporting. Expands to residential mandatory composting in 2028, led by municipalities.
- Future: Mandatory composting at all levels including the home.
  - Examples Vermont Act 148 – phased out organics from trash 2012-2020
  - California Bill 1383 2016-2022

MUNICIPAL  
LEVEL  
MOTIVATIONS

TIPPING FEES

DEMAND FROM  
RESIDENTS

SETTING UP COMPOSTING  
SYSTEM & KEEPING TAXES  
LOW

SHIFTING MINDSET OF  
MUNICIPAL WORKERS

ACHIEVING PARTICIPATION

# FARM LEVEL PROBLEMS

Municipal zoning could be a problem, and it is not for us – also DEEP



## REGIONALLY AVAILABLE COMPOST

Quality

Price

Delivery

Reliability

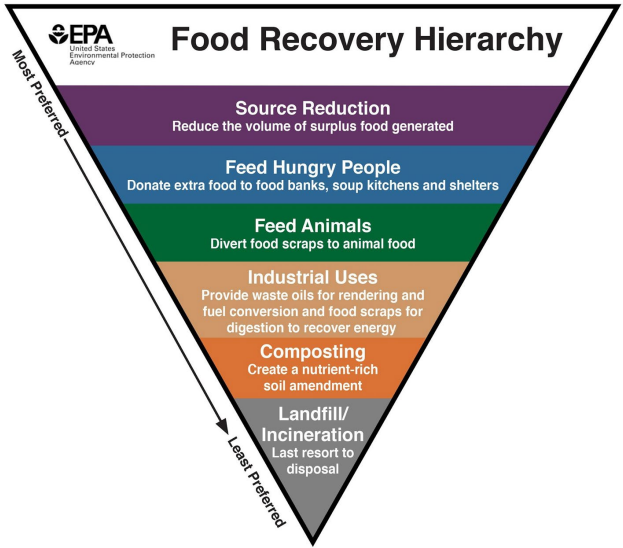
From Survey Monkey

## QUANTITY

## KNOWLEDGE

SPACE,  
INFRASTRUCTURE,  
EQUIPMENT AND ENERGY





# SOLUTIONS



**FOOD SCRAP  
PREVENTION**



**HOME  
COMPOSTING**



**DROP OFF – FARM  
OR TRANSFER  
STATION**



**ELECTRIC TRUCK  
PICK UP**

SCCC



## MUNICIPAL SUPPORT



Private/Public Partnership

Qualify for more grant support

Official town project – ease zoning concerns



# Buckets and Instructions







Long Table Farm & Town of Lyme

# FOOD COMPOSTING PROGRAM



Wednesday-Saturday  
Dawn to Dusk  
256 Beaver Brook Road  
Questions? Contact Baylee, 616.292.3311



### YES

- all food scraps
- fruit and vegetable
- grains
- bones and meat
- fats
- coffee grounds
- tea bags

### NO

- general garbage
- plastic or paper products
- biodegradable or compostable products
- dog or cat poop
- yard waste
- silk tea bags



# Compost life cycle from home to farm and back







**UConn INNOVATION GRANT APPLICATION TO UPGRADE COMPOST DROP OFF CONTAINER**

**Town of Lyme approving a second driveway and paying for an apron so we can set up a 4 day a week Food Compost Drop Off**















## **Tools for operating a successful on farm composting operation:**



- A good sense of smell and aesthetic
- Thermometer-Amazon \$30
- Tractor –optional at certain scales
- Collection vessel for food waste
- Compost screener (trommel)
- Storage area – stone pad
- Materials & Recipe & Management Routine





# Pitfalls:

Smell

Wildlife / Rodents

Unsightly

Water runoff



## End Goal for our Farm

- Provide all of our own compost and potting soil
- Eventually scale up to produce approximately 2,000 yards of compost and potting soil per year
- Divert 1 Million pounds of food waste from landfills annually
- Average American generates 250 pounds of food waste annually
- Under 3000 Lyme residents – 750,000 pounds of food waste from just our town per year
- Move primary composting activities under cover for water control due to climate change
- Recarbonize living soils
- Sequester enough carbon in soil to offset atmospheric carbon and slow climate change

We need a farm like ours in every community or for municipalities to take on composting

## End Goal for our Town

- Divert all organics from town garbage







Resources:

**Community-Scale  
Composting Systems**

By James McSweeney

DEEP website

131 School of  
Composting