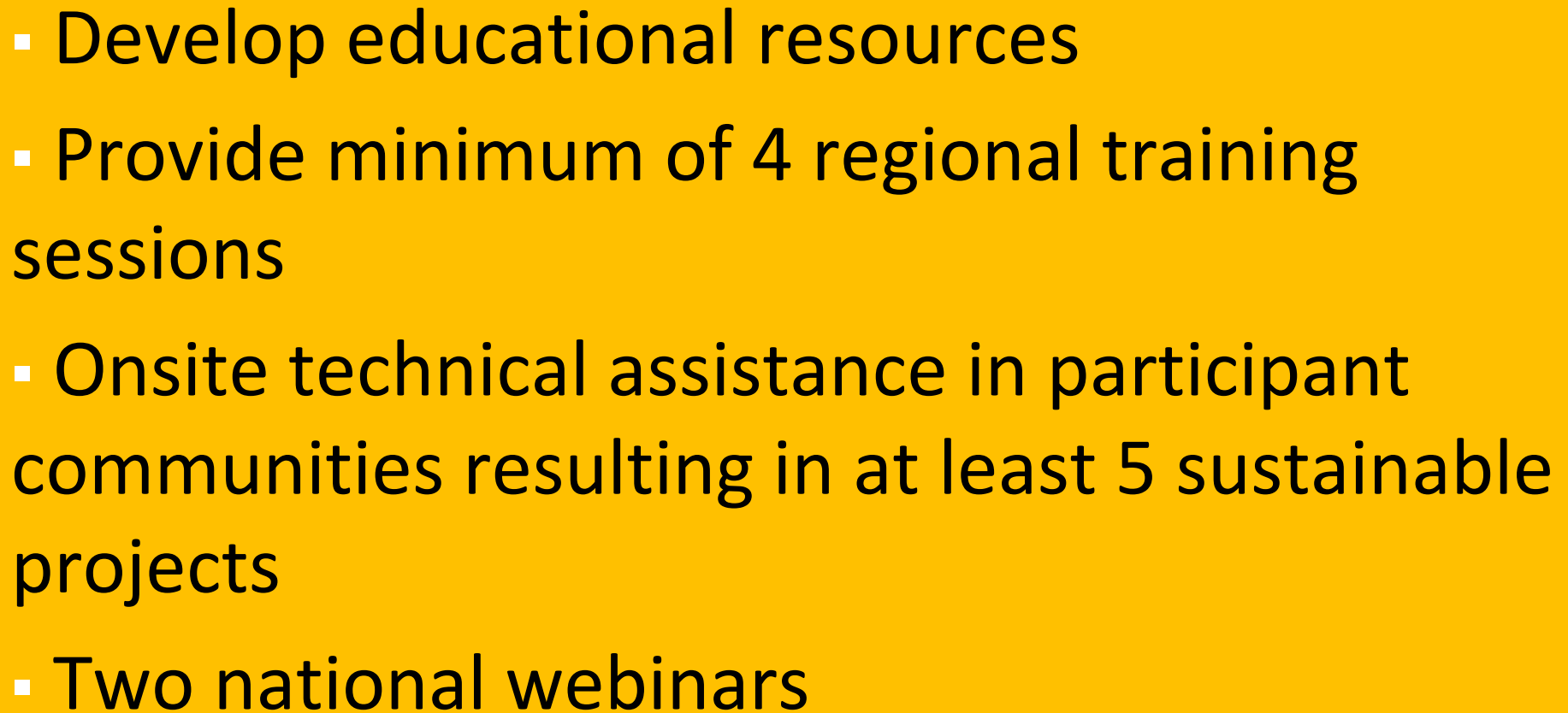


# Lessons Learned from Implementing the Food Recovery Hierarchy

Athena Lee Bradley  
Northeast Recycling Council  
NERC.org



- NERC - 11 states united for environmentally sustainable materials management
- The Project: *Implementing Food Waste, Organics, & Manure Management in Rural Maryland Communities*
- USDA, RUS SWM Grant Program
- Partner Counties - Allegany & Cecil County

- 
- Develop educational resources
  - Provide minimum of 4 regional training sessions
  - Onsite technical assistance in participant communities resulting in at least 5 sustainable projects
  - Two national webinars



# Where to Start

- Build partners
  - ✓ Government staff - county, town, district, planning commissions
  - ✓ AgExt, food policy councils
  - ✓ Rural associations
  - ✓ Colleges

# Focus Frostburg







## Allegheny County Recycling Office



### Compost Bin Sale!! Saturday, April 21 from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm at Constitution Park, Cumberland, MD

*Celebrate Earth Day by learning how to compost yard trimmings and food scraps. Already composting yard trimmings? Come to our mini-workshop to learn how to safely & effectively add food scraps to your compost pile.*

The Allegheny County Recycling Office is offering Earth Machine compost bins to County residents at the discounted price of \$20.56

#### Why compost?

- Composting converts yard trimmings, food scraps & other organics into a valuable soil amendment
- Using compost on plants and lawns reduces the need for fertilizer, other soil amendments, & pesticides



The bin sale will be held on **Saturday, April 21** from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm at Constitution Park, Pavilion 1 (between the Amphitheater and Playground), Cumberland, Maryland. Cost per bin is \$20.56. Payment can be made by credit card or cash. **Pre-sale here: <https://squareup.com/store/allegheny-county-recycling>**

For more information call or email 301-777-5933, ext. 210 or [recycling@alleghenygov.org](mailto:recycling@alleghenygov.org)



### FREE Compost Workshops & “Ask a Compost Expert”

*Two compost workshops will be offered during the bin sale at:*

- 10:30 am
- 1:00 pm

Compost ingredients, successful composting strategies, food waste composting, & more will be discussed.

☞ Compost Expert, Athena Lee Bradley, with the Northeast Recycling Council will lead the workshop. She will also be available during the bin sale to answer your compost questions.



# Lessons Learned

- Partner to carry-out educational/training events
- Utilize existing events: farmers markets, Earth Day activities, International Compost Week, AgExt (Master Gardener)
- Benefits of combining bin sales & “mini” food scrap composting workshops





# Frostburg Grows



# FG Community Compost Site





# Open House



# Food Scrap Compost Workshop



# Farmer's Market



# Lessons Learned

- Lack of incentives, “can’t do this thinking,” low priority
- Food Councils/food insecurity
- “Mini” food scrap composting workshop
- Multi-faceted approach – outreach, informal/formal trainings, promote the hierarchy

# Westernport Elementary

Grade 3

5.44	10/31
4.99	11/7
4.0	11/14
2.24	11/21
	11/28
	12/5



**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Lunch Food  
Scraps  
collection**

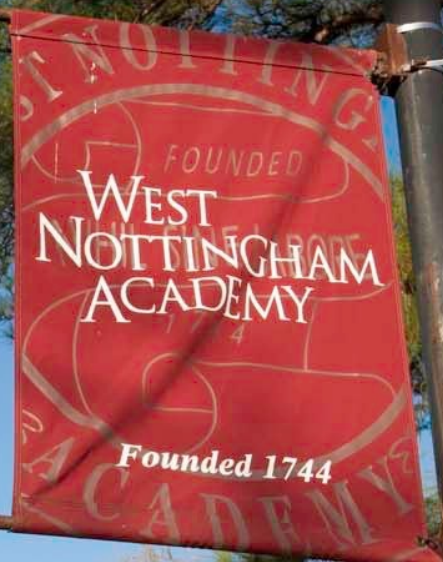






# Lessons Learned

- Concerns: real & perceived
- District vs. teachers
- Food waste audit
- Ongoing meetings
- Focus on the hierarchy
- Plan: lunch choice, waste free lunches, one lunch composting as pilot



# WNA & Kilby Farm Partnership



**Cr.: American Dairy  
Association, North  
East**

# Dining Hall Collection







**Cr.: American Dairy Association, North East**

# Deep Roots

Pallet Bin Construction



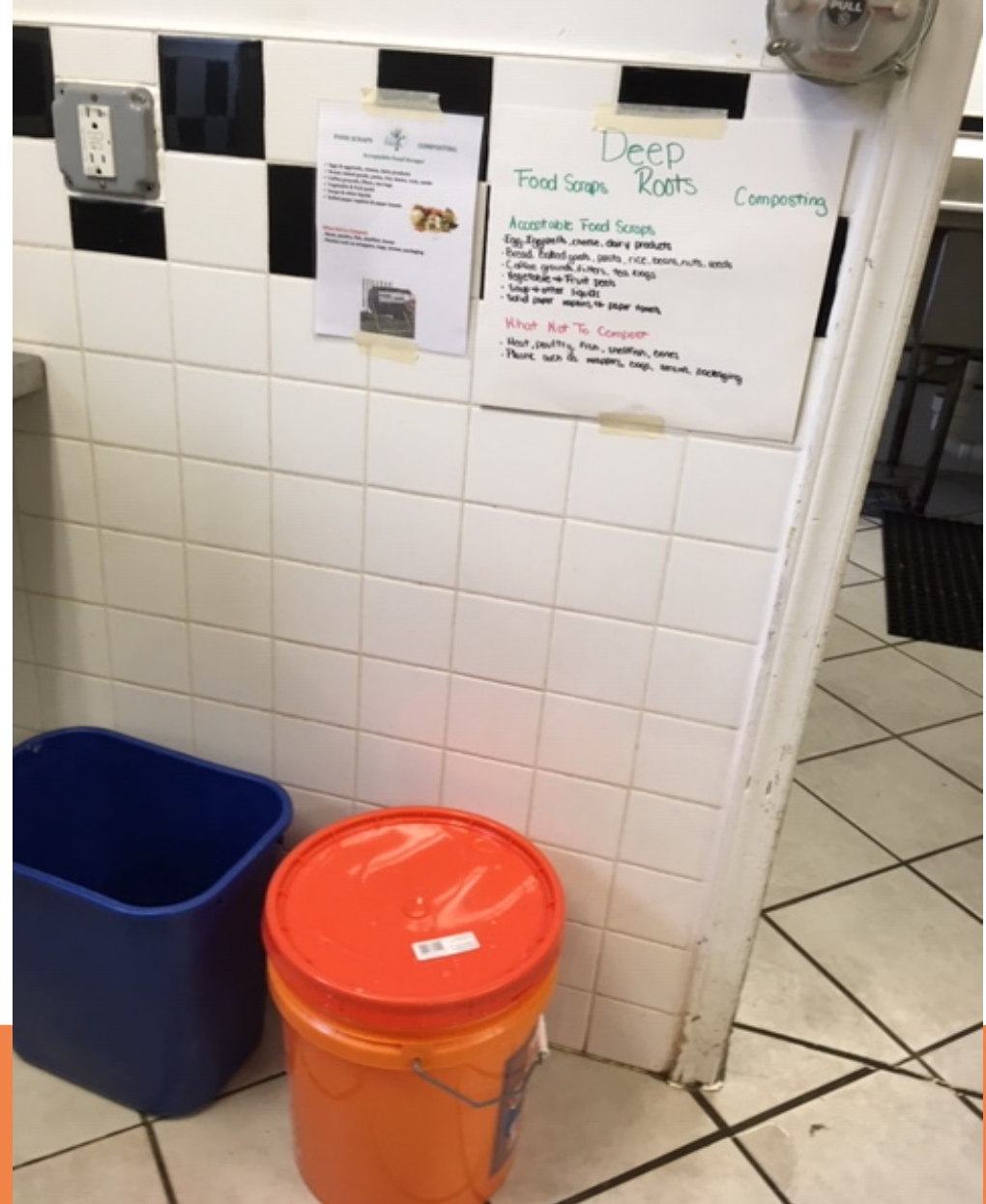


Compost lessons





# Food Scraps Collection



# Lessons Learned

- Institutions/schools present a perfect opportunity for food scrap diversion
  - ✓ Start small – prep scraps
  - ✓ Sustainability & garden tie-in
- Understand that staff are already overworked

# Cecil County Fair AgDay





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CECIL COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS  
SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
www.cceqcd.org

Nationwide  
Agribusiness



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EARTH-FRIENDLY™ COMPOSTER CLASSIC™

Strong and durable, it's the best one you will ever need!  
Made with 100% recycled plastic for a greener planet.

100% COMPOSTABLE

See how easy SOILSAVER composting is!  
Simply toss in your food scraps and garden waste into the SOILSAVER COMPOSTER CLASSIC™.

**Manure  
Management**



# Lessons Learned

- Partner with AgExt & established events
- Farmers are busy
- Change is slow
- Agritourism & diversification present opportunities



# Community Composting Project

- 6 States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, & Vermont
- Goal: Create at least one sustainable community compost site in each state for managing food scraps & other organics





# Community Composting Project

- Training course & multimedia training resources
- Remote, local & regional trainings
  - ✓ At least three onsite trainings
- Technical assistance & support
- Each site receives \$1,000 for development



# Community Composting

- Produces compost for local use
- Promotes community connections
- Builds resident food waste management awareness & participation
- Can play an essential role in the evolution of food scrap diversion

# Community Composting, cont.

- Often volunteer run; some staffed
- Garden groups, neighborhoods, nonprofit organizations, public sector, farms, schools, other
- Range of sizes - 10 sq. ft. – 20,000 sq. ft.
- Range of compost systems

# Community Garden Collection





Images Cr.: BioCycle.net



Image Cr.: Elements Mountain Compost

# System Considerations

Available materials  
Community need/goals  
People power/skills  
Site capacity  
Permit/regulatory limits  
Resources available –  
funding, supplies, etc.

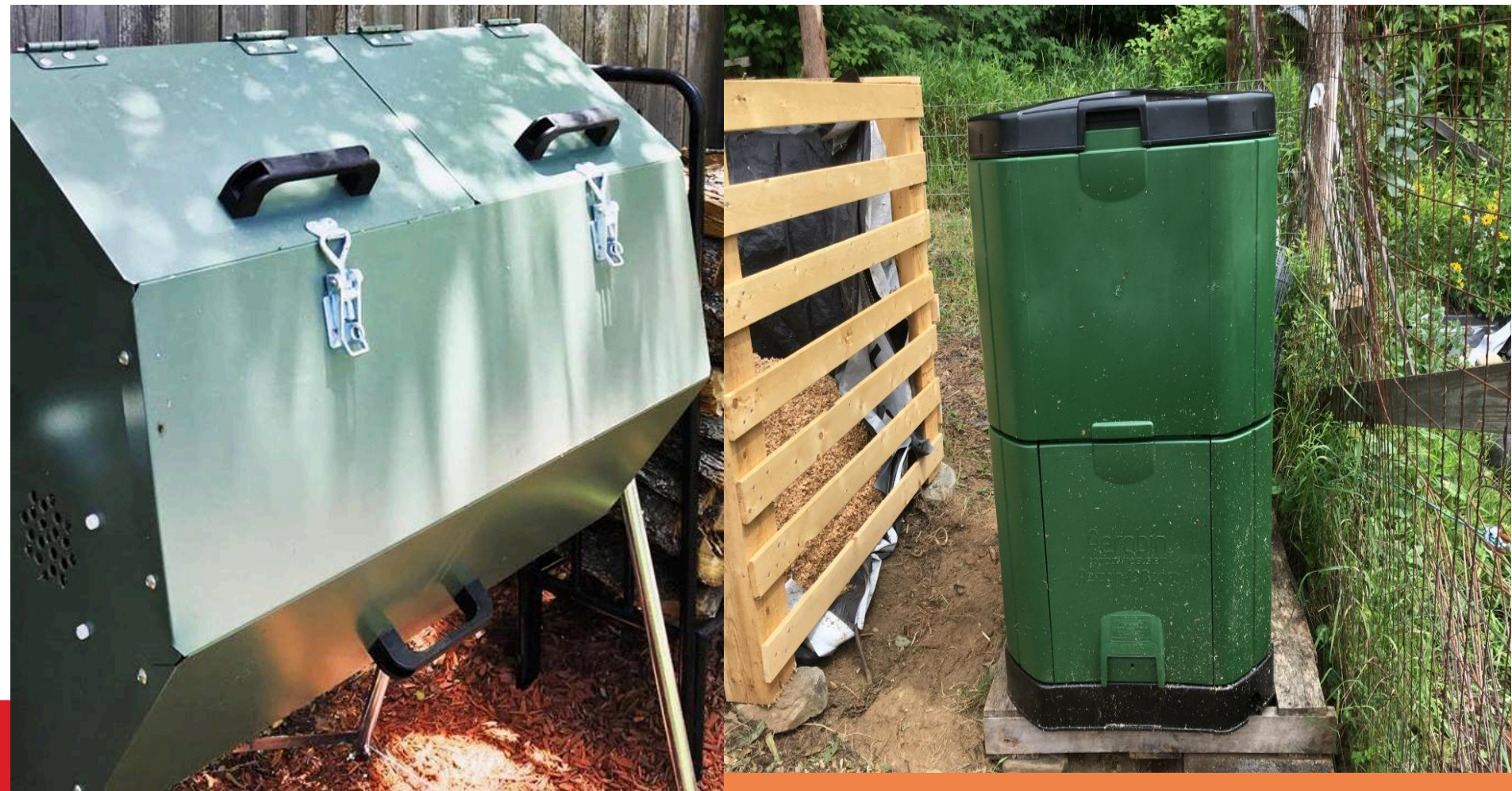


Charlotte Central School, Charlotte, VT;  
Red Hook Community Farm, Brooklyn, NY  
(photo credit NYC Master Composter  
Manual, DSNY)

# Tumblers



# Jora & Aerobin





# Compost Bins



# 3-BIN SYSTEM



Photo Cr.: George McDonald, Maine DEP



# Windrows



Images Cr.: David Hurd, GrowNYC

# Aerated Static Piles



Images Cr.: David Hurd, GrowNYC



# Ludlow, Vermont

- Hidden from public view
- Relatively isolated
- Limited winter access



# Bennington, Vermont

- In town at Rec Center
- Nearby residents
- Highly visible



# Montpelier, VT



Jora - Active Composting Step 1



Active Composting Step 2

Water



Buffer area



- Highly visible
- In town neighborhood
- Nearby residents



# Fort Community, Burlington



**Carbon Storage**

**Food  
scrap  
Tumbler**

**3-Bin  
System**

**FOOD SCRAPS**  
No trash - make sure you  
remove wrappers and any plastic.  
Chop your food scraps into  
pieces between 1 and 3 inches  
and dump your food scraps inside  
the tumbler. Fill the tumbler  
with a mix of green and brown  
scraps (these can be found in the  
"Browns")  
Close the lid on the tumbler and make  
sure it is tightly secured.  
Turn the tumbler a spin  
every 2-3 days.

# Barre Town, VT

Senior citizen multi-family housing



# Special Appreciation

- USDA Rural Utilities Program, which provided partial funding.

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