

Organics Management Guide Submission

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Select the Primary Entity Type Please identify the category that best represents your project: Retailers

Questions:

- 1. Background: Provide context for the program, project, or policy — why it was developed, when it began, and the problem or opportunity it addresses.**

Round Hill Club is a seasonal private club in Greenwich, Connecticut, with food service operations spanning kitchens, banquets, events, and staff dining areas. While the Club had informal practices in place to manage some food scraps, leadership recognized the need for a more comprehensive and reliable wasted food diversion system, particularly in anticipation of updates to Connecticut's Commercial Organics Recycling Law taking effect in January 2025.

- 2. Summary: Briefly describe the initiative, including its goals, location, and primary outcomes.**

Round Hill Club partnered with CET in late 2024 to design and pilot a food scrap diversion program tailored to its seasonal operations. By testing the system during the off-peak season and right-sizing equipment and hauling schedules, the Club successfully launched a curbside food scrap diversion program in January 2025. Since launch, the program has diverted more than 34 tons of food scraps from landfill disposal while maintaining cost control and operational efficiency.

- 3. Percent of Overall Diverted Material: If available, include data or estimates on the portion of the community or organization's total diverted material no longer associated with the waste stream that this program or policy addresses.**

NA (Total waste stream composition data was not collected as part of this project.)

- 4. Key Program Elements or Policy Provisions: Describe the structure and main components of your program or policy. Explain the investments origins (who, how much). Please include as many of the following elements as applicable: What types of materials are being managed? (e.g., surplus recoverable foods, food scraps, wasted food. How are these materials managed? Who is responsible for managing them? (Organizations, agencies, businesses, or other entities) What products are generated, and how are they utilized or managed? (e.g., compost, animal feed, energy products) Who funds the management of these materials? (Funding sources, grants, partnerships) Who generates these materials? (Identify the origin: households, institutions, businesses, etc.)**

Round Hill Club implemented an on-site food scrap diversion program designed to integrate into existing kitchen, event, and staff meal operations. The program was developed with technical assistance from CET and launched following an off-season pilot to test logistics and refine procedures prior to full-scale implementation.

Materials Managed

- Food scraps and non-edible wasted food generated through food preparation, service, and post-event cleanup
- The program does not currently manage surplus recoverable food for donation

Material Management Approach

- Food scraps are source-separated at kitchens, prep areas, events, banquets, and staff dining locations
- Materials are collected in designated carts and transported via curbside pickup to composting infrastructure
- Cart quantities and pickup frequency are adjusted seasonally to align with volume

Responsible Parties

- Round Hill Club: On-site sorting, internal coordination, and day-to-day program management

- CET: Program design guidance, bin placement, signage development, and hauler coordination support
- Hauler/Composting Facility: Collection, transport, and processing of food scraps into compost

Products Generated and End Use

- Food scraps are processed into compost at off-site composting facilities and returned to productive use as soil amendments

Funding and Investment Origins

- On-site equipment and hauling services are funded by Round Hill Club as part of regular waste service expenses
- CET's technical assistance is provided at no cost to the Club through funding from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Material Generators

- Food scraps are generated by Round Hill Club's commercial food service operations, including kitchens, banquets, events, and staff dining areas

- 5. Regulatory Impact: Describe how laws, policies, regulations, and/or code have affected your program or project. This may include positive, negative, or neutral impacts. Consider noting which regulations apply, how they influenced implementation or operations, any challenges or barriers encountered, and how compliance requirements shaped program decisions.**

The program enabled Round Hill Club to proactively align with Connecticut's Commercial Organics Recycling Law prior to its January 2025 update, reducing compliance risk and ensuring readiness before peak operational months.

- 6. Measurable Increase in Supply: Include data or qualitative outcomes showing growth in collection, diversion, or reuse volumes if available.**

34+ tons of food scraps diverted from landfill disposal and redirected to composting infrastructure since program launch in January 2025.

7. Behavior Change: Describe whether the initiative resulted in measurable behavior change and explain how you determined this. If behavior change occurred, outline the strategies that proved most effective. Please include any available data or evidence that supports your findings.

Staff adopted consistent food scrap sorting practices across kitchens, events, and staff dining areas

Event operations incorporated trained post-service sorting to reduce contamination

Management shifted from fixed hauling schedules to volume-based service adjustments

8. Benefits and Impacts (Economic, Environmental, and Social): Describe the economic, environmental, and social sustainability impacts of the program, policy, or initiative. This may include both positive and negative outcomes. You may address impacts such as costs or savings, job creation, waste reduction, emissions, resource conservation, community engagement, equity, or public health. Please include data or qualitative observations where available and note any trade-offs or challenges.

Economic

The program supported cost control by aligning hauling service levels with seasonal food scrap volumes and avoiding underutilized service. A formal cost analysis was not conducted.

Environmental

Since January 2025, the program has diverted 34+ tons of food scraps from landfill disposal and redirected organic material to composting.

Social

Clear sorting procedures and staff training supported consistent participation across kitchens, events, and staff dining areas. The program did not include a food donation or community engagement component.

9. How Stakeholder Buy-In Was Achieved: Explain how the program gained support from key stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, businesses, residents, nonprofits).

Early engagement with management around regulatory readiness and cost control Off-season pilot reduced operational risk and allowed staff to adapt gradually Clear, practical guidance on roles, signage, and logistics minimized staff burden

10. Stakeholders' Perspectives and Dynamics at Play: Highlight collaboration dynamics, challenges, or differing stakeholder interests and how they were addressed.

NA

11. Lessons Learned: Share what worked well, what didn't, and recommendations for others seeking to replicate your approach.

Piloting new systems during off-peak seasons reduces risk and improves outcomes Staff training and clear signage are critical to reducing contamination Regular monitoring enables programs to stay cost-effective over time Seasonal operations benefit from flexible, volume-based hauling schedules