

October 30, 2015
Green Restaurants Alliance Sacramento
P.O. Box 160444
Sacramento, CA 95816



GRAS, an educational non-profit in Sacramento that is dedicated to growing a sustainable food community in our State's capital. We ask you to consider the immediate and long term potential of Community Composting, and to ensure that new regulations accommodate the creative and uniquely local solutions required by community programs.

We currently manage a (designed for) pedal-powered community compost network called ReSoil Sac and think that Sacramento, the capital of our Farm-to-Fork State, is an exemplary location for such a program. We work with an enthusiastic group of 17 restaurants, a women center, and a farmers market, and build compost at a growing number of community/ church/ school gardens and urban farms within a 3-mile radius of Midtown.

Our program currently diverts approximately 15,000 lbs/month from the landfill to make healthy soil that builds soil structure and biodiversity, absorbs water and has the potential to sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Our program has diverted a total of 238,000 lbs since summer of 2014, and are looking to expand with with increased interest we are encountering.

Our model for community composting has been New York City, whose program has developed over 20 years and the program CompostNYC. With over 200 compost sites scattered about the 5 boroughs, Community Composting plays a viable strategy in their waste diversion goals.

Please see 2014 Department Sanitation NY Community Composting Report:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/downloads/pdf/studies-and-reports/2014-community-composting-report-LL77.pdf>

Excerpts from the Report are as follows:

“DSNY believes that a strong organic waste diversion strategy for NYC will operate at three scales: 1) at a citywide level, 2) in communities and neighborhoods, and 3) in the home. This tiered approach enables the City to divert the greatest amount of organic waste from landfills; build support for and participation in organic waste recycling; and generate high-quality finished compost in NYC to improve soils and public health.”

...“waste management is only one part of NYCCP’s mission. NYCCP and community composters seek to produce high-quality compost to improve soil health in NYC for horticultural projects, such as urban gardening and farming, habitat restoration, and stewarding street trees. Also, NYCCP is an important community outreach and engagement tool with a strong compost education component.”

“NYCCP and community composting play an important role in supporting citywide organic waste diversion through OCP. They raise awareness about what compost is and its benefits through outreach and education, and by using compost to grow food and care for green spaces in NYC neighborhoods. Making and using compost locally demonstrates firsthand to New Yorkers that apple cores and eggshells are not garbage—they are useful resources.”

Sincerely,

David S. Baker
Director GRAS