



Independent coverage of composting, wood recycling and organics management

# Composting News

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Market Intelligence

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## Massachusetts food waste ban has created 900 jobs, DEP says

By Ken McEntee

Massachusetts' commercial food waste disposal ban has created more than 900 jobs and stimulated \$175 million in economic activity across the commonwealth during its first two years, according to a report from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The ban, implemented in 2014, requires any commercial organization that disposes of one ton or more a week of food waste to pull it out of the waste stream and reuse it, send it for composting or animal feed operations or use it in an anaerobic digestion facility that produces renewable energy.

A study conducted by ICF International Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., revealed that food waste haulers and processors, as well as food rescue organizations, employ 500 people directly, while supporting more than 900 jobs when accounting for indirect and induced effects. These sectors generate more than \$46 million of labor income and \$175 million in economic activity in the commonwealth.

(See Massachusetts, page 5)

## New Year's resolution: Nourish the soil

Choosing organic foods is the best way to support healthy soils, the Organic Trade Association (OTA) said. Approaching the turn of another year, OTA's The Organic Center suggested 10 New Year's resolutions based on organic-related research published in 2016.

Number Seven is "Nourish the Soil."

Every year, OTA said, more and more research comes out reinforcing the fact that choosing organic is the best way to nourish the soil.

"This year, a study focusing on soil in fruit orchards found that organic orchard production improves soil biodiversity and soil nutrient content," OTA said. "Specifically, the study shows soils from organic orchards have more healthy microbial diversity, more organic matter and more of the important nutrients phosphorus and sulfur than conventional soils. Additionally, plant material collected from peach and apple trees in organic orchards were found to have more of the nutrients phosphorus and copper."



(See Nourish, page 15)

## Climate activists protest against Trump nominees

By Ken McEntee

Leading up to the start of Congressional confirmation hearings for President-Elect Donald Trump's cabinet nominations, climate activists held rallies of protest on January 9. A coalition led by 350.org planned "Day Against Denial" rallies at offices of U.S. senators them to reject Trump's cabinet choices – particularly Rex Tillerson, recent former CEO of ExxonMobil, for secretary of state, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt for EPA administrator; former Texas Gov. Rick

Perry for secretary of energy; and Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Montana) for secretary of the interior.

The protest against Tillerson perplexed Jay Lehr, one of the architects of the EPA and current

(See Trump, page 13)

## Highlights

- Confidence in composting stifles waste reduction
- National compost prices

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## Food waste

# Confidence in composting stifles waste reduction

By Misti Crane

Diners waste far less food when they're schooled on the harm their leftovers can inflict on the environment, according to a research study. But if diners know the food is going to be composted instead of being dumped in a landfill, the educational benefit disappears.

When composting enters the picture, educated diners waste just as much as those who haven't been told about shrinking landfill space, greenhouse gas emissions and water and soil pollution.

That was the finding of a study done

last summer at The Ohio State University.

Lead researcher Danyi Qi, a graduate student in agricultural economics at OSU, said the situation poses a tricky situation for policymakers trying to figure out how to manage food waste. The most popular management tactics are prevention (through education) and diversion (through composting).

"When you do both, they cancel each other out – they work at cross purposes," said Qi, who presented the research findings this month at the annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, in Chicago.

She said the discovery could help shape decisions by government, businesses and others looking to chip away at the vast amount of food that lands in trashcans instead of on the tables of those in need, said Qi and co-author Brian Roe, a professor of agricultural, environmental and

(See Confidence, page 4)



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## Food waste

### Confidence

From page 3

developmental economics and a member of Ohio State's Food Waste Collaborative, which is exploring ways to reduce waste and create a more sustainable food system.

Qi and Roe recruited 266 students, staff, faculty and Columbus residents to participate in the study, which took place over two months in the summer of 2016. The participants were monitored during a meal provided by the researchers. The diners didn't know what the study was about, specifically, just that the research team was examining eating behavior.

Participants were given information cards with either education on food waste harms or on financial literacy. About half of both of those groups were told that leftovers would be composted, and that it would reduce

methane emissions and provide nourishment for plants. The other half were told that their uneaten food was destined for a landfill.

The participants could take as much food as they wanted, in a single trip. They chose from sandwiches, chips and apple slices. Neither sharing nor doggy bags were permitted. The researchers weighed the diners' trays after the meal to determine how much food the study subjects left behind.

Education in the absence of composting had a marked effect. The diners who'd read about the harm related to waste left behind almost 77 percent less as a group than those who'd received the financial literacy material. The educated diners were 39 percent more likely to clean their plates.

But the suggested benefits of food-waste awareness vanished when the study participants knew their uneaten food was going to a "good" place.

"We were very curious if these common policies work in harmony or

in conflict," Qi said. "It seems that if they feel that the social and environmental cost is lower, they may feel less guilty and that may cause them to waste more."

The trouble is that composting comes at a financial and societal cost and policymakers are striving to find ways to limit waste regardless of where it will end up, Qi said.

Roe said this work is likely to be most useful to food service institutions seeking ways to address waste.

"There are many new and innovative approaches being proposed to reduce food waste and to minimize its environmental impact. However, there exists little thought about whether various approaches are complementary or competitive," he said. "This study is one of the few to consider how various approaches might interact."

For individuals looking to be good environmental stewards, the study highlights the importance of first

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attempting to limit waste. Composting or donating unused food is great, but buying and preparing only what you'll eat is better, Roe said.

"And if someone else says they will do something positive with food scraps, it shouldn't diminish your own good intentions and efforts to reduce food waste," he said.

The study was supported by Ohio State's McCormick Program in Agricultural Policy and Marketing.

*This article was written for Ohio State by Misti Crane.*

## Massachusetts

From page 1

The report, released in December, assessed the economic development benefits of food waste reduction initiatives. The study compared jobs and economic activity among food waste haulers; composting, anaerobic digestion, and animal feed operations; and food rescue organizations before and after the October 1, 2014

implementation of MassDEP's innovative commercial organics waste ban. The ban creates jobs by driving a market for alternatives to disposing of food waste in the trash.

Among the challenges of processing food waste, food haulers and processors reported, are that composting facilities have problems with large amounts of residuals, there is limited access to low-cost/high-volume composting site options and anaerobic processors require large capital expenditures. They also reported that residential and school generators have high quantities of food, but their food scraps tend to be contaminated.

"Massachusetts' leadership has helped keep food out of landfills and incinerators, while driving the growth of innovative new Massachusetts-based businesses," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Our administration is committed to implementing the ban by working to reduce our waste stream

and support Massachusetts' growing clean energy economy."

Matthew Beaton, secretary of energy and environmental affairs, said the study highlights the innovative ways that Massachusetts businesses are helping to protect the environment while growing the economy. He said the administration "remains dedicated to the idea that organic material is not waste, but a resource that can be used to help feed people, improve our agricultural output and produce clean, renewable energy through anaerobic digestion."

Based on the survey results, Massachusetts haulers are collecting an estimated 270,000 tons of food materials annually, showing tremendous growth over Massachusetts' baseline estimate of 100,000 tons of food waste diversion prior to implementation of the commercial organics waste ban. Jobs

*(See Massachusetts, page 8)*

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# National Compost Prices

The prices listed below are intended to indicate the value of mature compost products sold by compost producers and retailers in noted regions. Prices listed are based on surveys and publicly posted prices.

Your input on published prices is encouraged. Contact Ken McEntee, editor, at (440) 238-6603. Fax: (440) 238-6712. EMail: ken@recycle.cc. Address: 9815 Hazelwood Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44149. Notes on listings.

- Each listing includes a high price obtained, a low price obtained and an average of all prices obtained within a particular market.

- Market areas: Thirteen market areas have been targeted to provide a cross section of compost product markets in

the U.S. Where regions are not identified by a specific city, "Chesapeake" refers to the region stretching between Norfolk, Va. to Baltimore, Md. "Texas" incorporates several major cities in the state. "Northwest" represents the Seattle and Portland, Ore. areas. "SF-Bay" refers to the San Francisco Bay area. SoCal is Southern California, including the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. Denver includes Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.

- "Food waste" compost: This category refers to compost products that include food waste, regional specialties and other feedstocks not specifically covered in other categories.

- Manures: Chicken manures may include other poultry

manures, such as turkey and duck manure. Cow manures may include manures marketed as steer and dairy manure. Horse manure is included in this category as well.

- Absence of a regional listing within a given category indicates not enough information for a valid listing. Additional data will be added as more information is obtained.

- Bulk retail prices do not include municipal operations that give compost away for free.

## Bulk Retail (yard)

### Yard waste compost

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 32.55	\$ 77.00	\$ 17.50
Chesapeake	\$ 24.50	\$ 30.00	\$ 17.00
SE	\$ 21.88	\$ 29.95	\$ 16.00
Florida	\$ 16.42	\$ 26.00	\$ 10.50
Cleveland	\$ 19.90	\$ 28.00	\$ 12.50
Iowa	\$ 21.57	\$ 53.00	\$ 7.50
Minneapolis	\$ 17.09	\$ 28.00	\$ 8.00
Texas	\$ 29.71	\$ 40.00	\$ 15.00
Denver	\$ 20.31	\$ 31.00	\$ 12.00
Northwest	\$ 24.05	\$ 55.00	\$ 10.00
SF-Bay	\$ 21.92	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.00
SoCal	\$ 14.75	\$ 24.00	\$ 8.00

### Food waste compost

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 39.12	\$ 64.00	\$ 17.50
Chesapeake	\$ 23.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00
SE	\$ 28.11	\$ 35.00	\$ 24.00
Florida	\$ 17.50	\$ 22.00	\$ 13.00
Iowa	\$ 25.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 15.00
Minneapolis	\$ 12.33	\$ 16.00	\$ 9.00
Texas	\$ 30.21	\$ 48.95	\$ 15.00
Denver	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Northwest	\$ 20.55	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00
SF-Bay	\$ 23.61	\$ 38.00	\$ 14.00
SoCal	\$ 30.50	\$ 45.00	\$ 16.00

### Leaf humus

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 24.98	\$ 30.00	\$ 19.95
Chesapeake	\$ 27.49	\$ 30.00	\$ 23.95
Cleveland	\$ 19.27	\$ 26.00	\$ 8.00

### Composted biosolids

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00
Chesapeake	\$ 24.98	\$ 35.00	\$ 12.00
SE	\$ 12.14	\$ 28.00	\$ 4.00
Florida	\$ 13.14	\$ 22.00	\$ 8.00
Cleveland	\$ 24.77	\$ 30.00	\$ 19.50
Iowa	\$ 12.67	\$ 21.00	\$ 8.00
Texas	\$ 21.28	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.00
Denver	\$ 9.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 7.00
Northwest	\$ 17.91	\$ 26.00	\$ 7.00
SoCal	\$ 13.36	\$ 22.00	\$ 3.50

### Composted chicken manure

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00
Chesapeake	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
SE	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00
Minneapolis	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00
Texas	\$ 37.23	\$ 47.50	\$ 26.95
Denver	\$ 25.65	\$ 28.00	\$ 24.00
SF-Bay	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00
SoCal	\$ 44.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 27.00

### Composted cow manure

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 45.50	\$ 46.00	\$ 45.00
SE	\$ 31.33	\$ 45.00	\$ 12.00
Cleveland	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00
Iowa	\$ 42.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 16.00
Minneapolis	\$ 29.33	\$ 32.00	\$ 26.00
Texas	\$ 29.33	\$ 47.50	\$ 15.00
Denver	\$ 21.71	\$ 30.00	\$ 12.00
Phoenix	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Northwest	\$ 23.85	\$ 33.75	\$ 17.45

### SF-Bay

### SoCal

### Denver

### Northwest

### SoCal

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### SoCal

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## Food waste

### Massachusetts

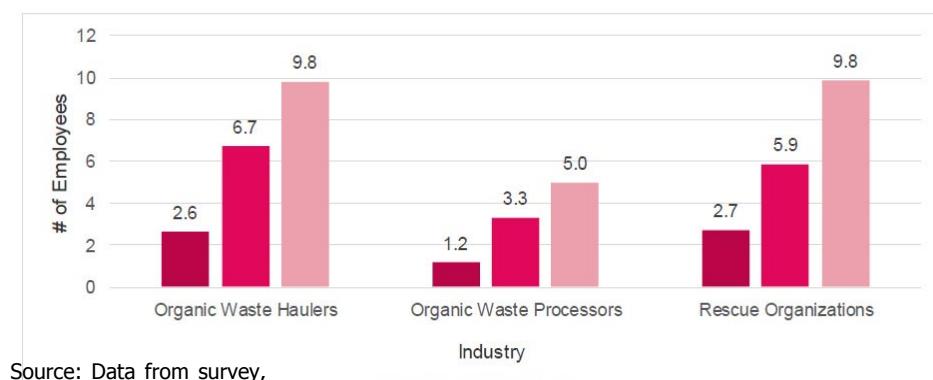
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in this sector grew by 150 percent between 2010 and 2015, and these businesses project an additional 50 percent job growth from 2016 to 2017, according to the report.

The report said not only has the industry grown substantially from 2010 to 2016, but food scrap haulers and processors are planning significant additional growth in facility and equipment expenditures in the year ahead, with more than \$50 million in additional expenditures planned for 2016 and 2017.

"Massachusetts businesses have been able to cost-effectively reduce disposal of food and divert it to higher value uses, such as food donation, animal feed, composting and renewable energy," said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. "The

### Average number of employees per business



Source: Data from survey, compiled by ICF

results of this study show that the ban has been both a success in reducing the waste stream and a stimulant for economic growth."

The commonwealth's effort is now "building on the ban" through several initiatives that provide continued technical assistance and guidance to businesses and institutions through MassDEP's RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program and continued

growth in the infrastructure for managing food materials and donating more food to feed people, MassDEP said.

This is reflected in the projected continued jobs and equipment and capital investments reported on in the study. About 1,700 facilities, including restaurants, hotels and conference

(See Massachusetts, page 13)

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Web: [www.petersoncorp.com](http://www.petersoncorp.com)  
Contact: Michael Spreadbury



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Contact: Wayne Brown



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Web: www.komptechamericas.com  
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## Food waste

### Massachusetts

From page 8

centers, universities, supermarkets and food processors, were covered under the ban.

The ban on disposal of commercial organic wastes by businesses and institutions that dispose of one ton or more of these materials per week took effect on October 1, 2014.

MassDEP said that by diverting food wastes from disposal to composting, conversion, recycling or reuse, you can not only cut waste management costs, but potentially save money on purchasing.

Many businesses and institutions were enjoying these benefits even before the ban was implemented, MassDEP noted.

You can view the full report at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/recycle/priorities/orgecon-study.pdf>

## Legislation/Regulation

### Trump

From page 1

science director of The Heartland Institute, a Chicago-based free market think tank.

"I can certainly understand why anti-capitalist activists would oppose Pruitt at EPA, Perry at Energy and Zinke at Interior, as they are all intent on using real science in moving these issues forward," Lehr said. "I do not understand, however, why they would oppose Tillerson, who believes in man-caused global warming and supports the Paris Climate Agreement."

Zinke, Lehr said, "Will ensure we properly manage our lands to benefit the nation. Perry will manage our energy to make us independent of those who hate us. Pruitt will manage the environment to protect it without destroying the economy."

May Boeve, executive director of

350.org, however, called Trump's nominations "radical."

"Trump is trying to hand over senior federal positions directly to fossil fuel industry puppets and climate deniers, and we won't let him get away with it," Boeve said. "These are radical nominations that should never be approved, and we're seeing resistance nationwide with rallies planned in dozens of states so far. Our senators have a critical decision to make: Either stand with science and a livable planet for our communities, or side with the fossil fuel industry's climate denial."

350.org said all four of the cabinet nominees have ties to the fossil fuel industry and a history of climate denial.

"With a cabinet full of science deniers and fossil fuel hacks poised to take over key watchdog agencies, Donald Trump is putting arsonists in charge of the fire department," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club,

(See Trump, page 14)

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## Legislation/Regulation

### Trump

From page 13

which also participated in the scheduled rallies. "Large majorities of the American people want action to protect our climate, clean air and clean water. That's why picking disastrous nominees like these further ensure Trump will enter office as the least popular president-elect in recent memory."

Like his colleague, Lehr, H. Sterling Burnett, research fellow, environment and energy policy for Heartland, noted inconsistency in the "denial" protests against Tillerson.

"It is with some humor I see environmental groups fighting (Tillerson's) appointment as secretary of state, Burnett said. "Tillerson holds positions on climate change and the

Paris Climate Agreement that are troubling and out of step with the rest of Trump's appointments. This shows green radicals are less concerned about protecting the world from purported human-caused climate change than they are about fighting Trump at every turn."

Burnett also noted that, "Ryan Zinke, Rick Perry and Scott Pruitt have long experience dealing with federal agency overreach – battling policies that violate constitutional limits and laws duly enacted by Congress, and result in economic and often environmental harm. They also know that climate disaster claims made by radical environmental misanthropes and their allies with the Obama administration are overblown."

Pruitt, Trump's nominee for EPA administrator, has been a critic of the agency during his tenure as Oklahoma attorney general.

"The American people are tired of seeing billions of dollars drained from our economy due to unnecessary EPA regulations, and I intend to run this agency in a way that fosters both responsible protection of the environment and freedom for American businesses," Pruitt said.

As new EPA regulations on clean water and air during the Obama administration have drawn fire from farmers, businesses, state officials and others around the country, Pruitt has been at the forefront of the opposition. For example, he established Oklahoma's first "federalism unit" to combat unwarranted regulation and overreach by the federal government and has said that states should have the sovereignty to make many regulatory decisions for their own markets.

Just at print time, it was announced that former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue would be nominated to head the USDA.

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# Supreme Court accepts WOTUS jurisdictional case

The U.S. Supreme Court this month agreed to determine the proper venue for challenging the Obama administration's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule that vastly expanded the reach of the federal Clean Water Act.

In the case that the High Court accepted this month - National Association of Manufacturers v. U.S. Department of Defense - the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals adopted a restrictive approach to judicial relief, allowing only federal courts of appeals to hear WOTUS challenges. The Supreme Court action would prohibit federal trial courts around the country from hearing lawsuits from aggrieved landowners and other members of the regulated public; instead, such challenges would effectively be concentrated in the first appellate court to consider a challenge.

"The Supreme Court's announcement is encouraging news for millions of landowners nationwide who have been uncertain where to file suits challenging federal regulations that define the scope of the Clean Water Act," said M. Reed Hopper, principal attorney for the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), a donor-supported legal foundation that represents clients free of charge in issues of overreaching government, property rights, free enterprise and a balanced approach to environmental regulations. "The Sixth Circuit read the Clean Water Act far too narrowly when it limited jurisdiction over WOTUS challenges to federal appellate courts. We expect the Supreme Court to overturn the Sixth Circuit decision."

The National Association of Manufacturers appealed the Sixth Circuit jurisdictional ruling to the Supreme Court and PLF joined in the

appeal as a direct litigant on behalf of a number of landowners, farmers and ranchers throughout the country. A determination of the proper venue is an important question because it could affect how and where plaintiffs may challenge questionable rulemaking under the Clean Water Act in future cases, and perhaps other laws as well.

Besides its participation in this jurisdictional litigation, PLF is also currently challenging the WOTUS rule on the merits in the Sixth Circuit.

## Organics

### Nourish

From page 1

The study referred to was *Impact of organic and conventional peach and apple production practices on soil microbial populations and plant nutrients*, written by Ramesh R. Pokharel, of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and Rick Zimmerman, of Zimmerman Pork Farm, Hotchkiss, Colo.

According to the abstract, the research compared soil microbial diversity and density and nutrient concentration in soil as well as plant tissues in organic and conventional production systems for different varieties of apples and peaches. Organic and conventional practices were compared by taking soil samples and analyzing soil microbial populations and plant and soil nutrients using several laboratory procedures. Significantly higher active and total fungal biomass, flagellate and Actinobacteria populations and plant nutrients, phosphorus and copper in plant tissues, and organic matter, phosphorus and sulfur in soils were observed in organic compared to the conventional practices, irrespective of crops and varieties.

Organic fruit production practices harbored both greater microbial activity and higher concentrations of some plant and soil nutrients and are anticipated to promote better soil health and productivity than

conventional practices.

Among other research findings or reinforcements referenced in OTA's "resolutions" included:

- The use of pesticides can have a dramatic impact on children's cognitive development. A study published in 2016 finds that just living near agricultural areas where pesticides are sprayed can result in high enough exposure levels in children to decrease their IQ scores and verbal comprehension.

- Exposure to pesticides can also reduce cognitive function in elders. A study that came out in 2016 shows a link between exposure to persistent pesticides and low cognitive scores in adults ages 60 to 85.

- Organic farming has an important role to play in sustainably feeding an ever-growing global population, according to a recent study. Researchers found that while organic

(See Nourish, page 17)

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ClearSpan fabric structure

### Fabric structures for composting

ClearSpan Fabric Structures provides design-build solutions for composting facilities, recycling centers, solid waste facilities and other application, the company said. ClearSpan Hercules Truss Arch Buildings feature high clearances and spacious interiors without support posts, ideal for maneuvering trucks and equipment inside the structure.

These fabric buildings are outfitted with frames constructed from USA-made, triple-galvanized structural steel that will hold up strong in corrosive environments.

For more information, visit [www.ClearSpan.com](http://www.ClearSpan.com) or call 866-643-1010.

### Bandit expands Bobcat territory

Bandit Industries has expanded the territory for Bobcat of Connecticut, the company's authorized dealer for Bandit small equipment sales, parts and service.

Bobcat of Connecticut now serves Bandit customers throughout Connecticut and western Massachusetts. Bobcat of Connecticut has been in business for more than 25

years and joined the Bandit dealership network in 2015, bringing decades of combined experience to the Bandit brand. Bobcat of Connecticut specializes in Bandit hand-fed chippers and stump grinders.

For more information, visit [www.banditchippers.com](http://www.banditchippers.com)

### New McCloskey equipment at ConExpo

McCloskey International will demonstrate its continued growth with a significant increase in its presence at ConExpo/Con-Agg 2017 in Las Vegas, in March, the company said. Located in the Silver Lot at Stands S5014 and S5115, McCloskey's 20,000 square foot space will showcase its newest products and serve as a launch point for a new division – McCloskey Washing Systems.

McCloskey's hospitality and information pavilion will provide a venue for customers to meet and mingle with dealers from around the world.

A 50 percent increase in floor space compared to 2014 will allow McCloskey to showcase new products alongside the new wash plant, including stackers, screeners and crushers.

McCloskey's line of equipment is used in a wide range of industries which include aggregates, landscaping, infrastructure and road building, construction and demolition, mining,



McCloskey's SDX100V telescoping Stackers will be on display at ConExpo.

waste management and recycling.

For more information, visit [www.mccloskeyinternational.com](http://www.mccloskeyinternational.com)

### Komptech Multistar One screen



Featured on YouTube



Komptech's new Multistar One Screen makes waste wood and biomass processing highly efficient, the company said. An upstream Crambo or Terminator handles the shredding. The new One then separates out a defined useful fraction while returning overlengths to the shredder.

You can see the You Tube video by scanning the QR Code with your mobile device, or visit <https://youtu.be/oah5v2yWrKM>.

### Rotochopper simplifies high volume composting



Featured on YouTube

Rotochopper helps simplify high-volume composting with practical grinding, shredding, and bagging equipment, the company said.

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## Organics

### Nourish

From page 15

agriculture can produce lower yields when compared to conventional agriculture, organic farms are more profitable, deliver more environmental benefits and are healthier in terms of increased nutritional benefit and reduced dietary pesticide exposure than conventionally produced foods. The study also shows organic agriculture provides social benefits and contributes substantially to human health by reducing occupational hazards such as pesticide exposure.

- A new study found that organic production positively influences the quality of wine. Researchers compared experts' rankings of more than 70,000 California wines and found that wines certified as organic or biodynamic

scored higher in quality tests than conventionally grown wines.

For more information, visit [www.organic-center.org](http://www.organic-center.org).



### Compost Digest

Read these complete stories at  
[www.facebook.com/CompostingNews](https://www.facebook.com/CompostingNews).

- Republic Services, a major waste-disposal company in the **San Francisco Bay Area**, stored 10 times more compost than it was permitted to at a local landfill, causing the material to improperly decompose and ultimately emit a noxious odor that some neighboring residents say has made them ill.

Instead of being resold to agricultural users such as farmers and vintners, as much as 360,000 cubic yards of compost went sour and had to be landfilled, despite the company's

promise to reduce waste.

The problem occurred at the West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill, in North Richmond, Calif.

After months of community pressure and violations handed down from both Contra Costa County and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Republic Services last month moved the sour compost to landfills in Pittsburg and San Joaquin County. But residents say the stench remains.

Republic declined to say why it had allowed such a large amount of compost to remain on the site or why it had taken so long to address the smell concerns. - East Bay Times, [www.eastbaytimes.com](http://www.eastbaytimes.com)

- The city of **Milwaukee**, WIsc. is testing organics collection. Nearly 500 Milwaukee households signed up for a new organics composting pilot study.

*(See Digest, page 18)*

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## Compost Digest

Read these complete stories at  
[www.facebook.com/CompostingNews](http://www.facebook.com/CompostingNews).

From page 17

Households that signed up for the project received a brown organics cart in November as part of a one-year pilot study. During the winter, pick-up is every other week. The rest of year, the organics bins are picked up weekly. It costs \$12.75 a month for collection.

Once the organic materials are collected they are sent to Blue Ribbon Organics, in Caledonia.

The city is trying to divert 40 percent of its municipal waste by 2020. - *Fox6-TV, fox6now.com*

- After deciding to close its materials

recovery facility in **Brattleboro, Vt.** last month, composting is likely to pick up at the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD). The WSWMD board is now reducing its compost tipping fee from \$65 to \$50 a ton. The new fee would be applied to all food scraps generated within Windham County.

About 20 entities — a mixture of schools, restaurants and cooperatives — have their organics processed through the WSWMD facility. - *The Brattleboro Reformer, reformer.com*

- **Emmet County (Michigan)**

Recycling has received a \$10,000 grant from the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation to provide opportunities to citizens to help cut down on food waste.

The county recycling program



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hopes to use the funds to provide toolkits to start composting, establish drop-off locations for food wastes and potentially sell composts bins for county residents.

An estimated 8,200 tons of food waste could be diverted from the county's waste stream by collecting food waste.

The county Department of Public Waste has experimented with techniques to reduce food waste from entering its waste stream. In 1999, the county provided a backyard compost bin sale, and sold more than 500 units within hours. In 2006 the county began collecting yard wastes for composting. A food scraps collection pilot program began in 2015, which expanded this year after a successful trial run. The scraps that are collected and composted are sold as compost for use in local gardens and farms.

- *Petoskey News Review, www.petoskeynews.com*

- Mid Valley Disposal unveiled its new \$5 million food waste composting facility in **Kerman, Calif.** The new facility allows Mid Valley Disposal to move forward with its green efforts. With 16 bunkers at the site, Mid Valley will be able to use recycled food waste to create various types of compost for its ag industry partners.

The creation of this compost will in turn improve soil conditions and increase drought resistance—a must for local farmers.

The composting facility was made possible in part by a \$3 million grant awarded to Mid Valley Disposal by CalRecycle (California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery).

The new site aids CalRecycle in its efforts to meet a new state mandate to get 75 percent of organic materials out of landfills by 2020.

- *The Business Journl, www.thebusinessjournal.com*



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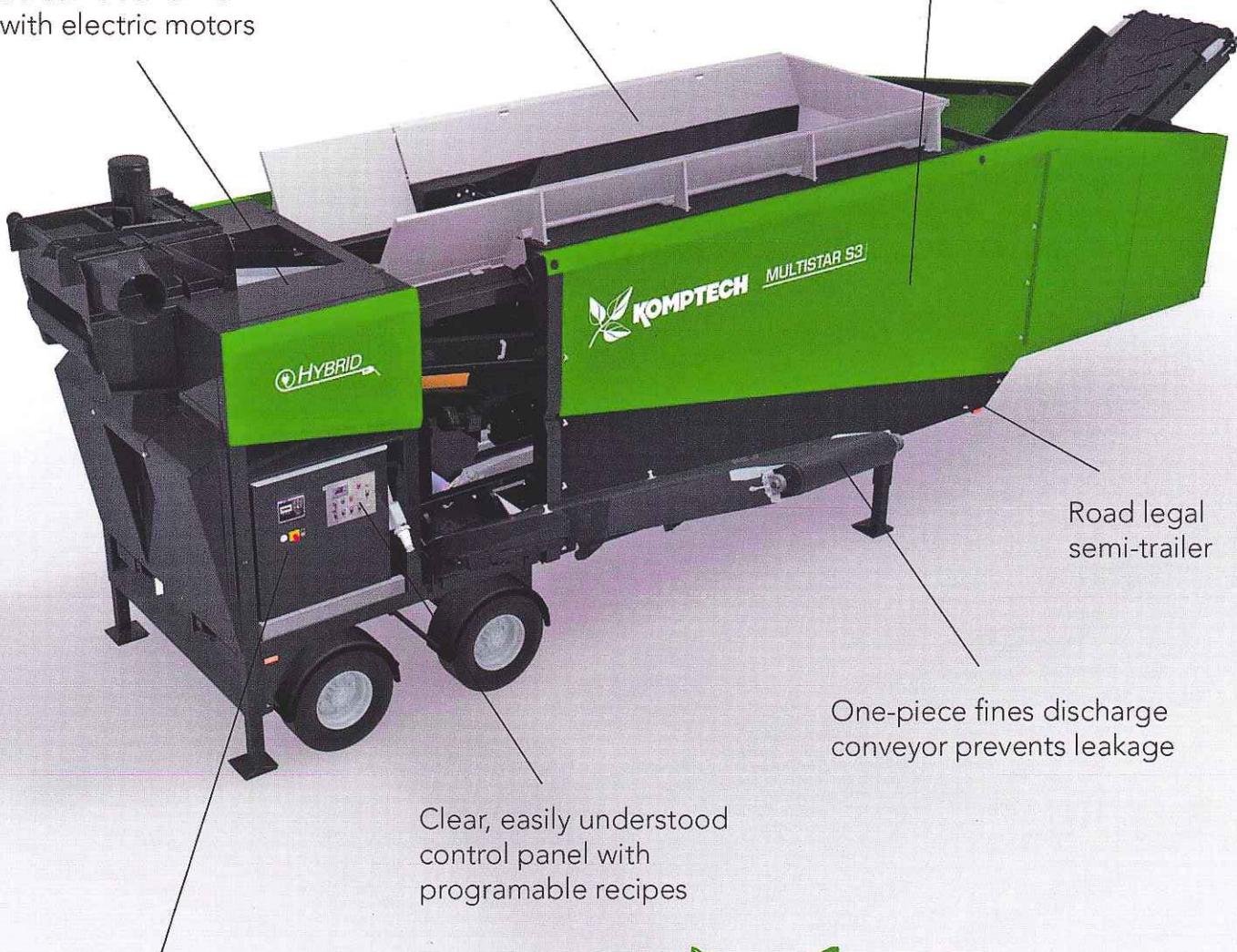
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