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Waste Management Institute

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Department of Crop & Soil Sciences

CWMI Update – February 2013

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/updates.htm>

See (and subscribe to) our Blog for the latest news and events at: <http://blogs.cornell.edu/cwmi/>

Educational Events – upcoming

- **PA Recycling Markets Summit on Organics, Harrisburg, PA** – February 28, 2013.
<http://www.parmc.org/content/pa-recycling-markets-development-summit-spotlight-organics>
- **NYS Association for Solid Waste Management is offering an organic waste management course in Liverpool, NY** - March 5-6, 2013. <http://www.nysaswm.org/EventsNews.htm>
- **7th Annual Vermont Organics Recycling Summit, Randolph Center, VT** – March 28, 2013.
<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1185555>. **(Jean and Mary plan to attend and are willing to carpool, call or email if interested: 607-255-1187, lew4@cornell.edu.)**
- **From Waste to Worth: “Spreading” Science & Solutions – Denver, CO**. April 1-5, 2013.
<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/wastetoworthconference.pdf>
- **27th Annual BioCycle West Coast Conference – San Diego, CA**. April 8-11, 2013.
<http://www.biocyclewestcoast.com/2013/index.html>
- **NYS Solid Waste & Recycling Conference and Trade Show – Bolton Landing, NY**. May 5-8, 2013.
<http://www.nyfederation.org>

The *Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities* (<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/healthysouls.htm>) project team will be participating in a number of events in New York City this spring:

- **Crazy for Composting, workshop offered by the NYC Compost Project in the Bronx** - February 16, 2013. A *Healthy Soils* team member will be available as a visiting soils expert.
<http://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/bronxpark/events/2013/02/16/crazy-for-composting>
- **ReLeaf Conference, Brooklyn, NY** – March 8, 2013. Project team will co-lead a workshop on urban soil health. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5307.html>
- **Making Brooklyn Bloom, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden’s annual conference** – March 9, 2013. The project team will present project findings, implications, and best practices.
http://www.bbg.org/visit/event/mbb_2013
- **GrowTogether, GreenThumb’s annual conference, Bronx, NY** – March 23, 2013. The project team will lead a workshop on best practices for healthy soils.
<http://www.greenthumbnyc.org/>
- **Just Food Conference, Manhattan, NY** - March 29-30, 2013. Workshop led by project team will focus on best practices for healthy soils and engaging community gardeners.
<http://www.justfood.org/events/just-food-conference-2013>

Event details are still being finalized; please contact Hannah at has34@cornell.edu with questions.

Educational Events – recent

- **Bringing organics management to schools in the North Country**

CWMI has been working with The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) and Jefferson County Cooperative Extension to help school districts in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties launch composting programs for cafeteria waste. The first step involved performing a “Weigh and Sort” during lunchtime to show the students, staff and faculty how much of their cafeteria waste can be recycled through regular channels and through composting. This hands-on activity involves getting students to sort their compostable and recyclable “waste” from their trash and allows them to not only see how much they are wasting, but how much can actually be recycled and diverted from the landfill. In the three schools where these “Weigh and Sorts” were performed, approximately 60% of the waste was compostable, 25% was fluid milk and water, 8% was milk and juice cartons (potentially recyclable in some areas) and 1% was recyclable plastics. Only 6% of total cafeteria waste generated actually is trash. What an eye opener. Schools can use the resulting compost in vegetable gardens that can provide fresh food for the cafeteria program and close the loop.



Helping students sort cafeteria waste at South Lewis.

Innovative Highlights

- **Recycling Leftovers from College Cafeterias**

For his M.S. thesis in Ecological Engineering, an enterprising graduate student, Michael Amadori, from SUNY ESF in Syracuse, NY had the idea of using leftover food scraps from the University to create pelleted feed for fish. Recycling organic residuals to produce animal feed is very high on the pyramid for managing organics. Michael wanted to turn this idea into a business. In 2012, he entered and won a 2nd place award at the NYS Business Competition in the Clean Energy/Sustainability/Nanotechnology/High Tech category, and expanded his product to feed for chickens, dogs, and more. Full Circle Feed (<http://www.fullcirclefeed.com/index.html>) takes nutritious leftover people food from college cafeterias that is sanitized and creates delicious affordable dog treats. Visit his website and take a survey for a free bag of treats.