



Cornell University

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## CWMI Update – February 2017

### **Educational Events**

- March 25, 2017 – [GreenThumb GrowTogether Conference](#), Bronx, NY. CWMI/Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities (Hannah Shayler) and the Urban Soils Institute are presenting a workshop: "Answers to Legacy Lead in Our Community Spaces".
- March 28-29, 2017 – [2017 Organics Summit – Transforming Our Food Waste Systems](#), Troy, NY. "Compost: Make it and Use it" (presenter-Jean Bonhotal).
- March 28-29, 2017 – [Soil Summit](#), NYSAES, Geneva NY.
- April 4-7, 2017 – [BioCycle East Coast17](#), Baltimore, MD. "Evaluating Impacts on Solids and Liquids Used as Bedding and Fertilizer" (presenter-Jean Bonhotal) and "Carbon Footprint of University Composting Facility" (presenter-Mary Schwarz).
- May 21-24, 2017 - [Federation of NY Solid Waste Associations Conference and Trade Show](#), Bolton Landing, NY.

### **Educational Materials**

Please make use of these posters to enhance compost use:

- Compost Use for Improved Soil – Gardening and Vegetable Production Poster: <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/45901>
- Compost Use for Improved Soil – Slope Stabilization and Erosion Control Poster: <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/45900>

### **News**

- [In the State of the State Address](#) (pages 235-237) - NY Governor Cuomo will implement a comprehensive program to reduce the quantity of food wasted in NYS.
- [Can This Trash Can Turn Food Waste Into Garden Treasure](#) - Smithsonian.com article on the Zera Food Recycler.

### **NYSAR3's Grant Opportunity for Schools – Application deadline April 7, 2017**

[Green School Grant Program](#) - the goal of this grant program is to provide up to \$500 per school to rejuvenate existing programs or to develop new programs centered around the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle).

**The Cornell RAPP Program** is winding down. Thus far over the past four years more than 2,000,000 pounds of plastic were recycled. Currently, markets for bunker cover and bale wrap are close to non-existent. We are in a place in time where petroleum prices are very low so recycling or turning plastic into oil are not financially attractive. There are plastic markets in place for clean, high quality materials like rigid plastics and other clean material but agriculture plastics are still difficult. NYFVI provided CWMI with gap

funding to try and keep the program functioning, but additional funding has not been forthcoming and CWMI/RAPP has had to stop working on this issue.

This does not mean that counties that have established collection programs will necessarily stop collecting and recycling, but there is no longer money to pass through to those who have the baler contracts with NYSDEC and are baling. There is also no money available to educate agriculture and horticulture user how to prepare and bale plastic in a clean manner.

There are currently six mobile balers located in NYS. Balers are located and insured in Chautauqua/Cattaraugus, Jefferson, Lewis, Otsego, Wyoming and Tompkins counties. Programs have been established in Chautauqua/Cattaraugus, Clinton, Delaware, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Otsego, Wyoming, and Yates; it is up to the counties whether ag plastic collection programs will continue. We would like to thank all of the people and agencies that worked hard to get as much ag plastic recycled as we have. To view final reports with program accomplishments please visit: [RAPP final report to NYSDEC](#); [Rapp final report to NYFVI](#).