RHODE ISLAND FOOD SYSTEM
2015 SNAPSHOT
RHODE ISLAND
POPULATION 1,052,567

**FOOD SYSTEM**

- **Production & Harvesting**
  - 589 Farms
  - 66 Community Gardens
  - 1,942 Commercial Fishers
  - 58 Aquaculture Farms

- **Processing**
  - 408 Food Processors

- **Distribution**
  - 139 Distributors
  - 1,123 Markets
  - 132 Farm Stands

- **Consumption**
  - 3,352 Restaurants
  - 39 Public Schools
  - 1 Food Waste Recycling Facilities

- **Resource Recovery**
  - 66,232 Annual Tons of Residential Food Waste
  - 114,186 Annual Tons of Commercial Food Waste
  - $2.1 M Municipal Fee to Landfill Residential Food Waste

**COMMUNITY NEEDS & RESOURCES**

- **Food Pantries**
  - 108

- **Congregate Meal Sites**
  - 56

- **MEALS ON WHEELS Home Delivery Recipients**
  - 2,298

- **Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Meals**
  - 61,357

- **SNAP Participants**
  - 178,181

- **WIC Participants**
  - 25,398

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Rhode Island is the first state in the country in which all school districts purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables.

**STATE FOOD SYSTEM DATA**

- **Businesses**
  - 7,023

- **Jobs**
  - 65,605
# Compost Regulations (Issued May, 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Small-Scale Operations</th>
<th>Medium-Scale Composting Facility</th>
<th>Large-Scale Composting Facility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size</strong></td>
<td>Pile Size &lt; 25 yd³</td>
<td>25 ≤ Pile Size ≤ 600 yd³</td>
<td>Pile Size &gt; 600 yd³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permit</strong></td>
<td>No registration</td>
<td>Registration with form; no fee (21 day response time)</td>
<td>Same as before; registration changed (every 3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inputs</strong></td>
<td>Leaf/yard waste; food wastes*, hair, sawdust, manures*</td>
<td>Same restrictions as Small-Scale or sixty (60) day pilot program</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RI Food Waste Ban

- Passed June 2014; effective January 1, 2016
- Refuse Disposal laws (Chapter 23-18.9)
- 2 triggers:
  1) Generation >104 tons a year (2 tons/week);
  2) Permitted facility within 15 mile radius
- Goals:
  1) prolonging the lifespan of the central landfill;
  2) foster a greener local economy (waste to biogas generation or valuable soil amendment)
133 billion pounds of food waste end up in landfills every year.
Soil is a critical resource for food production in the Northeast.
The Compost Plant

- Composting helps gardeners and farmers grow more local food.
- Composting keeps food scraps from going to the landfill.
- Composting recycles nutrients back into soil.
- Composting supports local businesses and the local economy.

Closing the loop!

www.compostplant.com
The Compost Plant
The new face of waste
Food Waste Collections
Earth Care Farm
Processing Development: Warren
Lessons Learned
Lessons Learned (2)
Questions?

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