

Building Collection Infrastructure for Composting: CET's Role

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The Center for EcoTechnology

We Make Green Make Sense

The Center for EcoTechnology helps people carry out their daily life with less environmental impact. We serve residents, businesses and communities across three areas:

- Waste reduction, recycling and composting
- Energy Efficiency
- Reuse and Repurposing through EcoBuilding Bargains, the CET retail store



- Partnership since 1990's
- Recycling programs implemented in all locations, composting across Massachusetts and now in Connecticut
- Composting results in ~\$200,000 in savings
- Recycling & composting resulted in \$2.9M boost to the bottom line in 2012!



- Federal and state grant funds
- Mid 90's – 7 stores in Pioneer Valley
- Similar project for CET, but no infrastructure
 - Recruited farmers, haulers and generators
- Big Y has expanded implementation over the course of 2 decades
- MassDEP Supermarket Certification
 - Started film plastics mid 2000's

- No established organics collection route in Central MA for composting
- Big Y had stores ready to go and the desire to establish diversion programs
- Compost sites in the region were available for processing



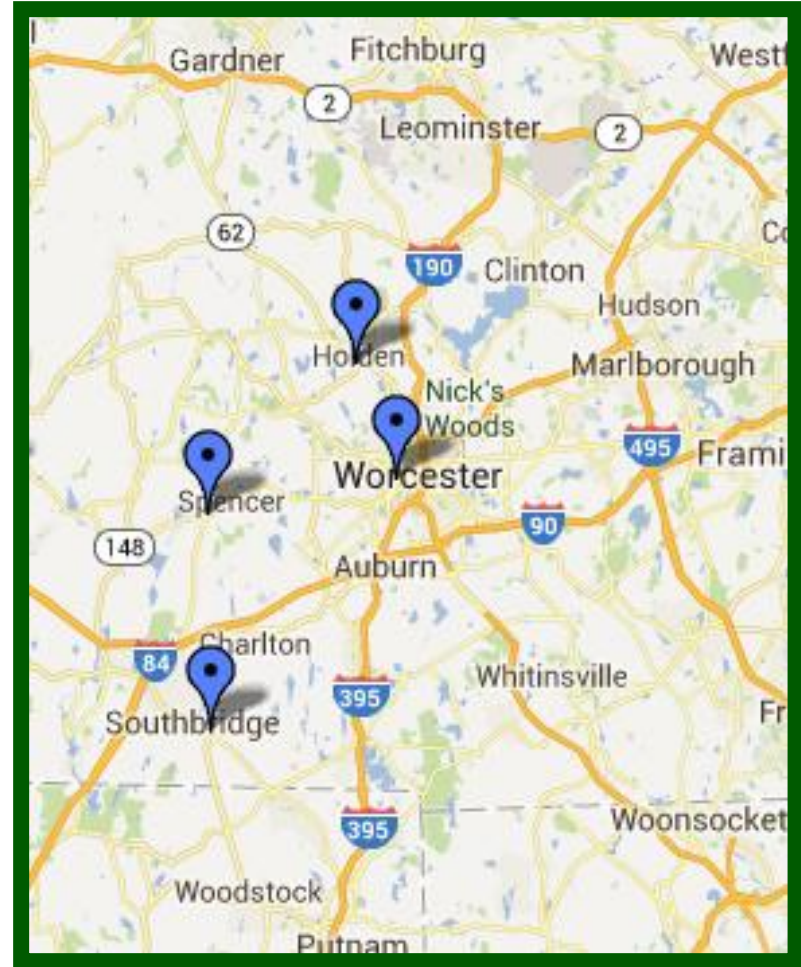
- MassDEP grants funded CET to help start a compost collection route in the greater Worcester area
 - Recruit haulers
 - Connect haulers with permitted compost sites
 - Recruit generators (in addition to Big Y stores)



- Underserved area
 - “Dead Zone” of commercial food waste collection
- Food Waste Ban not yet a regulation
- Early adopters
 - Clark University, Big Y, Wooberry
- Motivators
 - Cost
 - Regulation
 - Environmental



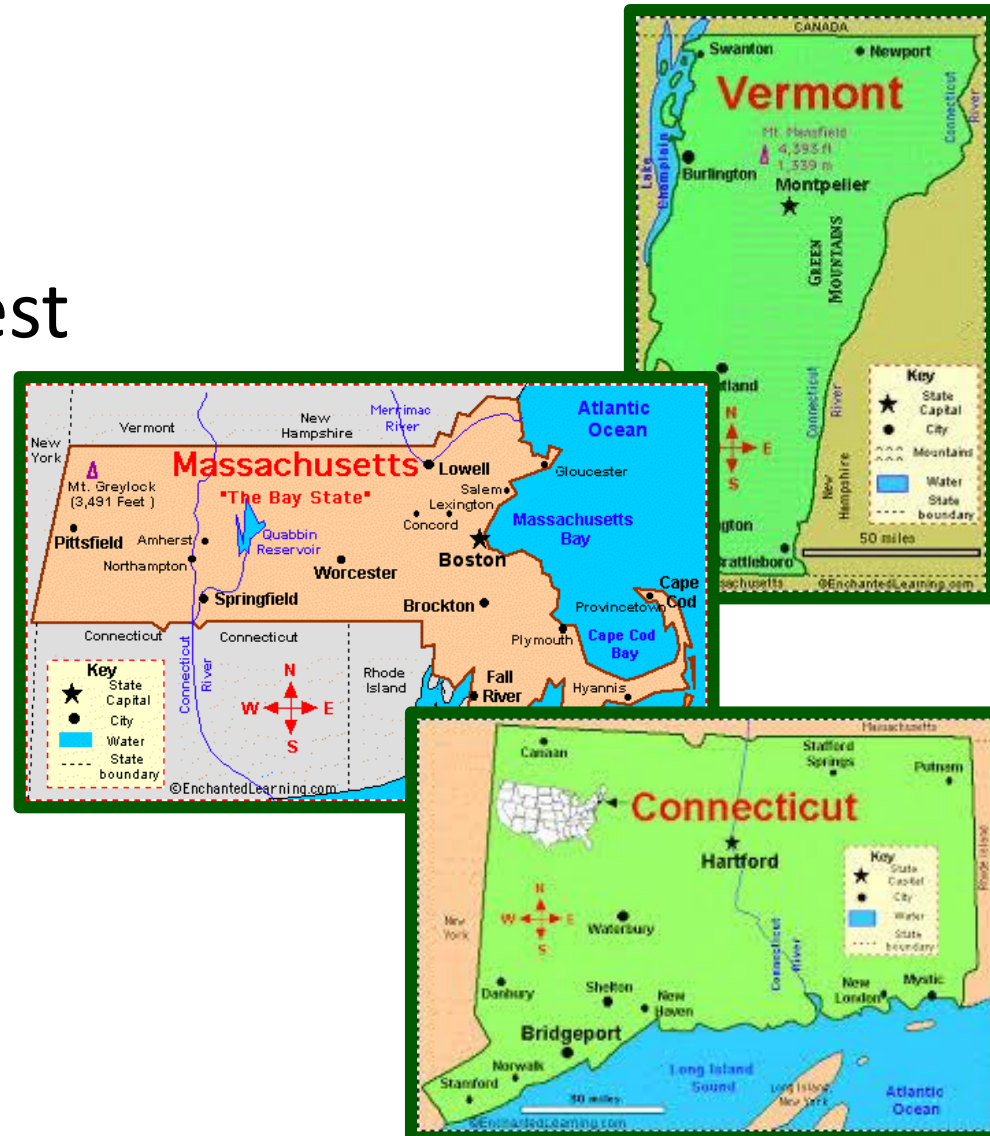
- 4 Worcester area Big Y Supermarkets acting as backbone of the route
- Densification ongoing
- Separate MassDEP grant for Devens area organics infrastructure
 - expanded collection area



- Contamination
- Secure outside containers
- Staff re-training
- Right size collection equipment
- Pick up frequency
- Odor/pest issues
- Generators & haulers must be driven to succeed



- Routes are growing
- Food waste bans are sparking more interest (MA, CT & VT)
- More interest from haulers
- Demand for food waste
 - Renewable energy
 - Anaerobic Digesters



- RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts is helping generators to implement more food waste diversion programs
 - Recycling assistance program helping businesses and institutions to maximize recycling, reuse, and composting opportunities
 - MassDEP funded
 - www.recyclingworksma.com



- EPA funded organics collection and diversion infrastructure work
 - Recruit haulers & generators
 - Assist in implementation
 - Logistics
 - Training
 - Follow up
- Big Y diversion programs



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