



# sanitation

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## **NYC Sanitation Celebrates International Compost Awareness Week and Reminds Queens Residents to Make Compost, Not Trash**

The New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) celebrated International Compost Awareness Week and the launch of DSNY's Make Compost, Not Trash campaign today at Queens County Farm with compost bag giveaways and educating residents about the environmental benefits of composting.

[International Compost Awareness Week \(ICAW\)](#) is celebrated nationwide during the first full week of May to recognize the importance of composting and the long-term benefits from organics recycling. As part of raising awareness about composting and the New York City organics curbside collection program, DSNY is launching the [Make Compost, Not Trash](#) initiative in Queens Community Board 13, an exciting new education and outreach initiative that will include events, compost giveaways, and door-to-door resident outreach with volunteers.

"In New York City alone, more than 1 million tons of food is thrown out by businesses and residents each year. And that needs to change," said Acting Commissioner Steven Costas. "This is about make small behavior changes, and we want everyone to know that keeping this material out of the trash is easy and rewarding. Our teams will be working throughout the district and will be available to help and answer questions. Increasing participation in the program is critical for supporting our environment and keeping our city healthy and clean."

Food scraps, food-soiled paper items and yard waste make up about a third of our "waste," but that material doesn't belong in the trash. When it decomposes in a landfill, this material gives off harmful greenhouse, contributing to climate change. When properly recycled, the material can be turned into compost or renewable energy.

"Queens Farm is egg-xcited to partner with DSNY on the Make Compost, Not Trash campaign," said Jennifer Walden Weprin, Executive Director of Queens County Farm Museum. "We encourage our neighbors to think about where your food comes from, the distance it travels from farm to fork and then think about what you do with the food scraps after you eat your yummy snacks and meals. The food/composting cycle helps us fertilize our growing fields which in turn supports the growth of our fruits and vegetable to feed a hungry city."

As part of the Make Compost, Not Trash campaign, Sanitation employees are concentrating education efforts and outreach by hosting compost giveaways, holding neighborhood street tree care days, and even knocking on doors - to encourage residential participation in our organics curbside collection program. In addition to Queens Community Board 13, residents of Brooklyn Community Board 10 are also included in the initiative which lasts until June.

The Department kicked off the initiative in April with two informal community meetings in each district to get valuable feedback from residents – What is working well? What are the challenges? What are we doing well? What can we be doing better?”

Upcoming events may be found at [makecompost.nyc](http://makecompost.nyc) where residents can also sign-up for volunteer opportunities. Additionally, residents can text MakeCompost to 474747 to be receive text updates about program offerings.

Selected upcoming events include:

- Alley Pond Tree Planting Day  
Saturday, May 11 – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Alley Pond Park
- Compost Giveback (Registration Required)  
Saturday, May 18, 2019 – 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Cross Island YMCA

“I signed up to volunteer because I want to take part in cleaning up my neighborhood,” said Queens Village resident Bobby Seal. “I really think for this to be successful, it is going to require a helping hand from everyone.”

### **About the New York City Department of Sanitation**

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 695 salt/sand spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.

### **About the Queens County Farm Museum**

The Queens County Farm Museum is the oldest continually farmed site in New York State. The original property was farmed by the Adriance family beginning in 1697. The current site consists of a 47-acre tract of farmland that showcases the 300-year history of agriculture as a way of life in New York City. The Adriance Farmhouse, built in 1772, and surrounding 7-acre historic core, mirror the evolution of this unique tract of land from a colonial homestead to a bustling truck farm serving the needs of a growing city well into the early 20th century. Historic outbuildings, orchard, planting fields and livestock bring agricultural history to life and provide a direct tie to modern-day sustainable agricultural practices and healthy foods.

The Queens Farm grows over 80 varieties of vegetables and over 75 varieties of flowers annually, including 6,000 pounds of tomatoes, 4,000 pounds of zucchini, 2,500 pounds of eggplant and 1,600 pounds of winter squash. It sold over 2,800 dozen farm eggs and 1,000 pounds of wildflower honey from the farm's hives this past year.

The Queens County Farm Museum is a New York City Landmark, on the National Register of Historic Places and a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City. Queens Farm hosts a wide variety of acclaimed education programs, public events and adult education programs. It serves a vital resource connecting people to agriculture and the environment creating conversations about biodiversity, nutrition, health and wellness, climate change and preserving local history.