



sanitation

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NYC Sanitation Announces the Reopening of Community Compost Sites and Food Scrap Drop-Off Sites

At the last hour, New York City's executive budget restored \$2.8 million to community composting for FY21. The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) now has funding to reactivate all of the NYC Compost Project mid-scale compost educational facilities, provide support to some small compost sites, and reopen some local food scrap drop-off sites throughout all five boroughs. These community composting programs will be implemented by DSNY's eight community partners -- Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The New York Botanical Garden, Queens Botanical Garden, Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, Big Reuse, Earth Matter, GrowNYC and the LES Ecology Center.

The NYC Compost Project's mid-scale compost educational facilities, such as the *Big Reuse Salt Lot* and *Earth Matter's Compost Learning Center*, are the first community composting programs to be brought back into operation. Once functional, these compost educational facilities will process food scraps and yard waste from the drop-offs. Additionally, these sites will offer tours, volunteer opportunities and provide finished compost to community gardens and local tree stewards.

"We are thrilled to be able to return to the Salt Lot and show New Yorkers how they can create a closed-loop system, and turn their food scraps into compost right here in Brooklyn," said Justin Green, Executive Director of Big Reuse.

In addition, all eight community partners will establish food scrap drop-off sites throughout all five boroughs. Some pre-existing GrowNYC food scrap drop-off sites, such as the *Cortelyou Greenmarket Drop-Off* site and the *Inwood Greenmarket Food Scrap Drop-Off* site, will resume operations with City Council funding. And, some GrowNYC Food Scrap Drop-Off sites, such as Abingdon Square, Tucker Square, and Tribeca Greenmarket locations will be funded by *Closed Loop Partners*.

Community-managed compost sites will once again receive support from the NYC Compost Project. This support and technical assistance will enable community compost sites to accept and process food waste from the public.

"We are thrilled that funding was restored in the adopted budget to support our partners and to offer community-based solutions to our waste crisis. It's been a tough year all around, but this

restoration of funding has given us hope that our partners will be able to continue to do their crucial work in the long term,” said Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia.

For more information about drop-off composting in NYC, visit: nyc.gov/dropfoodscraps. To host a food scrap drop-off site, visit: on.nyc.gov/hostadropoff.

Check nyc.gov/compostproject for updates about the NYC Compost Project program.

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 705 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 New York City Compost Project

The NYC Compost Project, created by the NYC Department of Sanitation in 1993, works to rebuild NYC’s soils by providing New Yorkers with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to produce and use compost locally. NYC Compost Project programs are carried out by teams of DSNY-funded staff at seven partner organizations: Big Reuse, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Earth Matter NY, LES Ecology Center, The New York Botanical Garden, Queens Botanical Garden, and Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden.

About GrowNYC

GrowNYC works to improve the quality of life in New York City through environmental programs that transform communities block by block and empower all New Yorkers to secure a clean and healthy environment for future generations. GrowNYC Zero Waste Programs were created by the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) in 2006 and work to increase participation in New York City’s Zero Waste efforts through weekly collections for food scraps.