

**From:** BioCycle CONNECT <biocycleconnect@biocycle.net>

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THE ORGANICS RECYCLING AUTHORITY®



JOURNEY TO ZERO WASTE

## Grupo Puntacana Resort Scales Up Organics Recycling

The resort complex on the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic uses a combination of wasted food reduction, recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion to achieve its landfill diversion goal.

**Juliana Beecher**

On the easternmost tip of the Dominican Republic, Grupo Puntacana (GPC) operates its many businesses with a commitment to sustainability. Founded on land purchased in 1969 by Ted Kheel, a New York lawyer, and his partners, Puntacana Resort now features three hotels (with a fourth in construction), almost 20 restaurants, 45 holes of golf, 2,000 private residences, a shopping mall, a tennis club, a polo club, and the country's largest international airport. Social and environmental projects in the region are supported by the Puntacana Foundation, including a zero waste program that began in 2007 and was featured in a 2011 BioCycle article by Jake Kheel, GPC's Vice President for Sustainability.

CONTINUE

# BIOCYCLEBRIEFS



## Washington, D.C. Rolls Out “Smart” Food Scraps Drop-Off Bins

Food scraps drop-off at farmers markets in the District of Columbia (DC) started in 2017 in the city’s eight wards. To expand accessibility, the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) began installing 30 metroStor smart drop-off bins in February 2025 throughout the District. To test the concept prior to city-wide rollout, a pilot bin was set up on the George Washington University campus in July 2024; about 600 users registered to use the bin from July 2024 to February 2025. To receive feedback on where residents thought the smart bins should be installed in their community, DPW hosted community engagement meetings in all eight wards. Locations were ultimately chosen to ensure accessibility for all residents, particularly those residing in multi-family properties, such as apartment buildings and condominiums.

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## CalRecycle Extends January 2026 Deadline Impacting Compostable Products

Under California’s AB 1201 law, products labeled “compostable” or “home compostable” are required to be allowed as an agricultural organic input under the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Organic Program (NOP) by January 1, 2026. Currently, the NOP does not allow compostable synthetic substances as an agricultural organic input. The law primarily impacts compostable bioplastics products. The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) sent a letter in December 2024 to CalRecycle, the agency implementing the AB 1201 law, requesting an extension to the January 2026 deadline for five years. In mid-June, CalRecycle responded to BPI’s request, and granted an extension until June 30, 2027 ...

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## New Model Ordinance For Advancing Community Composting

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) recently released the “Model Municipal Ordinance on Advancing Community Composting,” developed to provide “clean, ‘off-the-shelf’” legal language to address ‘unreasonable’ regulatory barriers that impose burdens that are unintended, unnecessary, or disproportionate to the expected benefits of applying the requirements,” according to NRDC. The Model is designed as a resource for local government officials, municipal staff, and stakeholders (including community members and community-based organizations) seeking to encourage the recycling of organic material.

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# How-To Guide To Measure Soil Carbon Storage

This guide walks you through measuring changes in carbon in soils amended with compost. The added carbon storage may not be something you can calculate after your first compost application.

Compost has been rightfully seen as one of the best tools we have to increase carbon in soils. I've talked and talked some more about the benefits associated with enriching soils with organic matter. One thing I haven't talked about is how you actually measure soil carbon. This is pretty inexpensive and easy to do.

[CONTINUE](#)

## BIOCYCLE BUZZ



### More Insights On USCC's Composting Industry Survey Data

In the June 25 edition of *BioCycle CONNECT*, we reported on the results of the US Composting Council's (USCC) Compost Throughput and Environmental Impact Survey conducted between December 2024 and May 2025 that collected 2023 data. A total of 730 USCC members received the survey and 142 responded, yielding a 20% return rate that represents more than 263 composting facilities across 40 states. Recently, the USCC shared additional findings ...

[CONTINUE](#)

### Mini-Grants For Community Composters

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) launched year two of the Composting for Community Mini-Grant Program to support new or existing local community composters in New England coastal states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island) and — for the first time — New York City. The Mini-Grant Program focuses in particular on historically underserved communities, including Native Nations and neighborhoods affected by discrimination and exclusion.

[CONTINUE](#)

### Federal Action On Digester-Generated RNGs

The federal budget reconciliation bill signed into law on July 4 includes a two-year extension of the Clean Fuel Production Tax Credit (Section 45Z), moving the sunset date from December 31, 2027, to December 31, 2029. In the Inflation Reduction Act, the credit was scheduled to sunset in 2031. This extension benefits anaerobic digesters (AD) upgrading biogas generated to renewable natural gas (RNG).

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