

Food Waste Diversion Law

By: Kristen Miller, Senior Legislative Attorney
September 30, 2022 | 2022-R-0229

Issue

Summarize Connecticut's food waste diversion law. This report updates OLR Report [2020-R-0229](#).

Summary

Connecticut law requires certain facilities that generate a large amount of organic material to (1) separate the material from other solid waste and (2) have it recycled at an authorized source-separated organic material composting facility, such as an anaerobic digester that can convert food waste to energy. Facilities that compost or treat the materials on-site are exempt from the requirement ([CGS § 22a-226e](#), as amended by [PA 21-16](#)).

The law also requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to have a voluntary pilot program for any municipality that seeks to (1) separate source-separated organic materials and (2) have the materials recycled at authorized source-separated organic material composting facilities with available capacity and that will accept them ([CGS § 22a-226e](#), as amended by [PA 21-16](#)).

“Source-separated organic material” is organic material that is separated at the point or source of generation from nonorganic material, and includes such things as food scraps, food processing residue, and soiled or unrecyclable paper ([CGS § 22a-207\(30\)](#)).

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By law, certain facilities that generate at least 26 tons of source-separated organic material per year (i.e., one ton per week on average) must separate the organic material from the solid waste and ensure that it is recycled at an authorized organic material composting facility with available capacity ([CGS § 22a-226e](#), as amended by [PA 21-16](#)). (Until 2022, the law applied to facilities producing at least 52 tons of such waste per year.)

The law applies to the following types of facilities located within 20 miles of the composting facility:

1. commercial food wholesalers or distributors,
2. industrial food manufacturers or processors,
3. supermarkets,
4. resorts, and
5. conference centers.

Facilities that compost or properly have their source-separated organic materials treated onsite are deemed to comply with this requirement.

Additional information about composting and organics recycling is available on DEEP's [website](#), including [guidance](#) for large food waste generators on how to comply with the food waste diversion law.

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