



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Compost for Good Initiative Receives \$20K Grant

Project will advance community-scale composting in NYS

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. — A local composting initiative has received \$20,000 in grant funding that will advance its goal to provide technical assistance for organizations, municipalities and other institutions interested in designing and implementing composting programs in their communities.

The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), a regional economic development organization based in Saranac Lake, and the [Compost for Good](#) (CfG) initiative are recipients of a [New York State Pollution Prevention Institute](#) (NYSP2I) Community Grant. The funds will be used to develop a detailed online toolkit that will inform users about technical and economic aspects of building and operating large-scale composting systems, as well as relevant education and policy materials. AdkAction, a nonprofit that focuses on environmental and social issues in the Adirondacks, will provide administrative support for the project.

“The Compost for Good initiative will offer key educational resources and assistance as an important extension of the good work of ANCA and AdkAction in this area,” said NYSP2I Director Charles Ruffing. “NYSP2I is pleased to support these efforts to decrease food wastes and increase beneficial use of these organic materials.”

NYSP2I, which works with New York State businesses, nonprofits and communities on issues of sustainability, is sponsored by the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#) through the Environmental Protection Fund and led by Rochester Institute of Technology’s [Golisano Institute for Sustainability](#).

In 2014, ANCA was awarded a Cleaner Greener Communities grant from the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA). The funding included support for the construction of an in-vessel community-scale composter, which has been successfully operating at North Country School Camp Treetops (NCS/CTT) for almost five years. John Culpepper, NCS/CTT Director of Facilities and Sustainability, conceived of and designed the system. To date, it has been replicated in four additional locations — Lake Placid Central School, Hermon Dekalb Central School, The Wild Center in Tupper Lake and the Pingry School in New Jersey.

Interest in the in-vessel composter and composting in general was so strong that Culpepper opted to form an initiative with educator Katie Culpepper and ANCA Sustainability Project Coordinator Jennifer Perry to meet the growing demand for technical assistance to create composting programs for others.

“We are so appreciative of the Institute’s support for our community composting and education efforts,” said John Culpepper, Compost for Good’s project lead. “We are passionate about helping others create a high value resource from food waste, which benefits both communities and our environment.”

The newly formed Compost for Good initiative entered into a partnership earlier this year with AdkAction, which will help expand the program’s reach and impact in the region. The NYSP21 grant is critical to advancing the team’s efforts to identify the most effective path forward for increasing rates of composting across New York State and beyond.

AdkAction Executive Director Brittany Christianson said, “We are thrilled to bring the Compost for Good Project under Adk Action’s umbrella and help John, Katie and Jen realize their vision to spark a composting revolution in the Adirondacks.”

The toolkit will include educational materials and videos, an online calculator to determine the most affordable composting path feasible, grant resources, legislative updates, access to a design and operating manual and access to contractors. CfG staff will also be available for one-one-one consultations through tours, in-person visits or phone conversations. The toolkit will be especially helpful for organizations and municipalities to prepare for the upcoming “Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law” which will require all larger-scale food waste producers to keep food waste out of landfills and thereby reduce the production of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

The group will begin working on the project this fall.

“ANCA is thrilled to continue to support this project,” said Perry, who serves as the project’s grant manager. “It has been inspiring to watch the momentum and interest grow from the construction of the first composter six years ago.”

Organizations, institutions and communities interested in learning more about the in-vessel composter or community-scale composting in general are invited to contact Jennifer Perry at jperry@adirondack.org or (518) 891-6200 or John Culpepper at compostforgoodteam@gmail.com.

[ANCA](#) is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a transformational approach to building prosperity across northern New York. ANCA’s community-informed, results-driven strategies for local food producers, small business owners, would-be entrepreneurs and municipal innovators offer targeted interventions that are designed to keep wealth and value in local communities.

Attached: one (1) PDF document and two (2) photos

Photo 1: Compost for Good project leaders John Culpepper, Katie Culpepper and Jennifer Perry

Photo 2, courtesy of ANCA: North Country School Camp Treetops students prepare food waste from the school’s cafeteria for its 20-foot continuous flow drum composter.