



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA) and Circular Services Announce Campaign to Reduce Food Waste**

Waste Authority partners with circular economy services provider to advance sustainability goals.

**Brookfield, CT, March 12, 2026** - The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA) today announced a major regional initiative to address the waste crisis in Connecticut. Set to commence this spring, HRRRA will launch the “Don't Throw It, Grow It!” campaign, aimed at providing outreach, technical assistance, and training to businesses and institutions with significant amounts of food waste. Through this program, HRRRA’s goals are to help businesses and institutions reduce food waste before it is created, separate organic material from other waste streams, recover or donate food when possible, and find partners to process food scraps through composting and anaerobic digestion.

Food waste accounts for an estimated 22% of CT’s waste stream, amounting to more than one billion pounds per year, according to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Most of this organic material is incinerated or landfilled at rising economic and environmental costs. CT lawmakers strengthened The Commercial Organics Recycling Law (see CORL below) in 2023 to address this growing challenge, expanding the number of businesses and institutions subject to food scrap separation and composting requirements. While this legislation is an improvement and has gained the attention of some businesses, the state of CT is still lagging on recycling goals, demonstrating that more must be done.

“For many years, HRRRA has supported member municipalities and their residents in addressing CT’s growing waste crisis. As a result of this partnership, our capacity to provide outreach on this important issue has greatly expanded. We now have the resources and experience to provide comprehensive food waste solutions to local businesses in our community, said Jen Heaton-Jones, HRRRA’s Executive Director. “This partnership reflects a shared commitment to environmental stewardship and common-sense solutions that work in the real world.”

Last year, HRRRA conducted a competitive bidding process for an organic waste solution provider and selected, Quantum Organics, part of Circular Services, as its partner to tackle food waste. Circular Services was chosen because of its integrated operating platform that combines outreach,

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education, and training with collection, transportation, and composting, offering an end-to-end solution for communities and businesses. Business owners will have the opportunity to collaborate directly with the food waste experts at Circular Services to establish a customized food waste reduction program.

“We commend HRRRA’s innovative and forward-thinking approach,” said Brian Paganini, Vice President of Organics at Circular Services. “It aligns perfectly with the philosophy with which we run our business. Solutions for food waste exist and are ready to scale. We are excited to have this opportunity to bring our solutions to the HRRRA region to help businesses and the community.”

## **Background**

### **Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority (HRRRA)**

[The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority](#), (HRRRA) is the regional governmental solid waste (MSW) and recycling management authority serving 14 municipalities in western Connecticut that include Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Weston, and Wilton. HRRRA represents more than 266,000 residents and coordinates regional solid waste and recycling efforts in compliance with Connecticut state law.

In 2014, The HRRRA launched the state’s first of its kind municipal food waste collection pilot program in Bridgewater. Since then, they’ve set up distributed food waste collection sites in nearly all member towns as well as small-scale composting systems to accept and process the material.

### **Quantum Organics, Now Circular Services**

[Circular Services](#) is the largest privately held recycling company in the U.S. and the nation’s leading operator of circular economy services and infrastructure. They help businesses and municipalities reduce the cost and impact of landfill disposal and enable circular supply chains by ensuring materials are recovered, recycled, and reused. Its Northeast Organics division, [formerly known as Quantum Organics](#), is a Connecticut-based company focused on transforming food scraps and green waste into high-quality compost and renewable energy through anaerobic digestion and composting. The company provides collection, hauling, transfer, and processing services across Connecticut and throughout the Eastern U.S.

### **CORL – The Commercial Organics Recycling Law**

Under Connecticut’s [Commercial Organics Recycling Law](#) (CGS 22a-226e), large commercial generators—including restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, resorts, conference centers, and

institutional facilities—that generate 26 tons or more of source-separated organic materials annually are required to separate and recycle organic waste. Covered materials include source-separated organic materials (SSOM) such as food scraps and packaged, unsellable food.



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