



Partnering with Communities: Waste Reduction Action Days in Clinton County

A Mission with Momentum

Clinton County is continuing to expand local waste reduction efforts through strong partnerships and engaged stakeholders. These coordinated efforts are helping deliver meaningful environmental and community benefits.

Clinton County, New York

Located in the northeastern tip of New York, this rural county has a long-standing commitment to reducing waste. In 2023, Clinton County applied to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for funding to expand their programming.

While earlier rounds of the grant focused on restaurants, the expansion of New York's Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law broadened eligibility to include municipalities, shifting the effort from a business-focused initiative to a county-wide movement.

Working together, the community developed a composting program serving residents in the Town and Village of Champlain.

Program Impact

Since May of 2025

70

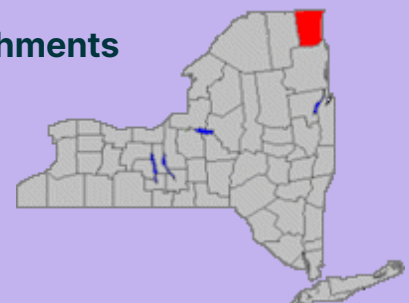
Households engaged

2000+

Pounds of food scraps diverted

10+

Food establishments participating





Expanding A Strong Recycling Foundation

The area's existing waste infrastructure was already well functioning. **River Valley Regeneratives** processes the county's food scrap material. **Casella Waste Systems** supports hauling and logistics. At the local level, **Our Parent's Family Farm** in Churubusco helps ensure that organic materials are put to good use by gathering food scraps from neighbors and rescuing stale bread from a nearby grocery store. These efforts further strengthen the county's sustainability work.

CET and Clinton County first connected at the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3) conference in 2025. After that initial meeting, Josh Enderle, CET's Waste Reduction Consultant, and Cody Douglas, Senior Public Health Educator for Clinton County, began planning a Waste Reduction Action Day (WRAD) event in the area.

As a result, the communities of Champlain and Rouses Point hosted a WRAD event and received hands-on waste reduction support. With funding from the Rethink Food Waste NY program, CET and local partners worked on-site to provide practical guidance and technical assistance to businesses and community members.

Recycling Partnership Events

WRAD events are coordinated by CET to provide complimentary, hands-on waste reduction assistance to local communities. CET sends experienced waste reduction consultants for 1-2 days to work directly with interested businesses and stakeholders in the area. The goal is to deliver practical guidance, identify opportunities for improvement, and help communities take immediate, measurable steps toward reducing wasted food.

What could your community accomplish in a few days?

Day of Action

The collaboration between Clinton County and CET took place in January 2026, with a focus on meeting businesses where they are. The team worked from a list of permitted food service establishments, and Cody led outreach through both email and in-person canvassing.

Over the course of two days, five businesses welcomed Cody and Josh's offer of assistance. During these visits, CET provided hands-on technical assistance, outlining practical strategies to reduce wasted food. This included conducting waste assessments, separating food scraps, and connecting businesses with local haulers.



Pictured: Frencheez Restaurant owner Matt meeting with Cody, Sr. Public Health Educator for Clinton County

So far, the county has worked with 10 food businesses to help reduce wasted food.

For many businesses, the offer of a pre- and post-consumer waste food assessment was a turning point. These assessments help owners better understand both the environmental and financial benefits of reducing wasted food.

Some businesses, like Kay'Z Boba, which worked with the county, committed to daily tracking and ongoing assessments. Keeping track of volumes of waste diverted helped demonstrate how small, consistent actions can lead to meaningful results.



Partnering with CET

CET brings decades of experience in wasted food reduction, technical expertise, and proven strategies that help communities reduce emissions, minimize waste, and create sustainable local systems.



If you're interested in hosting a WRAD event in your municipality or county, **contact CET at (888) 813-8552 or wastedfood@cetonline.org.**

How WRAD Supports Communities

Through Waste Reduction Action Days, CET partners directly with municipalities to provide:



Waste assessments

Identify cost-saving opportunities



Compliance support

Help meet NY food donation and food scraps recycling requirements



Program expansion

Equip municipal leaders to grow organics programs



Local connections

Connect generators with haulers and compost outlets

Whether your community is just starting or hoping to strengthen an existing diversion program, WRADs offer practical, relationship-driven momentum.

If your business, school, or institution would like to implement waste reduction programs, contact the CET hotline for assistance at:

(888) 813-8552 | cetonline.org | wastedfood@cetonline.org



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