

# Three Chapters Join for Organics Tour and Meeting



**By Gary Carrel  
NYSAR3 Chapter 9 rep**

Chapters 7, 8 and 9 revived a long-standing tradition with a joint summer meeting with a tour of the anaerobic co-digester at Nobelhurst Farm in August. The tour was led by Chris Nobel (pictured above, in the red shirt), a seventh generation dairy farmer who, like many farmers, wears a number of different hats, including CFO of Natural Upcycling a food scraps/organics collection company.

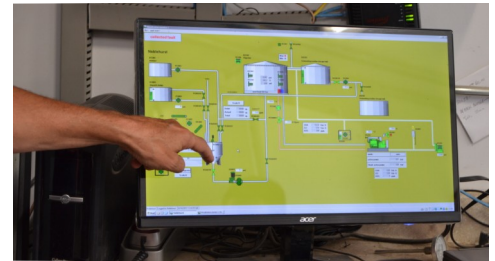
Much of the waste that Natural Upcycling collects in upstate New York is brought to Nobelhurst farm, combined with cow manure and turned it into a renewable resource.

Natural Upcycling reports that they collect over **1,500,000 lbs.** of food waste per month, reducing carbon dioxide pollution of **818,000 lbs.** or the equivalent of taking **1,569** cars off the road annually.

After the tour, the three chapters headed to Genesee County Park and Forest for information sharing and a low-waste lunch. Members were asked to bring their own

utensils and cups with compostable plates and paper napkins available. A composting bucket collected what little waste was generated. Region 8 member Peggy Grayson made a fruit salad and cookies, completely eliminating plastic container waste--thanks Peggy!

Y a s m i n Guevara, Assistant Engineer, DEC Region 8 and Jayleen Carney, from State Assemblyman Steve Hawley's office were able to join the meeting. Yasmin provided updates from DEC and Jaleen noted she was enlightened by a candid discussion about the current state of e-waste recycling that is facing many municipalities. She assured those in attendance that she would take the information back to the Assembly member.



**Digester Schematic**



Chris Nobel, above, CFO of Natural Upcycling, shows the group the Dunkin Donuts cappuccino mix used in the digester (rather than landfilled).

The group had lunch at Genesee County Park following the tour (right).



*Photos by Brook D'Angelo.*