

Held at the Town of Bethlehem

NYSAR³ and DEC Offer Compost Operations Training

By Athena Lee Bradley
and Dan Lilkas-Rain

A One-Day Compost Operations Training was hosted by the Town of Bethlehem, New York on September 15. The training focused on adding food scraps to the compost mix, and was designed for facility operators and managers, recycling coordinators, composting educators and students.

The training was very successful with over 50 people participating, and may serve as the first of a series of one-day regional compost trainings throughout the state! Plans are already in the works for a compost products and marketing and training in the Hudson Valley.

The day started with several hours of instruction and discussion. The packed agenda included presentations and discussion on the science of composting, compost operations and methods, process management, facility management, and regulations.

The afternoon began with a facility tour of Bethlehem's permitted compost facility, and continued with in-field lessons, including temperature, moisture, bulk density, and oxygen measurements conducted at the facility; site location, layout, drainage, and handling potential



problems (including odor and fire) were also discussed.

Expert Instructors for the training were: Bob Rynk, SUNY Cobleskill; Jean Bonhotal, Cornell Waste Management Institute; Athena Lee Bradley, Northeast Recycling Council; Gary Feinland, New

York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and, Phil Holloway, Empire Zero.

The training was co-sponsored by the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The training was organized by Town of Bethlehem Recycling Coordinator Dan Lilkas-Rain on behalf of the NYSAR3 Organics Council.

The Organics Council hopes to offer additional regional compost operator trainings during the coming year. Stay tuned at <https://www.nysar3.org/page/events-3.html> to learn more.



In photo to the left, Bob Rynk (center) from SUNY Cobleskill instructs the group at the Town of Bethlehem Compost Facility.