

Municipal and School Organics Programs Franklin County, MA



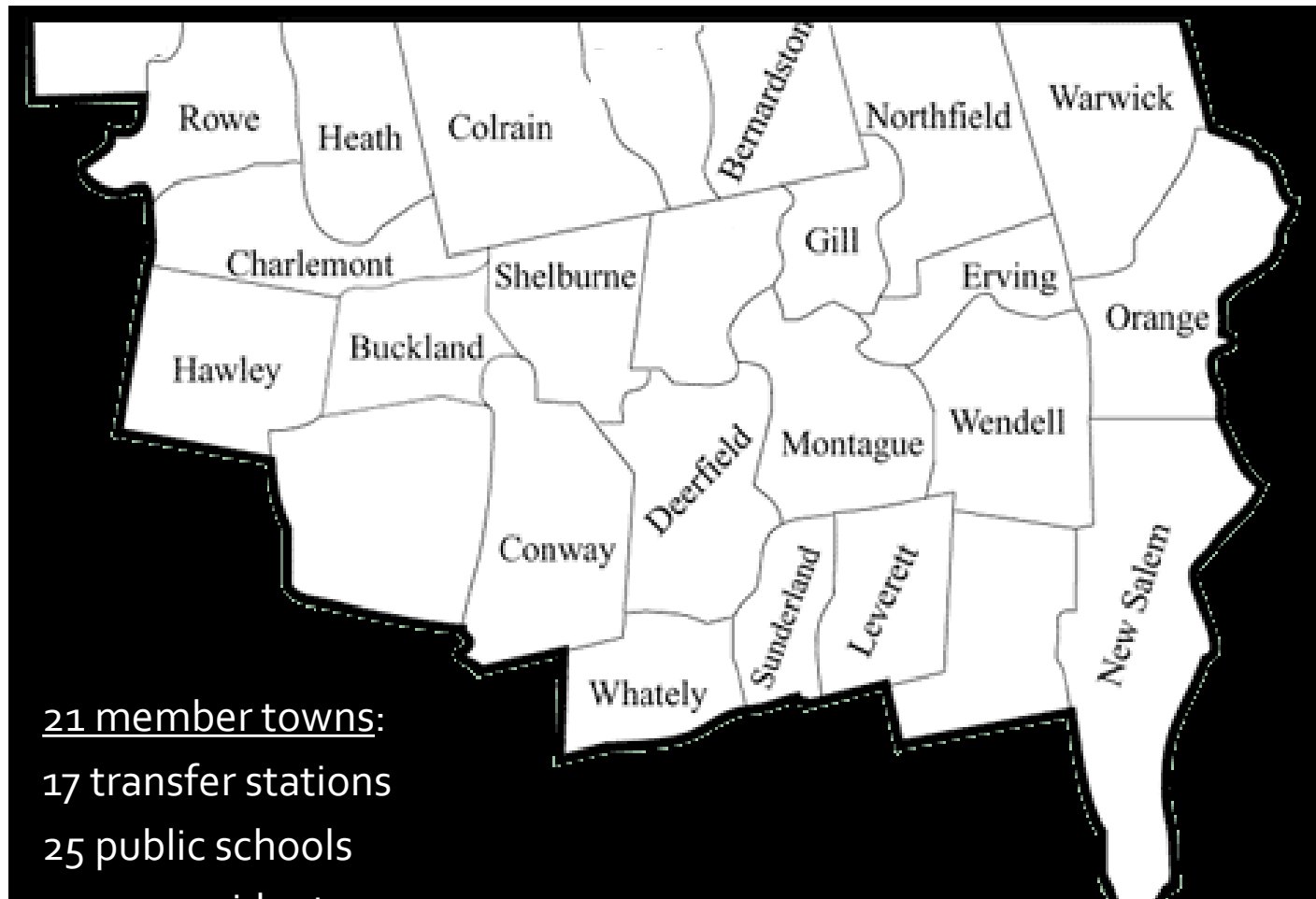
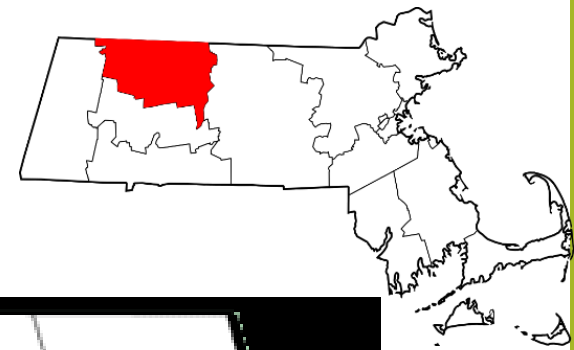
Colrain Transfer Station Compost Program

Amy Donovan

Program Director, Franklin County Solid Waste District

2025 RI Compost Conference

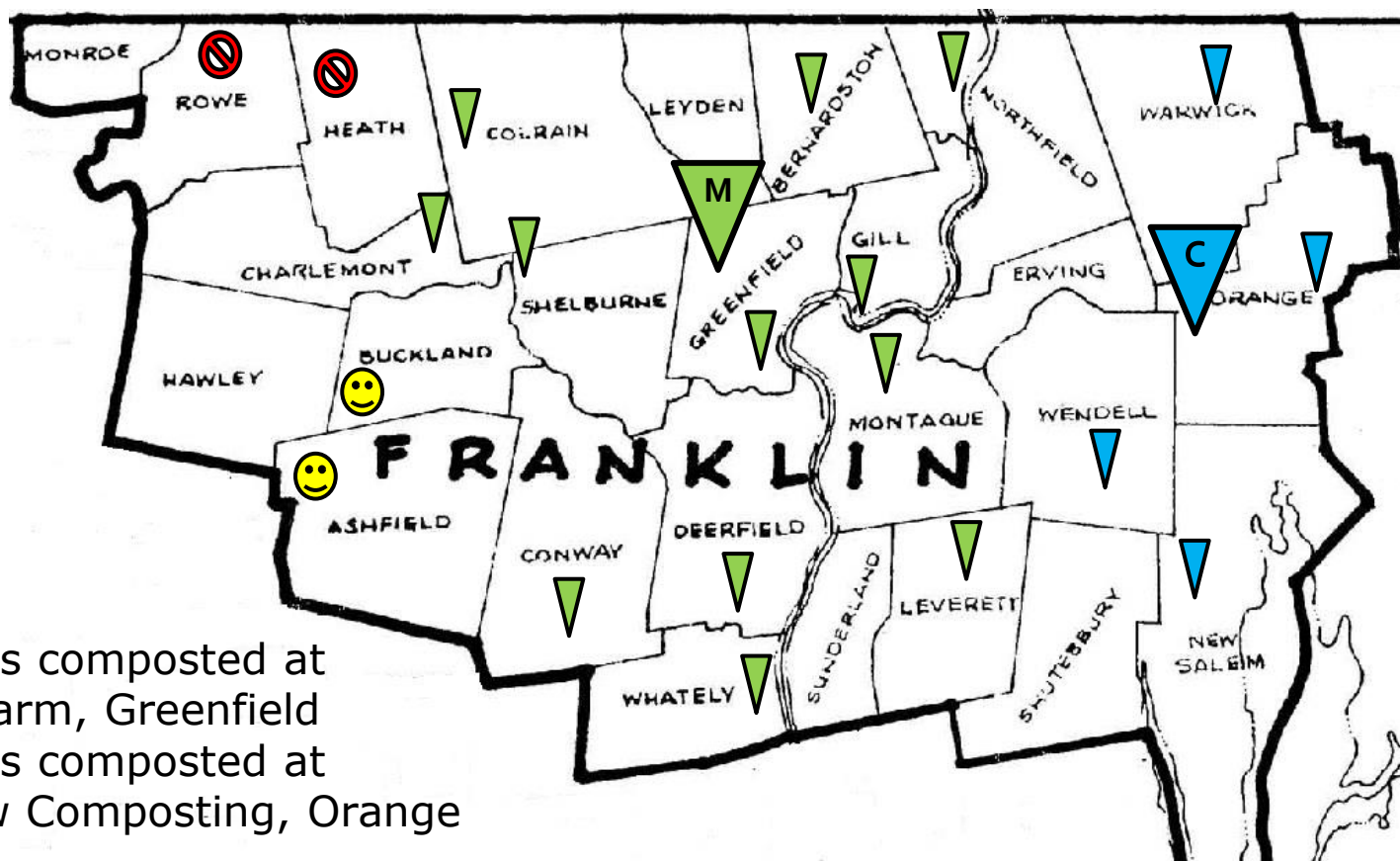
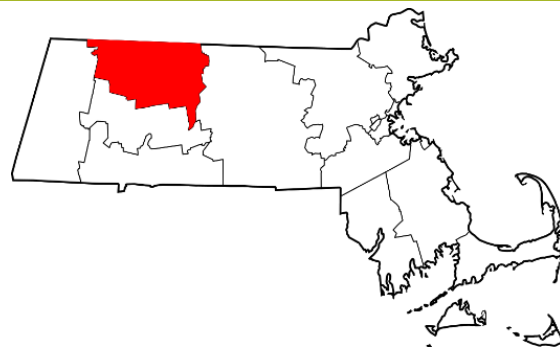
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District



21 member towns:
17 transfer stations
25 public schools
50,000 residents
500 square miles

16 Municipal Compost Programs in Franklin County, MA

- 15 of 19 transfer stations
- Special drop-off in the Town of Gill



Key:

- ▼ Materials composted at Martin's Farm, Greenfield
- ▼ Materials composted at Clear View Composting, Orange

- 😊 Potential new programs
- ⊘ No hauler available

Trash is sent 800 miles by train, but organics are processed locally at:

- Martin's Farm, Greenfield, MA
- Clear View Composting, Orange, MA
- On-farm anaerobic digesters, western Mass



Martin's Farm windrow turner

Compost thermometer = 140°



COMPOST
FOOD + PAPER



Funded by a grant
from MassDEP

Windrows at Martin's Farm
Greenfield, MA

Martin's Farm is for sale!



Franklin County
Solid Waste Management District

Municipal Compost Programs

16 of 21 Franklin County member towns:

Bernardston, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, Whately



Northfield Transfer Station

Photo: Greenfield Recorder



Montague Transfer Station

Photo: Amy Donovan

FOOD & PAPER WASTE COMPOSTING

FREE*! At Deerfield Transfer Station



- Commercial Composting reduces household trash by 30% or more:
 - Accepts ALL types of food (except liquids)
 - paper towels, napkins, BPI-certified paper takeout containers
 - *Free to permit holders



*Slide for Deerfield
town meeting, 2019*

Deerfield Transfer Station

- Since 2019
- Started w/ 2 cubic yard dumpster (pictured)
- 6 months later, increased to 4 cubic yard
- Energy Committee vols. assisted program launch
- *Estimated 83 tons/year*
- 2020 population: 5,090
- Permit holders: 1,291



Montague Transfer Station (Turners Falls)

- Since March 2021
- 4 cubic yard dumpster
- Also has curbside pickup of MSW, recyclables
- Drawdown Montague vols. assisted program launch
- *Estimated 83 tons/year*
- *Potential MSW tip fee savings: \$7,802*
- 2020 population: 8,580



Whately Transfer Station

- Since 2003
- First or second municipal program in the state!!
- 2 cubic yard dumpster
- *Estimated* 40 tons/year
- 2020 population: 1,607



Conway Transfer Station

- Since 2019
- Started w/ 2 cubic yard Triple T Trucking dumpster
- 10 months later, switched haulers
- Compost Cooperative hauls to Martin's Farm
- 64-gallon toters stored in trailer (bears in area)
- *Estimated* 16 tons/year
- 2020 population: 1,761
- Permit holders: 1005



Best Management Practices



- Weekly pickup
- Resident education
- Signage
- Trash can next to compost bin for plastic bags, mistakes
- Provide kitchen pails
- Make the program free to permit holders
- Report successes to the community



Montague Reporter article, June 2021

Montague Composts!

By KATE O'KANE

TURNERS FALLS — Montague's new free residential composting program at the recycling and transfer station has gotten off to a great start. Since the program started in mid-March, many town residents have started composting — quite a number for the first time. Many have been using the countertop compost pails that have been available for free at the Transfer Station. These are available as of this writing on a first-come, first-served basis at the Transfer Station, but supplies are limited. Other folks have been using pots, large containers, paper bags, and buckets of various types to collect their compost in.



Bruce Collins gets ready to transfer his compost into the special dumpster at the station.

Special drop off program, Gill MA

- Since 2024
- Town doesn't have a transfer station
- 3 toters in a dog kennel at a municipal building
- Residents get lock combo
- Energy Committee vols. assisted program launch
- Town-wide mailer
- *Estimated* 12 tons/year
- 2020 population: 1,551



Home compost bins

Keep food waste local - at home!



YES: compost fruit, veggies, peels, bread, pasta, coffee grounds, tea, leaves, garden and yard waste

NO: animal products (meat, bones, cheese)

Save money on trash disposal and purchasing garden soil and compost for home gardens.

Low-cost compost equipment sold:

- FCSWMD office, Greenfield
- Several FC transfer stations

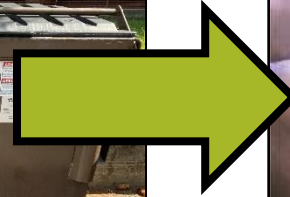
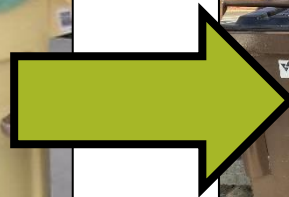
Earth Machine Compost Bins:

- \$25 - \$65 (Most towns subsidize)

Sure-Close compost pails:

- \$5 - \$10

School Composting



Mohawk Trail Regional's Compost Program

- ✓ Since 2012
- ✓ Student led (NHS, Key Club)



In 8.5 years, MTRS has composted an estimated:

- *550 cubic yards (23 huge dumpsters) of food and paper!*

- *Saved 100's of metric tons of greenhouse gases**

- *Saved 1000's of bags of trash!*

- *Created soil from waste*

*metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂E)

Organics = 82% of cafeteria waste by weight!



Trays: stacked,
then composted

451 lbs. compost/week
cafeteria and kitchen

97 lbs. trash/week
cafeteria and kitchen

Don't forget the school kitchen!

HS School Kitchen:

- Same 32-gal barrel as cafeterias
- 2-3 compost barrels on wheeled dollies.
- BMP: Roll out to compost dumpster; do not lift and carry compostable bags.



Small school kitchen:

- 23-gallon compost barrel;
- 5-gallon trash pail
- 1 lb. of trash/ day!



Pioneer Regional School (Grades 7 – 12) Northfield, MA

First HS Compost Program in MA?

Started in 2000: 17 waste stations around the school



Compost Bin in School Garden



MA schools can get free compost bins from MassDEP's free K-12 educational program The Green Team.
thegreenteam.org

YES:
fruit, vegetables,
bread, **leaves**,
garden waste,
grass clippings

NO:
meat, bones, cheese

Greenfield Recorder photo; "Composting Before Kindergarten", 2018

Events - FCSWMD Recycle/Compost Stations

- Loaned to 30 public events each year
- Portable, lightweight, washable Coroplast bins and signs



Event -Franklin County Fair

- 2 tons organics to Martin's Farm
- VOLUNTEERS always needed
- Free admission, free T-shirt
- Weekend after Labor Day



Contact and Links

Amy Donovan

Program Director

Franklin County Solid Waste District

amy@franklincountywastedistrict.org

franklincountywastedistrict.org

(413) 772-2438

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