



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF
ADAM J. BELLO
MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ADAM BELLO ANNOUNCES PILOT FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION PROGRAM

Pilot program will divert food waste from County-owned facilities and help develop a model for long-term countywide program

ROCHESTER, NY — Monroe County Executive Adam Bello today announced the launch of a pilot food scraps recycling program involving the Monroe County Jail and Monroe Community Hospital. Additionally, the test program will be offered to 500 residents of the Town of Pittsford.

“This program will help us reduce the amount of organic waste from County-owned facilities, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and allow us to move towards some of the goals set out in Phase I of our Climate Action Plan,” **said County Executive Bello**. “It will also help us to develop a working model for residential food scraps collection that could potentially be replicated throughout the County.”

Under the pilot, food scraps and organic kitchen waste at the Monroe County Jail and Monroe Community Hospital will be collected separately from other waste, then collected by Livingston County-based organics collection company Natural Upcycling. Natural Upcycling will process the scraps in an anaerobic digester at Noblehurst Farms and the resulting gas will be used to generate electricity, which will be used at the farm and sold back to the grid.

The Town of Pittsford is partnering with the county to offer the service to 500 first-come, first-served program participants, who will be provided with lidded buckets to contain food waste as well as educational materials. Households will be able to drop off their food scraps in a dedicated collection area at the Town of Pittsford Dog Park, 34 East Street. Registration will be available on the town’s website (<https://townofpittsford.org/>) beginning August 9.

“This program fits right into Pittsford’s long-standing environmental agenda,” **said Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith**. “The Town’s been recycling food scraps from our Community Center since 2019. Now, by engaging the whole community to recycle discarded food to make electricity, this new program marks another step toward a truly energy-sustainable future that makes use of all available resources. I’m sincerely grateful to County Executive Bello for offering Pittsford this partnership and this opportunity.”

The pilot food scraps collection program is funded by Monroe County, with additional funding provided by a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Municipal Food Scraps Recycling Initiatives grant.

Natural Upcycling was selected following the County's purchasing procedures. The company is already working with other municipalities on similar pilots, including the City of Buffalo and the City of Canandaigua.

The pilot program is expected to run for 12 months beginning in mid-September 2023.

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