Food Waste Composting in Portland, ME

June 2013
Origin of Resurgam Zero Food Waste

USM Business Plan competition winners 2009
Partnership formed with the City of Portland
DEP and City permits obtained 2010-11
Service launched in Aug 2011

Composting site located at 910 Riverside St, adjacent to city's Riverside Golf Course

6/10/13
Resurgam Zero Food Waste
What’s in Our Name?

- **Resurgam** is the City of Portland’s motto and means “I Shall Rise Again”
- Our collaborative **Zero Food Waste** solution ensures that today’s food scrap will rise again as tomorrow’s fruits and flowers

- **Our Mission:** To partner with businesses, public institutions, organizations, and residents in reducing our waste footprint, renewing our soils, and educating tomorrow’s leaders towards a sustainable future

6/10/13
Food Scraps to Organic Compost
Our Services: Front End

Customized collection service for over 75 businesses and institutions in GP

Supermarkets, restaurants, coffee shops
Locally owned and national chains
School systems
Hospitals and assisted living residences

6/10/13
Our Services: Front End

Your Partner Every Step of the Way

Consulting
Partners in designing a service tailored to meet needs
  Frequency of pickup and number of totes

Staff Training

Collection & Hauling made easy
Partners toss their scraps in the tote, and we do the rest
  38-gallon roll carts with lids
    Clean empty tote left behind every pickup

6/10/13
Operations

Windrow composting

Loader turned

Food waste managed with carbon amendments sourced locally

End product tested and screened for market

6/10/13
Back End: Finished Compost

Nutrient rich, organic soil amendment

Approved by MOFGA for use on certified organic farms and gardens

For sale by the yard

Pickup, or

Deliveries can be arranged

6/10/13
Site Tours

On-Site & Classroom Visits

6/10/13
Partnering with Schools: A Win-Win

Helping school districts to reduce waste while offering experiential learning opportunities fulfills a key piece of Resurgam's mission.

Building a future generation of composters

Educational
  Classroom curriculum
  Field trips
  Why do we compost?
  Where does the waste go?
  What happens to it?
Portland's Waste Reduction Group (WRG)

A collaborative planning effort by city and school officials, teachers, parents, and other key decision makers.

Spearheaded logistics and training at schools.

Formation spurred on by two parents of PPS students.

- Simple question: Why aren't the schools recycling more?

Awarded Recycling Program of the Year 2013 by the Maine Resource Recovery Association.

6/10/13
PPS comports approx 70 tons of food waste over the course of the school year.

Resurgam and PPS have been partners from the beginning (August 2011).

Resurgam has pledged 1 cu yd compost donation for each PPS school.
Schools

Specialized training and education for students and staff during the initial launch phase at each school.

Establishment of green teams, cafeteria monitors.
Self enforcement and ownership are crucial for long-term success.

- Building on the success at PPS, Resurgam now partners with 2 additional school districts in Greater Portland, as well as UNE and Waynflete School.

- Plan to work with other districts, universities, and private schools during the 2013-14 school year.

6/10/13
Portland High School separation station
Special Events

THE YARMOUTH CLAM FESTIVAL
Yarmouth, Maine

HAPPY EARTH DAY!

PORTLAND GREENDRINKS
Benefits to the Community

Sustainable
Educational
Class curriculum
Waste consultation
Economical
Job creation

It's the right thing to do

6/10/13

---

Dear Brett Richardson,

Thank you very much for your help in our participation in the Zero-Waste challenge. We appreciate your time and generosity of giving Westbrook Middle School composting bins for us to use. Also, the advice you had given us during your visit was very useful in knowing what we can do here at school. In fact, we recently learned that our team earned 2nd place in the statewide Zero Waste competition and you were one of the main people that made that happen. You had educated us and given us so much information about composting. We wish you the best and hope you continue on with your life’s work.

Thanks again,
Team Geese

Date: April 24, 2013

---

Team: Team Geese

Names:
- Shahzeb
- Hannah
- Bailey
- Danique
- Sarah
- Christian
- Judy
- Michael
- Patrick
- Connor
- Alarm
- D. Mark
- Lauren
- S. Hassan
- Brandi
- Evan
- Alex
- Noah
- Justin
- J. C.