

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCRRRA Receives \$4.5 Million Grant from CT DEEP to Enhance Waste Management Infrastructure

Gales Ferry, CT- April 1st – The Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$4.5 million grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) as part of the inaugural Materials Management Infrastructure (MMI) Grant Program. This significant funding will support SCRRRA's efforts to develop a commercial-scale food waste composting facility, aimed at improving waste management practices and promoting environmental sustainability in the southeastern region of Connecticut.

The MMI Grant Program, the largest investment in local and regional waste management infrastructure by the state to date, is designed to help municipalities and regional entities address the growing waste disposal crisis. With traditional options for disposing of municipal solid waste (MSW) becoming increasingly limited and expensive, the grant will enable SCRRRA to implement innovative solutions that reduce waste disposal costs and environmental impacts.

SCRRRA's new composting facility will divert up to 7,500 tons of food waste from incineration annually, recycling it into eco-friendly soil amendments for use by local communities and agricultural businesses. This initiative aligns with Connecticut's Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS), which aims to achieve a 60% diversion rate of recyclable and compostable materials from the waste stream. By investing in this infrastructure, SCRRRA is taking a crucial step towards a more sustainable and self-sufficient waste management system.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant from CT DEEP, which will enable us to build a state-of-the-art composting facility," said David Aldridge, Executive Director of SCRRRA. "This project will not only help us manage waste more effectively but also provide valuable resources for our communities and support local agriculture. We appreciate the state's commitment to advancing smarter, greener waste management practices."

The grant from CT DEEP underscores the importance of regional collaboration in addressing waste management challenges. SCRRRA looks forward to working with its member municipalities and other stakeholders to implement this project and contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable future for southeastern Connecticut.