



TOWN OF ITHACA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2015

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Ithaca Town Hall Begins Composting Program

Local government looks to decrease waste production

ITHACA, NY – On January 26, 2015, the Town of Ithaca began a program with Cayuga Compost to compost paper towels from the restrooms in Town Hall. This change will divert an estimated 60 gallons of waste from the landfill each week, which is equivalent to more than eight full dumpsters over the course of a year.

Composting is a simple step that can be taken by many homes and businesses to divert waste away from landfills. This action will allow Town Hall to improve its current diversion rate of 52%; it currently recycles a little more than half of its waste. Town Supervisor Herb Engman commented, “By initiating the composting program, the Town of Ithaca is leading by example, and strengthening its commitment to responsible waste management, a key element of sustainability.”

In addition, the Town is working with its cleaning staff to begin tracking the amount of trash, recycling, and compost that is produced weekly. “What we are hoping is that by composting, we can reduce our trash volume enough to reduce the number of pickups,” explains Sustainability Planner Nick Goldsmith, “then we can realize an overall savings in waste collection fees.” The fee for the composting service is partially subsidized by Tompkins County Solid Waste.

About Town of Ithaca

The Town of Ithaca is located at the southern tip of Cayuga Lake in Central New York, and is home to Ithaca College and Cornell University. The Town includes a mosaic of rural, suburban, and urban landscapes of approximately 20,000 people that surrounds the City of Ithaca. The Town hired a Sustainability Planner in 2010, and since then has become a regional leader in sustainability. To learn more, visit www.town.ithaca.ny.us.

About Cayuga Compost

Cayuga Compost is a division of P&S Excavating, LLC and was formed in 2005. Through its food waste collection and composting service, Cayuga Compost allows local businesses to divert food scraps and other compostable items from the waste stream. Collected materials are turned into high quality compost, which can be used for landscaping, gardens, and soil enrichment. More information can be found at www.cayugacompost.com.

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