

Nothing Wasted Plan

Turning Food Waste into Energy, Compost, and Community Opportunity

A Massachusetts Initiative for Local Energy, Healthy Soils, and Lower Municipal Costs

Executive Summary

Every year Massachusetts disposes of hundreds of thousands of tons of food scraps and organic waste. Much of that material ends up in landfills where it decomposes and releases methane, a greenhouse gas many times more potent than carbon dioxide.

At the same time, communities are seeking ways to lower disposal costs, strengthen energy resilience, improve soil health, and create local jobs.

Nothing Wasted is a voluntary statewide initiative that helps municipalities, businesses, and institutions convert food and organic waste into renewable energy, compost, and valuable soil products through composting, vermicomposting, and anaerobic digestion.

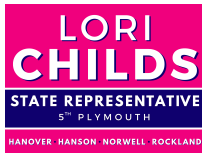
Instead of paying to throw organic materials away, communities can put them to work.

The Problem

Food and organic waste represent one of the largest portions of the waste stream.

When buried in landfills, these materials:

- Generate methane emissions
- Increase disposal costs
- Consume valuable landfill space
- Require expensive transportation
- Waste potential energy and nutrients



Communities lose opportunities to create local value from materials they already collect.

The Opportunity

Organic waste can become:

Renewable Energy

Through anaerobic digestion:

- Biogas production
- Electricity generation
- Renewable natural gas
- Local energy resilience

Compost

Through traditional composting:

- Soil enhancement
- Landscaping materials
- Agricultural inputs
- Community gardening support

Vermicomposting Products

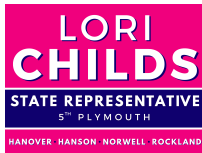
Through worm-based processing:

- High-value soil amendments
 - Improved soil fertility
 - Reduced processing times
 - Specialty agricultural products
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Goals

Nothing Wasted seeks to:

- Reduce food waste sent to landfills



- Lower methane emissions
 - Expand local renewable energy production
 - Improve soil health
 - Reduce municipal disposal costs
 - Create local jobs
 - Strengthen community resilience
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Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Statewide Organics Assessment (Year 1)

The Commonwealth will evaluate:

- Food waste generation by region
- Existing composting facilities
- Anaerobic digestion capacity
- Potential processing sites
- Market opportunities for compost and biogas
- Municipal cost savings opportunities

Special focus will be placed on:

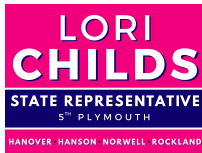
- Schools
 - Hospitals
 - Universities
 - Food manufacturers
 - Municipal facilities
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Phase 2: Community Demonstration Projects (Years 2–3)

Launch voluntary pilot projects supporting:

Composting

- Municipal compost programs
- Community compost hubs
- Regional compost partnerships



Vermicomposting

- School-based projects
- Municipal pilot facilities
- Agricultural partnerships

Anaerobic Digestion

- Regional energy facilities
- Agricultural digesters
- Municipal energy partnerships

Projects will measure:

- Cost savings
 - Energy production
 - Waste diversion rates
 - Emissions reductions
 - Job creation
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Phase 3: Expand Infrastructure (Years 3–5)

Support development of:

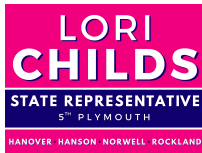
- Regional compost facilities
- Organics transfer sites
- Community compost hubs
- Anaerobic digestion projects
- Food waste collection systems

Priority will be given to:

- Existing industrial properties
 - Underutilized municipal facilities
 - Environmental Justice communities seeking economic development opportunities
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Phase 4: Municipal Incentives and Partnerships

Participating communities may receive:



- Technical assistance
- Planning grants
- Infrastructure funding support
- Climate funding preferences

Participation remains voluntary.

No new mandates.

Communities choose the solutions that work best for them.

Economic Benefits

Nothing Wasted can:

- Lower disposal costs
 - Generate renewable energy revenues
 - Create compost markets
 - Support local agriculture
 - Create jobs in operations and maintenance
 - Keep more dollars circulating locally
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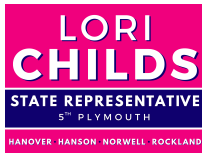
Environmental Benefits

The initiative will:

- Reduce methane emissions
 - Increase renewable energy production
 - Improve soil health
 - Support carbon sequestration
 - Reduce landfill use
 - Strengthen climate resilience
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Community Benefits

Nothing Wasted supports:



- Community gardens
 - Local farms
 - School sustainability programs
 - Municipal energy resilience
 - Regional economic development
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The Bottom Line

Food waste should not be a liability.

With the right investments and partnerships, it can become a source of energy, healthy soils, lower municipal costs, and local economic opportunity.

Nothing Wasted transforms food scraps and organic materials into valuable community resources.

Nothing Wasted: Turning Food Waste into Energy, Compost, and Community Opportunity.