



# Technical Education and Analysis for Community Hauling and Anaerobic Digesters (TEACH AD)

TEACH AD Webinar Series - February 23, 2022

Small-Scale Anaerobic Digestion Plants :

Featuring two Case Studies from the University of California San Diego and from Tusten,  
NY

# Technical Education and Analysis for Community Hauling and Anaerobic Digesters – **TEACH AD**

The goal of this program is to help communities and water resource recovery facilities in the Midwest region divert food waste from landfills by providing education and no-cost technical assistance to explore the increased adoption of anaerobic digestion and renewable energy biogas technologies.

- Educational Assistance
- Technical Assistance

**Marcello Pibiri**

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Web: [erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/](http://erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/)



# Webinar Speakers



**Marcello Pibiri**

Senior Research engineer  
UIC Energy Resources Center



**Isabella Aureguy**

Digester operator  
UC San Diego



**Jennifer Porter**

Vice President & Sustainability Officer  
Gershman, Brickner & Bratton Inc. (GBB)



**Jan Allen**

Chief Operating Officer  
Impact Bioenergy

Thanks to  
our sponsor!



## Q&A

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Submit your questions to the host using the Q&A box in the upper right-hand corner

## Survey

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After the presentation you will receive a brief survey. We appreciate your feedback

## Presentations

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A recording of today's webinar will be posted on the TEACH AD webpage and you will be emailed a link by early next week

## Technical Issues

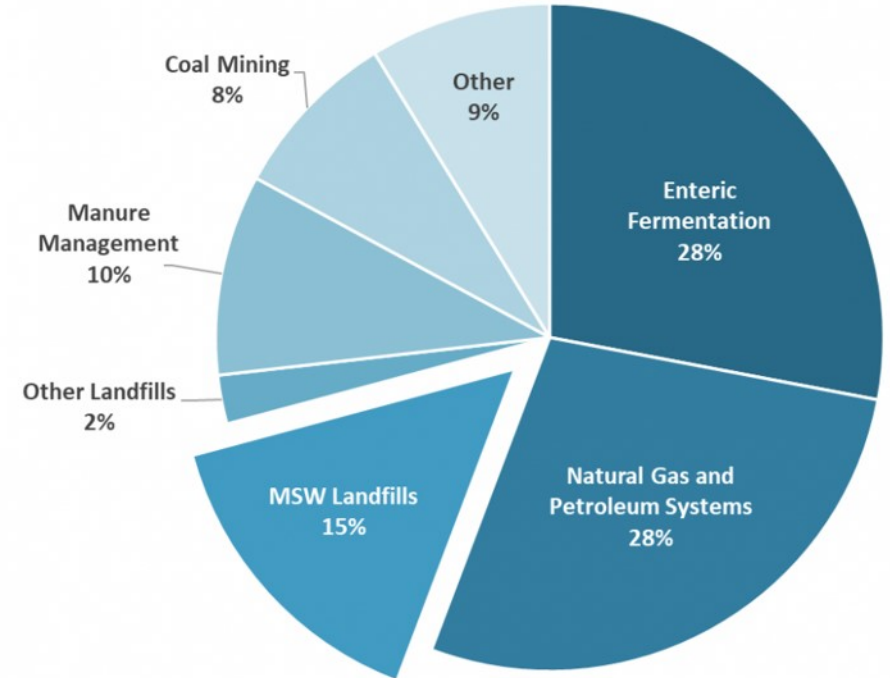
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Contact Sam Rinaldi at: [samr@uic.edu](mailto:samr@uic.edu) or 312-996-2554 for assistance

# Importance of diverting food waste from landfills

- Municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States
- By reducing the amount of food waste landfilled, we reduce methane emissions

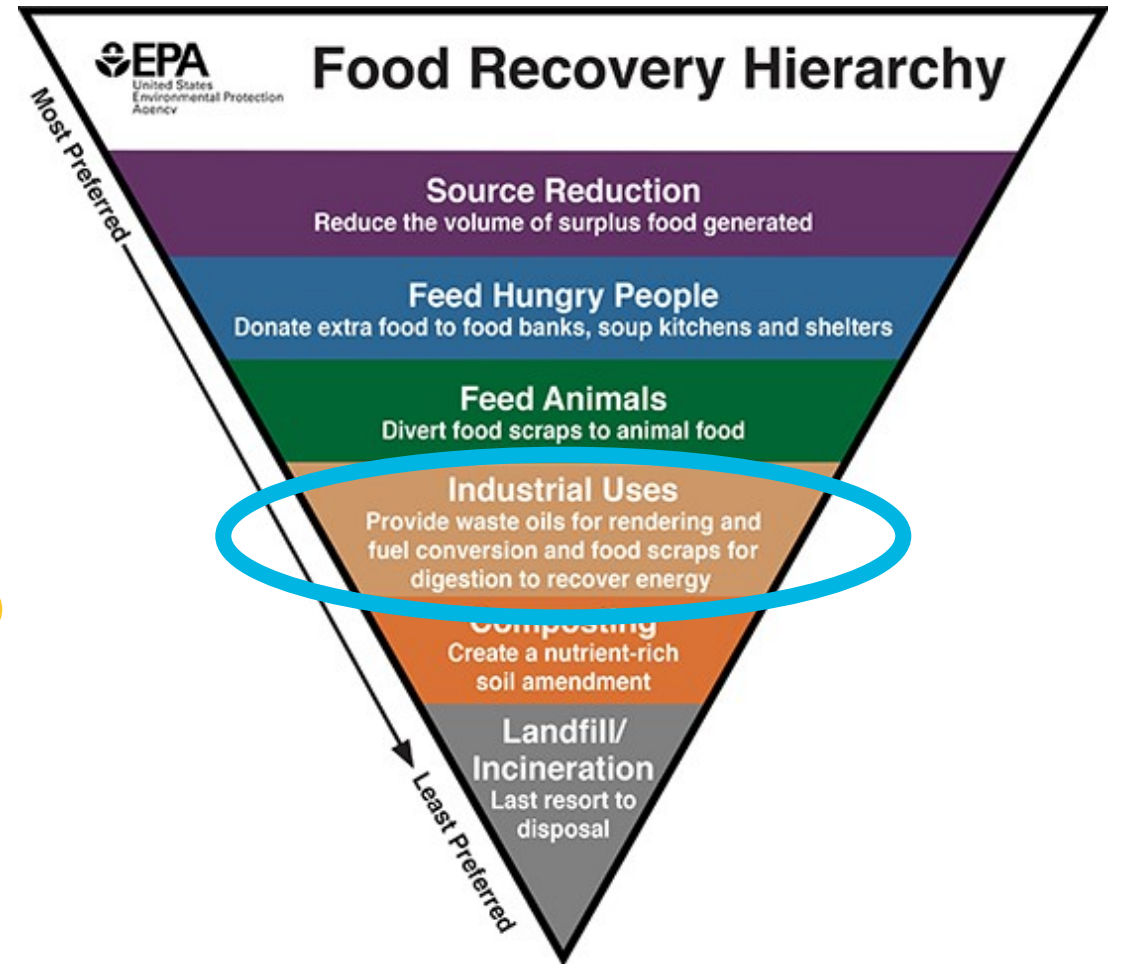
2018 U.S. Methane Emissions, By Source



Note: All emission estimates from the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2018*. U.S. EPA. 2020.

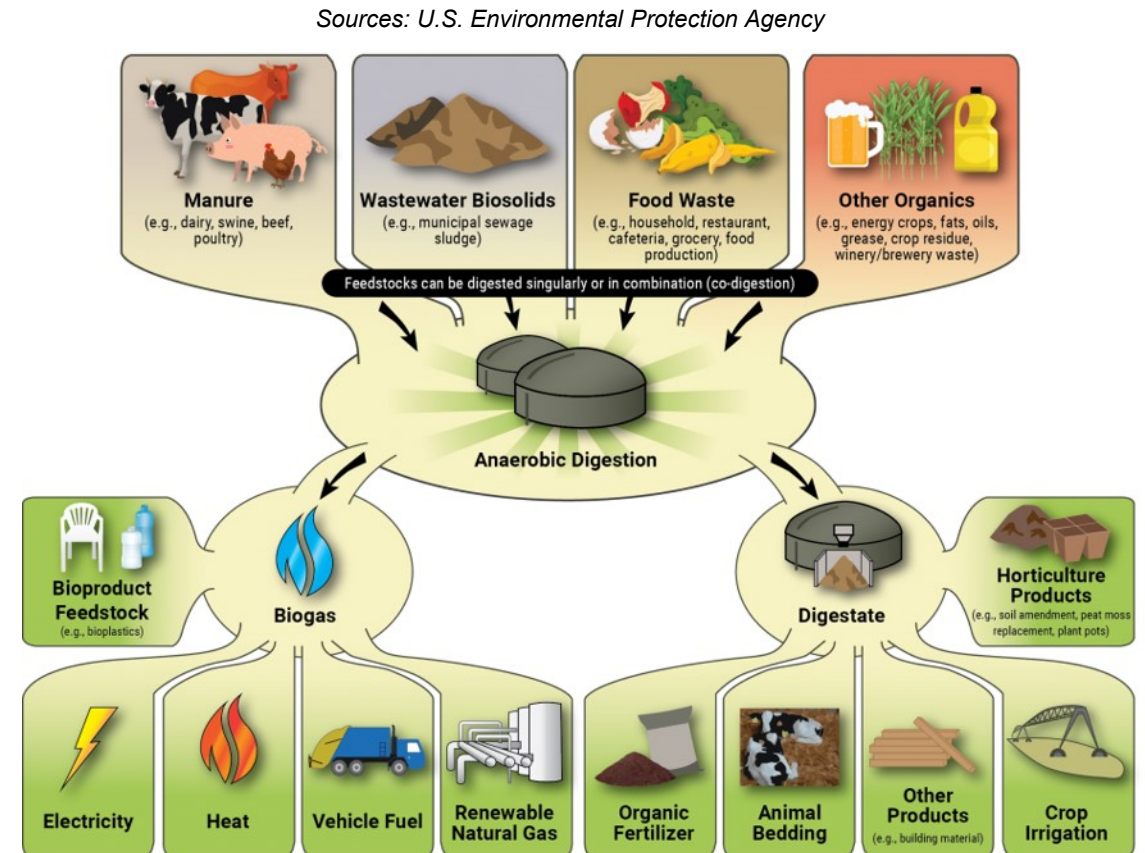
# Importance of diverting food waste from landfills

- One-third of all food produced for human consumption worldwide is lost or wasted
- Source Reduction
- Feed People, Not Landfills
- Industrial Uses
  - **Anaerobic digestion**



# Overview of anaerobic digesters

- Anaerobic digestion is the natural process in which microorganisms break down organic materials in the absence of oxygen.
- Two valuable outputs
  - Biogas
  - Digestate





# Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste:

## What resources go into a year of food loss and waste in the U.S.?



\*excluding impacts of waste management, such as landfill methane emissions



**Greenhouse gas emissions** of more than 42 coal-fired power plants

**Enough water and energy** to supply more than 50 million homes



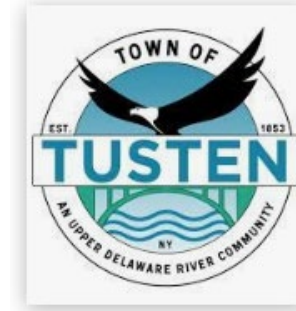
The **amount of fertilizer** used in the U.S. to grow all plant-based foods for U.S. human consumption

An **area of agricultural land** equal to California and New York





**Jan Allen**  
**Impact Bioenergy**



**UC San Diego**

## SMALL SCALE ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANTS

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University of Illinois Chicago Energy Resources Center - February 23, 2022

# Presentation Overview

- Background
- Landscape of Solutions (2 slides)
- Impact Bioenergy® Value Proposition (8 slides)
- Operating Projects (3 slides)
- Vashon Bioenergy Farm Model & Trials (4 slides)
- Vashon Bioenergy Farm Tour
- Conclusion and Q&A

# What We Will Cover

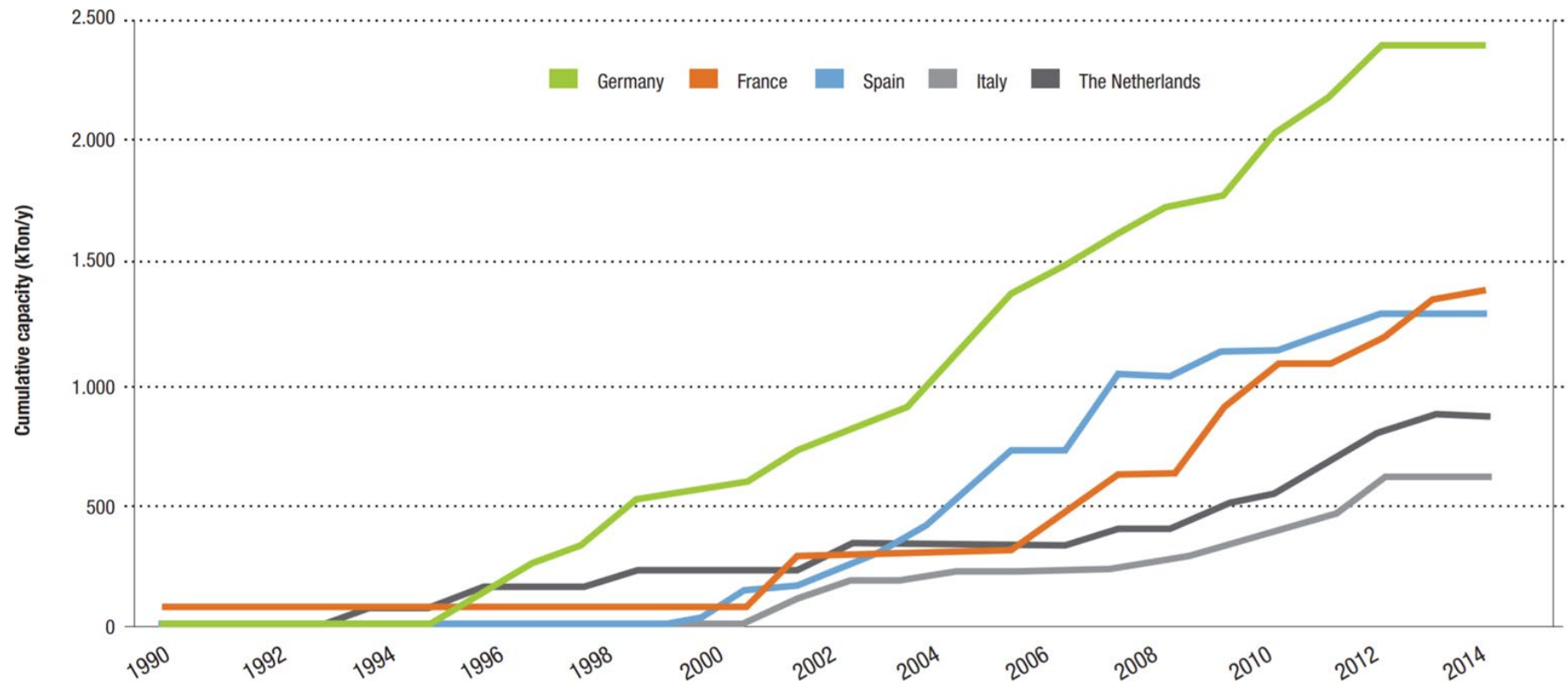
Anaerobic digestion of a small amount of organic and food waste was considered unprofitable a few years ago.

When talking about anaerobic digestion projects, large digesters are common but what does it take to scale down to community and campus-scale?

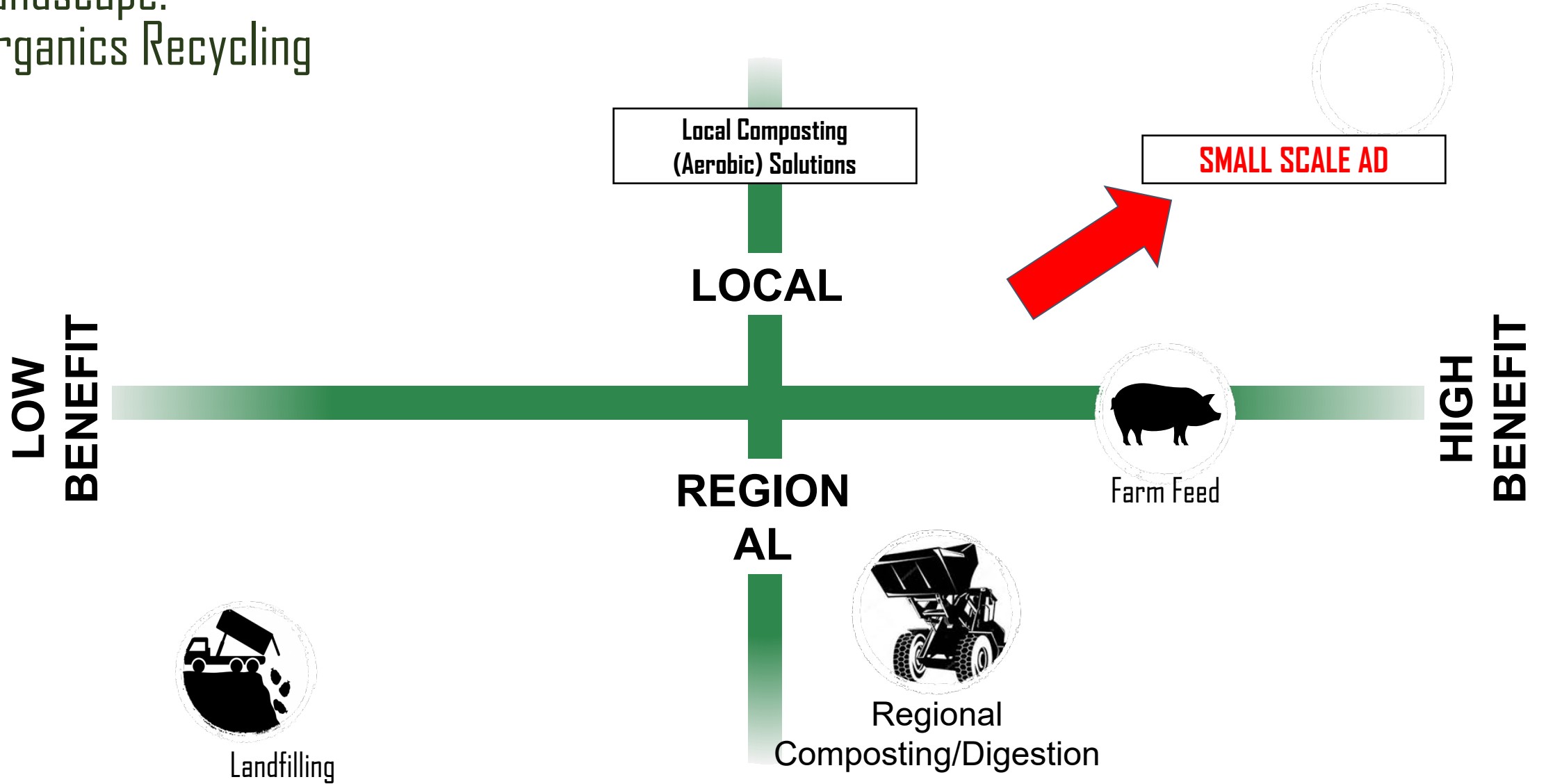
Universities, small towns and communities, farmers, and others are using this technology to reduce their carbon emissions, waste generation, and consumption of unhealthy food while creating new local jobs.

# AD Global Universe

- Globally there are over 40 million AD systems in operation today. China, India, and Latin America lead in total number of systems and number of smaller, community-scale systems.
- There are over 20,000 larger, regional-scale systems in operation within the total. This give some indication of the large number of smaller systems operating today. The rest are community-scale, campus, or residential scale



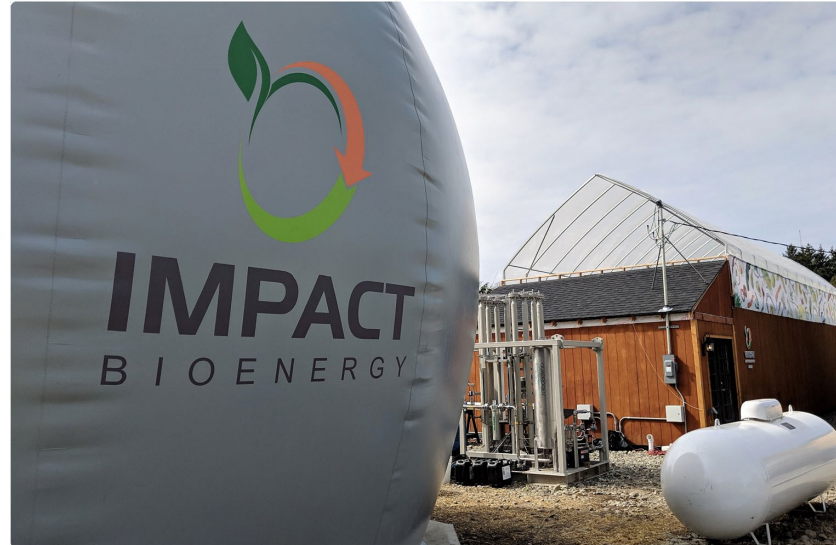
# Landscape: Organics Recycling



# Value Proposition: Convert "Waste" to Resources



40 gallons of  
food waste  
(~65 lbs.)



~7 gallons of organic  
plant food  
with zero-waste



~1 gasoline gallon  
equivalent (GGE) or ~7 kWh  
clean energy



# Small Scale Value Proposition



**HORSE**



**NAUTILUS**

135 lbs./day ..... 960 lbs./day – 1,000 lbs./day ..... 8,200 lbs./day



**2x**  
**per day**  
(135 lbs.)



**3x**  
**per day**  
(8,000 lbs.)

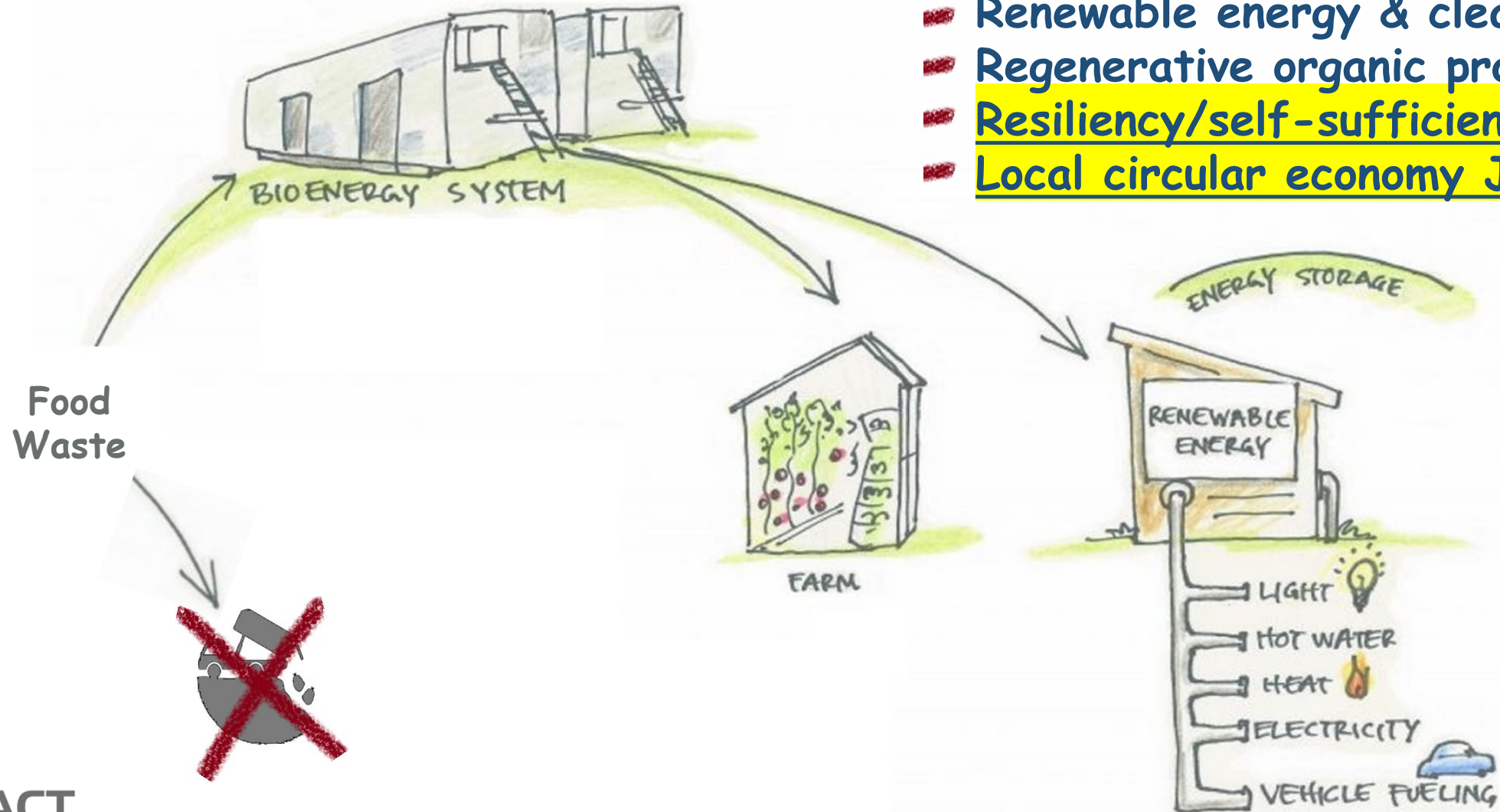


# Distributed Scale Benefits

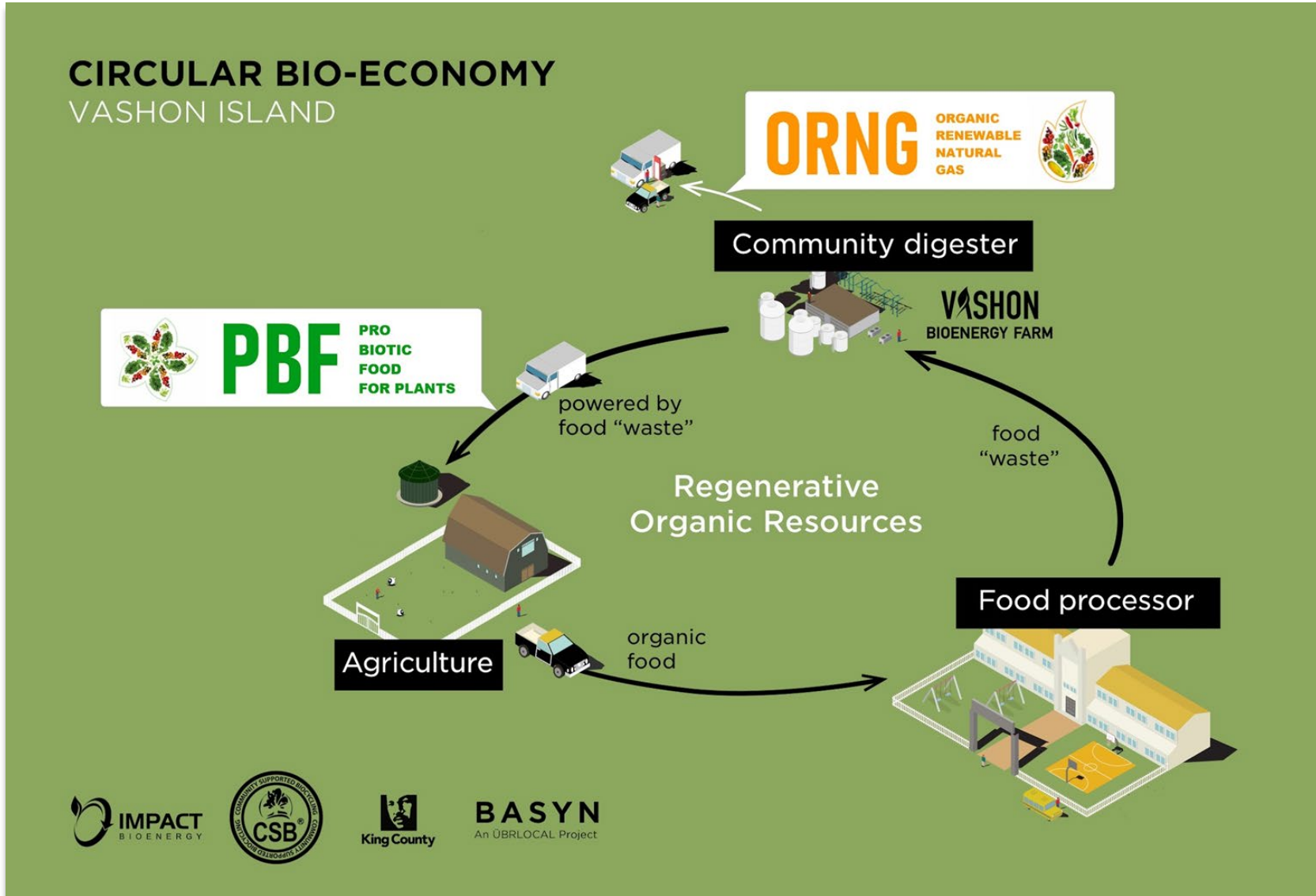
**VASHON**

BIOENERGY FARM

- Zero waste
- Reduced transportation
- Renewable energy & clean fuel
- Regenerative organic products
- Resiliency/self-sufficiency**
- Local circular economy JOBS**



# Circular Economy Model



# Operating Projects: HORSE™ at Microsoft



**In: 40 tons/yr organic waste  
from catering kitchen**

**Out: 1,400 therms/yr of hot water, or  
11,400 kWh/yr of electricity**

**8,500 gal/yr of biofertilizer**



# Operating Projects: NAUTILUS™ at Vashon Bioenergy Farm, LLC

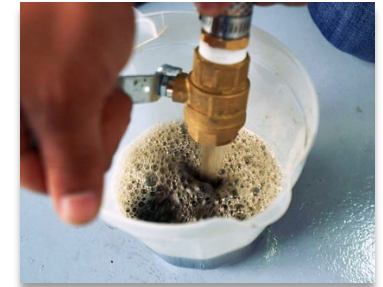


**Max In: 1,500 tons/yr organic waste  
currently certified organic tofu SSO**

**Max Out: 120 GGE/day of RNG vehicle fuel  
960 gal/day of biofertilizer**



# Vashon Bioenergy Farm: Trials Feeding the Food System



Ready to Use



Liquid, or



Now available on  
Amazon: PBF Dry  
Blend No. 7



Dried

# February 2022 Bok Choy Growth Trial





**Jan Allen**  
**206.250.3242**  
**jan.a@impactbioenergy.com**



# Thank You

## SMALL SCALE ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANTS

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University of Illinois Chicago Energy Resources Center - February 23, 2022



# Food Waste Diversion Initiatives and Mandates Case Studies of Tusten NY HORSE

*TEACH AD Webinar Series: Small scale anaerobic Digestion Plants*

February 23, 2022





# Today's Presenter

*I am passionate about working with communities now to advance a sustainable future for waste prevention, reuse and recycling.*

*We have an urgent need to implement regenerative, circular solutions for ourselves and future generations.*



**Jennifer Porter**

*GBB Vice President – Sustainability Officer*

*SWANA / CRRRA Certified Practitioner  
in Zero Waste Principles and Practices*

# Today's Agenda



## *Food Waste Initiatives and Mandates*



GBB + the Circular Economy

Case Studies of Tusten NY HORSE

Questions & Answers

# Our Story



**GBB** is an international solid waste management consulting firm that helps public- and private-sector organizations craft practical, customized and technically sound solutions for complex solid waste management challenges.

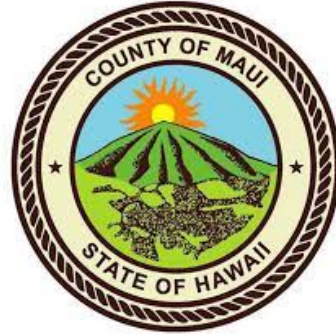
Since **1980**, GBB has been a trusted resource at the forefront of the industry, creating success stories that integrate smart planning with effective management of solid waste services. Our staff enables our clients to do more with less.



# Our Comprehensive Services



# Some Key GBB Clients



# NYS Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law

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- Effective January 2022, businesses that generate at least 104 tons of food waste per year, (calculated as annual avg of 2 tons wasted food/week), must donate excess edible food, and recycle all remaining food scraps.
- In New York State, food makes up 18% of all waste, about 3.9 million tons of wasted food from NY ends up in landfills each year.
- The law applies to large generators of food scraps such as restaurants, grocery stores, hotels & motels, colleges & universities, shopping malls and event centers in NYS, that are located within 25 miles of an organic recycler.
  - This law does not apply to NYC, as the City has already had commercial organics laws in place since 2012.





# NYC Commercial Organics Requirements

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- As of July 31, 2020: WARNING PERIOD EXTENDED FOR THESE BUSINESSES — NO FINES ISSUED UNTIL JULY 31, 2022
- **Food Service Establishments** (such as restaurants, delis, coffee shops, cafeterias, etc.)
  - Food Service Establishments having 7,000 to 14,999 square feet
  - Chain Food Service Establishments of 2 to 99 NYC locations with combined floor area 8,000 square feet or more
  - Food Service Establishments in Hotels having 100 to 149 guest rooms
  - Food Service Establishments with combined floor area 8,000 square feet or more in the same building or location
- **Retail Food Stores** (such as supermarkets and grocery stores)
  - Retail food Stores having 10,000 to 24,999 square feet
  - Chain Retail Food Stores of 3 or more NYC locations with combined floor area 10,000 square feet or more
- **Food Preparation Locations** having 6,000 square feet or more
- **Catering Establishments** hosting on-site events to be attended by more than 100 people
- **Temporary Public Events** to be attended by more than 500 people

# Town of Tusten Energy Committee

*Includes Narrowsburg: Unique hamlet along the Upper Delaware River in the Sullivan County Catskills*

- *The TEC appointed in 2011 to make sustainable changes to the beautiful Town of Tusten.*
  - Certified the 19th town in NYS a Climate Smart Community
- Stood behind Town of Tusten law banning fracking.
- Energy audits
- "TUSTEN RECYCLES" canvas bags
- Public space recycling stickers
- LED Streetlights
- Trex soft plastic collection – more than one ton collected = 5 benches!
- Tusten HORSE





# Town of Tusten, NY

HORSE Microdigester, Model AD25 + Food Rescue Program

*Funded by 2018 DEC Municipal Food Scraps Reduction, Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Programs*

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***HORSE: High Solids Organic waste Recycling System with Electrical output***

*Reviewed Options with CET*

- Objectives
  - Increase food rescue and food donation for the food insecure
  - Install HORSE Microdigester, Model AD25
  - Increase food waste diversion from businesses and residents
  - Train the Tusten Energy Committee for Year 2 + project maintenance





The Heron Restaurant is in Narrowsburg, New York.

October 12 at 4:31 PM · 🌐



#FeedingTheHorse Composter

High Solids  
Organic Waste  
Recycling  
System with  
Electrical Output

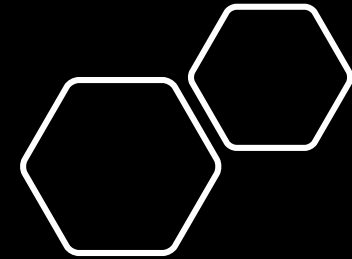


#theheronny #narrowsburg #narrowsburgny #sullivancatskills #upperdelaware #upstatenewyork  
#escapebrooklyn #upstater #saverestaurants #honesdale #hawleypa #callicoon #beachlakepa  
#horsecomposter



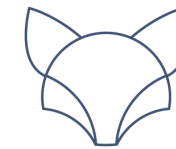
You, Lrac Retrola, Brandi Merolla and 53 others

6 Comments 3 Shares



# Steps Ahead

1. Ramp up of food waste drop offs
2. Probiotic plant food marketing
3. Higher Ed/Community interest
  - a. RIT case study underway
  - b. SUNY Sullivan operating partnership
  - c. NYS and PA towns planning visits



**Blue Fox**

M O T E L



botanist



# *Thank You!*

## Contact Us



**Jennifer Porter**

GBB Vice President

(347) 979-4992

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# Anaerobic Digester at UC San Diego

Isabella Aureguy





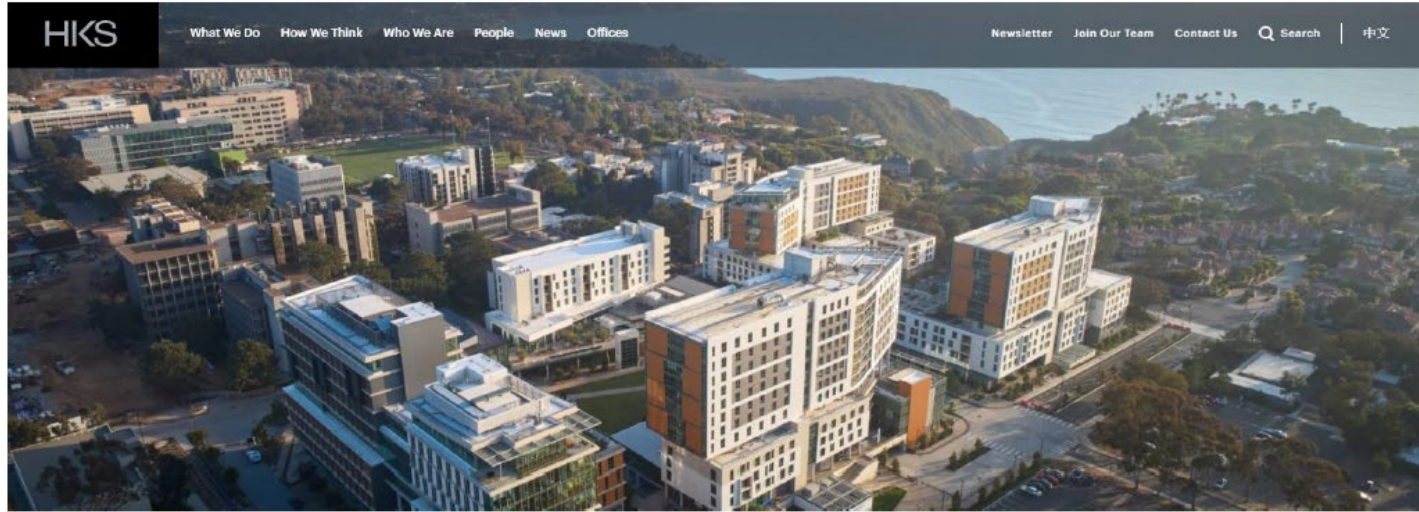
## New Statewide Mandatory Organic Waste Collection

Beginning in 2022, SB 1383 requires every jurisdiction to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses.

“Jurisdiction” means a city, county, a city and county, or a special district that provides solid waste collection services.

“Organic waste” includes food, green material, landscape and pruning waste, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, manure, biosolids, digestate, and sludges.

# New UCSD Campus - Design Objective



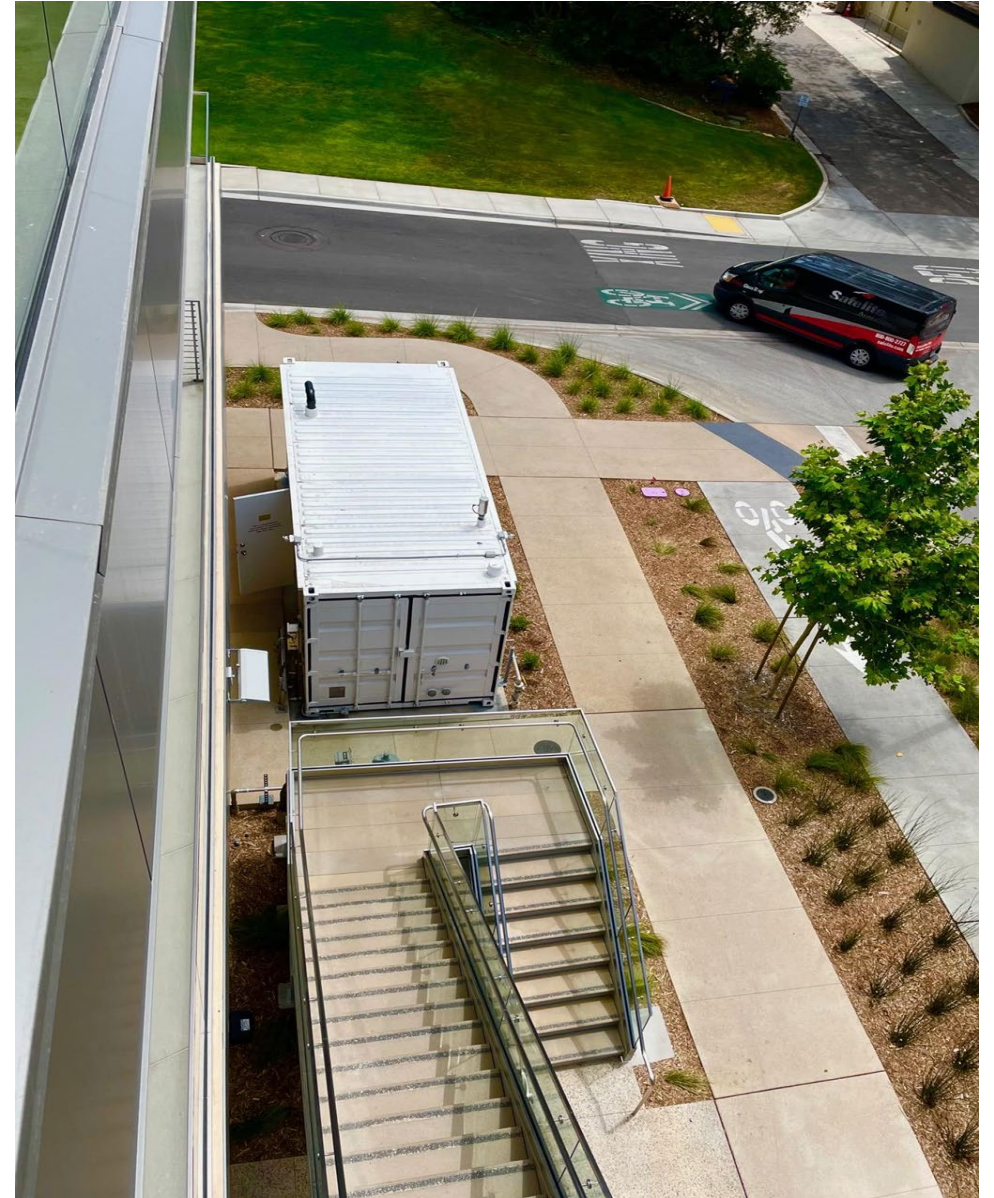
Case Study

## **UCSD North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood New Living and Learning Neighborhood at UC San Diego Embodies Sustainable, Human-Centered Design**

La Jolla, California

### **The Challenge**

Human social dynamics, psychological needs and learning behaviors drove every design decision for NTPLLN. Weaving together living and learning in one place was a challenge, especially at the scale of this project, yet it formed the foundation for a vibrant, healthy and exciting community that also addresses the rising cost of housing in La Jolla, California.







# July - December 2021

**Input:** 1331 pounds of food waste

**Output:**

- 419 gal of liquid plant food
- 741.00 cubic feet of biomethane
  - =1.75E7 BTU
  - =146 gallons of gasoline



Rooftop terrace and bar with  
biogas-fueled fireplace



Rooftop terrace and bar with biogas-fueled fireplace



Our goal:

- divert **960 lbs** of food waste per week
- or **25 tons** per year
- This will conserve approximately **3.6 metric tons** of carbon dioxide equivalent annually
- =**405 gallons** of gasoline.



# Conclusion and Q&A

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Circular Economy
- Small footprint
- Ease of use
- Odor & vector control
- Value-add products



# Thank You

Isabella Aureguy

iaureguy@ucsd.edu



# TEACH AD – Educational Assistance

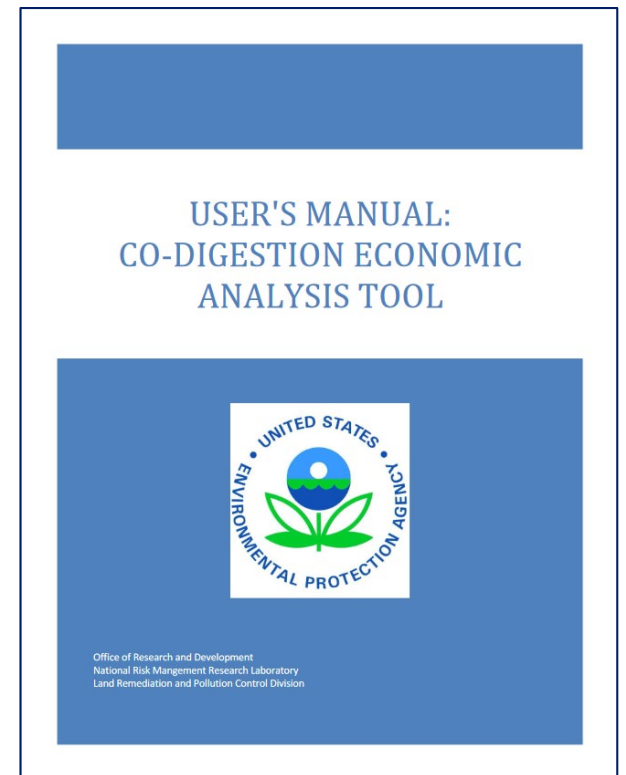
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- In person workshops (2)
  - Onsite events
  - Tour of the site
  - **Join us in April at the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District for our first workshop**
  - **Visit [erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/in-person-workshops/](https://erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/in-person-workshops/)**
- Webinars (10)
  - Will cover different aspects of an anaerobic digestion project
  - **Join us again in May for our 5th Webinar**
  - **Visit [erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/teach-ad-webinars/](https://erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/teach-ad-webinars/)**
- Project profiles (8)
  - Will highlight successful AD projects
  - **First project profile covering UW Oshkosh Urban Dry Digester**
  - **Visit <https://erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/project-profiles/>**



# TEACH AD – Technical Assistance

- Anaerobic Digestion Technical Assessments
  - Tailored technical assistance to each client
  - Initial economic and physical feasibility assessment for (co)digestion of organic wastes
  - Assess opportunity for using U.S. EPA’s Co-Digestion Economic Analysis Tool (CoEAT)
  - Report presentation and follow up with next steps



Visit [erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/technical-assessments/](http://erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/technical-assessments/)

# TEACH AD - Contact

**Marcello Pibiri**

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Web: [erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/](http://erc.uic.edu/bioenergy/teachad/)

## PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Technical Assessments

In-person Workshops

On-line Webinars

Project profiles

## ELIGIBLE FACILITIES AND PROJECTS

Water Resource Recovery Facilities

Municipal Food Waste Digesters

Community - Based Digesters

Food Processing, On-Farm Digesters

# Questions & Answers



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Chief Operating Officer  
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# TEACH AD Webinar Series and Workshops

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Join us again in **May** for our **5th Webinar!**

Join us in **April** for our first in person **Workshop** at the **Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District**

# Thank You

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Please fill out our survey.

A recording of today's webinar will be posted, and you will be emailed a link by early next week.



Thank You