

# Growing Organics Collections in NYC

## The Evolution of the GrowNYC Food Scrap Collection Program & More



**David Hurd, Director**  
**Office of Recycling Outreach & Education**



Learn. Volunteer. Support.

[www.GrowNYC.org](http://www.GrowNYC.org)

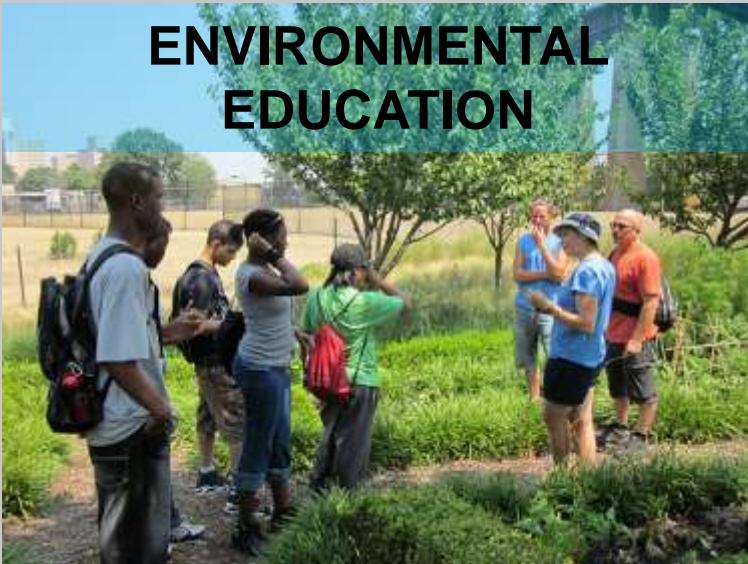
## GREENMARKET



## GARDENING



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



## RECYCLING



## RECYCLING WORKSHOPS



## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



## PUBLIC EVENTS



## EVENT RECYCLING



# STOP 'N' SWAP®



# COMPOST

## YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

at GREENMARKET



GROWN NYC AND DSNY  
FOOD SCRAP COMPOST PROGRAM



**YES:** fruit and vegetable scraps, non-greasy food scraps (rice, pasta, bread, cereal, etc.), coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, egg and nut shells, pits, cut or dried flowers, houseplants, potting soil.

**NO:** meat, fish, bones, greasy food scraps, fat oil, dairy, animal waste, litter or bedding, coal or charcoal, coconuts, diseased and/or insect-infested houseplants/soil, or biodegradable/compostable plastics.

*Store items in your freezer or refrigerator to reduce odors.*

**[www.GROWNyc.org/compost](http://www.GROWNyc.org/compost) | 212.788.7964**

A program partnership between the City of New York, the NYC Department of Sanitation, GrowNYC, and community partners.

## Lower East Side Ecology Center began collecting food scraps for composting at GrowNYC's Union Square Greenmarket in 1994



*Christine Datz-Romero at the Union Square compost drop-off*



**And continues today ... 20 years later!!**





**The Fort Greene Compost Project began collecting food scraps for composting at our Greenmarket in 2005**





**Western Queens Compost Initiative (now BIG!Compost) began collecting food scraps for composting at 3 Queens Greenmarkets in 2010**

# 7 Pilot Sites established in March 2011



*We started like this ...*

















GrowNYC  
Sustainability Center

GREENMARKET  
DIRT

SAVE THE FOOD  
PLEASE REUSE  
& RECYCLE

POST DROP-OFF  
WWW.GROWNYC.ORG

FOOD SCRAPS WELCOME  
A GREAT WAY TO REDUCE WASTE &  
SAVE MONEY

RECOMMENDED  
RECYCLING BAG  
\$1 PER BAG

AMY'S DELI GROCER  
HOT & COLD SANDWICHES ICE CREAM COFFEE COLA  
CIGARETTES NEWSPAPERS CHIPS CASSEROLLES  
FRESH FLOWERS

**WHAT HAPPENS TO FOOD SCRAPS  
DROPPED OFF AT GREENMARKET?**

The ends are just  
the beginning



**From spoiled to soil in 8 weeks**

When you drop off your food scraps at Greenmarket, they are taken to a composting facility where they are broken down into rich soil. This process takes about 8 weeks. The resulting compost is then used to grow new food, completing the cycle.

**WHENEVER POSSIBLE  
PLEASE FREEZE  
★ YOUR SCRAPS ★**



Freezing your food scraps helps prevent leaks and odors during transport. It also ensures that the scraps are in the best condition for composting.

**INVEST IN YOUR  
★ BLACK GOLD ★**



**HELP SUSTAIN  
★ COMPOST AT  
GREENMARKET**







# Peninsula Compost Company/Wilmington Organic Recycling Center, Delaware



On December 3, 2011, GrowNYC stopped shipping to Delaware and started “keeping it all local” within the 5 boroughs

*And evolved into this ...*



*Expanded from 7 to 21 sites in April 2012  
in partnership with the NYC Department of Sanitation*



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# TURN SPOILS INTO SOIL

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## GROWN NYC & DSNY FOOD SCRAP COMPOST PROGRAM









DSNY Food Waste  
Drop-Off Program  
You drop it off and  
we'll compost it locally.

DSNY Food Waste  
Drop-Off Program  
You drop it off and  
we'll compost it locally.

KUMON

718-797-1944

4-51851

# GrowNYC Sustainability Center



[www.GrowNYC.org](http://www.GrowNYC.org)



MARKING

MARKING



**FOOD SCRAPS DROP-OFF**  
**WWW.GROWNYC.ORG**





***Expanded again in 2013 & 2014  
Now collecting at 33 locations, 36 times/week***



***Lower East Side Ecology Center and BIG!Compost collecting at  
an additional 5 Greenmarket locations, 8 times/week***

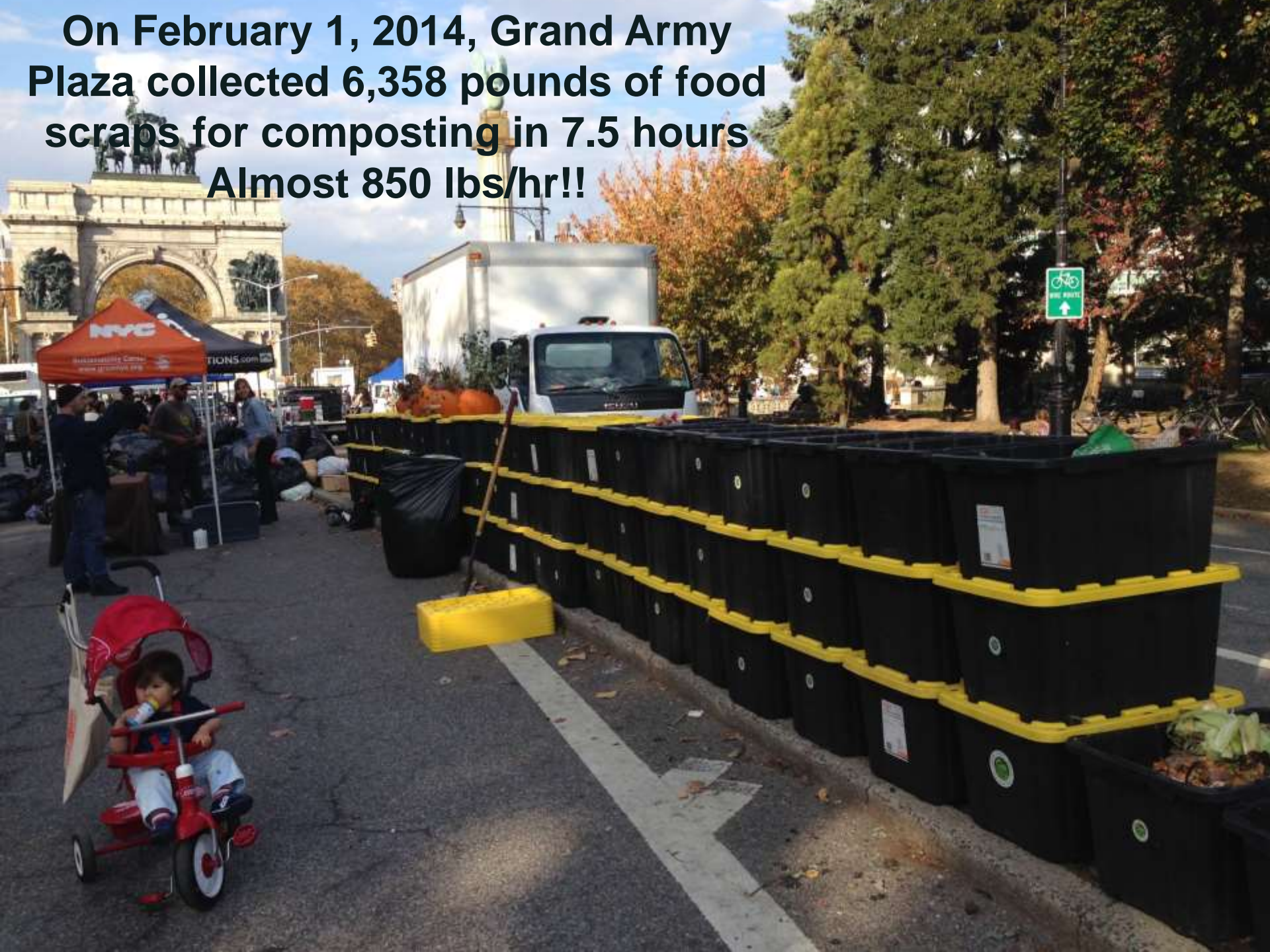








**On February 1, 2014, Grand Army Plaza collected 6,358 pounds of food scraps for composting in 7.5 hours  
Almost 850 lbs/hr!!**





"GrowNYC continues to build a foundation for a citywide curbside organics program by demonstrating the popularity of the Greenmarket drop off programs," said Ron Gonen, Deputy Commissioner of Recycling and Sustainability at NYC Department of Sanitation.



***“My family has been composting at Grand Army [Plaza] since GrowNYC began collecting there. My two sons, ages 3 and 6, enjoy coming along and helping scrape out our buckets while we catch up on the composting news. We think it’s fantastic to turn our food waste into something useful, rather than carting it several states away to a landfill.”***

***- Steven O'Neill, Brooklyn, NY***

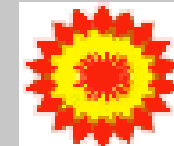
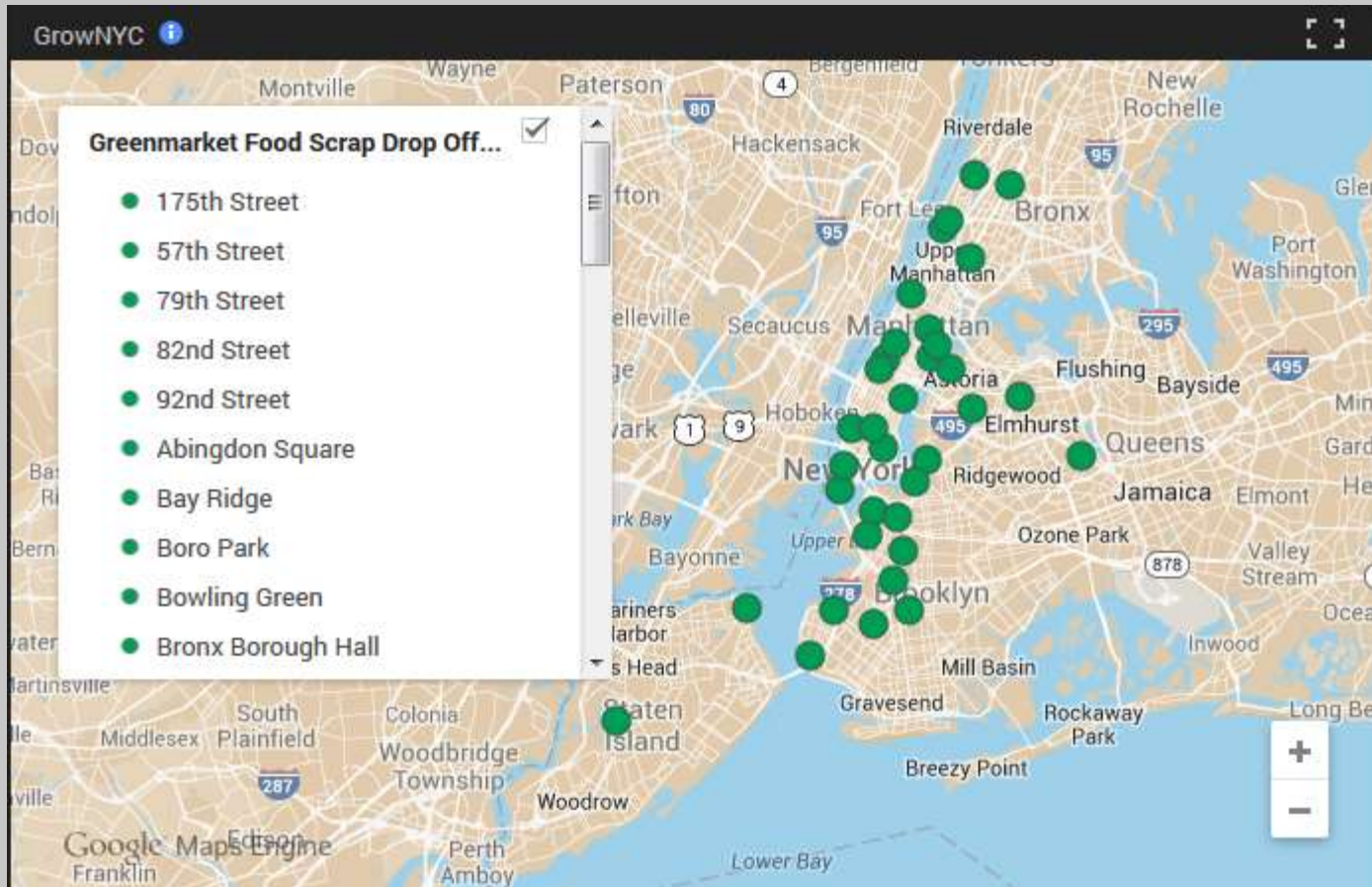
On December 3, 2011, we started to keep it all LOCAL



Gowanus Canal Conservancy

# A PROGRAM OF PARTNERS

[www.GrowNYC.org/compost](http://www.GrowNYC.org/compost)



**ADDED VALUE**











**Added Value/Red Hook Community Farm**









**Earth Matter, Governors Island**









**Active Citizen Project/Project EATS, Wards Island**







**BIG!Compost, Queens**







***2013 welcomed our newest community composting partner, Battery Conservancy and the Battery Urban Farm collecting at Bowling Green***





**1 Million Pound Milestone on 12/23/12**

# 3 Million Pound Milestone on 7/10/14



# HOW ARE WE DOING (by the numbers)?

2 million pounds of food scraps diverted on 10/27/13

3 million pounds diverted on July 4, 2014

2011: 318,216 lbs. of food scraps diverted from disposal

2012: 698,925 lbs. of food scraps diverted from disposal

2013: 1,240,945 lbs. of food scraps diverted from disposal

2014 (thru 9/12/14): 1,100,120 lbs. of food scraps diverted

Projections for 2014 = 1,600,000 pounds!!

Current Program Total (as of 9/12/14) – 3,358,206 pounds and counting ....

Now averaging 70 tons/month

120,000 individual food scrap “donations” in 2013

190,000 food scrap “donations” projected for 2014

**BOTTOM LINE:** The program is growing!  
(and public/private partnerships work!)



# NYC Organics Collection

Your building is receiving organic waste collection. Organic waste includes food scraps, food-soiled paper, and plants (turn this flyer over for more detailed information). Sanitation recycles this waste by turning it into renewable energy or compost, a natural fertilizer.

Join your neighbors to help NYC reduce waste sent to costly landfills and deter pests by keeping food waste in secure bins.

## How to participate:

### 1 Collect organic waste separately from your trash and other recyclables.

Collect your food scraps, food-soiled paper, and plants in any container or bag.



yogurt tub



plastic shopping bag



paper bag



specially made organics container



certified-compostable bag (look for the logo above)

Store container or bag in your kitchen wherever is convenient.



### 2 Discard organic waste according to your building manager's instructions.

Do not discard containers or plastic shopping bags in your building's organics bin.



You can discard newspaper, paper bags, and certified compostable bags in your building's organics bin.



## How does GrowNYC assist DSNY on the Organics Collection Program?

## We RECRUIT!!

There's still a great future in plastics.

Recycle everything. NYC Recycles

# Morningside Gardens Composts!

# Organics Collection



# RESIDENTIAL ORGANICS COLLECTION

## Morningside Gardens





There's still a great future in glass.

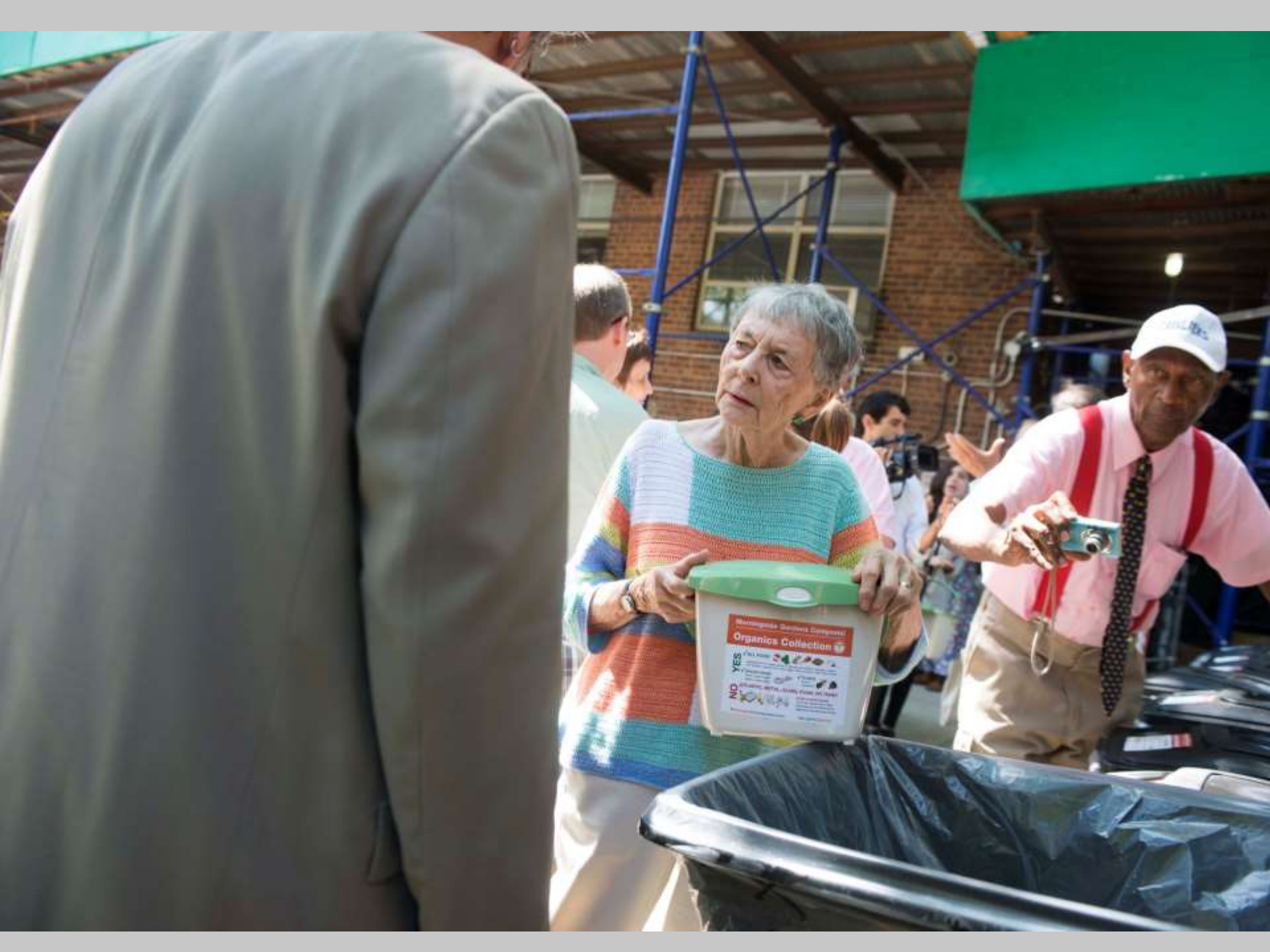
Recycle everything NYC

NATURAL INGREDIENTS



Give more to old

Recycle everything NYC









**First day of organics collection by DSNY**





**Since Morningside Gardens came on line in June 2013, OROE staff have recruited 10 additional multi-unit properties into the DSNY Organics Collection Program, with dozens more coming on line by November.**









RECYCLING  
CENTER

ORGANIC ONLY

MIXED PAPER AND...

TRASH ONLY  
NO FOOD

Zappos  
POWERED BY VERITY

NO FOOD  
NO LIQUIDS



## What about Public Schools?

**GrowNYC's Recycling Champions Program assists the DSNY School Organics Collection Program by educating students through Engagement and troubleshooting schools in the program**









Liquids



NYC

Metal Plastic



Glass Cartons



NYC

Food Scraps



Soiled Paper



NYC

Landfill



PLASTIC BAG

FOAM CUP

NYC



# *Organics Recovery in the Big Apple*

## *Rotten to the Core!!*



*Thank you very much*

**David Hurd, Director**  
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