



June 26th, 2025

Township of West Windsor
271 Clarksville Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550

RE: Support for Establishing Food Waste Drop-Off Sites in West Windsor Township

Dear Mayor Marathe and Members of the West Windsor Township Council,

New Jersey League of Conservation Voters (New Jersey LCV) writes in support of the TORUS proposal to establish dedicated food waste drop-off locations in West Windsor Township. We are committed to combating food waste and promoting sustainable waste management, and we believe this initiative represents an essential step toward building a healthier, more environmentally responsible community.

In the United States, approximately 30% of the food supply—133 billion pounds, valued at \$160 billion—is wasted annually. This waste accounts for over 5% of all greenhouse gas emissions and represents a significant loss of resources. Like many communities, West Windsor sends a large volume of food waste to landfills, where it decomposes and generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

This proposal would provide West Windsor residents with convenient and accessible locations to deposit food waste. Not only will this reduce landfill volumes and greenhouse gas emissions, but it will also foster environmental awareness and civic engagement across the township.

We applaud neighboring Princeton Township for prioritizing food waste reduction through its Sustainability Action Plan. Princeton's success shows that dedicated municipal programs are both practical and impactful. West Windsor has the opportunity to follow suit—becoming a regional leader in sustainability by advancing a similar model tailored to its needs.

We specifically recommend that West Windsor Township:

- Approve the establishment of dedicated food waste drop-off locations across the township.
- Support a hybrid approach that includes individual food waste pick-up to ensure equitable access for all residents, regardless of location.

- Collaborate with partners to ensure efficient waste collection and processing in a way that does not negatively impact the communities that host facilities that receive food waste.
- Ensure strong safeguards for any noise, odor, stormwater leakage, or truck traffic in the host communities, as outlined in West Windsor's plan.
- Consider offering driver support or logistical coordination to ease implementation and operation.
- Utilize the expertise of TORUS to develop educational outreach, monitor program effectiveness, and engage the public in the benefits of composting.

Establishing food waste drop-off sites in West Windsor will not only reduce waste and emissions but will also model responsible environmental stewardship for other municipalities. We urge the township to move forward with this initiative, provided there are robust safeguards for the host community against odor or stormwater concerns. We further recommend outreach to any residents or community partners in the host facility area to make sure these concerns are adequately addressed.

We thank you for your leadership and commitment to sustainability and look forward to supporting West Windsor in creating a more resilient and environmentally conscious future. If you have any questions, you can reach Allison McLeod, Deputy Director, at allison.mcleod@njlcv.org.