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Information Collection Request: Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Cooperative Agreements

Comment On: NRCS-2025-0005-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreements

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Comment on FR Doc # 2025-13941

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

Notice Title:

Notice of Request for Renewal of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Cooperative Agreements

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Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date Submitted: August 5, 2025

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the continuation of the Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Cooperative Agreements and to urge that future information collection efforts explicitly include climate-relevant metrics, particularly related to carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reductions.

The CFWR program represents a critical opportunity to align local food waste reduction with national climate goals, and measuring its impact through emissions data would bolster transparency, accountability, and innovation.

Recommendations:

Track Avoided CO₂ Emissions from Food Waste Diversion: Composting food scraps prevents organic

waste from entering landfills, where it would otherwise emit methane—a potent greenhouse gas. Capturing data on volumes diverted and estimating associated CO₂-equivalent reductions should be part of the program's reporting structure.

Incorporate Emissions Factors into Evaluation: NRCS should consider requiring or encouraging grantees to calculate the climate benefits of their projects using EPA-endorsed emissions factors or lifecycle analysis models (e.g., WARM model or ReFED Impact Calculator).

Support Climate-Smart Grantmaking: Future rounds of CFWR grants should prioritize projects that demonstrate strong climate co-benefits, such as decentralized composting to minimize hauling emissions or projects that integrate compost use into regenerative agriculture practices that sequester carbon.

Promote Public Climate Literacy: Publicly sharing estimated GHG benefits alongside other program metrics can help local communities understand the broader environmental significance of their efforts, strengthening support and replication.

While composting is already widely recognized as an environmentally sound practice, its quantified role in CO₂ emissions reduction deserves explicit recognition in USDA's data and communications. Embedding this focus in the CFWR information collection process will elevate its value as a climate action tool.

Thank you for your stewardship of this important program and for your attention to these recommendations.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen
Submitted Anonymously
Date: August 5, 2025