



## DNREC RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The REPLENISH Program is collaborative initiative of community education and economic revitalization that recovers organic materials from area restaurants for compost used at local farms.

To demonstrate viable economic models which are in harmony with the environment, EDEN's project, REPLENISH, is funded by Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program, The Longwood Foundation and Constellation Energy's EcoStar Grant Program.

REPLENISH collaborates with haulers and composters who reclaim organic table scraps from restaurants and then recycle this material back to farmers through the creation of compost. The compost fertilizes the produce that farmers grow locally and sell back to the restaurant.

EDEN's REPLENISH Program is a DNREC recognized self-certifying program where businesses are qualified to participate in the REPLENISH Program through doing their part in reclaiming valuable organic material from being landfilled, creating compost, and/or using compost to produce local agricultural products. REPLENISH creates a sustainable new practice in the marketplace, stimulating financial feasibility for all nodes of value (*resource recovery specialist/hauler, restaurant, composter, local farmer*) through community education and support for change of resource management and recovery practices.

Participating haulers, restaurants, and farmers in the program would then be qualified to be a part of REPLENISH. They will be included in the programs' educational community outreach efforts, and profiled on the REPLENISH website, DNREC's site and elsewhere. The community can then assess these participants and choose to support those who perform the "green" activities and practices that they value.

## WHY REPLENISH?

- The Green Restaurant Association, a national nonprofit, estimates that restaurants discard 30 percent of their food, about \$48.2 billion worth a year.
- In Delaware, effective July 1, 2010, tipping fees of Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) landfills increased by 50 percent. The state recognizes that the stream of waste to landfill must be reduced.
- A significant portion of Delaware's food waste comes from the restaurant industry. This food waste can be composted and/or donated to charities.
- Waste reduction and recycling organic material prevents greenhouse gas (GHG) emission, reduces pollutants, saves energy, conserves resources, and reduces the need for new landfill facilities.

- Compost improves soil structure, organic matter, and moisture holding capacity. Compost reduces the use of chemical fertilizers and reduces run off, erosion, and nutrient leaching.
- As agriculture is the largest industry in Sussex County, farmland preservation and sustainable farming are essential ingredients in promoting Delaware's agricultural economy, maintaining rural jobs, and implementing responsible conservation practices.

## WHY JOIN REPLENISH?

- *Preventing Pollution & Saving Money*  
REPLENISH helps waste generators like restaurants save money in tipping fees by reducing their landfill impact, and diverting the organic material to compost.
- *Gaining a Competitive Edge in Marketing*  
REPLENISH Participants can use the program logo in marketing materials.
- *Increased Customer Base*  
Diners value the source and quality of their food and are increasingly asking for "environmentally friendly" dining experiences, including locally grown foods and environmentally conscious practices at the restaurants they enjoy the most.
- *Free Assistance*  
REPLENISH collaborative team are available to provide on-site assistance and guidance in solving waste management and conservation problems.
- *Public Recognition*  
REPLENISH provides certificates, window decals, and other information for display at your restaurant and educational outreach through various media in the community!



## WHO REPLENISHES?

restaurants  
REPLENISH

farmers  
REPLENISH

composters & haulers  
REPLENISH

## HOW DO YOU REPLENISH?