



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the Empire State supports environmentally-friendly initiatives that contribute to a cleaner and healthier planet, waste reduction, and wise reuse of our natural resources – such as composting – which also creates jobs and business opportunities through more than 190 regulated facilities in New York State that process more than 700,000 tons of organic material; and

**Whereas**, organic materials make up approximately 30% of the municipal waste stream; and

**Whereas**, composting and organic material diversion help New York State achieve progressive waste reduction goals as outlined in Beyond Waste, New York State's solid waste management plan, by reducing the amount of discarded materials sent for combustion or landfill disposal; and

**Whereas**, composting and organic material diversion is a key strategy in reducing future methane emissions as outlined in New York State's Methane Reduction Plan, a strategic plan to reduce methane emissions from the landfill, oil and gas, and agricultural sectors; and

**Whereas**, composting is an effective and beneficial management option for a variety of organic materials including yard trimmings, food scraps, biosolids, manure, and agricultural by-products; and

**Whereas**, composting converts these materials into a nutrient-rich soil amendment that communities can use to promote soil fertility and productivity, improve water quality, reduce stormwater runoff and soil erosion, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

**Whereas**, New York State's ongoing commitment to the environment is reflected in the establishment of the 2019 Food Donation and Food Scrap Recycling Act – a new food waste program that will maximize the donation of unused food to shelters, expand the availability and conscious practice of composting, and divert food waste from entering the waste stream and ending up in landfills; and

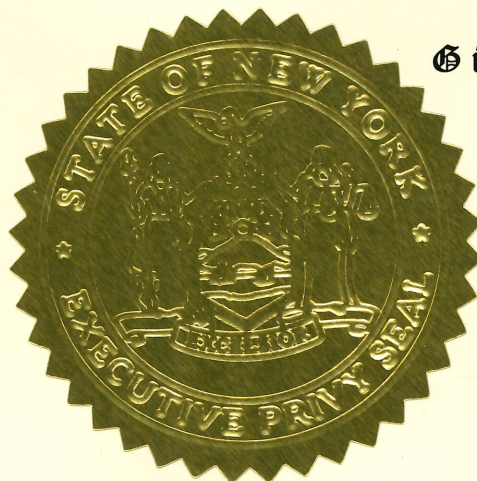
**Whereas**, Compost Awareness Week is an opportunity to showcase New York State's wide range of composting initiatives and compost products, and the beneficial use of these products in landscapes across the state and beyond; and

**Whereas**, the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation of the United States, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom have declared the first full week of May to be the annual International Compost Awareness Week, with the theme "Cool the Climate – Compost!", recognizing the connection between compost, soil health, and climate and their interrelated effects on one another and on clean, plentiful water and healthy soil for people today and in the future; New York State joins in this observance and in support of its goals that can have significant environmental, economical, and health-related benefits for our communities and our residents, and for those generations to come;

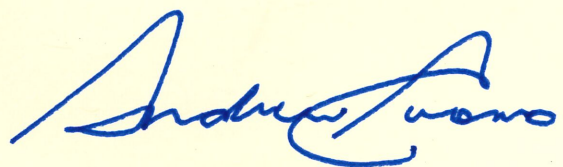
**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 5 - 11, 2019 as

## COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.



**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of  
May in the year two thousand nineteen.

  
Governor



Secretary to the Governor  
Melissa DeRosa