

# CNEP Newsletter



## FROM WASTE TO GOLD: The Art of Composting

Composting is the aerobic process by which organic decaying material (e.g. food scraps) is converted to a natural, soil-like fertilizer rich in nutrients and humus (an organic material formed by decaying plant and animal matter). It turns food waste into agricultural gold.

There are two basic paths to composting: at home in your backyard or – particularly if you don't have a big backyard – in community composting. With community composting, you collect food scraps in a container in your kitchen and periodically you hand them over to a professional who does the rest.

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## ACTION STEP

### *Eat more plant-based meals*

Cutting back on how much meat you eat is great for your health & the planet.

Buy local from farmers' markets to keep money in the local economy & buy organic food, when possible – both reduce fossil fuel use.

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## PENNSYLVANIA'S ENTRY INTO RGGI STALLS

Although PA officially joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in April of 2022, we have been unable to participate in any of the quarterly auctions because it has been tied up in legal proceedings. Meanwhile, our new Governor has equivocated on RGGI & states he'll set up a task force to investigate.



The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a means to restrict carbon dioxide emissions by power plants. It consists of 12 member states, with PA being the 12th, where fossil-fuel fired power plants pay for allowances for every ton of carbon dioxide they emit. There is a cap on how many allowances there can be, with that cap decreasing every year. The payments make it more expensive for power plants that emit more carbon dioxide to make electricity. The cap means that a steady reduction in carbon dioxide results across all the states.

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## IN 2022, WEATHER & CLIMATE DISASTERS COST AMERICANS \$165 BILLION

As extreme weather events occur more often, Americans – of all parties – increasingly believe that they are at least somewhat due to climate change. But how costly have these events become? And how much worse are they than in the 1980s, when global temperatures first began rising steeply?

In 2022, America experienced 18 weather and climate disasters that each cost at least one billion dollars of insured and uninsured losses. The total losses were \$165 billion. The costliest disaster, Hurricane Ian, alone cost residents of Florida more than \$100 billion. These costs are calculated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the same folks who forecast our weather.

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