Composting

When organic matter decomposes in landfills, it releases carbon dioxide and methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Composting allows for organic matter to be broken down by microbes. The process sequesters carbon and produces fertilizer.

QUICK FACTS

- According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, food and yard waste together make up more than 30% of what we throw away. This material could be composted instead.
- Georgia currently operates about 38 composting facilities at various scales.
- Composting creates a nutrient rich soil that can be used for gardening and agriculture.

BEYOND CARBON

- Composting has many environmental benefits including enriching soil health and reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Composting diverts waste from landfills.
- This solution can be affordable at scale, however there are costs associated with interventions and education required for households and businesses to change disposal practices including plastics separation.

GEORGIA’S 2030 MEGATON OPPORTUNITY

We could reduce 1 Mt of CO2e in Georgia by diverting 2 million tons of organic and food waste to composting from landfills.
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