



# 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.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

GEORGIA'S 2030  
MEGATON OPPORTUNITY

We could reduce 1 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>e in Georgia by diverting 2 million tons of organic and food waste to composting from landfills.

# Lead Researchers

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