



# LAWLER — ZELDIN CHECK OUT COMPOSTING FACILITY IN HILLBURN

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Recycling waste has been going on in the USA for decades. It is an attempt to save the planet from being overrun by waste that does not naturally decay, like some plastics & Styrofoam. There is a Rockland& Green facility in Hillburn NY that takes recyclable organic materials & turns it into compost to be used as top soil & other things. On Sunday June 7, 2026, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin took a brief tour of the facility with Congressman Lawler as well as the town supervisors from Haverstraw, Clarkstown, Ramapo & Orangetown and representatives from the County Executive's office to get a first-hand view & information about the facility. A brief press conference was held after the tour.



“All right, good morning, everyone, & thank you for joining us at the Rockland& Green Coke Composting facility. Administrator Zeldin, thank you for coming up to Rockland County & seeing this important work first hand. It's great to have you back in New York leading the EPA with a strong focus on practical results-driven environmental solutions. Just a short while ago, we took a tour & had a discussion around this state-of-the-art food scrap composting operation & what we saw here is exactly the kind of smart, innovative progress our country needs, & it's happening right here in New York's 17th Congressional District.” Lawler said in his introduction.

<https://youtu.be/MqbCJM3qstM>

“Well, thank you, Congressman Lawler. It is due to Congressman Lawler's district that EPA is here in Rockland County this morning. It was important to Congressman Lawler to fight for his district, to make sure that we're here to see first-hand & the leadership, innovation & vision of these local community leaders who believe strongly. That it's never too early to start planning for the future & what's next.

We had an opportunity to sit down & have a round table discussion & it's clear that there is a unity of purpose & focus to make sure that there is having conversations now about what the infrastructure should look like for 2040 & beyond & honestly we need more leadership like that throughout this entire country.” Zeldin stated. He explained that at the EPA a year ago, they launched their Feed it Onward program through their travels across the country

they've had the opportunity to see how different communities handle food waste differently & they're trying to share best practices, collect those lessons learned, & to help to improve infrastructure all across the country.



“What's clear to us at EPA is that Rockland County can be looked to, in a way as a pilot program or an example of that incredible leadership that so many other communities elsewhere around this country should be looking to, have a vision for what to do with food waste our conversation. There are people who are in need of food across our community, state, & country, that will always be an important priority & concern. There are food banks & food pantries that do great work, donors & volunteers who step up to help fellow Americans in times of need. But when that food waste does make it to a site like this, having that foresight, vision & infrastructure is absolutely critical.

[https://youtu.be/4Wk1g1Y\\_Kw](https://youtu.be/4Wk1g1Y_Kw)

Lawler came back to the podium to take questions from the assembled press.

“Thank you, Administrator. we will now open it up to any questions. Keith, go ahead.

“What's the basic capacity of this place? How much do you do? How much do you transport in & out?”

Rockland Green's chairman Howard Phillips took the question. “We do approximately 400,000 tons a year.

“It's a great facility that really is innovative in so many ways, & the work that they're doing takes what otherwise would be in a landfill & turns it into something that is beneficial & profitable.

It's a tremendous & a benefit to the taxpayers. Lawler said. Phillips came back to the mike.

On behalf of the Rockland Green commissioners & the supervisors, I want to thank the Congressman for bringing Mr. Zeldin here today. Mr. Zeldin, it's been a real evolution in recycling over the last 25 years to where we are today. Rockland is on the cutting edge of recycling. We've had two goals, & those two goals have been to pass on to our children & grandchildren a cleaner & safer environment & at the same time reduce the cost to the taxpayers. I think

we're achieving that. We're going into the next phase, & that next phase is really going to need help from both the federal & state government. So, we're so pleased that you're here today. We are on this cutting edge. We are now recycling food waste, one of the last items to be recycled, but even then we'll see differences as we move further into the evolution of this recycling. But thank you, Mr. Zeldin, for being here & thank you, Congressman Lawler, for really caring about the people of Rockland County.

Clarkstown Supervisor George Hoehmann came to the podium. “Thank you, Congressman Lawler. Thank you, Administrator Zeldin & for coming to Rockland. It means a lot to all of us. I also want to thank your office. Our town was able to secure a million dollar grant through Congressman Lawler & we executed it on our rebuilding wetlands in West Nyack. So, I want to thank you for your office's assistance with that as well.”

Supervisor Kenny of Orangetown was next, “I don't have much to add. I just do want to point out that Orangetown was the first town to start this program, so you're welcome. Of course I want to thank Mr. Zeldin for being here today. Thank you.

The final supervisor to speak was Michael Specht from Ramapo. Thank you. I just want to also thank Congressman Lawler & Administrator Zeldin for the honor your visit today. We're very proud as a board on Rockland Green to be able to show off this facility & highlight the work that we do. As Chairman Phillips said, it's about creating a sustainable future & also doing what's best for our taxpayers. So we're very proud to have this opportunity to show you what we do.

Thank you, Supervisor. Senator Weber.

<https://youtu.be/nhUj4C92jos>

“Last question, Keith.”

Yeah, all these buckets in the bags, how people can get the waste, food waste too. So how, how do we go about getting the food waste, you know, picked up & whatnot?

Lawler explained, “Yeah, the, the smaller buckets are ones that can be in somebody's home. The bigger buckets are for outside, & you know people that have bags that people can put them in, & these are disposable biodegradable bags, so, that's the process, & every town has a facility to drop it off.”