Councilwoman Kepert and Brookhaven Town Board Move Forward Approval to Allow the Installation of an Anaerobic Digester at Long Island Compost

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Farmingville, NY – At the Brookhaven Town Board meeting on October 1, the Board voted to approve legislation sponsored by Councilwoman Connie Kepert to authorize a special permit for the installation of a state-of-the-art anaerobic digester at the Long Island Compost facility on Horseblock Road in Yaphank. The project is moving forward after an agreement was reached in June of 2013 between Long Island Compost, Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), and the Brookhaven Community Coalition (BCC), a committee formed to address the odor, noise, and dust impact of the facility on the surrounding community.

As part of the agreement, Long Island Compost has agreed to build a $50 million enclosed anaerobic digester which will use microorganisms to convert food waste into renewable energy. Their digester will provide enough renewable energy to run the 62-acre facility and produce enough natural gas to power the company’s fleet of vehicles. The digester will be the first of its kind in the region to compost food waste and will revolutionize the operation of the facility, allowing for an 80% reduction in mulch on-site, which is the primary source of dust and odors.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, “I commend Long Island Compost for making such a big investment to protect our environment, promote renewable energy and improve the quality of life for residents in Yaphank. This was a great example of how government, the private sector, community and environmental groups can join together to help make things happen. I encourage other companies to step up and follow Long Island Compost’s lead.”

“The installation of an anaerobic digester at Long Island Compost will significantly reduce the facility’s impact on surrounding neighborhoods while creating an efficient means of recycling food waste into renewable energy. This state-of-the-art technology will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 40,000 tons annually, which is the equivalent of taking 8,125 cars off the road. It is a win for the community, and a win for the environment,” said Councilwoman Connie Kepert. “I commend the BCC, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, and the entire community for working tirelessly toward a solution to the noise, dust, and odor from this facility.”

“We are delighted that the anaerobic digester will be moving forward. This is one of those rare occasions when a large scale project will solve multiple problems and is not only being embraced by the community but was initiated by them. The anaerobic digester is a game changer in improving the quality of life in the Yaphank and south Brookhaven communities. It will also provide Long Island with a state of the art technology to manage our food waste and reduce waste going into our landfill. This is an exciting and promising change,” Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

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