

# Councilwoman Kepert Praises Agreement Between Long Island Compost and Brookhaven Community Coalition

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## ***Game changing outcome of negotiations between community and Long Island Compost is announced***



*Pictured from left to right are Supervisor Ed Romaine, Bill Doyle (representing Senator Zeldin), Mark Magnani, Michael Verni, Greg Miglino, Robert Deshler, Charles Vigliotti, Adrienne Esposito, Kathleen Scheibel, Marty Van Lith, Wayne Losee, Councilwoman Connie Kepert*

**Farmingville, NY** - At a press conference yesterday at Town Hall, Councilwoman Kepert applauded the executive board of the Brookhaven Community Coalition (BCC), New York State Department of Conservation and Long Island Compost for the announcement of the finalized agreement between the parties that include a solution to the odors, dust and noise emanating from Long Island Compost's operations.

"The installation of the anaerobic digester is a giant leap toward improving the quality of life for the people who live near Long Island Compost," said Supervisor Ed Romaine. "By reducing noise, odor and dust, it will significantly reduce the facility's impact on the environment and at the same time create a valuable source of renewable energy as well as a method for recycling food waste, particularly for large institutions such as schools, nursing homes, restaurant chains, hospitals, etc. It's a win-win for the company and the residents of Brookhaven."

"For too many years the surrounding community has suffered due to the odors, noise and dust from this compost facility. The announcement today of this state of the art anaerobic digester will revolutionize the operation of the facility and reduce the amount of mulch on the site by 80% which is the source of the odor and dust. This is a game changer and, once built, the surrounding community will finally have relief," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

The decision to remove the majority of the odor and dust causing mulch from the facility was based on the BCC's agreement with Long Island Compost to move forward with anaerobic digester which will be the first of its kind in the region to compost food waste. According to the company's principal, Charles Vigliotti, "This technology will expand the world of organic composting. Requests have come in from schools, hospitals and restaurants for better ways to handle their food waste. Besides making compost, this technology will enable us to create renewable energy and reduce our carbon footprint. It will be good for the community, the environment and for the economy."

Michael Verni, member of the Brookhaven Community Coalition's Executive Board and a Brookhaven resident who has been impacted by the dust and odor from the facility stated, "I look forward to our town being odor free like other Long Island towns."

Adrienne Esposito, the Chair of BCC, who praised the community for their dedication and input into the process and expressed confidence that the solution will be successful since the voices of the community played a major role in the negotiations, stated, "We are faced with a solid waste crisis. The landfill has a limited lifetime of 15 more years. Considering 18% of our garbage comes from food waste, this technology is a solution for that portion of our waste stream. This is not experimental technology; anaerobic digesters have been operating for decades in Europe. The construction of this facility will advance waste management on Long Island."

The next steps are for the Town of Brookhaven to issue a special permit to Long island Compost which will require a public hearing before the Town Board. Once the special permit is granted Long Island Compost will be enabled to move through the planning process and eventually obtain building permits.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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