

CASE STUDY: NOCO ENERGY CORP.

FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING



COMPANY

A full-service energy company on a mission to work towards a sustainable future

NOCO has been a full-service energy company serving homes and businesses throughout Western and Central New York since 1933. NOCO's products and services include renewable energy, clean air solutions, bioproducts, natural gas, electric, propane, heating oil, commercial fuels, HVAC, used oil, and fluid waste recycling. NOCO is investing in technology and the business sector to work towards a sustainable future. While NOCO serves many customers with needs for conventional fossil fuels, it has acknowledged the changing needs of society and the communities it serves. It is committed to helping local businesses realize their sustainability platforms and goals.



CHALLENGES

Building a food waste recycling facility

In NOCO's office building, food scraps and compostable items from employees were being deposited into landfills. There was a lack of awareness and employee participation in composting. Further, there was also a need for a food waste and organic biomass recycling facility.

SOLUTIONS

NOCO provided small containers on each floor of their building for employees to deposit food scraps and other compostable items. The containers are collected and brought to Buffalo River Compost for composting, thereby diverted from the landfill. The containers allow for employee participation in the larger composting project. Each floor has a compost leader that is designated to monitor the compost bins. This has brought about additional employee awareness surrounding the importance of composting.

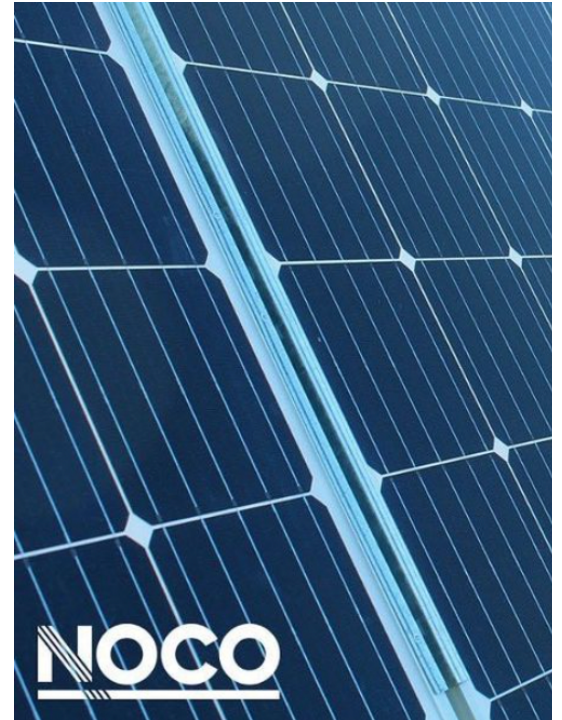
NOCO has also invested heavily in developing a service offering focused on recycling. The subject of this project is the development of a food waste and organic biomass recycling program. The program involved two separate investments, one in a traditional composting facility and the other in a food waste to black soldier fly protein processing facility. The composting facility handles food waste, manure, leaf waste, tree waste and other biomass. The goal of the insect facility is to commercialize technology developed in-house. The technology consists of a series of processes designed to stabilize and preserve food waste and convert it into a safe feed for insects. These insects are utilized as an alternative source of protein and oil displacing unsustainable ingredients in aquaculture feeds.

RESULTS

Production at this facility will be able to produce whole, dried larvae in bulk quantities. Oils will be extracted from the dried larvae for additional purposes. Screw pressed black soldier fly protein meal and oil will be processed into whole rations for aquaculture. NOCO intends to market whole, dried larvae as feed supplements for chickens, wild birds, reptiles and other species. NOCO is in discussions with the Buffalo Zoo and the Aquarium of Niagara regarding concepts to test black soldier fly larvae on certain species in order to demonstrate a small-scale circular economy in Western New York. As a result of these initiatives, NOCO is diverting waste that would otherwise end up in the landfill. Currently, their site is permitted to divert up to 10,000 tons of material from landfills including up to 2,500 tons of food waste. They intend to grow the facility to maximum capacity and add additional sites to process greater amounts of material as the market demand increases.

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As a member of the SBR, we're able to ensure we're staying up to date on all available knowledge related to the changing goals



NOCO's actions and results have been reported within the framework of The WNY SBR's Recognition Program, a continuous improvement program structured to help businesses reach achievable sustainable targets. The program encourages companies to implement a comprehensive sustainability plan. This includes systematic benchmarking, identifying further environmental efficiency opportunities, and quantifying results when improvements are put into place.

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Funding provided by a Source Reduction Assistance Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant #96264300.

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