**COMMENTS ON CHAPTER 16 (WASTE) OF THE CLCPA**

 New York City Food Scrap Drop Off Programs initiative is gradually falling apart, and no one can see it. Food Scrap Drop Off Programs since their inception, have made substantial contributions to New York City’s fight against climate change and the City’s goal of zero waste to landfills. New York City’s Food Scrap Drop off programs initiative in recent happenings, find itself in a critical and an insecure situation. The foundation of this unique environmental initiative is very shaky and no longer solid as it used to be due to the very harsh 2020 financial cuts and program suspensions meted out to this vital organic waste management initiative under the de Blasio administration. Although, the City’s food scrap drop off programs and composting are still recovering from the harsh treatments of de Blasio administration and trying so hard to get back on their feet, the fact that the City’s current mayor is not particularly enthusiastic about composting poses a significant threat to these organic waste management programs. The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) in light of getting the City’s organic waste recycling programs back on their feet again, has recently reinstituted organic waste recycling programs like “SAFE Disposal Events, the NYC Compost Project Master Composter Certificate Course and the Zero Waste Building Maintenance Training Program” (New York City Department of Sanitation 2022, n.p). However, the big question is: will these organic waste programs continue to exist and even expand in the future without the mayor of the city, Mayor Eric Adam, not showing much interest and support for community composting? These organic waste products particularly food scraps in various households and across the city are collected in large quantities at various drop off sites so that they can be recycled into compost – the city’s black gold. If Mayor Eric Adam continues to have less interest in composting, what then becomes of these community-based hosted food scrap drop off programs and the very large sums of food scraps that are being generated by New Yorkers every single day? Mayor Eric Adam desire of putting a halt to the expansion of the city’s composting program do not make the Department of Sanitation’s recovery initiative exciting and worthy of celebration since these positive developments could just be short-lived. The mayor’s plan of suspending the expansion of the composting program could make the toil and admiring efforts of the Department of Sanitation towards reducing climate change and making New York City more “cleaner, safer, and healthier” go wasted. (NYC Department of Sanitation 2022, n.p). The duty falls upon all advocates, lovers of food scrap drop off programs and composting, and major stakeholders to retain and strengthen the city’s most reliable organic waste management initiative – Food Scrap Drop off Programs and Composting. The State should enact and implement legislation that recognizes food scrap drop off programs and composting as a permanent organic waste management initiative in the city. One vital feature that the State must include in the legislation is that any changes that could cause the retrogression of food scrap drop off programs and composting can never be introduced by any incumbent government in any situation except changes that would promote and grow these programs. This would prevent future retrogressive incidents like those that happened in the de Blasio administration and the ones that are likely to occur in the Eric Adam administration. The State should enact legislation that aims at securing funding for Food Scrap drop off programs and composting by making funding for these programs permanent. The legislation must emphasize that these programs should be funded indefinitely by the State so that, these programs and composting services are never considered for budget cuts, irrespective of how bad the economy becomes. The State should organize and expand outreach programs in all boroughs to teach and guide New Yorkers in actively engaging in food scrap drop off programs and knowing exactly what goes in the bin as food scrap. Food scrap drop off programs have been embraced by all residents. Everyone loves and cherishes the programs as it is evident in large sums of food scraps dropped off daily at various sites by residents and how residents constantly engage in community composting. The State should take advantage of this opportunity by allowing and encouraging residents to willingly help in funding these programs, as a single dollar from each New Yorker could go a long way in sustaining and expanding these programs. The State should also expand the newly introduced Smart-bin composting program by targeting bins at subway stations and heavily travelled bus stops to boost the impact of Smart composting. If these proposals are carefully considered, I believe that New York City Foo Scrap Drop off programs and composting would have a solid foundation and would effectively contribute to mitigate climate change and make our City safer, cleaner and healthier.