



October 20, 2021

Gina A. McCarthy
Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor
Office of Domestic Climate Policy, Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. McCarthy:

The Plant Based Products Council (PBPC) welcomes the recently announced Global Methane Pledge, the initiative to reduce global methane emissions by at least 30% from 2020 levels by 2030. PBPC represents businesses across the plant-based products supply chain that advocate for a shift toward a more circular bioeconomy through greater adoption of renewable, plant-based materials supported by appropriate end-of-life infrastructure. We view plant-based products as a solution to help address our growing climate crisis by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels to make plastics, textiles, and other products we rely on every day.

PBPC also strongly supports the Biden Administration's efforts to reduce methane emissions. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), municipal solid waste landfills are the third largest source of anthropogenic methane emissions in the U.S, contributing 15% of those emissions in 2019. Over 35 million tons of food, the single largest category of material, was disposed of in landfills in 2018, representing over 24% of landfill tonnage. When food is disposed of in landfills, the degradation process represents a significant contributor to methane emissions. However, these methane emissions can be avoided by composting food scraps, with compostable plant-based food packaging and serveware. In addition, finished compost applied to land can help sequester additional carbon.

Unfortunately, most Americans do not have access to composting facilities capable of accepting all compostable materials. Many stakeholders are supporting efforts to grow composting infrastructure across the U.S. to increase access to this more sustainable waste reduction and recovery solution. The U.S. Composting Infrastructure Coalition, which comprises many of those stakeholders, including PBPC, is leading some of these efforts. Congress is also focused on composting and its environmental benefits, as evidenced by the introduction of the *Cultivating Organic Matter through the Promotion Of Sustainable Techniques Act* (or the "COMPOST Act"), introduced by Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA-26) and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ). This legislation represents an important opportunity to support this climate solution and significantly reduce landfill methane emissions. The COMPOST Act would establish a program led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide grants and loan guarantees for composting facilities and programs.

It has been estimated these investments at composting facilities could result in emission reductions of nearly 5 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents per year,¹ meaning such infrastructure is poised to be a critical part of the Administration's methane reduction goals.

As the Biden Administration continues to take the steps necessary to reduce domestic methane emissions, PBPC strongly encourages the consideration of composting as a climate solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Bowman".

Jessica Bowman
Executive Director
Plant Based Products Council

Cc: Secretary Vilsack

¹ ReFED Food Waste Reduction Solutions Database: <https://insights-engine.refed.org/solution-database/centralized-composting>