

# MEDIA ALERT

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

**Contact:**

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## **Citizens Committee for New York City Pioneers Bold New Solution for Citywide Dog Waste Problem**

*\$10,000 in Grants for Neighborhood Groups Working on Dog Waste Composting*

**OVERVIEW:** On Saturday, April 28, Citizens Committee for New York City will be at the Hudson River Park Dog Run in Greenwich Village to announce a neighborhood grant program for dog waste composting, the next frontier in urban composting. \$10,000 in grants for resident-led neighborhood groups will be available from Citizens Committee for New York City.

**WHAT:** \$10,000 IN GRANTS FOR DOG WASTE COMPOSTING INITIATIVES ACROSS CITY

**WHY:** Dog waste poses public health risks if left on the streets, is harmful to the environment when left on the side of trails and takes centuries to decompose in plastic garbage bags that end up in landfills. Over the decades, there is one public health hazard that has plagued communities across the City with no clear remedy ever offered: the problem of dog waste on our City streets, parks, community gardens, and street tree beds. The need for dog owners and community groups alike to mobilize residents and implement dog waste composting initiatives has never been greater. Nationally, some 78 million dogs produce over 10.6 million tons of dung annually.

**WHO:** Peter Kostmayer, CEO, Citizens Committee for New York City; Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, grassroots neighborhood groups; concerned residents; and dog owners!

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 28, 2012, 11:00AM

**WHERE:** Hudson River Park Dog Run  
Leroy Street (cross street: West Street)  
Greenwich Village, Manhattan, NY 10014

**\*\*Visuals:** Dogs playing in the dog run and a prototype of a dog waste composting bin system\*\*

**About Citizens Committee for New York City:** Our mission is simple: to help New Yorkers – especially those in low-income communities – come together to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. We do so through micro-grants, one-on-one project planning assistance, capacity-building workshops, and networking opportunities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PRESS RELEASE

Friday, April 27, 2012

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## **DOG WASTE COMPOST “GREENING” NYC NEIGHBORHOODS**

*\$10,000 Available for Environmentally-Conscious Dog Owners and Composting Groups*

**NEW YORK (April 28, 2012)** – Every year more than two million dogs in New York City’s five boroughs produce over 275,000 tons of dog waste. While the “pooper scooper” law passed by City Council in 1978 requires New Yorkers to clean up after their pets, dog waste, which contains harmful pathogens, is still either landfilled or shipped out of state at considerable expense. On Saturday morning at a West Village dog run adjacent to the Hudson River (St Luke’s Place and West Street), Citizens Committee for New York City will announce a city-wide competition to design and implement dog waste composting projects that will save landfill space and tax dollars while providing nutrient rich fertilizer for New York City’s parks, community green spaces, and other public and private spaces.

Peter H. Kostmayer, CEO, announced the organization will award \$10,000 in awards to dog owner groups, composting groups, and neighborhood groups that develop innovative ways to compost dog waste in the city’s more than four hundred neighborhoods.

Kostmayer pointed out that composting dog waste reduces the total volume by fifty percent, thus saving space in landfills and reducing transportation costs as well as removing some, but not all of the pathogens.

Currently New Yorkers generally drop plastic bags containing dog waste in Department of Sanitation trash receptacles, which then go to landfills or are shipped out of state. In Tompkins Square Park, which has the city’s largest dog run, twelve fifty-gallon drums are filled with dog waste every 48 hours.

Kostmayer has commended the Bloomberg administration for its environmental record and said he would urge it to support the Citizens Committee campaign. “We can send less to landfills and save money while producing a sustainable project,” Kostmayer said.

Dozens of neighborhood leaders from the city’s biggest dog owner groups as well as from the city’s most successful composting and neighborhood groups joined Citizens Committee at the dog run.

**About Citizens Committee for New York City:** Our mission is simple: to help New Yorkers – especially those in low-income communities – come together to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. We do so through micro-grants, one-on-one project planning assistance, capacity-building workshops, and networking opportunities. In 2012 alone, Citizens Committee is awarding \$600,000 in micro-grants and provided hundreds of hours of skills-building workshops and project planning assistance to 350 grassroots groups.

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