

MERLYN GRANT RECIPIENT 2019

BRITTANY DICENZO

GREW UP IN SMITHFIELD, RI.
SHE'LL START A COMPOST FACILITY SERVING HER AREA AND GREATER RHODE ISLAND. HER MERLYN GRANT IS **\$950.**



“I’ve always had a green thumb and wanted to **offer the community a better understanding of how to use its waste materials as a resource.** I’m now certified through RI DEM to start a medium-size compost operation in the North Smithfield area.”

Brittany’s grant will help pay for **code-compliant signage and concrete blocks that separate pre-composted materials** delivered to the site. “I’ll work with local farms to collect their animal bedding, with restaurants to collect food scraps, with coffee establishments for the coffee grinds, and with my fellow landscapers for leaves.”



[PHOTO TOP] “We can help make Rhode Island and our planet healthier. The U.S.’s third largest source of human-caused methane emissions -- behind fossil fuels and livestock farming -- are landfills and waste. **Food scraps and organic material that should be composted are now filling landfills. Compost is so helpful to the environment** because it enriches soil, reduces the need for fertilizers, and cuts damaging carbon and methane releases into the atmosphere.”

[PHOTO ABOVE] “I attended The Maine Compost School [a program of the University of Maine and the nation’s longest continually running compost education program]. We learned how they aerate their yard debris. **Here I’m in the cab of a Backhus windrow turner discussing its operation.** It’s unbelievable how much time the windrow turner removes from the aeration process. My site will launch with a smaller machine!”

[PHOTO RIGHT] “Here I’m heading home after a long day of fall cleanup. **The leaf loader [not shown] on the front of my six wheeler grinds up leaves as it loads them into the rear of my dump truck.** I used leaves as my carbon source in my compost test pile.”



“I’m hoping to make a footprint in the state of Rhode Island to divert the huge waste problem ahead of us.”

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS HAVE MADE BRITTANY’S MERLYN CLIMATE GRANT POSSIBLE.