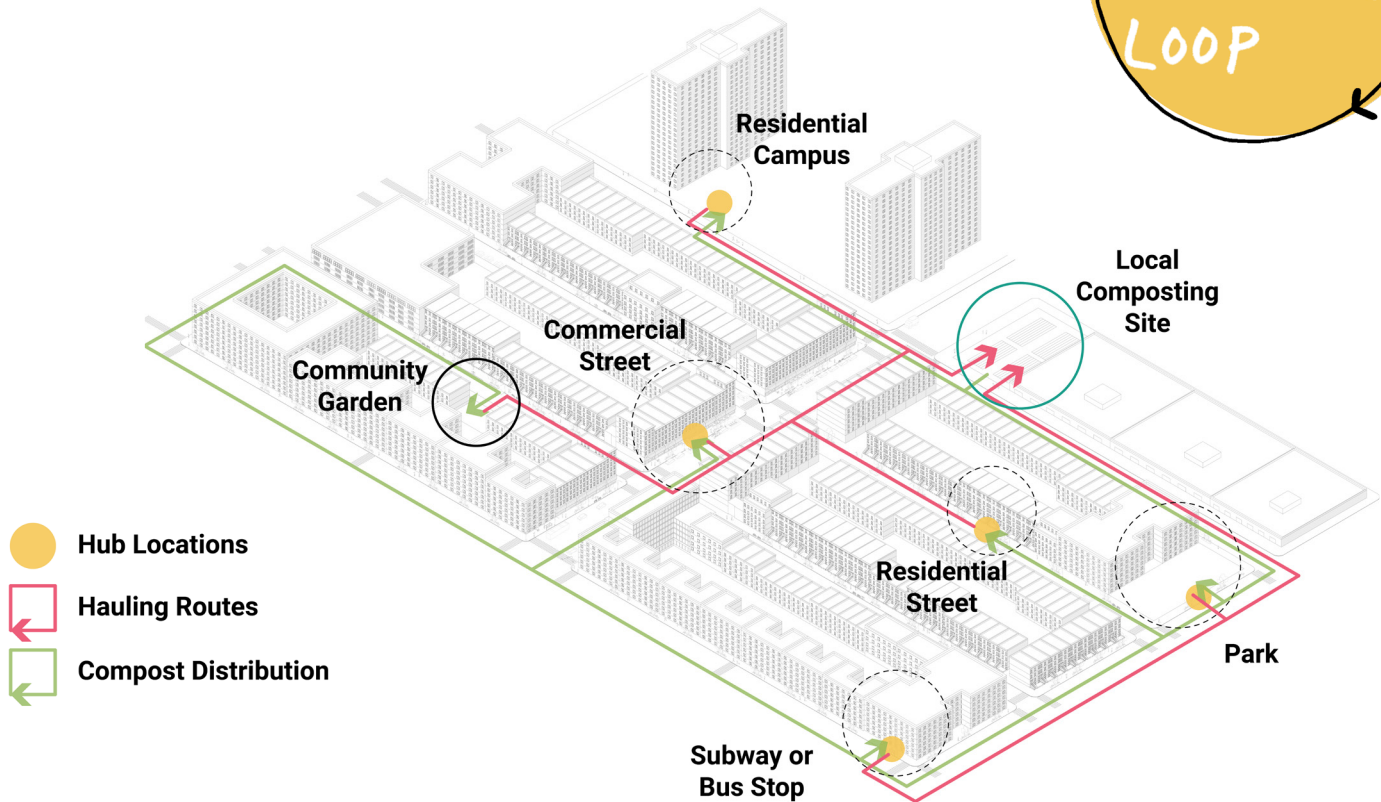


# Towards a Local Organics Loop

Envisioning a hyperlocal infrastructure to redefine relationships between our Public Realm and Organics



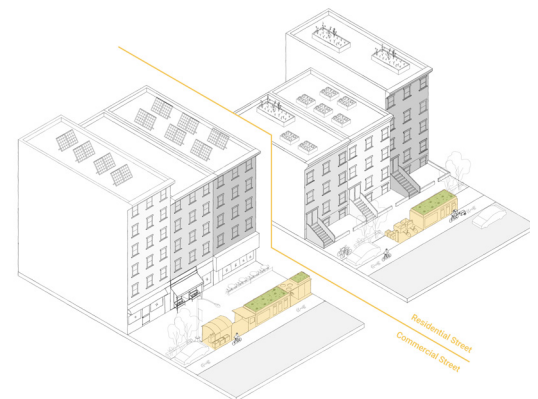
## Context

By the end of 2024, residential organics separation will be mandated throughout NYC. Brown bins will be set out on the curb once or twice a week, smart bins will be installed at street corners with 24/7 bluetooth access, and the materials will be collected in DSNY's trucks, to be mostly processed through anaerobic digestion for energy production.

*The Local Organics Loop seen at the neighborhood scale*

While the City's initiatives succeed in expanding access and capacity, and diverting organic waste from landfill, they also increase truck traffic, limit public participation, and miss an essential opportunity to produce compost: a valuable resource that can be reused locally. Furthermore, these initiatives discount the robust existing network and knowledge of the city's community composters.

Historically, organics collections and processing in NYC has been powered by the people, and has always been a community affair. New Yorkers compost within our neighborhoods - at community farms, compost sites, and community gardens. In contrast to the latest city-wide initiatives, community composting is about creating resources locally and for local use.



For NYC to reach 100% organics diversion in a way that is equitable and sustainable, while maximizing the benefit to New Yorkers, we believe that these existing local networks need to be fully integrated into the City's plan. At this moment, there is an historic opportunity to redirect investment towards a new infrastructure that prioritizes technology and circularity in the public space, to lower emissions and engage all New Yorkers in composting.

*The Hubs could be located in both residential and commercial streets*



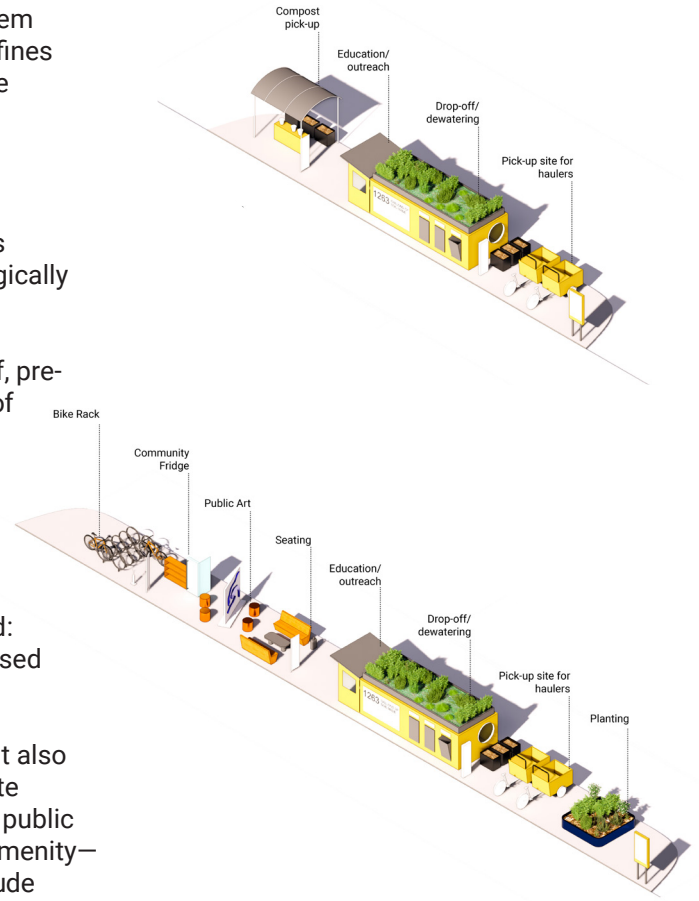
## Vision

The Local Organics Loop envisions a circular and equitable system for managing organics at the neighborhood-scale, one that redefines the relationships between our streets and organics. Critically, the Loop connects the city-wide system (headed by DSNY) with the existing network of local composters, recognizing that both are essential to a robust, long-term organics management solution.

While leveraging existing networks and infrastructure, the loop is made possible by a new scale of infrastructure: The Hub. Strategically located within the public realm (for example, reclaiming parking spaces), these Hubs would support the city's curbside organics service and zero waste goals, establishing consolidated drop-off, pre-processing and pick-up sites that connect to existing networks of organics producers, collectors, haulers, and processors.

Located at approximately the same intervals as a Citi-bike station, these Hubs would decentralize organics processing, supporting micro-hauling as a primary mode and thereby reducing truck traffic on our streets. Organics would be collected, processed, and distributed within the neighborhood: residents could pick up compost to take home, and it could be used to nurture local parks, street trees and gardens.

Yet, the Hub does more than support local organics processes! It also connects New Yorkers to the composting process through on-site education, engagement and amenity. Through its location in the public realm, and by interspersing composting 'functions' with public amenity—such as seating and green infrastructure—the Hub brings multitude of public benefits to the neighborhood, while changing New Yorkers' relationship to organics, through increased visibility and participation.



Potential hub configurations



A Hub envisioned on a commercial strip in the Bronx