

For Immediate Release

Contact – David King, Assistant General Manager, National Press Club, dking@press.org, (202) 662-7113

The National Press Club announced today that it began on September 1 composting all of its food waste. In a contract with EnviRelation, of Washington, D.C., the club now separates all food waste from the trash stream. Using distinct containers, all scraps from the food preparation process along with all post-consumer food waste is collected daily and delivered to a nearby composting facility. This new program is expected to redirect approximately two tons of food waste each month.

The club added this service as the next step in increasing its level of sustainability. By keeping the food waste out of landfills it decreases the greenhouse gasses caused by its operations. Food waste put into landfills permanently takes it out of the life cycle, unnecessarily loads landfills and is a contributor to greenhouse gasses. Food waste in the anaerobic state of a landfill creates methane gas, which, according to the EPA, is 21 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

This new step will reduce the waste that would have otherwise wound up in a landfill by approximately 75% and in conjunction with our already near 100% recycling effort makes for a very strong program of reduce, recycle, reuse. Previously, through load reduction strategies, the club has reduced its annual electrical load by 22% since 2001, when first efforts were instituted. Since fall 2007 the club has purchased wind energy equal to 100% of its annual load.

ABOUT ENVIRELATION:

EnviRelation was founded in 2006 by Cornell University School of Hotel Administration graduate Walker T. Lunn to provide collection for food discards, transporting them to nearby composting facilities. The service is designed to help customers achieve their goals of increased environmental sustainability, savings on waste management bills as well as improved operational sanitation. With its daily service and low prices, operators have cleaner loading dock areas, improved garbage odors, and clean composting containers, attracting fewer pests. Our service is designed to be used by any food-related business. Our customer list includes office buildings, hotels, grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals, schools, colleges and universities, food processors and distributors, churches and temples. On the web at www.envirelation.com.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB:

The National Press Club is the world's leading professional organization for journalists. Founded in 1908, the Club has 3,700 members representing most major news organizations. The Club holds more than 2,000 events including news conferences, luncheons and panels each year, and more than 250,000 guests come through its doors. On the web at www.press.org .