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Τίτλος Σεμιναρίου-Webinar
Organic waste bans have failed to divert waste from United States landfills—except in Massachusetts

Ομιλητής
Καθηγητής Ιωάννης Σταματόπουλος*

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Περίληψη

Diverting food waste from landfills is a critical step to reduce emissions and meet Paris Agreement targets. Between 2014 and 2024, nine US states banned commercial waste generators—such as grocery chains—from landfilling organic waste, expecting a 10-15% waste reduction. However, no evaluation of these bans exists. To study the bans' effects on landfilled waste, we compile a comprehensive waste dataset covering 36 US states between 1996 and 2019. Contrary to policymakers' expectations, we can reject aggregate waste reductions higher than 3.8% and cannot reject a zero-null aggregate effect. Moreover, we cannot reject a zero-null effect for any state in our data, except for Massachusetts, which gradually achieved a 12.5% reduction—matching expectations. Our findings reveal an urgent need to reassess organic waste bans, using Massachusetts as a benchmark for success.

*[Ioannis \(Yannis\) Stamatoopoulos](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Information, Risk, and Operations Management at the McCombs School of Business, The University of Texas at Austin. He teaches experiential-learning courses with real industry cases and projects, as well as pricing and revenue management, operations management, and empirical methods. Professor Stamatoopoulos has published extensively in top-tier journals, including *Management Science*, *Operations Research*, and *Marketing Science*, where his work bridges the fields of operations, marketing, technology, and economics. He is an Associate Editor for the *Manufacturing and Service Operations Management* (MSOM) journal and serves as a judge for several research competitions. Professor Stamatoopoulos holds a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Athens and earned an M.A. in Economics, and a Ph.D. in Operations Management from Northwestern University.