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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs & The Veterans Canteen Service Tackle Food Waste Management With BioHitech America's Unique Solution

## The VA focuses on diverting waste from harmful landfills

**CHESTNUT RIDGE, NY – October 16, 2014** – <u>BioHitech America</u>, the most innovative and sustainable solution to food waste removal, is pleased to announce that they will providing their food waste disposal solution to The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) for their multiple facilities located across the US. The Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) operates the retail, food and vending for these facilities; and they will be utilizing the technology for the VA.

With the assistance of one of BioHitech America's leading distributors, the Vanella Group, the VA plans to integrate Eco-Safe Digesters, an on-site aerobic digester that eliminates food waste by converting it into nutrient-neutral water and transporting the water safely through standard sewer lines, into their day-to-day actions over the next five years. If utilized across the entire VA platform, the resulting diversion from landfill for the VA would be approximately 45,000 tons of food waste each year.

"After researching the few options for food waste disposal, and weighing the risks and rewards of each solution, we felt BioHitech's on-site solution was the most environmentally and economically friendly way to divert waste from going to landfills," says Ted Hudson, National Sustainability Officer of the VCS. "BioHitech America's solution will not only allow us to divert the waste, but also give us information to help prevent and reduce waste wherever possible. This strategy will take the VA a step closer to helping achieve a world without waste."

To stay consistent with President Obama's Executive Order 13514 to reduce waste and promote environmentally-responsible technologies, the Eco-Safe Digester will help the VA uphold the efforts of this order by reducing greenhouse gas emissions with every pound of waste diverted. In addition to the carbon reductions, this specific digester falls within the order's

cost-effective project requirements and will improve the VA's overall efficiency in dealing with waste.

The BioHitech solution combines green technology with the power of big data. Through a reliable, manageable and secure reporting platform, the VA can access real-time data that they can share throughout their organization to optimize their food waste process, drive company-wide efficiencies, track the progress across geographies, monitor utilization, and report on compliance.

"Visibility across departments, facilities, and geographies is key to driving the behavioral changes needed to tackle food waste issues facing our country today," said Frank E. Celli, Chief Executive Officer of BioHitech America. "We look forward to helping the VA achieve their sustainability goals."

#### About The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

The Veterans Health Administration is America's largest integrated health care system with over 1,700 sites of care, serving 8.76 million Veterans each year. To learn more about VA health care, visit www.va.gov

#### **About BioHitech America**

BioHitech America's unique solution to food waste combines green technology with the power of big data to offer transparency, savings and a sustainable future. The company's Eco-Safe Digester, an on-site aerobic digester, eliminates up to 2,400 pounds of food waste in a 24-hour period by converting it into nutrient-neutral water and transporting the water safely through standard sewer lines. The BioHitech Cloud, a technology platform hosted by Amazon, measures key metrics to optimize the food waste disposal process. These metrics are providing the industry with an unprecedented level of transparency that not only helps to reduce the amount of waste generated, but also improve company-wide efficiency and profitability.

BioHitech America was recently selected to participate in the exclusive Credit Suisse Private Innovation Circle event. Their solution is the leading sustainable method that allows businesses to move towards the prevention of waste altogether. For more information, please visit www.biohitech.com.

### About Vanella Group

The Vanella Group is Minnesota's premier facility management organization and a proven provider of comprehensive waste, recycling and environmental services.

www.vanellagroupmn.com

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