

Organics Management Residential Advisory Committee

July 20, 2016 Meeting Summary

Submitted by Julie Bonenfant, Project Innovations

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 21st, 2016 from 6 – 8 p.m. Location: Wheeler Center

Participants: See Page 3

Agenda: See Attachment #1

1. Welcome: Christina Gomes, Ann Arbor Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator welcomed the participants, introduced the City Staff and the Project Team, and reviewed the project objectives:

- Develop a comprehensive Organics Management Plan to identify options for diverting organic wastes from the trash stream.
- The plan will include input from a diverse range of stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and institutions.
- When complete, the plan will identify opportunities and needs for organics waste management, evaluate resource and logistic needs for alternative management options, and develop a strategy for implementing selected alternatives.
- Work on the Organics Management Plan started in April 2016 and will be completed in early 2017.
- The City has contracted with CB&I Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., a national waste and recycling consulting firm, to develop the Organics Management Plan, with public engagement support from Project Innovations, Inc.

2. Participant Desired Outcomes: Charlie Fleetham, Project Innovations facilitator, polled the participants on their desired outcomes. Committee feedback (by participant) included:

- Lives downtown and loves to recycle and compost. Wants to learn more about how this works and how it dovetails with other efforts in the Ann Arbor community.
- Describes herself as a “rabid recycler”. Lived on the west side and had a composting program that she was happy with. Is now living in condominiums that do not offer the same type of program and would like to see one implemented there.
- Appreciative of Germany’s composting program. Businesses such as restaurants have not stepped up in the Ann Arbor area. Wants to see how plan will address this.
- Have been recycling and composting since it has been available. Have been involved with the City for 25 years. Here to learn more and contribute.
- Would like to learn more about what other communities are doing.
- Runs the Ann Arbor compost facility. Wants to provide input.

3. Review/Confirm Objectives of the Residential Advisory Committee:

- Current plan is to have 4 residential meetings.

- Committee provides input into plan ... no expectation to provide group recommendation to City Council or Staff.
- The group confirmed the committee role and objectives and agreed to participate in the four meetings.

4. Project Presentation by Christina Seibert, CB&I Project Manager. The presentation is available online at www.a2gov.org/organicsplan. The desired outcomes of the presentation were:

- To define organics management.
- To explain Ann Arbor's history with organics management.
- To present an overview of the project and its proposed implementation.

Group Feedback on Presentation:

- It was very comprehensive; I had no idea of the complexity of the scope.
- It was a good overview, and the history behind this was very helpful.
- I liked the explanation of the process and the detailed breakdown of activities.
- I liked hearing about what other cities are doing and would like to hear more. I am interested to see where this will go.
- Interested in expansion to year-round composting programs.

Group Input for the Study:

- Is part of this project going to be looking at people having composting on their property?
- What are the pros and cons of using a garbage disposal?
- What are the cost impacts of the various options?
- What are we saving or potentially saving in landfill contribution?
- Where did this study originate?
- Are there other cities that we should look at?
- Is a recommendation for a diversion goal going to be a part of this study?
- Is there anywhere else in Michigan that is doing this?
- Is a random telephone survey going to be the best approach here? What about having a web based survey instead?

Closing Discussion Comments:

- I heard that Minneapolis has an aggressive program, and I'm also curious about what Kalamazoo is doing in this area.
- I feel I have a very specific goal - to expand composting to condos and apartments. We already have small units for recycling but none for composting.
- This may be a more commercial focused program since that sector produces more food waste than residents.

- Our relationship with this entire program has been very positive.
- North Campus tends to be more diverse; some students are not used to the idea of recycling and composting.
- I think residents need additional educational information on compostable dinnerware.

All meeting summaries, agendas, and presentations are available at:

<http://www.a2gov.org/departments/systems-planning/planning-areas/Pages/Organics-Management-Plan-.aspx>

072016 Residential Advisory Participant List		
Last	First	Organization
Bonenfant	Julie	Project Innovations
Butynski	Dan	We Care Organics
Crockett	Christine	Old Fourth Ward Association
Fleetham	Charlie	Project Innovations
Gomes	Christina	A2 Systems Planning
Lu	Ying	Resident
Maciejewski	Molly	A2 Public Works
Naud	Matt	A2 Systems Planning
Nikolai	Judy	Resident
Steele	Shelley	Sunset Hilltop Neighborhood Association
Skinner	Allison	NSF Sustainability/Environmental Commission
Trent	Randy	Ann Arbor School District/Resident