

**The City of Ann Arbor's Organics Management Plan
Commercial Advisory Committee
August 10, 2016 Meeting Summary
Submitted by Julie Bonenfant of Project Innovations**

Participants: See Page 4

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:**
 - To be more educated on what is going on and how this process will develop.
 - To take an active role in creating the program by having a hand in policy creation/decisions.
 - Explore options for food utilization.
 - Take a more holistic approach - upstream and downstream.
 - Learn more strategies regarding waste streams.
 - To learn what roles we can play in the creation of this program.
 - To see how this plan will fit in with alley management.
 - To learn what/how other communities are participating in waste management.
 - To learn what the overall plan for Ann Arbor will be.
 - To identify incentives that could get businesses to embrace waste management.
 - To identify ways to expand composting.
 - Address lapses in compost/recycling pickup in the winter season.

- 3. Review/Confirm Objectives of the Commercial Advisory Committee:**
 - Current plan is to have four commercial 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.

5. Group input for the Study:

- Need to effectively communicate that this current investment will provide future reward. Need to demonstrate future value, not just current cost.
- Need to identify effective ways of managing enforcement.
- Need to identify which area would be a more effective use of resources, Commercial vs. Residential, and find the correct balance.
- Need to have a shared community vision and effective communication.
- Identify all current costs, both obvious and hidden.
- Ask those that are already composting in Ann Arbor to be ambassadors for the program.
- Study the possibility of consolidating composting bins by having people share them.
- Determine the level of support.
- How to gain entry into the business (i.e. food waste inspection).
- Determine how this will impact food safety.
- Study how other municipalities have successfully implemented these programs.
- Get the younger generation more involved.
- Address technical opportunities.
- Use social media sites like 'Next Door' to help communicate this effort.

6. Closing Discussion Comments:

- We have been providing a zero cost waste reduction method since 1988. This has been providing a valuable service to the county. We want people to understand if food is still edible it should be donated to us first.
- Believe that the greatest opportunity for opt in will be from our stores and restaurants.
- I'm curious to see how this could work with a restaurant like ours.
- I'd like to see the issues of compostable utensils will be addressed.
- How far back are you willing to go with these outreach approaches?
 - Response: We are going all the way back to the generator.
- How are elected City officials being engaged in this process?
 - Response: Allison Skinner, Environmental Commission Liaison, is a member of both Commercial and Residential Advisory Committees. The current goal is to bring a cohesive strategy back to City Council for their review.
- It may be good to have a go to City Hall person as an advocate. It can be difficult in Ann Arbor to reach consensus on projects.

Attachment #1

Commercial Advisory Participant Roster: August 10, 2016			
Last	First	Organization	Email
Artley	Tracy	U of M DPW + Include U of M Food Services Rep	artleyt@umich.edu
Bonenfant	Julie	Project Innovations Coordinator	julie@projectinnovations.com
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Fleetham	Charlie	Project Innovations Public Engagement Facilitator	charlie@projectinnovations.com
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