

**City of Ann Arbor
Comprehensive Organics Management Plan
Commercial Advisory Committee
November 2, 2016 Meeting Summary**

Participant List – see Attachment #1

Small Group Exercise 1: Cost Impact

- Attendees were split into 2 groups to identify cost impacts (increases and decreases)
- Cost impacts were considered from the perspective of the generator (e.g., restaurant, grocer) and the collector / processor (e.g., waste and organics collection companies, compost facility, landfill)
- See Attachment #2 for comprehensive input from the groups

Takeaways (debriefing from exercise)

- *Education/outreach will be needed (collectors/facility) from “Zero” waste point of view, and collectors need to understand facility requirements*
- *Need to show cost impact – going from higher cost to get started, cost declines when program is well-established, then back up as Zero waste vision is achieved because quantities are low*

Small Group Exercise 2: Alley Brainstorming

- Attendees were split into 2 groups to brainstorm what alleys would look like if they were planned from a fresh start
- See Attachment #3 for comprehensive input from the groups

Takeaways (debriefing from exercise)

- *Business owners need incentives; put someone in charge; don’t forget enforcement*
- *Broad vision needs to occur that incorporates all user needs*
- *Better containers are needed and should be explored*
- *Alley logistics must be considered*
- *Shared users (2 tenants using same alley)*

Small Group Exercise 3: Service Level

- Attendees were split into 3 groups to identify benefits and disadvantages of different service levels for organics, including status quo / no organics collection program; voluntary organics collection; and mandatory organics collection
- See Attachment #4 for comprehensive input from the groups

Takeaways (debriefing from exercise)

- *Focus on high-volume streams*
 - *Mandatory ensures high-volume generators are captured but can be a challenge for low-volume generators*
 - *Voluntary can miss high-volume generators not interested in participating*
- *Mandatory – focuses change; must be phased in*
- *Status quo/voluntary – don’t force change, would require enforcement*
- *Could be voluntary to start with - mandatory could be selective and scaled*

Like Best/Need Next Feedback Closing Comments (by breakout group):

Liked Best about Meeting:



- Great process – talking through ideas
- Different points of view (facilities/generators/trans)
- High level engagement cross section

Need for Next Meeting – More details on how any cost structure changes would impact property owners, businesses, etc.



Attachment #1**Nov. 2, 2016 Commercial Advisory Committee Meeting Participant List**

Last	First	Organization	Email
Artley	Tracy	U of M DPW + Include U of M Food Services Rep	artleyt@umich.edu
Bowman	Noelle	Washtenaw County	bowmann@ewashtenaw.org
Burman	Aaron	Llamasoft	aaronrburman@gmail.com
Conaway	Brian	Waste Management	bconaway@wm.com
Fleetham	Charlie	Project Innovations	charlie@projectinnovations.com
Gomes	Christina	A2 Systems Planning	cgomes@a2gov.org
Keller	Diane	A2Y Chamber	diane@a2ychamber.org
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Ann Arbor Commercial Organics Collection: Cost Impacts to Generators to Divert More Organics

	On-Site Segregation of Organics from Waste Stream	Collection / Removal of Organics and Trash	Procurement / Purchasing Practices / Habits
 Cost Increases	Service Changes Energy Unpackaging of Materials Collection Containers (Inside) Storage Space Collection Containers (Outside) Employee Training Education Compostable Can Liners Food Serviceware	Property Redesign or Reconfiguration to Create Space Service Charge for Pickup Collection Containers (Outside) Shared Users Additional Staff	Service Oversight / Contract Administration Compostable Serviceware Compostable Can Liners
OR •	Food Donation		
Cost Decreases 	Tax Benefit	Trash Quantity Reduced / Service Reduced Food Donation	Reduce Food Packages Improved Purchasing Practices to Reduce Food Loss Incentives for Business

Ann Arbor Commercial Organics Collection: Cost Impacts to Collectors and Processors to Divert More Organics

	Collection from Generators	Transportation to Destination Facility	Destination Facility (Compost Facility, Landfill, Etc.)
 Cost Increases	Multiple Visits to Generator Collection Containers Source Separation Contamination Waste Material Types Education	Trucks Vehicle Maintenance Multiple Visits to Generator Labor / Drivers Service Frequency	Operating - Turning Compost Piles Early Change in Technology / Indoor Operation Contamination Potential Noxious Odors Increased Liability Staging / Initial Handling Permitting & Compliance Waste & Material Type / Composition
OR	Tipping Fees	Haul Distance / Time	
 Cost Decreases			End Product (Compost) Sales Compost Delivery Food Not Purchased Because Recovered Increased Waste Disposal Costs

ATTACHMENT #3

Ann Arbor Commercial Organics Collection: Alley “Blue Sky” Brainstorming

Big-picture redesign:

- “Big Dig” / underground storage
- Facility within buildings for sorting, etc.
- Pedestrian
- Consolidate or “hub” in central location
- Urban goats & pigs
- Lighting

Incentives:

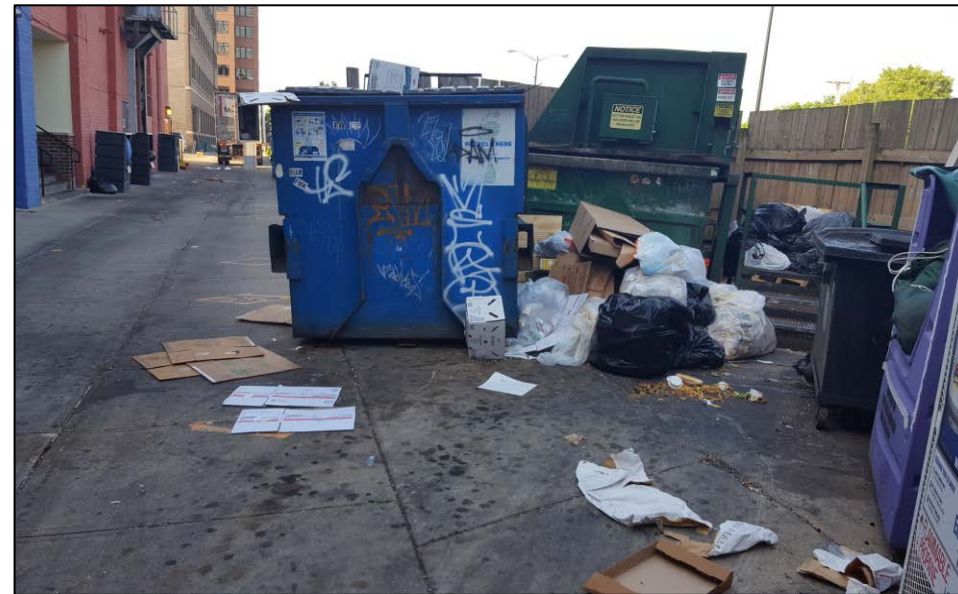
- Adopt-An-Alley program
- Alley user cooperation
- Alley “captain” - reduced cost in bill for service
- “Pretty Alley” contests
- Tax credit for “neat” alleys

Cleaning:

- Design for easy cleaning
- Assessment to businesses for cleaning
- Regular cleaning schedule
- Alley clean-up days /events

Enforcement / funding:

- Community standards tickets
- Capital improvement funds / standard
- “Community Values” fund
- Alley app (e.g., NextDoor)
- Illegal dumping



Trash/recycling/organics collection:

- Smaller or standardized container size & frequent service
- Shared containers - everyone must pay their share
- Container selection size & access
- Just-in-time pick-up
- Pick-up at night
- 24-hour compactor repair service

Alley management / oversight:

- One group or person in charge of alley enforcement
- Alley parking not to interfere with delivery trucks & trash collection
- One group for oversight
- Ownership of alleys needs to be clearly defined



Ann Arbor Commercial Organics Collection: Perceived Benefits and Disadvantages of Service Level Alternatives

