

The City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan January 18 Residential Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Participants: See Attachment #1

Desired Outcomes Poll:

- Concerned about bins in parking lot / common areas. Possibility of strong odor and animals getting to it.
- Learn about the City's plan for composting.
- What will the City's next steps be in putting this plan into action?
- Need to address the last 50 ft. problem and implementation details.

Review of Committee Input: See Attachment #2, slides 2-4

- Ann Arbor is the only community doing residential food waste compost collection in Michigan; there are only about 30 total in the U.S. at the scale of Ann Arbor
- Should expand education on what can and cannot be composted.

Review of Survey Results: See Attachment #2, slides 6-8

Committee Takeaways from Survey:

- The older the residents, the less likely they are to pay. Maybe market to them about leaving an environmental legacy for their grandchildren.
- There is concern that no one wants to pay more.
- Did you get Big Government feedback (i.e., is this one more idea from government that is going to cost me more)?
- Shocked that developers don't have to plan for compost collection - this should be a requirement for all new developments.
- Can there be biodegradable / compostable containers provided by our restaurants?
- The educational challenge here must be immense. 83% of these people feel they are well informed about impacts of wasted food but are not interested in workshops to learn to reduce wasted food.

Preliminary Recommendations:

- Preliminary recommendations distributed to committee in advance of meeting - see Attachment #3
- How many households are there? *22,500 based on City data*
- In Seattle, collection cost charged to residents went up 40% once organics collection was mandatory.
- Expand residential compost collection through the year.
- There are questions on frequency of collection in winter months and cost that need to be addressed.

Expansion of Carts to All Residents - Feedback:

- Once you get the cart, the more likely you are to use it.
- In downtown AA people usually don't have room – adding another cart will be a significant issue for those without driveways.
- Should consider modulating cart size for families, with default size being the smallest size offered (32 gallons).
- A phase in plan may be the more practical route. Could consider having targeted neighborhood pilots.

Kitchen Containers/Bags - Feedback:

- Love having it – it sends a positive vibe.
- There should be a free option available. There is no urgency to participate if it is \$25 a cart and also need a container to get it there.
- Should offer other options.
- Need a very good argument to counter resistance to cost.

Phase In Mandatory Diversion - Feedback:

- Performance needs to be there.
- Current program isn't bad - the collection / service is there, it is a participation problem.

Education - Feedback:

- What is the time period to tune education program?
- What will enforcement policies look like?

Follow on Schedule:

- February 23rd- Draft recommendations presented to Environmental Commission at City Hall
- March 23rd or April 27th – Final draft of Organics Management Plan presented to Environmental Commission
- Committee members will receive email notices of future presentations to the Environmental Commission

Committee Feedback:

- Learned a lot and feel more positive about the program.
- Does this plan identify any impact on other processes (e.g., landfill tons/costs)?

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

<http://www.a2gov.org/organicsplan>

Attachment #1 - Participants

Last	First	Organization	Email
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Attachment #2 - Presentation Slides - provided as a separate document

Attachment #3 - Preliminary Recommendations - provided as a separate document