

**Ann Arbor Organics Management Plan
Preliminary Residential Recommendations
For Review and Discussion Only - Subject to Change**

The following preliminary recommendations for residential organics management in Ann Arbor have been developed for the Residential Advisory Committee's review and comment.

The preliminary recommendations have been developed based on the research and analysis completed to date, best practices in other high-performing and progressive communities, the input of the committee, and resident feedback secured through the residential survey. Based on the Committee's feedback and the project team's continuing analysis, the recommendations may be modified prior to presentation to the Environmental Commission.

Recommendations are organized by topic / operational area and are numbered in each topic area. Supplementary information is provided in bulleted form following certain recommendations, addressing implementation, costs, or decision points. Further detail and implementation responsibilities will be developed and incorporated in the future Organics Management Plan.

Reduction and Donation

1. Promote food waste reduction practices to residents by sharing the USEPA food waste reduction tools available in its Food: Too Good To Waste Implementation Guide and Toolkit through the A2 website, supplementing with local information if necessary.
2. Provide and maintain a comprehensive listing of food donation outlets and guidelines for food donation on the A2 website and through other outreach materials.
3. Assist food donation outlets to provide incentives or rewards to residents donating unused food, such as discounts at local markets, restaurants, etc. in exchange for food donation.
 - No material cost to the City; envisioned to be broad-based outreach to the business community either by City staff or food donation outlets to request business participation in offering coupons for distribution to food donors
 - Could be conducted as part of a food waste diversion promotion campaign that includes promotion of businesses performing food waste diversion / participating in a future commercial organics collection program
4. Work with food donation outlets to determine whether data tracking and reporting can be provided to measure Ann Arbor resident efforts to reduce disposal of food waste.

Year-Round Collection

1. Provide every-other-week compost collection during the December - March period, when yard waste quantities are reduced. (At this time, a recommendation has not been finalized regarding providing the service on a subscription basis to only interested residents paying for the additional service or on a Citywide basis with costs distributed across all residents.)
 - Approximately 8-9 additional days of collection per premise per year

- Provides ongoing collection of food waste, which has been a request from residents and the advisory committee
- Meets need for occasional winter/early spring yard waste pickup as indicated in the resident survey and by resident calls and emails to City staff
- Service could be provided either on a subscription basis or Citywide
 - If subscription-based, with interested residents paying for the additional service:
 - Cost to be determined, and dependent on whether service is provided by City crews or by a private hauler under contract to the City
 - Subscription basis would be consistent with the low willingness to pay for extended service that was identified in the resident survey
 - If provided to all customers Citywide, with costs distributed across all customers:
 - Cost to be determined, and dependent on whether service is provided by City crews or by a private hauler under contract to the City
 - Expected to result in a lower unit cost per household compared to a subscription service, but a sustainable funding source would need to be identified (not likely financially feasible with funding from solid waste millage assuming all other program/service costs remain unchanged from current conditions)
 - If costs to residents increased to provide this service, it would be inconsistent with resident feedback regarding willingness to pay identified in the resident survey

Compost Carts

1. Require all residential properties to have a compost cart, with the option to select their preferred cart size (32-gallon, 64-gallon, 96-gallon). Continue to allow additional yard waste to be set out in bags or cans and to prohibit food waste from being placed in bags or cans.
 - Default size for residents who don't respond = 64-gallon
2. For residents who do not already have a cart, charge a one-time fee of \$25 for the cart, including delivery.
 - This is consistent with current practice for distribution of carts, where residents requesting a cart pay \$25
 - This will require the City to subsidize costs of the carts as it has done historically, at a cost of up to approximately \$30 per premise (assuming 96-gallon carts at \$55 each inclusive of freight based on prior invoices). The City has previously purchased approximately 7,000 compost carts; assuming a portion of these carts remain in the City's inventory currently and that some households have more than one cart, estimate that 5,000 households currently have a compost cart. Based on 22,500 premises,

17,500 carts would be required. Total cost = \$962,500; resident payment of \$25 each = \$437,500; net cost to City = \$525,000 (less if smaller carts requested, but may be offset by non-payment of accounts)

- Grant funding should be pursued to cover a portion of the cost
3. Provide delivery of carts to residents using City or City-contracted staff.

Kitchen Containers / Bags

1. Provide guidelines on the A2 website and in other educational materials for collecting food wastes with resident-provided small containers.
2. Make kitchen containers available for all residents on an as-requested basis and provide a “starter set” of kitchen container liners with each container distributed.
 - Projected cost per container = \$4.58 if ordered in quantities of 2,400 (\$10,992); \$4.28 if ordered in quantities of 4,800 (\$20,544) (SureClose, 1/10/17 unit pricing estimate)
 - Projected cost for bags = \$5 per roll of 25 bags (BioBag, internet search of retail purchase prices)
 - Assuming 2 bags per household per week, this is a 3-month supply
 - Assuming 4,800 kitchen containers purchased and distributed = \$24,000 for bags
 - Funding options:
 - Cost passed through to residents (\$10, including roll of bags, if City purchases and maintains inventory; higher cost if residents are provided an online order link to purchase directly from vendor)
 - Cost covered by City
 - Grant funding should be pursued to cover a portion of the cost
3. Work with local businesses to sell approved compostable liners, and provide a list of participating businesses on the A2 website and in published program information.
 - No material cost to the City

Mandatory Diversion

1. Routinely evaluate organics diversion performance to begin phasing in mandatory organics diversion for residential customers.
 - Review performance 1 year after cart distribution
 - Collection quantities
 - Household participation and feedback, via online survey and lid-lifting of carts

- Contamination, via visual observation of incoming material and feedback from compost facility operator on screenings from finished compost
- Targeted phase-in period of 3 years from date that all premises are provided compost carts
- Future policy decision / ordinance development dependent on:
 - Available funding
 - Adequate City staffing for inspections/enforcement
 - Compost facility continues to operate without problems / contamination / odor
 - Education of upcoming shift is communicated at least 1 year in advance

Multi-Family

1. Perform an assessment of all multi-family properties to assess available space for compost carts and suitability of truck access or cart staging for collection.
 - City staff (collection operations supervisor or trained designee, possibly in cooperation with City-contracted private hauler) will visit each property to provide visual assessment of the ability to serve the property using compost carts and classify properties for residential or commercial service
2. Properties that are determined to be feasibly served with compost carts will be included in the residential program and provided the same services as single-family and duplex properties.
3. Properties that are determined to not be feasibly served with compost carts will be included in the commercial program and provided the same services as commercial properties.
4. Provide a reference list or look-up option on the A2 website to identify the program (residential or commercial) that each multi-family property is assigned to.
 - List will be developed, maintained, and posted by the City based on the outcome of property assessments; responsible departments to be identified in Plan

Education

1. Develop an immediate, robust education program.
 - Slogan/branding for compost collection
 - Highlight environmental benefits of waste reduction and compost
 - Develop comprehensive website
 - Food waste reduction workshops
 - Consider need for multiple languages for education materials

- Promotion through direct mailings, social media, newspaper, radio, television
2. Tailor the education program to provide specific messaging to different types of households; for example, families with children, young people without children, older residents.
 3. Develop educational materials to be provided by the City and/or downloadable from the A2 website for posting or distribution by neighborhood associations and at multi-family properties receiving residential service.
 - Common area signage for multi-family properties
 - Container labels identifying acceptable materials
 - Tips for organics management
 4. Provide ongoing education as program changes are approved for implementation.
 - Community meetings if citywide cart distribution is decided
 - Ordinance requirement and penalties for not participating if going to mandatory diversion

Home Composting

1. Promote mulching / grass-cycling through educational materials and the A2 website.
2. Promote the use of home compost bins and provide educational information to assist residents in bin usage.
 - Tools and information to use home compost bins and/or build your own
 - Education (Master Composter) workshops offered by Washtenaw County and partners
 - Build awareness of proper materials to manage and use of City compost collection for materials that can't be composted at home