



Commercial Advisory Committee Comprehensive Organics Management Plan Meeting #4 - January 25, 2017



CB&I Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.

In association with:



1. Committee Input and Desired Outcomes Review

2. Resident Survey Results Summary
3. Ann Arbor Organics Management
4. Preliminary Recommendations



- Planning process
 - Understand and engage in the process
 - Develop / clarify community vision for organics and Zero Waste
 - Secure political support for implementation
 - Ann Arbor as a national leader

- Background knowledge
 - What are other communities doing, and how do we learn from that?
 - Services available - collection, management
 - Operational needs - year-round collection, shared bins
 - Compost facility must be able to handle increased food waste quantities

- Implementation strategies
 - Prevention
 - Donation
 - Target audience - high-volume generators (restaurants, grocery stores)
 - How to get to mandatory collection / diversion
 - Need enforcement

- Cost awareness
 - Identify all costs and future value / reward
 - Where should resources be allocated - residential or commercial programs?

- Specific challenges
 - Alleys
 - Compostable serviceware
 - Connecting customers (particularly in restaurants) with food waste reduction

- Need effective communication
 - At every level of process - generators (both customers and businesses), collectors, processors
 - Establish compost culture
 - Tie to Zero Waste perspective

- Appeal to businesses
 - Incentives
 - Environmental awareness
 - Program ambassadors

- Training and ongoing communication needed

1. Committee Input and Desired
Outcomes Review

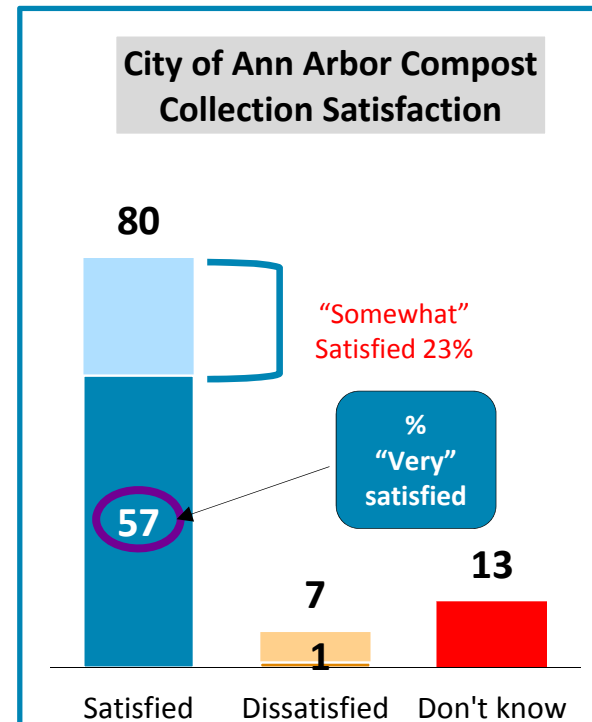
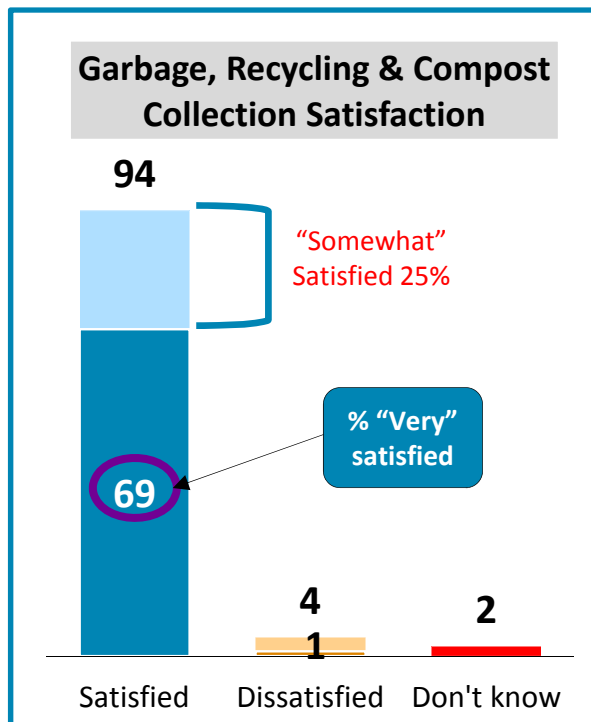
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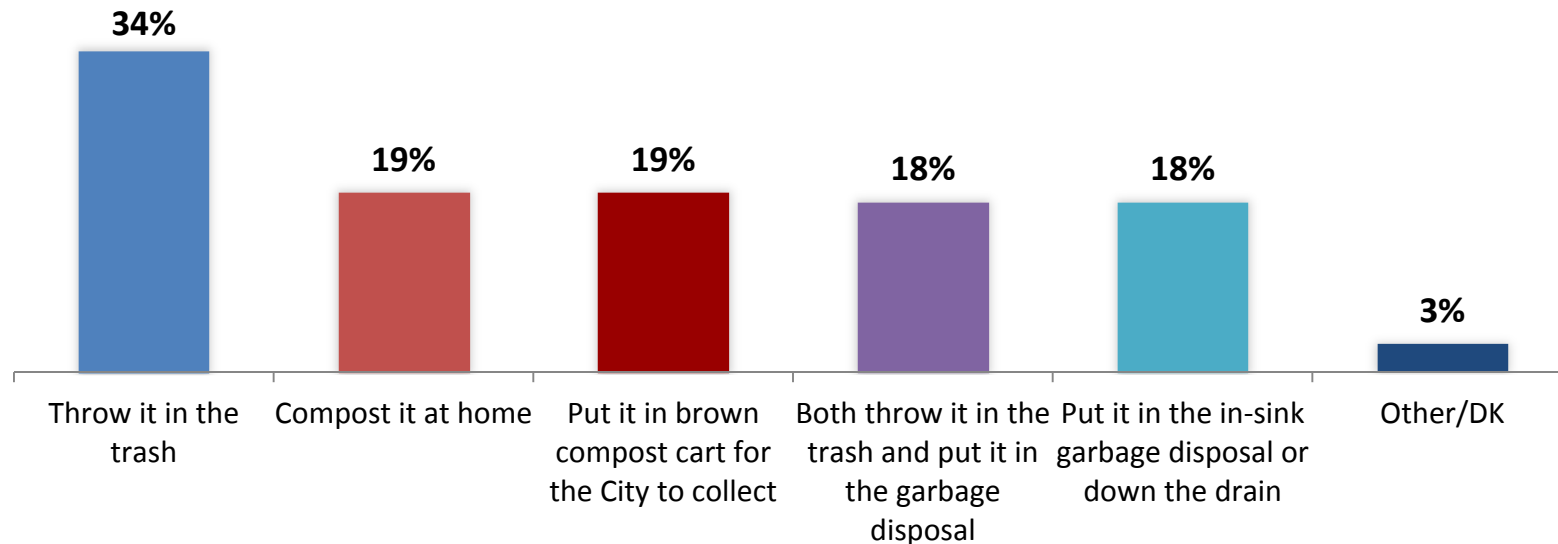


- High resident satisfaction with overall waste-related services and compost services specifically



- Broad awareness of the compost program and the ability to include food waste in the compost cart
- High interest in reducing wasted food

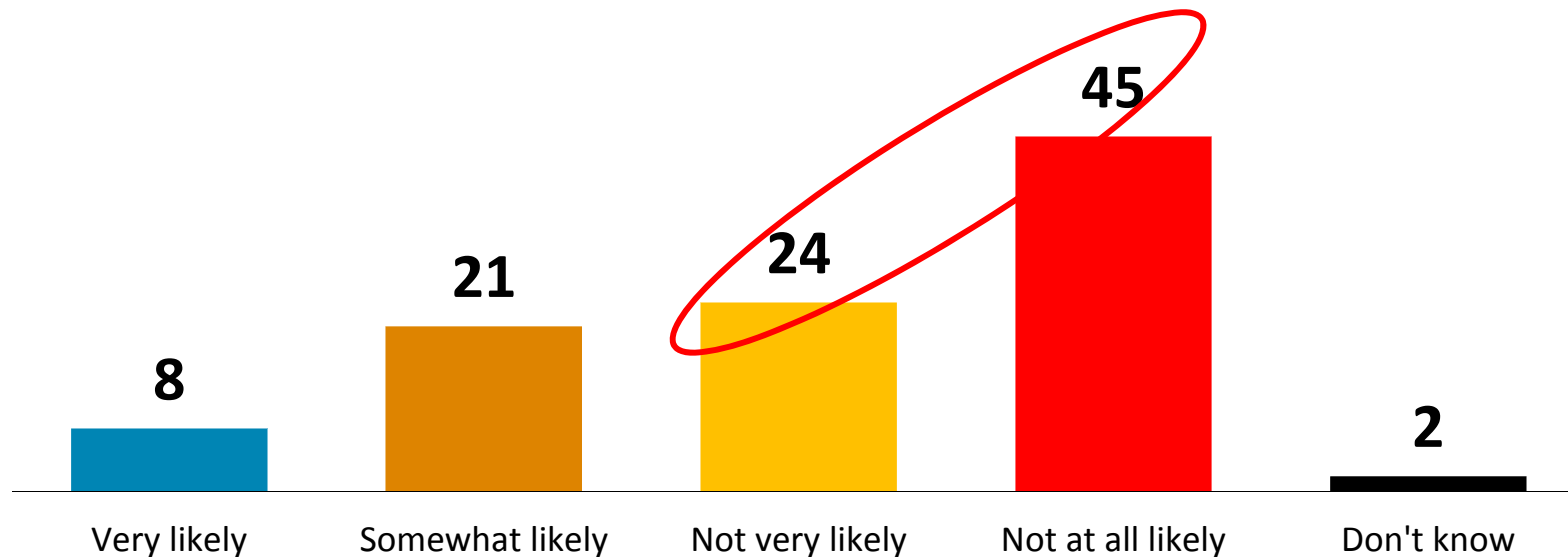
- 62% of respondents have a compost cart
- Primary reason to purchase the cart was to cut down on the number of yard waste bags needed
- Current food waste management practices:



- Significant driver for putting food waste in the compost cart is environmental
- High willingness among those without a compost cart to put food waste in the cart if the cart is provided at no cost

- Factors that would increase satisfaction with current service:
 - Year-round collection
 - City-provided kitchen containers and compostable bags
 - 32% want services to stay as they are
- Nearly half of respondents indicated need for compost collection during winter months
- Limited willingness to pay for more service:

How likely are you to pay a supplemental monthly or annual fee for access to year-round compost collection?



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Ann Arbor Organics Program Timeline

1995

Landscape waste ban implemented in Michigan



2009

Residential vegetative food waste added to compost collection

2011

WeCare Organics begins operating compost facility

2008

Compost carts offered for sale for automated collection

2010

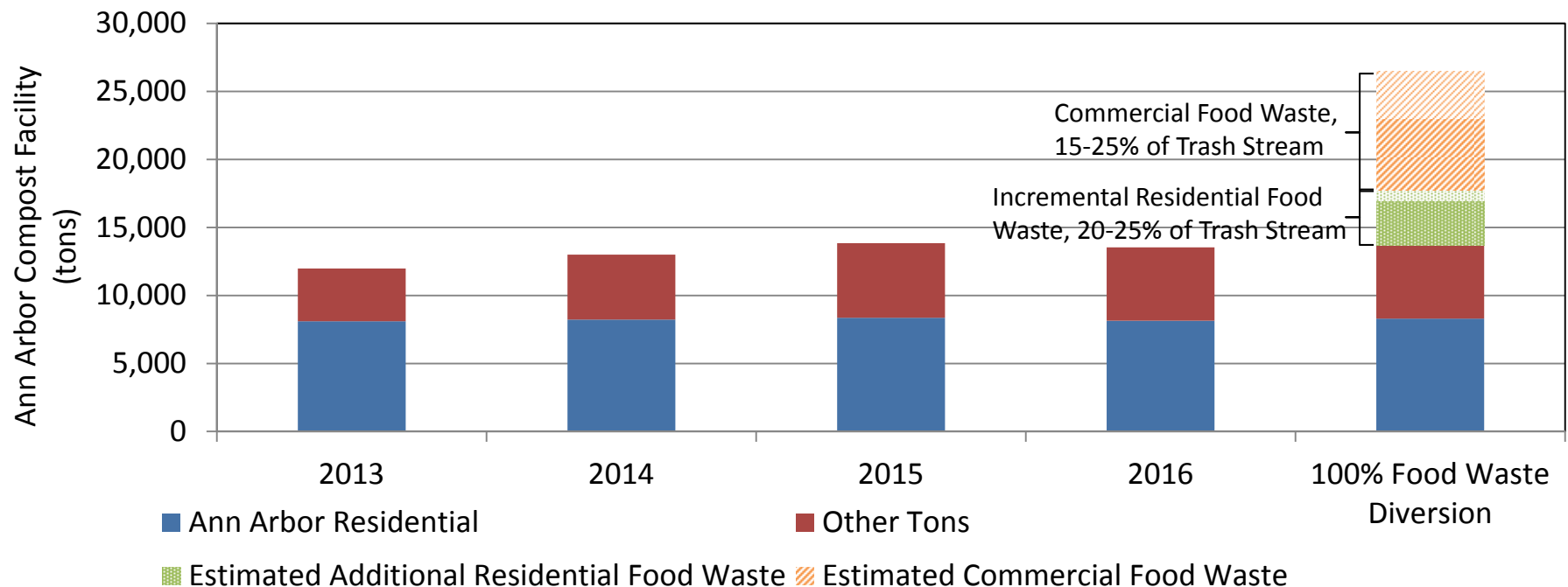
Leaf collection added to seasonal compost collection (no more street collection)

2014

Residential plate scrapings added to compost collection

Potential Future Food Waste Diversion

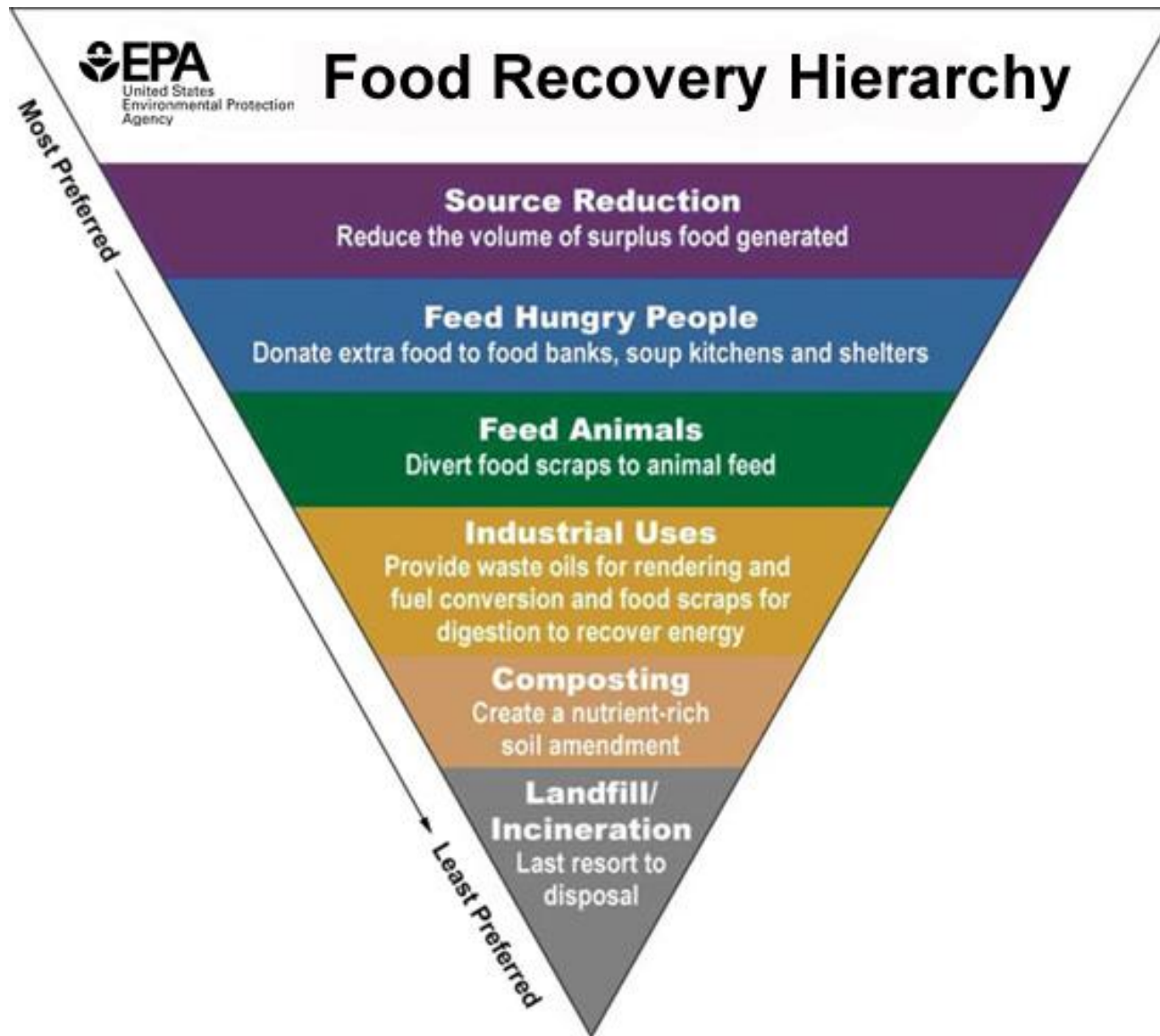
- Current food waste quantities:
 - City / WeCare estimate 1,000-1,500 tons of food wastes are collected from Ann Arbor residents
 - Approximately 500-550 tons of food wastes are delivered by U of M
- Future food waste collection quantities could exceed operational capacity of Ann Arbor Compost Facility, if 100% diversion achieved



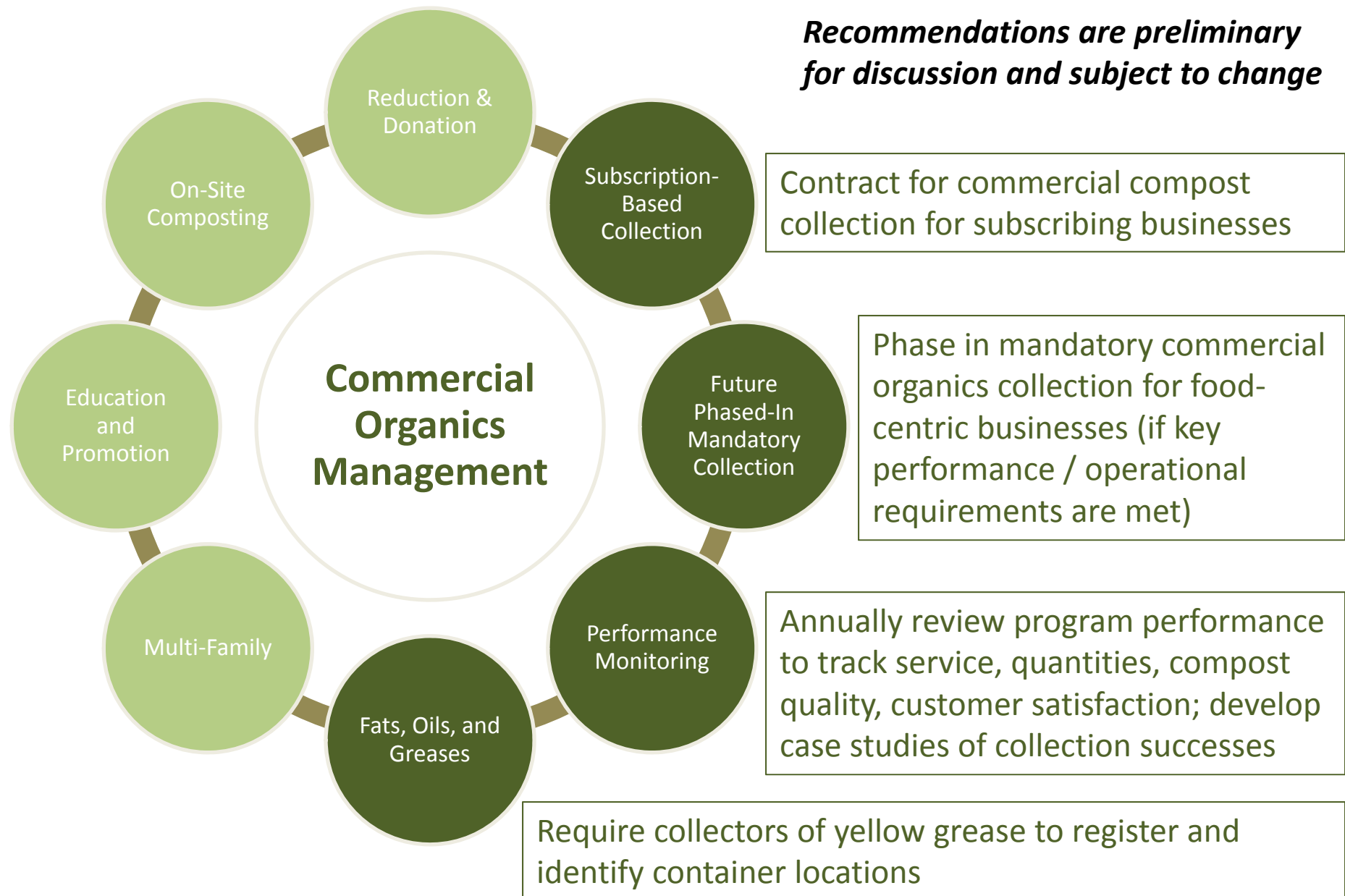
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Recommendations are preliminary for discussion and subject to change



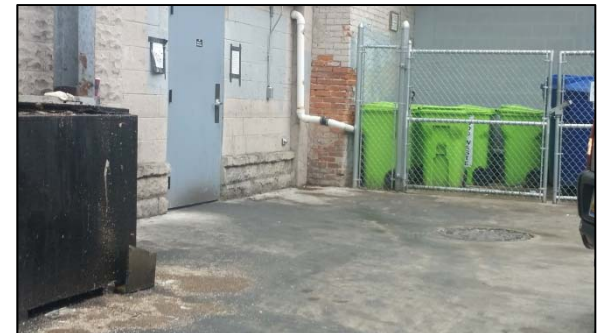
Reduction and Donation

- 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.
- Provide and maintain a comprehensive listing of food donation outlets and guidelines for food donation on the A2 website and through other outreach materials.
- 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.
- 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.



Subscription-Based Collection

- Survey businesses to determine their preliminary interest in subscribing to a food waste collection service provided by a hauler contracted by the City, with collection cost to be paid by participating businesses.
- Develop and distribute a Request for Proposals to secure a private hauler to provide food waste collection on an exclusive basis to participating businesses and multi-family properties not eligible for residential collection service.
- Provide implementation oversight to participating businesses, including identifying or reviewing organics container size, location, and service frequency needs and waste service modifications.



Education and Promotion

- Develop a robust education program prior to start of collection services.
- Develop educational materials for business use.
- Offer one-on-one training / site evaluations to assist in establishing food waste diversion within businesses.
- Provide half-day workshops to promote and facilitate commercial collection.
- Develop methods to recognize businesses participating in a City-organized commercial compost collection program.
- Provide ongoing education to reinforce reduction and compost collection best practices, communicate program changes.



Performance Monitoring

- Routinely evaluate commercial sector organics diversion performance.
- Prepare case studies of successful collection implementation at various types of properties in the City to serve as models for other properties.



Future Phased-In Mandatory Collection for Food-Centric Businesses

- Following implementation of the subscription-based collection program and based on the performance of the program, conduct a future evaluation of the feasibility of mandatory organics collection service for food-centric commercial properties (restaurants/bars, catering, grocery stores, farmers markets).
 - Future policy decision / ordinance development dependent on:
 - Available funding
 - Adequate City staffing for inspections/enforcement
 - Proven solutions for space-constrained properties / alleys
 - Compost facility continues to operate without problems / contamination / odor
 - Education of upcoming shift is communicated at least 1 year in advance , may be phased by business size over a multi-year period



Multi-Family

- 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.
 - 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.
 - Properties that are determined to not be feasibly served with compost carts will be included in the commercial program when developed and provided the same services as commercial properties.
- Provide and maintain 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.



Fats, Oils, and Grease Management

- Develop and implement a licensing or registration requirement applicable to all companies providing used cooking oil collection via City ordinance. As a condition of licensing, require service providers to submit a listing of customers and container locations with the initial license request and all annual renewals.



On-Site Composting

- Require businesses engaging in on-site food waste management (such as on-site composting, food slurring to send to wastewater treatment, individual digesters) to register their operation with the City.



**For a copy of this presentation and other
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www.a2gov.org/organicsplan