

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Update to the Environmental Commission

February 23, 2017



CB&I Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.

In association with:

**PROJECT
INNOVATIONS**
INCORPORATED



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

1. Project Origination

2. Scope of the Plan
3. Current Ann Arbor Organics Management
4. Project Approach
5. Questions and Challenges to Address
6. Draft Recommendations
7. Next Steps



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Why an Organics Management Plan?

- Zero Waste goal - adopted by Environmental Commission in 2007
- Resident and business interest in expanded compost collection
 - Year-round service
 - Access to service (businesses)
- Plan included in FY15/16 budget amendment
- Contract for Plan development awarded March 2016

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

1. Project Origination

2. Scope of the Plan

3. Current Ann Arbor Organics Management

4. Project Approach

5. Questions and Challenges to Address

6. Draft Recommendations

7. Next Steps



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Types of Organic Wastes Included in Plan

- Yard wastes
 - Grass clippings
 - Tree and bush trimmings

- Wood
 - Tree limbs and stumps
 - Non-treated lumber

- Food scraps
 - Food production wastes
 - Food preparation wastes
 - Spoiled/expired food
 - Plate scrapings

- Fats, oils, and grease (“FOG”) from cooking



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Sources of Organic Wastes

At home:

- Yard maintenance / landscaping
- Food preparation
- Spoiled or expired food
- Plate scrapings



Primary generators of food wastes:

- Residential properties
- Restaurants
- Grocery stores
- Hospitals

Away from home:

- Property maintenance / landscaping
- Food preparation
- Spoiled or expired food
- Plate scrapings
- Food production and distribution



- Schools
- Institutions
- Food banks / pantries

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Steps in Organics Management



Segregation



Processing



Collection



Marketing /
sale of
finished
products

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

1. Project Origination
2. Scope of the Plan
- 3. Current Ann Arbor Organics Management**
4. Project Approach
5. Questions and Challenges to Address
6. Draft Recommendations
7. Next Steps



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

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

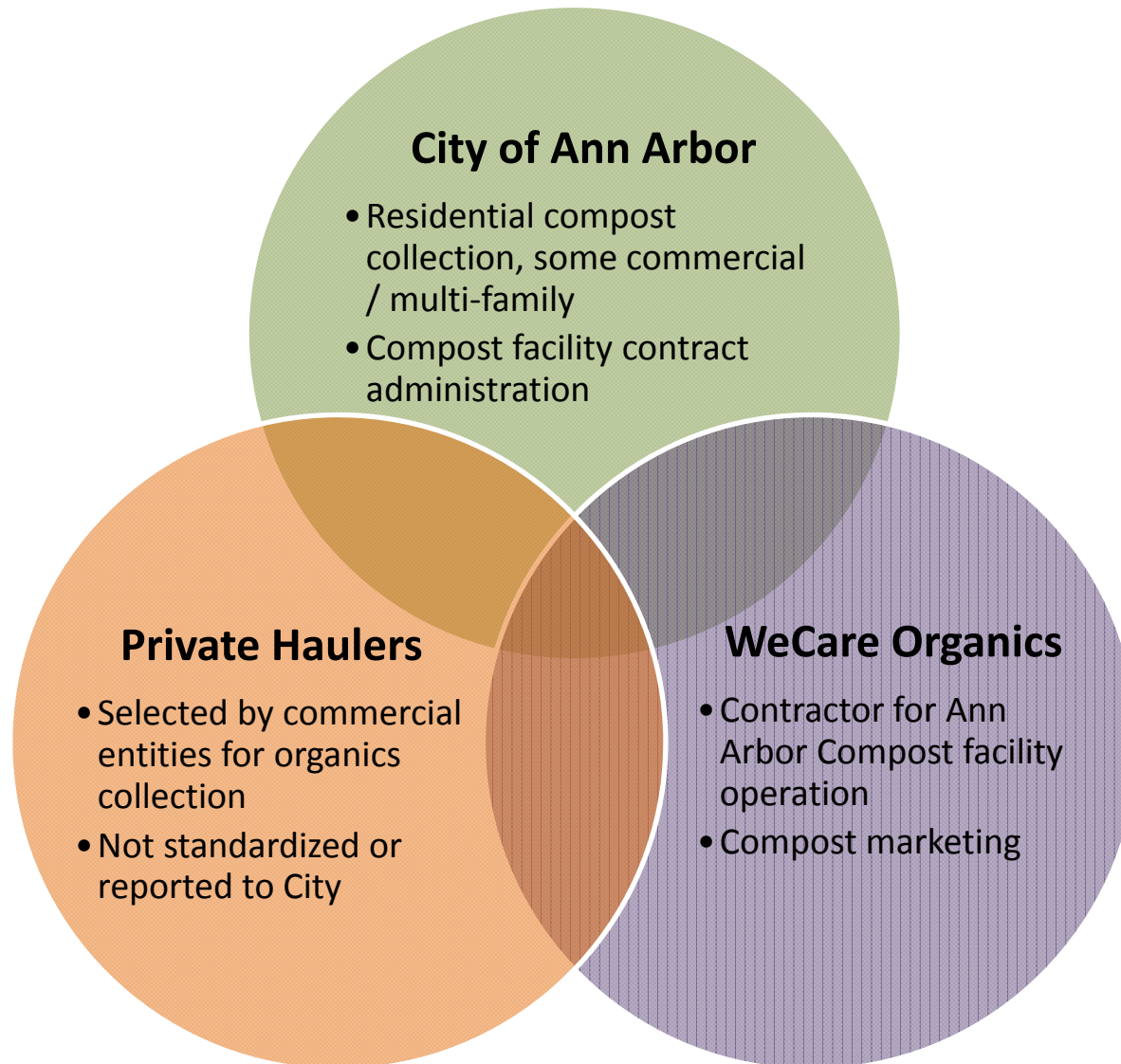
Residential plate scrapings added to compost collection

2016

RFP for compost collection issued

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

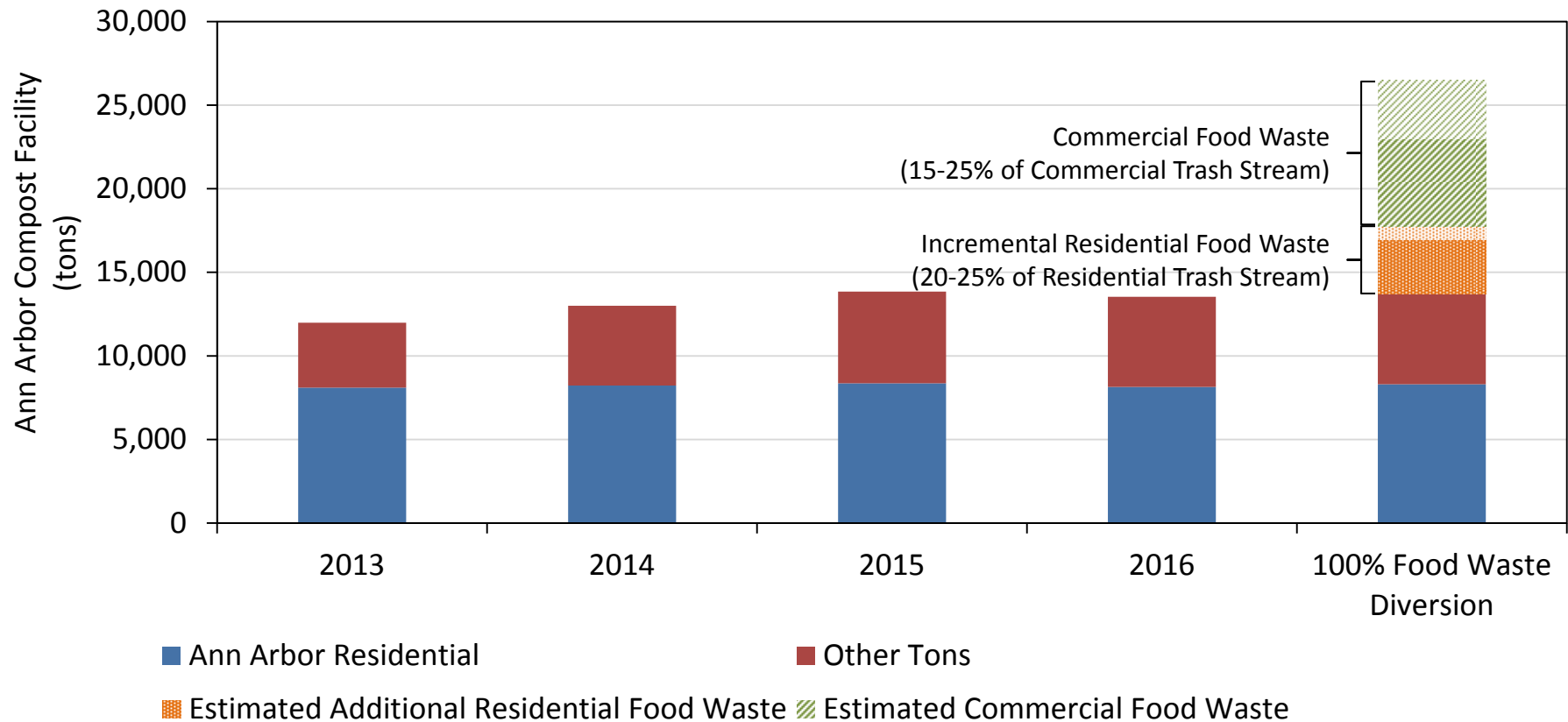
Current Organics Management Roles and Responsibilities



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Organics Diversion Quantities

- 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



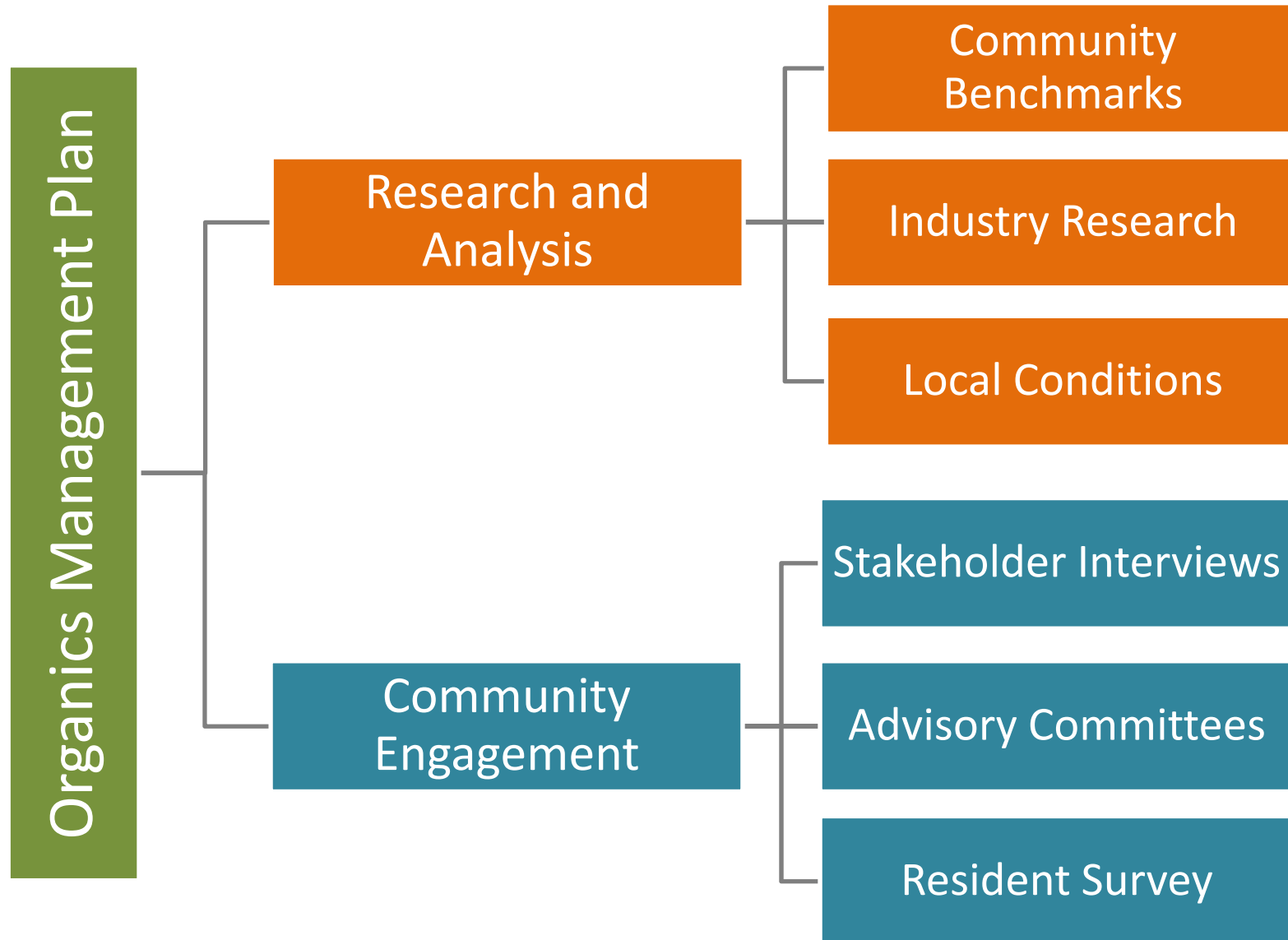
City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

1. Project Origination
2. Scope of the Plan
3. Current Ann Arbor Organics Management
- 4. Project Approach**
5. Questions and Challenges to Address
6. Draft Recommendations
7. Next Steps



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Ann Arbor Organics Management Plan Approach



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Stakeholder Input - Interviews and Advisory Committees

- Purpose: Assess attitudes, perspectives, and interests regarding current and future organics management

- Residential and commercial sector stakeholders
 - Service providers
 - Public agencies and institutions
 - Food service businesses (restaurants, grocery stores)
 - Neighborhood associations and residents at-large

- Completed 13 interviews in July and August, 2016

- Formed 2 separate advisory committees - Residential and Commercial
 - Engaged, informed and experienced members
 - Dedicated webpage with meeting materials - www.a2gov.org/organicsplan

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Residential Advisory Committee Members

Member	Affiliation / Representation
Allison Skinner	Ann Arbor Environmental Commission
Caroline Larose	University of Michigan Student
Christine Crockett	Old Fourth Ward Association
Christopher Pannier	Resident
Clark McCall	Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Don Butynski	WeCare Organics
Ji Wu	Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
John Held	Brookside Subdivision
Judy Nikolai	Resident
Kirk Lignell	Recycle Ann Arbor
Randy Trent	Resident / Washtenaw Intermediate School District
Shelley Steele	Sunset Hilltop Neighborhood Association
Ying Lu	Resident

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Commercial Advisory Committee Members

Member	Affiliation / Representation
Aaron Burman	Llamasoft
Andrew Wilhelme Jennifer Hall Miriam Flagler Rodger Bowser	Zingerman's
Brian Conaway	Waste Management
Diane Keller	A2Y Chamber
Don Butynski	WeCare Organics
Eileen Spring John Reed Sebastian Wreford	Food Gatherers
Eric Yuhasz	Google
Erik Petrovskis	Meijer
Frances Todoro-Hargreaves	State Street Area Assn.

Member	Affiliation / Representation
Gabe Jones Joe McEachern	Detroit Grease
Jan Wright	Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Joel Panozzo	The Lunch Room
John Teeter	First Martin
Kathy Sample	Argus Farm Stop
Kimberly Sheldon	Main Street Ventures
Kirk Lignell	Recycle Ann Arbor
Maura Thomson	Main Street Area Assn.
Noelle Bowman	Washtenaw County
Sam Moran Tracy Artley	University of Michigan
Susan Pollay	Downtown Development Authority

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Advisory Committee Meetings

- Completed 4 meetings with each committee
 - Meetings led by professional facilitator (Charlie Fleetham, Project Innovations) with technical information provided by CB&I and City staff
 - Open to public and complied with Open Meetings Act
 - Residential: July / September / November 2016, January 2017
 - Commercial: August / November / December 2016, January 2017

- Meeting agendas included:
 - Introduction and overview of planning process
 - Background on current practices
 - Discussion of needs and challenges
 - Input to and review of plan recommendations

- Conducted 2 tours of the Ann Arbor Compost Facility
 - September (post-operating hours)
 - November (during operating hours)

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Advisory Committee Feedback

Education

- Very important
- Must be ongoing

Year-round collection

- Desired for residents
- Necessary for businesses

Cost

- Could be a limiting factor in participation
- Full costs need to be identified (including avoided costs and hidden costs)

Notable challenges to implementation

- Space in downtown alleys
- Generator behavior change
- How to pay for services

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

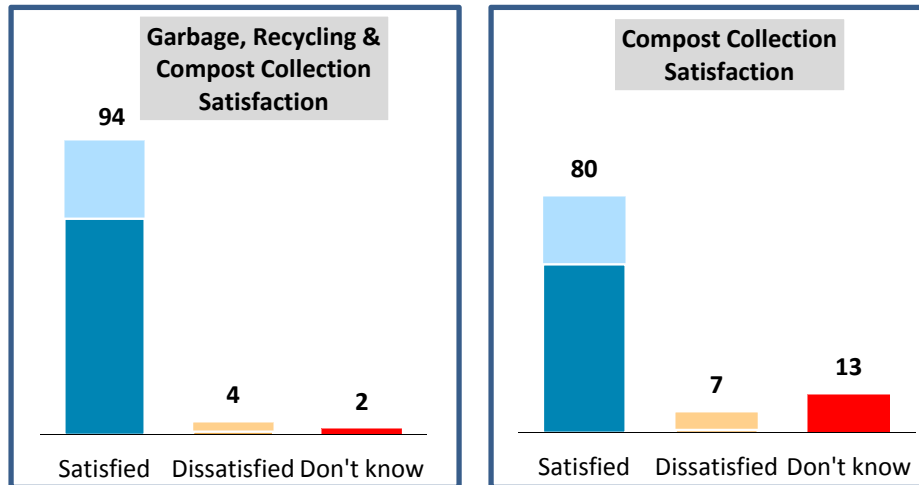
Stakeholder Input - Resident Survey

- Scientific survey of random sampling of residents
- Conducted by phone November 28 - December 5, 2016
- Purpose: Gauge attitudes and behaviors
 - Current organic waste management practices and programs
 - Potential program changes or enhancements
- Target audience: Key household members with awareness of and responsibility for waste and recycling in the household
- Secured 601 responses (achieved target sample of 600 responses)
 - 26,805 calls attempted
- Margin of error = $\pm 4\%$

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Survey Feedback - Existing Programs

- Satisfaction with existing services
 - High - 94% satisfied with all services, 80% satisfied with compost service

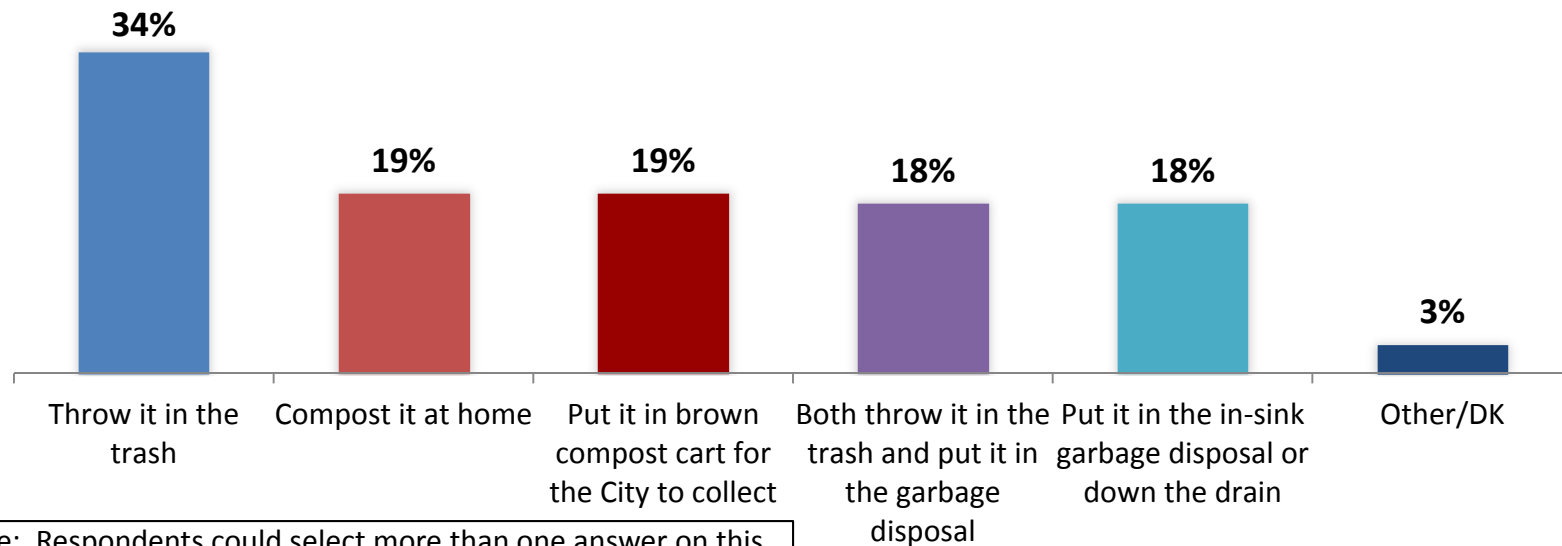


- Cart ownership rate
 - High - 62% of respondents own a compost cart
- Program awareness
 - Majority aware that food waste can go in the compost cart
 - However, 1 in 3 total respondents not aware
 - 1 in 5 compost cart owners not aware

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Survey Feedback - Current Behaviors

- Cart use for food waste
 - Compost cart not widely purchased or used for food waste
 - Of compost cart owners, only 30% put food waste in the cart
 - Significant driver for putting food waste in the compost cart is environmental
- Predominant management method for food waste
 - 70% of respondents put food in the trash, the in-sink disposal, or both



Note: Respondents could select more than one answer on this question; percentages therefore total to more than 100%.

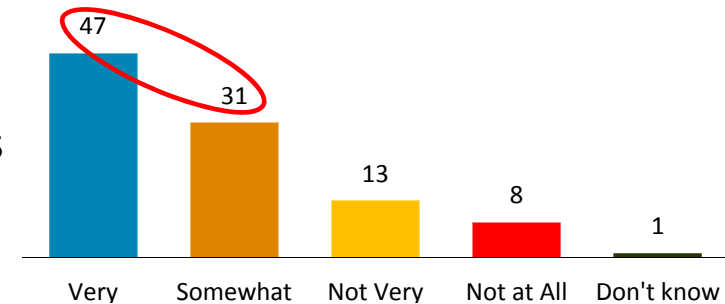
City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Survey Feedback - Future Behaviors

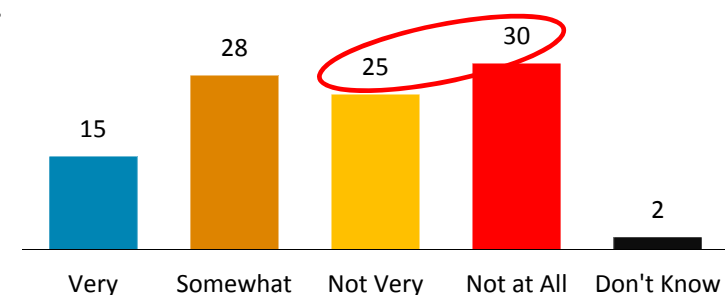
- Interest in reducing wasted food
 - High general interest
 - But, limited interest in using a set of tools or attending workshops to learn more about reducing food waste
- Willingness to put food waste in compost cart
 - High, if a compost cart is provided at no cost



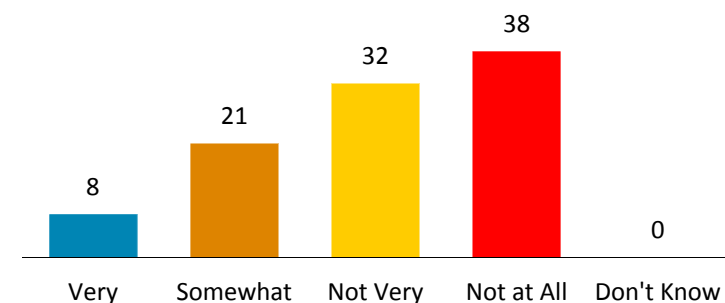
Interest in Reducing Wasted Food



Use Checklist or Educational Tools



Food Waste Workshop Participation



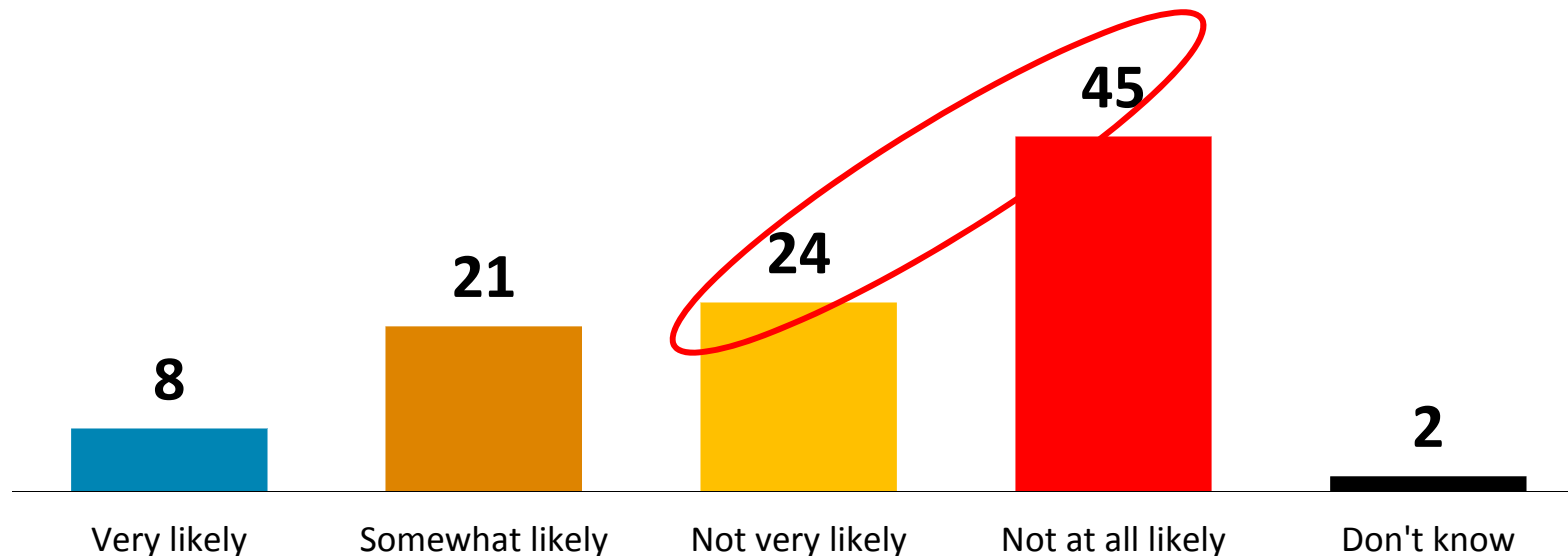
City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Survey Feedback - Future Enhancements

- Suggested program changes to increase service satisfaction
 - Year-round collection
 - Kitchen containers / compostable bags provided by City
 - 1/3 say to change nothing
- Willingness to pay more for year-round collection
 - Low, with nearly half “not at all” willing to pay more



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



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

1. Project Origination
2. Scope of the Plan
3. Current Ann Arbor Organics Management
4. Project Approach
- 5. Questions and Challenges to Address**
6. Draft Recommendations
7. Next Steps



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Questions and Challenges to Address

- Space and logistics of added containers and trucks
 - Alleys
 - Shared containers
- Behaviors and attitudes of generators
 - Participation
 - Material quality / contamination
- Education and communication
- Funding



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

1. Project Origination
2. Scope of the Plan
3. Current Ann Arbor Organics Management
4. Project Approach
5. Questions and Challenges to Address

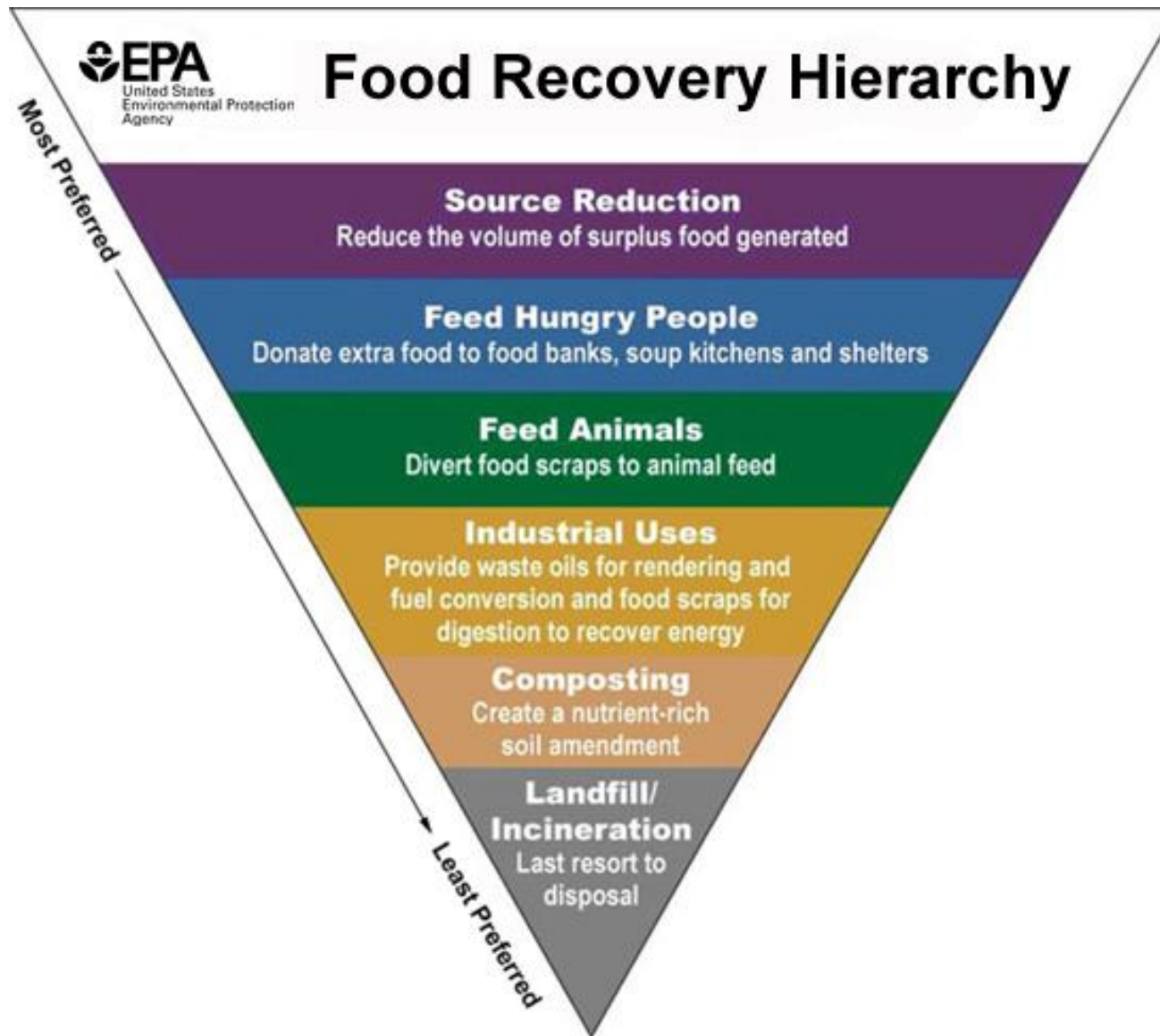


6. Draft Recommendations

7. Next Steps



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Significant Recommendations



Education

- Robust and immediate program
- Both residential and commercial services



Residential organics

- Year-round collection



Commercial organics

- Voluntary, subscription-based collection

Basis of Recommendations

- Advisory Committee input and comments on preliminary recommendations
- Resident survey feedback
- Stakeholder interview input
- Existing local operations data
- Available local infrastructure
- Best practices in benchmark communities

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan



Education - Universal Need

- Central to success of both residential and commercial programs
- Program components
 - Slogan / branding
 - Highlight environmental benefits of food waste diversion
 - Redevelop website resources
 - Workshops
 - Multi-media distribution
- Must be ongoing and recurrent
- Identify and incorporate program ambassadors - “Compost Champion”



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan



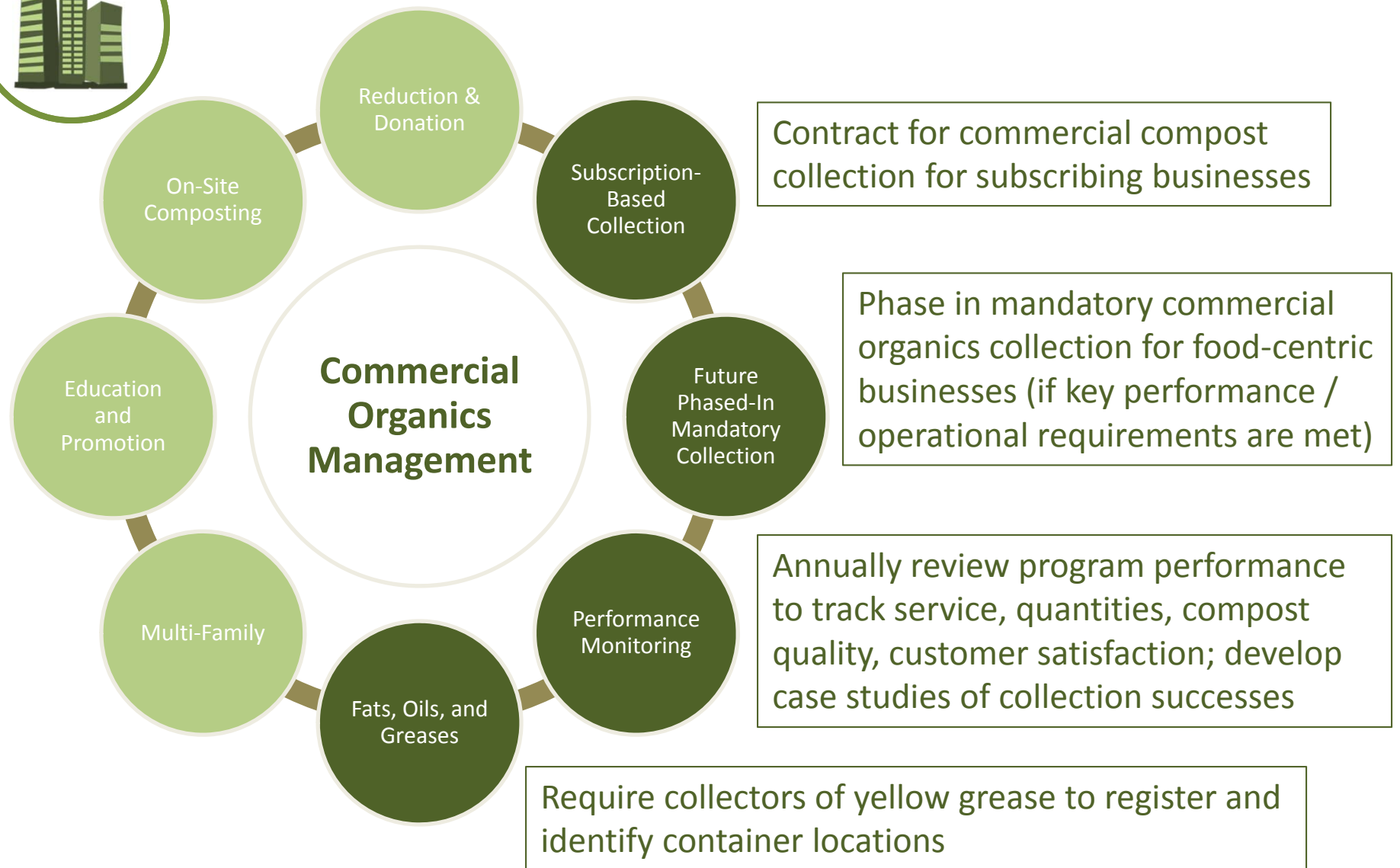
Residential Focus Areas



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan



Commercial Focus Areas



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Near-Term Implementation Options



Education

- Secure marketing firm to begin developing educational materials and brand Citywide program
- Initial focus - awareness of existing program, environmental impact
- \$25,000 - \$40,000 initial investment estimated



Residential organics

- Implement neighborhood pilot for compost cart distribution
- Measure impact on food waste diversion and waste quantities
- \$25,000 - \$40,000 pilot cost, assuming overlap with education implementation and City staff available to monitor and measure performance



Commercial organics

- Execute survey to gauge interest in voluntary compost collection
- Develop collection RFP
- \$50,000 - \$70,000 effort estimated

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

1. Project Origination
2. Scope of the Plan
3. Current Ann Arbor Organics Management
4. Project Approach
5. Questions and Challenges to Address
6. Draft Recommendations

7. Next Steps



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Next Steps - Finalization and Implementation

- Environmental Commission
 - Comments on draft recommendations presented tonight

- CB&I
 - Finalize Comprehensive Organics Management Plan report

- City staff
 - Identify funding sources
 - Implement priority recommendations

City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan

Christina Seibert

Project Manager, CB&I Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.

(630) 762-3306

christina.seibert@cbi.com

For a copy of all Advisory Committee meeting materials and summaries, visit the project site:

www.a2gov.org/organicsplan