



Residential Advisory Committee Comprehensive Organics Management Plan Meeting #4 - January 18, 2017



CB&I Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.

In association with:



1. Committee Input and Desired Outcomes Review

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



- Expanding to year-round collection
- Composting at home
- Pros and cons of using a garbage disposal
- Drop-off option
- Improvement / more options for:
 - Condos / multi-family
 - Student high-rises

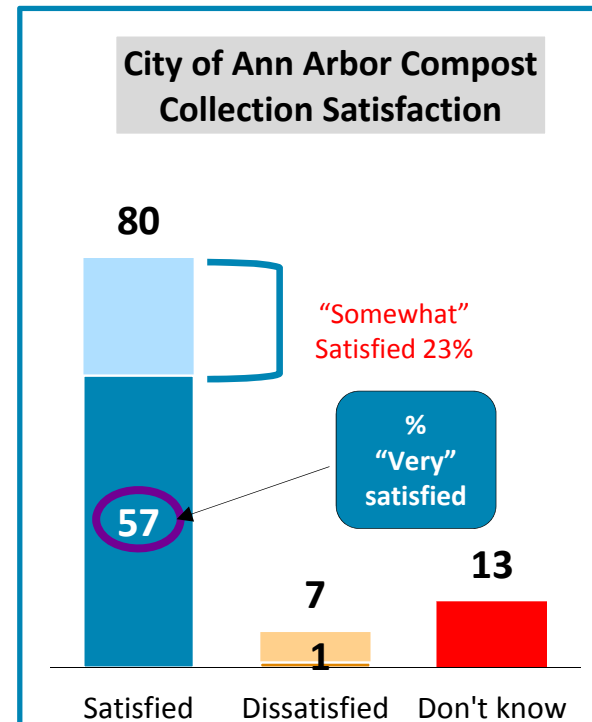
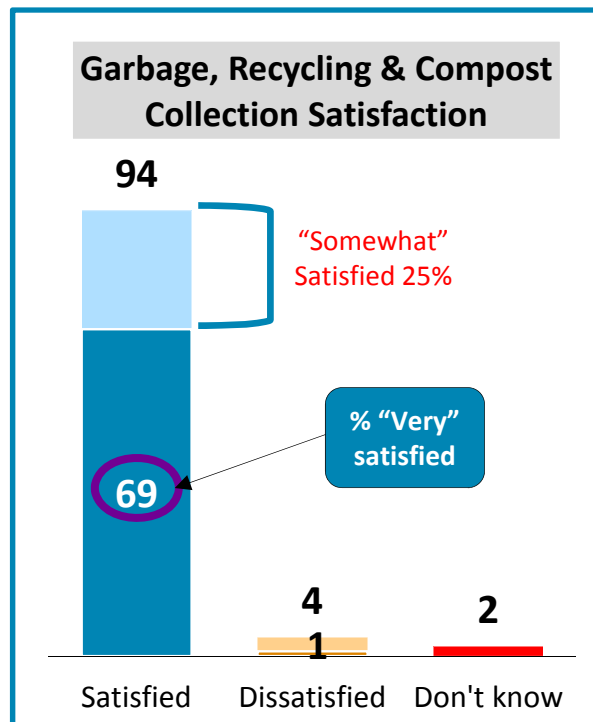
- Where does food waste go and what happens to it?
 - Ann Arbor Compost Center needs to be highlighted, have tours
- Residents don't associate compost carts with food waste or know City wants food waste to be composted
- Identify how program will be communicated
- Residents need additional information about compostable dinnerware
- Some students not used to idea of recycling and composting
- With high student turnover, education needs to be continuous

- Learn more about how this study originated and how it ties to other A2 community efforts
- Learn about what other communities are doing
 - Is anyone else in Michigan doing this?
- What are the cost impacts?
 - Cost to implement options
 - Landfill savings
- Will there be a recommendation for a diversion goal?
- How does this tie to businesses?
 - Wants businesses to step up and to see how plan addresses businesses
 - Overall program may be more commercially focused because of more food waste there

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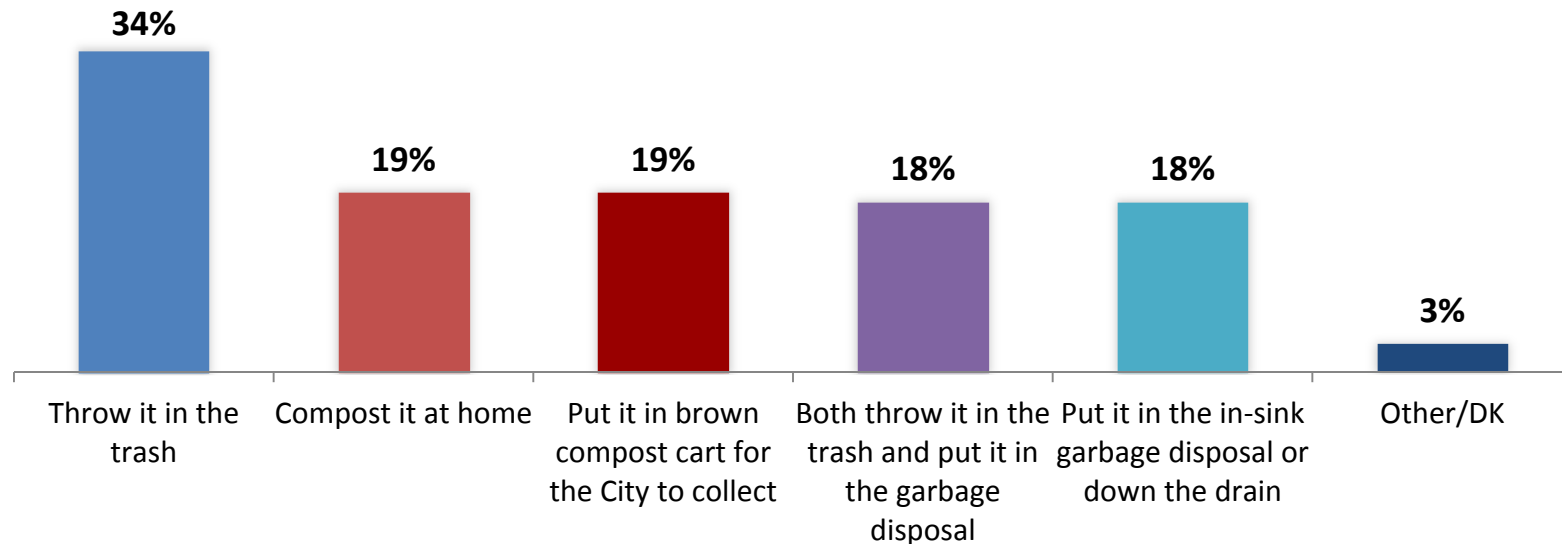


- High resident satisfaction with overall waste-related services and compost services specifically



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

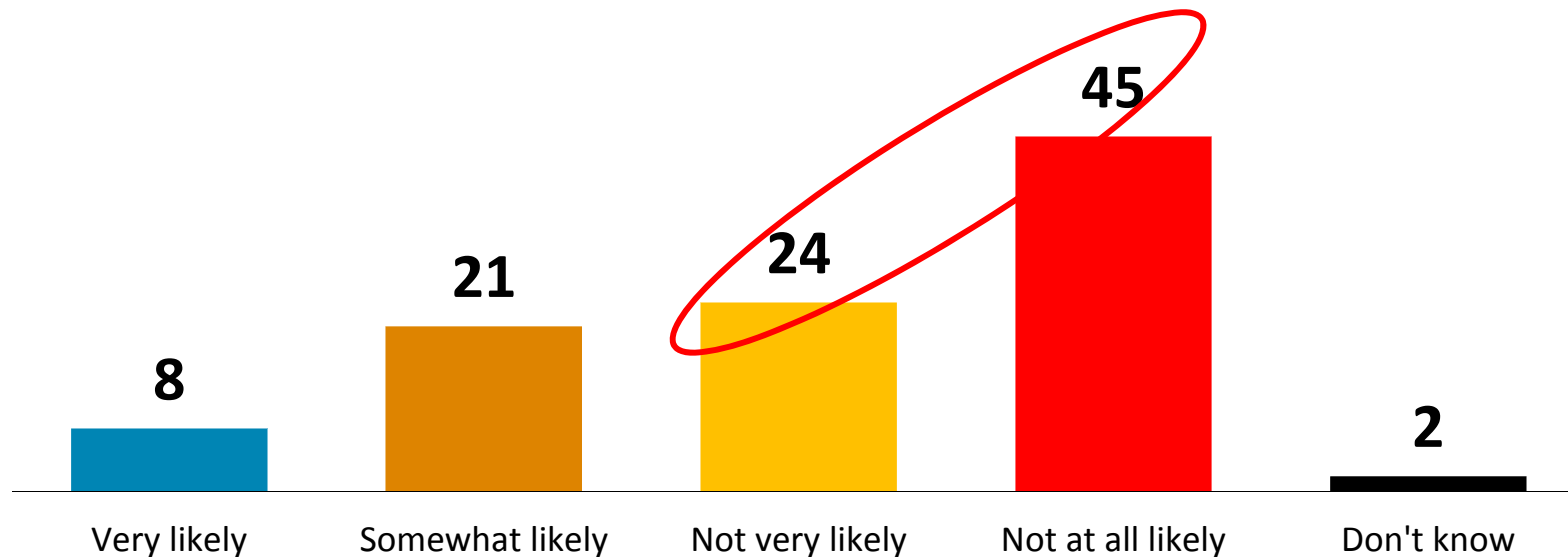
- 62% of respondents have a compost cart
- Primary reason to purchase the cart was to cut down on the number of yard waste bags needed
- Current food waste management practices:



- 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

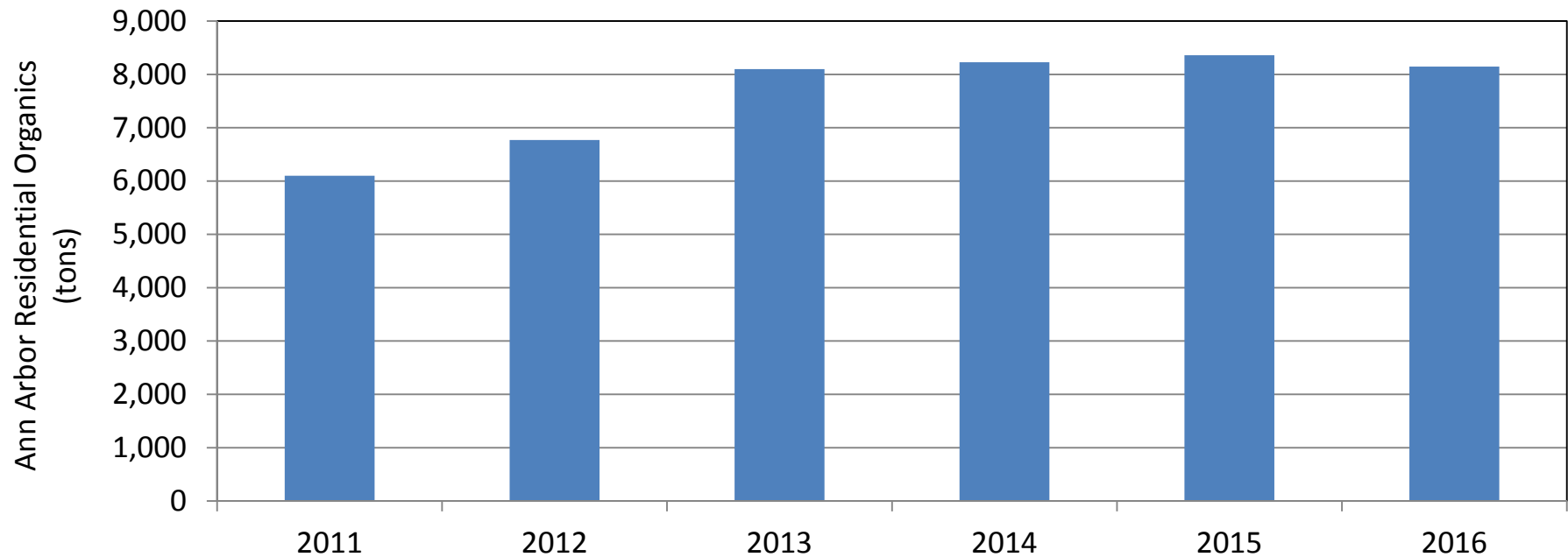
Compost carts offered for sale for automated collection

2010

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

2014

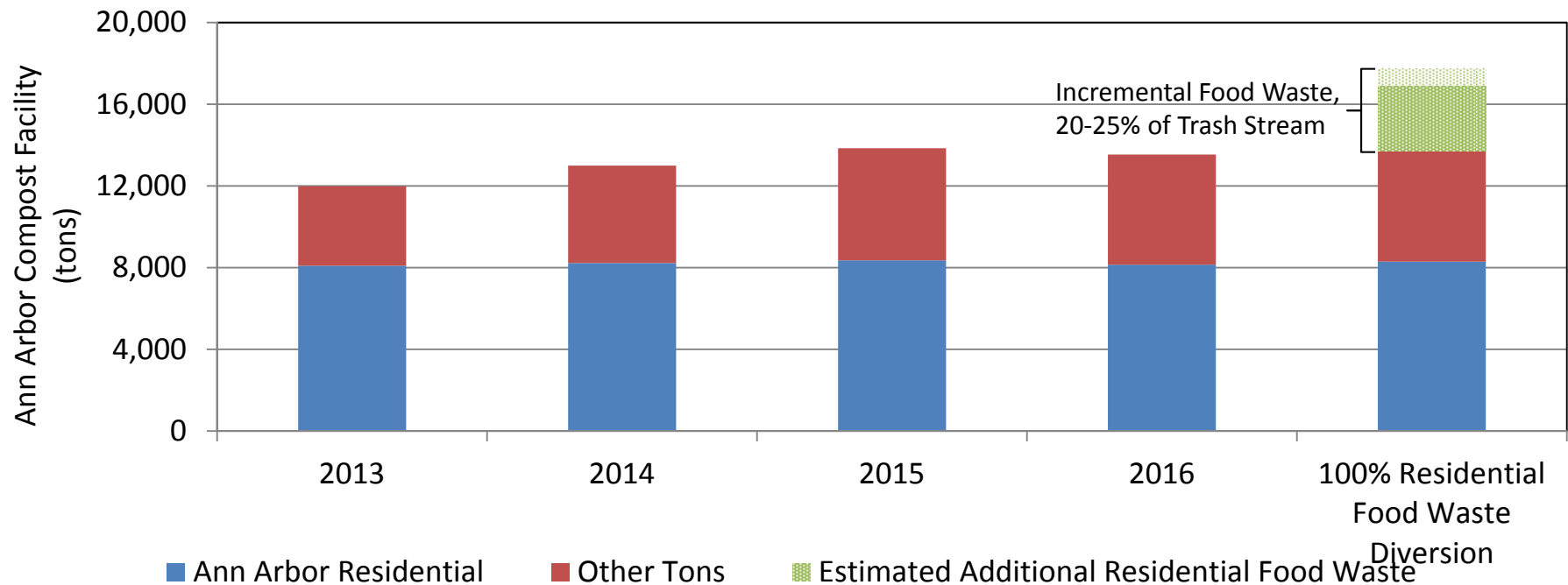
Residential plate scrapings added to compost collection



- Average A2 residential organics = 61 pounds / household / month
- Organics collection in other communities:
 - Seattle, WA = 50 lbs/hh/mo
 - Portland, OR = 90 lbs/hh/mo
 - Berkeley, CA = 87 lbs/hh/mo

Potential Future Food Waste Diversion

- City / WeCare estimate 1,000-1,500 tons of food wastes are collected currently from Ann Arbor residents
- Food waste in residential trash estimated to be 20-25%, by weight
 - Average annual A2 residential trash = 16,200 tons
 - 3,240 - 4,050 tons estimated to be food waste



- High satisfaction: 80% satisfied with current compost services
 - One-third wouldn't change the current program
 - Changes: year-round collection, City-provided kitchen containers and bags

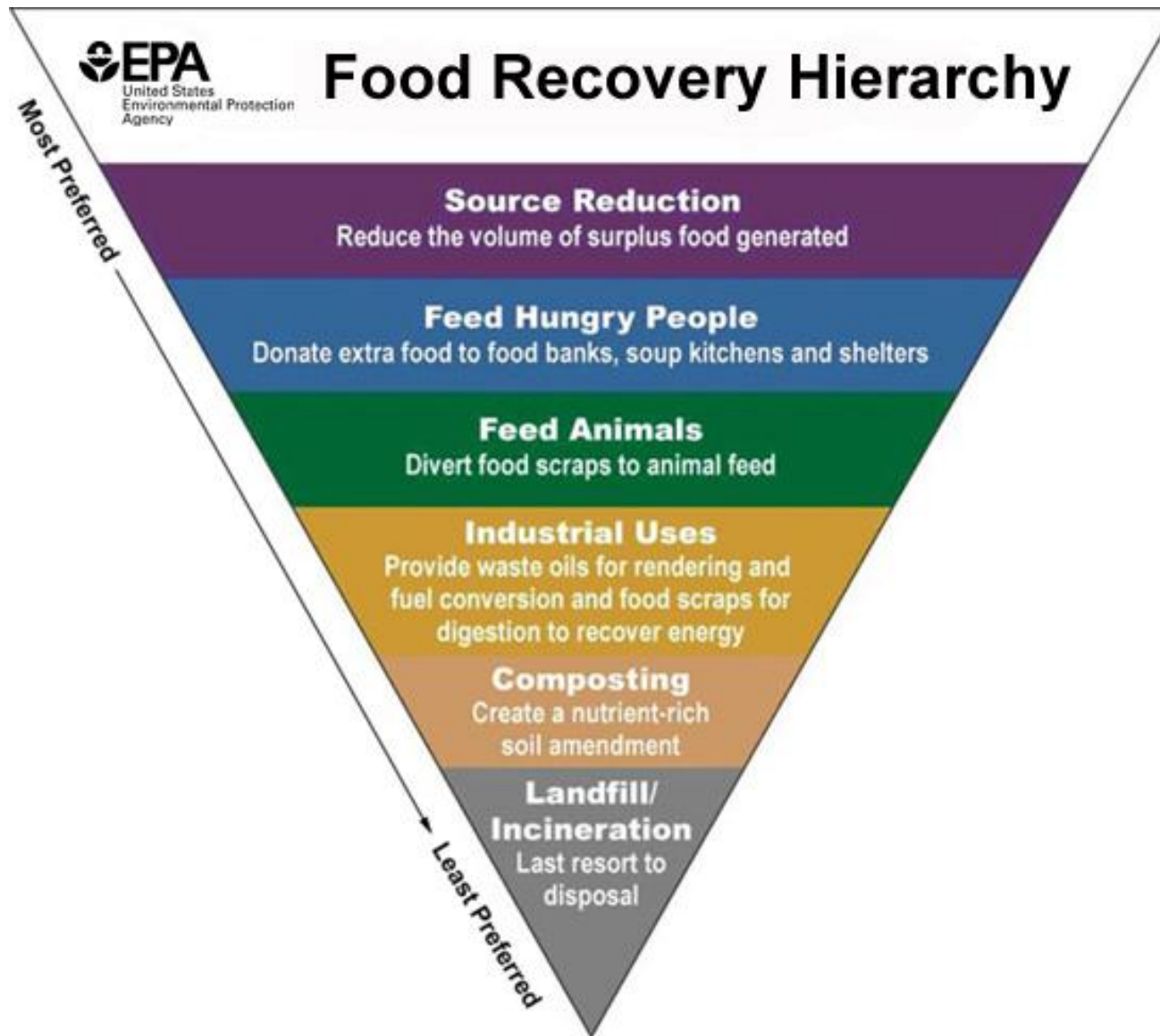
- Strong awareness: 63% aware food waste can go in compost cart
 - 19% say they put food waste in the cart now (about one-third of those with a cart)

- High interest in diverting food waste: 78% interested in reducing the amount of food wasted
 - 73% of residents without a compost cart would be willing to put food waste in the cart if it was provided at no cost

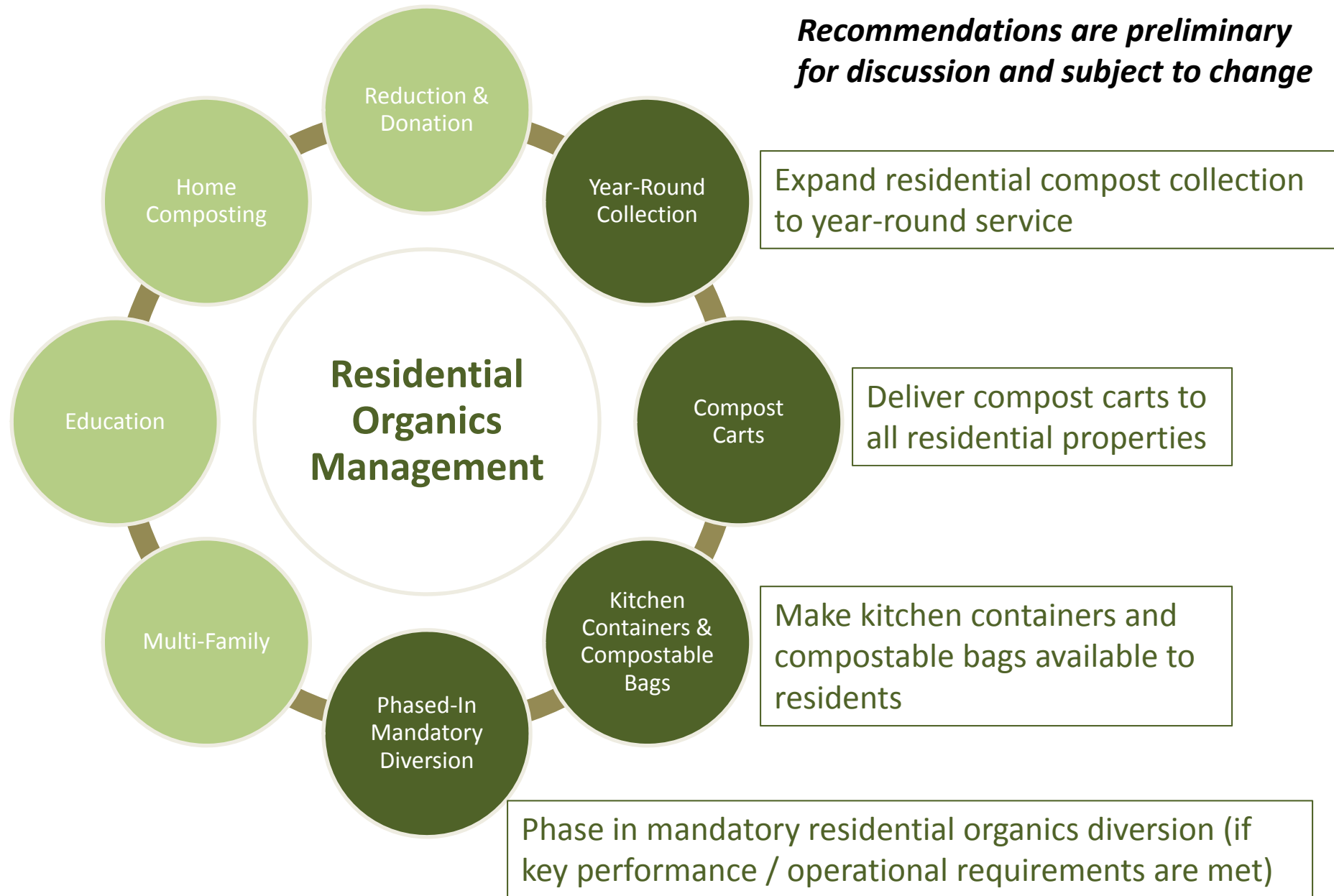
- Cost sensitive: 69% not likely to pay for access to year-round collection
 - 45% were not at all likely to pay
 - 29% were likely to pay

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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.



Year-Round Collection

- Provide every-other-week compost collection during the December - March period, when yard waste quantities are reduced.
 - Provide service on a subscription basis, with only interested residents paying for the additional service
 - OR -
 - Provide service on a Citywide basis, with costs distributed across all residents.



Compost Carts

- 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.
- For residents who do not already have a cart, charge a one-time fee of \$25 for the cart, including delivery.
 - Will require the City to fund a portion of the cart cost
- Provide delivery of carts to residents using City or City-contracted staff.



Kitchen Containers / Bags

- Provide guidelines on the A2 website and in other educational materials for collecting food wastes with resident-provided small containers.
- 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.
 - Provide at no direct cost to residents
 - OR -
 - Offer for resident purchase (estimated at \$10 each, if stocked by City; higher cost if online order link provided to order from vendor)
- 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.



Phased-In Mandatory Diversion

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



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.



Education

- Develop an immediate, robust education program.
- Tailor the education program to provide specific messaging to different types of households; for example, families with children, young people without children, older residents.
- 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.
- Provide ongoing education as program changes are approved for implementation.



Home Composting

- Promote mulching / grass-cycling through educational materials and the A2 website.
- Promote the use of home compost bins and provide educational information to assist residents in bin usage.



- Questions
- Comments
- Changes suggested
- Priorities

**For a copy of this presentation and other
project updates, visit the project site:**

www.a2gov.org/organicsplan