

Ann Arbor City Council Regular Session: March 19, 2012
 Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386

<u>Sent Time</u>	<u>Received Time</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	<u>Reason for Redaction</u>
NO	REDACTIONS NECESSARY					

Corts, Carynne

From: Bowden (King), Anissa
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:02 PM
To: Anglin, Mike; Beaudry, Jacqueline; Briere, Sabra; Crawford, Tom; Derezinski, Tony; Hieftje, John; Higgins, Marcia; Higgins, Sara; Hohnke, Carsten; Kunselman, Stephen; Lumm, Jane; Postema, Stephen; Powers, Steve; Satterlee, Joanna; Schopieray, Christine; Smith, Sandi; Taylor, Christopher (Council); Teall, Margie; Walker, Nancy; Wondrash, Lisa
Subject: C-3 Deleted from Tonight's Agenda
Attachments: Anissa R Bowden.vcf
Importance: High

FYI, C-3 Chapter 18, Employees Retirement System was deleted from tonight's agenda.



Corts, Carynne

From: Stone, Nancy Y
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:35 PM
To: Briere, Sabra
Subject: FW: Council resolution passes on supporting yard waste ban

Thanks for sponsoring this resolution, Sabra. I apologize for the unfortunate typo in the title. We'll get this information out tomorrow first thing. –Nancy

From: Stone, Nancy Y
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:34 PM
To: Satterlee, Joanna; McMurtrie, Thomas; Naud, Matthew
Cc: Stone, Nancy Y
Subject: Council resolution passes on supporting yard waste ban

The resolution passed unanimously with a tweak to the title. Joanna, please issue this Tuesday morning!

March 20, 2012 — Ann Arbor City Council passed a resolution last night in support of the existing 1990 legislative ban on sending yard wastes to state landfills. This resolution is offered in response to bills passed last week in the state House of Representatives (HB 4265 and HB 4266) that would modify the ban on landfilling yard wastes. Ann Arbor's resolution states that composting offers an environmentally sound, cost-effective, and decentralized method for managing yard clippings and other organic wastes, without the long-term impacts of landfill disposal. Michigan's compost industry provides sustainable jobs and produces a valuable soil amending end-product used by farmers, landscapers, governments, and residents. In contrast, diverting yard waste to landfills to extract methane gas for fuel in inefficient and irresponsible release of methane gas. Press release is attached ([pdf](#)).

The PR is posted online for Joanna at:

<http://mossfesvr:8888/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/solidwasteunit/Documents/PR%20Keep%20Yard%20Waste%20Landfill%20Ban%20March%2020%202012.pdf>



PR Keep Yard PR Keep Yard
/aste Landfill Ba./aste Landfill Ba.

Nancy Stone, City of Ann Arbor - Public Services Communications Liaison

nstone@a2gov.org **734-794-6000 x 43112** 24-Hr Info: 99-GREEN Web: www.a2gov.org

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Tom McMurtrie, Solid Waste Coordinator, 734.794.6000 x 43707, tmcmurtrie@a2gov.org; or **Nancy Stone**, Communications Liaison, x 43112, nstone@a2gov.org or **Matt Naud**, Environmental Coordinator, x mnaud@a2gov.org.

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION SUPPORTS CURRENT BAN ON LANDFILLING YARD WASTES: PROPOSED STATE LANDFILL CHANGES WOULD WASTE RESOURCES, JOBS, MONEY

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 20, 2012 — Ann Arbor City Council passed a resolution last night in support of the existing 1990 legislative ban on sending yard wastes to state landfills. This resolution is offered in response to bills passed last week in the state House of Representatives (HB 4265 and HB 4266) that would modify the ban on landfilling yard wastes.

According to Ann Arbor's environmental coordinator Matt Naud, "Ann Arbor has created a composting program that is 27 percent less expensive per ton of material than landfilling." Naud adds, "The production of compost also benefits the city by creating jobs and the sale of compost generates new funds to help support recycling and composting programs in the local community."

Naud explains that the cost to collect and dispose of Ann Arbor's garbage in landfills currently costs \$24.83/ton, with anticipated increases each year. In comparison, composting costs are \$19.00/ton and are expected to decrease during the next five years. Ann Arbor collects an average of 10,000 tons of yard waste per year from city properties. Landfilling these tons would cost the city an additional \$53,000 per year. Ann Arbor's compost site also receives yard waste from other communities and helps lower the solid waste costs for other municipalities.

The suggestion by landfill operators that yard waste buried in landfills contributes a significant source of "green energy" from captured methane gas is not supportable. "There is ample research demonstrating that perishable organics (including grass clippings, leaves, and food waste) will decompose and release methane into the atmosphere during the initial three months of landfill burial—long before the gas collection systems are installed and operational," explains Naud. "Even under optimum circumstances, less than half of the landfill gasses are captured for energy production. The escaping methane gas from landfills contributes a potent



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greenhouse gas into the atmosphere, with 23 times the heat-trapping properties of carbon dioxide.”

Methane gas-fueled generation is a less effective way to manage wastes according to the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s municipal solid waste assessment. “Combustion or gasification with energy recovery, or waste-to-energy (WTE), is the environmentally preferable route for mixed solid wastes **that are neither recyclable nor compostable.**” <http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/wte/nonhaz.htm>

In addition to raising costs for the public in managing their yard wastes, lifting the yard waste landfill ban could encourage more states and Canada to send trash to Michigan. The existing yard waste landfill ban had some impact on reducing the amount of unseparated trash coming into the state.

In passing this resolution, the City of Ann Arbor is joining with the Michigan Recycling Coalition, the U.S. Composting Council, the Ecology Center, League of Conservation voters, and others to encourage public involvement in this discussion. The Ecology Center is coordinating comments on these proposed bills to state elected officials online at http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1421/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=9847.

Ann Arbor’s resolution states that composting offers an environmentally sound, cost-effective, and decentralized method for managing yard clippings and other organic wastes, without the long-term impacts of landfill disposal. Michigan’s compost industry provides sustainable jobs and produces a valuable soil amending end-product used by farmers, landscapers, governments, and residents. In contrast, landfills are engineered to exacting and expensive specifications to limit pollution from the disposal of other wastes. Repealing the existing yard waste landfill ban benefits landfill operators for short-term solutions, while raising long-term costs to the public and environment.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city’s mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

Appendix:

State Resources

[HB 4265](#)

[HB 4266](#)



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City Council Resolution to Ban Landfilling Yard Waste for Landfills,

as submitted for consideration on March 19, 2012

<http://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1083930&GUID=9047AE0A-6B8A-49BD-A669-B9ED57A34046&Options=&Search=>

U.S. Composting Council

General fact sheet web page: <http://compostingcouncil.org/factsheets-and-free-reports/>

Presentation for upholding Michigan's yard waste landfill ban:

<http://compostingcouncil.org/admin/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Keeping-Yard-Debris-out-of-Michigan-Landfills.pdf>

The Ecology Center is coordinating comments to state elected officials on the 2012 proposed bills to dilute the yard waste landfill ban through an online link at

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Michigan Recycling Coalition: Top Ten Reasons Why Yard Waste Doesn't Belong in Landfills

- 10) More energy would be saved by composting and source reduction than would be generated by landfilling it.
- 9) Increasing organic material in landfills will increase greenhouse gas production and eventual release.
- 8) Landfills are an inefficient technology for energy production.
- 7) Organics make up a significant portion of the waste stream and have the potential to increase waste diversion dramatically.
- 6) Compost is valued for its nutrient content, is used as a soil amendment and for erosion control and stormwater management on farms, adjacent to roadways, and in environmental rehabilitation efforts.
- 5) Michigan has a well-developed infrastructure for composting yard clippings and yard waste provides an important bulking agent for the composting of other organics such as food waste.
- 4) Cost to municipalities and residents to dispose of yard clippings is likely to be more than composting yard clippings.
- 3) Composting yard clippings creates more jobs than landfilling.
- 2) Michigan has a very low recycling rate. Landfilling yard clippings will lower our ranking further.
- 1) The yard clippings disposal ban is one of the few tools Michigan has to limit solid waste importation. # # #



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