



Legislation Text

File #: 18-0551, **Version:** 2

Environmental Commission Resolution to Support Funding for Organics Recovery in FY 19

The Environmental Commission is recommending that the Ann Arbor City Council allocate \$100,000 on education, outreach, and collection equipment to improve organics recovery rates in the FY 2019 budget.

Prepared by Commissioner Hutton

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor's Comprehensive Organics Plan ("The Plan"), dated May 2017, notes that approximately twenty percent (20%) of the city's waste currently being landfilled is food waste;

Whereas, The Plan identifies "robust education and outreach" as one of its principal recommendations, "helping residents and businesses to identify the environmental benefits of reducing and diverting organic wastes and promote the programs available to them to divert organic wastes";

Whereas, The Plan recommends an annual expenditure of \$3 to \$4 per household (\$67,500 to \$90,000 for 22,500 households) for education and outreach aimed at the residential sector;

Whereas, The City's Solid Waste Resource Plan Update 2012-2017 and the City's Sustainability Framework both tout the benefits and opportunities related to organics recovery in general and food waste composting in particular;

Whereas, The City has not funded specific food waste recovery education and outreach in the residential sector since the program's initial launch four years ago;

Whereas, The Plan estimates that fewer than 25% of curbside residential households have a compost cart, and of those that do, only 30% are placing food waste into those carts, a food waste participation percentage of roughly 7.5% after four years of program history;

Whereas, Integrated and expanded community outreach/education, discounted compost curb carts and free kitchen countertop containers can be expected to increase compost awareness and recovery rates in the near and long-term;

RESOLVED, That the Environmental Commission recommends that City Council allocate \$100,000 in FY 2019 on education, outreach, and collection equipment to improve organics recovery rates;

RESOLVED, The Environmental Commission recommends such an effort to be planned and executed expeditiously in order to begin in September 2018;

RESOLVED, That the Environmental Commission recommends that City Council fund this initiative from the unrestricted fund balance of the Solid Waste Fund;

RESOLVED, That the Environmental Commission recommends that City Council request a bi-annual update in October 2018 and May 2019 from staff on the progress being made in the implementation of this resolution.