



# COMMERCIAL ORGANICS RECOMMENDATION

## City of Ann Arbor Commercial Recycling Committee of the Environmental Commission

### Program Description

The City would offer vegetative food waste collection services up to six days per week to businesses. Participation would be voluntary for DDA businesses, as well as for those participants, downtown or elsewhere, willing to pay a fee for collection and/or self-haul to the City's compost center.

### User Details

- Outreach materials (hard copy, email pdfs and online) will provide information on how to sign up for the service and set up the in-building bag and outdoor container system. Requirements will include assigning a single point of contact composting champion, provision of required bags and containers and use of instructional signage and standard operating procedures for staff.
- Acceptable materials would initially include:
  - coffee grounds and filters
  - paper bags and newspapers, waxed boxes and waxed-lined paper bags
  - pre-approved biodegradable plastic bags
  - uncooked produce scraps (fruit & vegetable peels, apple cores, corncoobs, husks, salad greens)
  - other non-animal or dairy based food wastes such as bread, bagels, muffins, donuts
- Unacceptable material would include:
  - plate scrapings, meat, fish, bones, oils, milk, cheese, yogurt and sauces
- Materials to test and/or gather more information:
  - pesticide residue on organics from florists, egg shells and their potential for contamination
  - animal bedding would require a pilot and MDEQ's approval

### User Experience of Program Costs

- Program participants are offered the service under the following conditions: 1) they must generate a minimum of two tons per month of food waste (may eventually be reduced to 1 ton per month); 2) they must have adequate space for the collection containers; 3) they must be serviceable by the collection vehicle; and 4) they must wash their own containers if City's truck does not include cart wash capability.

### How Program Could Actually Be Paid For

- Some of costs covered through City millage.
- Some of costs covered from sales of finished compost, bulk and bagged.
- Some of costs covered through collection fees (outside of DDA)
- Some of costs covered through self-haul tip-fees at Compost Site (\$17.50-\$25 per ton)

### Proposed Phasing

- 2007-08 Fiscal Year: Program design/procurement begins with solicitation of proposals from potential partners (e.g. Food Gatherers, large grocery chains, etc.) and Phase I implementation.
- 2008-09 Fiscal Year: Collection systems are updated (potential new specialized vehicle) and long term Phase II service provision initiated. Additional accounts added.
- 2009-10 Fiscal Year: Demonstrate on-site processing pilot (e.g. w/UM) while adding accounts to collection program. Long term expansion evaluated in context of Solid Waste Plan Update.