

Lisa McNeilly

FROM	NAME & TITLE	LISA MCNEILLY, SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEM	FROM	NAME & TITLE	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET			AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #19-0139R INVESTIGATIVE HEARING – COMPOSTING			SUBJECT	

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400
 100 North Holliday Street

TO
 May 3, 2019

The Office of Sustainability is in receipt of City Council Bill #19-0139R, which is for the purpose of inviting the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste, the Director of the Office of Sustainability, the Coordinator of the Office of Sustainability, and the City Arborist to update the City Council on the City’s progress toward creating a municipal composting program, to provide a fiscal impact statement on creating the program, and to estimate a time line for Citywide implementation of municipal composting.

Municipal composting is addressed in more than one chapter in the new 2019 Sustainability Plan (formally adopted by the Planning Commission on April 22, 2019):

Waste and Recycling

Strategy #1: Increase the amount of trash that is diverted from the landfill and incinerator to recycling programs.

Action 3: Create and implement a plan to achieve zero waste, meaning we “are working toward or diverting over 90 percent of our discards from landfilling or incineration.” Ensure extensive outreach and a plan that addresses the needs of the entire population.

Strategy #2: Expand Baltimore’s Waste to Wealth initiative.

- Action 1:** Implement the City’s Food Waste and Recovery Strategy to build community, create jobs, and increase the resilience of our city.
- Action 2:** Site a local composting facility to build the city’s capacity to accept food and yard waste while creating local jobs; work with communities to ensure placement does not exacerbate conditions in underinvested neighborhoods.
- Action 4:** Create a revolving loan fund for investment in recycling and composting infrastructure and loans for companies that address infrastructure.

Strategy #3: Pursue legislative and policy changes to reduce the waste stream.

Action 3: Develop a plan for a “Save As You Throw” program to reduce waste that is landfilled or burned; incentivize reductions in the amount of household garbage placed on the curb using coupons or vouchers (recycling would remain free of charge). Ensure early and ongoing input from communities, communicate about the program with

racially and ethnically diverse materials, and include provisions for neighborhoods with high litter and trash rates.

Healthy School Environments

Strategy #4: Conserve resources.

Action 1: Reduce waste and increase recycling through rightsize food ordering, maximizing food recovery, and composting food waste and compostable trays. Recycle at all schools, and increase electronics, light bulb, and construction waste recycling. Minimize paper waste by replacing print and mail notifications with electronic communication systems (like email or text message).

In addition, the City released Baltimore's Food Waste & Recovery Strategy (September 2018) detailing the city's aim to reduce food waste, rescue food for those in need and help build a local economy through composting. At the same time, the Food Matters Project was announced. This is a partnership between the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the City of Baltimore to integrate strategies to advance food waste prevention, surplus food rescue, and recycling of food scraps. NRDC is providing funding to devote staff time to the issue of food waste, considerable technical assistance from their team of experts, and other resources to accomplish agreed upon goals. Funding is provided by the Rockefeller Foundation.

With the funding, the Office of Sustainability is developing a multi-year plan with expertise from NRDC and other parties, which includes a timeline for design, adoption and implementation of the strategies, including time-based milestones. Key elements will include the intended design and structure of each initiative; detailed activities and deliverables required to reach the milestones that will occur during the first twelve months; City-based and non-City based resources and support needed by the City to achieve each initiative; and estimated amount of time that key staff employed by the City can commit to the design, adoption and implementation of the strategies.

One element of the Food Matters work plan is the initiation of free residential compost drop-off at the Sunday JFX Farmer's Market and Bazaar. From Sunday, May 5th through the last Sunday of the market in 2019, residents can bring compost to the market and drop it off at no cost. The Office of Sustainability is working in partnership with the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, Albright Farms, and the Department of Public Works on this new initiative. Residents will also receive information on how and why to compost. All compost will be sorted and weighed, and composters will be asked to provide general demographic information.

The Office of Sustainability fully supports City Council Bill #19-0139R.

cc: Mr. Jeff Amoros, Mayor's Office
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
Mr. Ervin Bishop, Council Services
Mr. Chris Ryer, Department of Planning