

Proposed Actions to Achieve 60% Residential Waste Diversion Other Organics Management – Community Composting

14. Provide financial support to community groups or environmental organizations that want to set up a community composting program

Summary:

- Set aside funding for community groups/ organizations to set up community composting program
- Funding would cover 100% of capital costs

The City could consider composting operations in locations where community members can compost their garden or kitchen waste using large bin composters, small scale in-vessel composters or vermicomposting. Organic waste collection bins could be located at different participating sources, e.g., churches, community gardens, coffee shops, etc. Collected waste would be dropped off to the community composting area. Final compost could be used in community gardens or for local landscaping needs.

The City of Toronto provides funding to FoodShare, a non-profit food security organization that supports Toronto Compost Leaders, a grass roots initiative to build community composting capacity in multi-residential buildings using food waste. No other large municipality in Ontario has a formal community composting program.

Community composting may require provincial approvals depending on the location and where the food waste is coming from.

It is recommended that the City:

- set aside funding for community groups or environmental organizations that want to set up a community composting program; and
- funding would cover 100% of capital costs.

It is suggested that City set aside \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year to support community composting initiatives. For estimating purposes, it is assumed that 10 community composting sites will be established by 2022 diverting approximately 20 to 40 tonnes per year.

**Proposed Actions to Achieve 60% Residential Waste Diversion
Other Organics Management – Community Composting**

Consideration			Community Composting		
			Low Tech Program Public	Low Tech Program Private	High Tech Program Public
Environmental	Change in Diversion	Annual Tonnes Diverted	10 to 19	10 to 19	80 to 240
		Contribution to 60% Target	0.01%	0.01%	0.05% to 0.14%
	GHG Benefits	Reduction per Tonne Diverted	0.8 tonnes		
		Annual Reduction (tonnes)	8 to 15 tonnes (2 to 4 cars removed from the road ^a)	8 to 15 tonnes (2 to 4 cars removed from the road ^a)	64 to 200 tonnes (16 to 50 cars removed from the road ^a)
Social	Public Support		General support for community composting program		
	Resident Benefits/ Issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple design and access • Public access may cause quality issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple design and access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More knowledge required • Public access may cause quality issues
Financial	Cost ^b	Collection	\$0	\$0	\$0
		Processing	\$0	\$0	\$0
		Other	\$1,500 to \$3,000	\$5,000 to \$10,000	\$52,000 to \$78,000
		Total	\$1,500 to \$3,000	\$5,000 to \$10,000	\$52,000 to \$78,000
	Cost per Household		\$0.01 to \$0.02	\$0.03 to \$0.06	\$0.30 to \$0.45
	Market/Revenue		No revenue	No revenue	No revenue
Technical	Collection Issues		Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	Processing Issues		Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City responsible for maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City responsible for maintenance

Notes

- (a) The diversion of these materials has avoided the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions equivalent to removing the identified number of vehicles per year.
 (b) Based on industry estimates, literature review and data from other municipalities.