



BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

March 23, 2026 | 5:30 PM

Mayor's Conference Room

Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

(248) 347-0460

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL - Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[February](#) 9, 2026 Minutes

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

[My](#) Green Michigan Food Scrap Collection/Composting Proposal

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: People with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk (248) 347-0456 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.



CITY OF NOVI
Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting
February 9, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Council Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER: 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Smith

STAFF LIAISON: Danielle Mahoney, Assistant City Manager

ALSO PRESENT: Katherine Oppermann, Recording Secretary
Rebecca Runkel, Project Engineer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Gurumurthy; Seconded: Heintz; Approved 3:0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 7, 2026 Minutes

Motion: Gurumurthy; Seconded: Heintz; Approved 3:0

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. *My Green Michigan* Food Scrap Collection/Composting Proposal

Councilmember Heintz started the discussion by stating that, as they come to a consensus for the approach for a composting pilot program to bring before council, that he would ideally like to include individual household bins (small, approx. 5lb). He thinks this would speak well to Novi's goal of being a leader, being a best place to live. He also wants to consider how they will measure the success of a composting program and how they can ensure that they get the proper level of support.

Councilmember Gurumurthy stated that she likes the proposal that *My Green Michigan* provide and that when they prepare their presentation for the rest of City Council they should have: 1. A Problem Statement, 2. The Right Approach. She would also like for the Committee to visit an existing composting location so that they can understand and speak on it more tangibly and speak to at least one other City using the program. She agreed that they need to clearly define the pilot and what data will need to be gathered and what a success outcome will be.

Ms. Runkel noted that they will not have a fellow until August so they may want to hold off until we have one to move forward. This fellow could support the Committee as far as making a presentation, contacting other communities, and working on potential use measurements.

Chair Smith commented that he wonders if the cost of the pilot could be absorbed as part of the planned user fee rate for recycling processing costs/service-related expenses.

Councilmember Heintz asked if they will be moving to get approval for the pilot program before June. Assistant City Manager Mahoney said that they should be mindful of the role of the Committee to make recommendations to City Council and suggested that some next steps could include speaking with their contact in the City of Farmington, considering delegating some tasks to the Graduate Management Analyst, consider summer as a good start time for the pilot, and to be sure to talk about the program in upcoming budget discussions. Councilmember Heintz appreciated the suggestions but said that he doesn't want to overthink it, just move forward with starting the program, seeing the results, and then making any needed adjustments from there. Ms. Mahoney noted that pitching the pilot at a lower cost, such as \$5,000 would be a good choice, Chair Smith agreed noting that a lower cost would make it an easier sell that wouldn't be held up by budget issues. Councilmember Gurumurthy also agreed that she is a strong advocate for moving forward with the pilot so that they can use it to gather data to then bring back to Council as a strong case for continued, potentially more robust service.

Councilmember Heintz shared that he has been working on a presentation for City Council already and that he is gathering supporting points such as quantitative data from My Green Michigan. Chair Smith said he would like to see data from the cost of using a program like the one in Wixom too so that they can compare options. Ms. Mahoney noted that they do have data already for solid waste and recycling that is provided by RRRASOC and agreed that since Wixom has been moving along on their food scrap program, they may have some good data points that could be utilized. Chair Smith also commented that they might consider Household Hazardous Waste days could demonstrate the number of residents that are willing to take an extra step to properly dispose of certain waste items

For next steps the Committee determined that they would like to make their proposal to City Council in late March and that they should talk informally to their fellow Councilmembers ahead of that presentation. A formal motion for a recommendation will be necessary once they are ready to approach Council for Action. Councilmember Gurumurthy suggested that they draft the presentation and review it as a group for any edits and Councilmember Heintz agreed to make the initial draft.

The Committee also briefly discussed creating a resident survey regarding composting, a short survey of approximately 2 – 5 questions. Ms. Runkel made some potential question suggestions such as:

- a. Do you currently compost (either at home or through a paid service)?
- b. Would you start composting if the City provided a means to?
- c. Would you be willing to drive to a designated facility in the City to drop off your compostable materials?

Chair Smith and Councilmember Gurumurthy both agreed that a survey of this nature could provide good insight and also serve as a low level "what to expect soon" advertisement for the program.

2. Arbor Day 2026 Planning

Chair Smith said that he would like the Committee to do another tree planting at the upcoming Arbor Day Celebration, perhaps up to five trees. Councilmember Gurumurthy suggested reaching out to the other Councilmembers to see if they would also like to participate. Ms. Runkel briefly showed the Committee some materials and giveaways they could use at their table for the event.

Councilmember Gurumurthy suggested that a "Bingo Card" ("Enviro-Bingo") for residents be formulated and ideally ready for distribution by Arbor Day. It could be set up so that a completed card earned them some kind of environmentally friendly gift.

3. Invasive Species Removal

Chair Smith said he would like for us to give information to residents regarding invasive species to be aware of. He also suggested that the City consider the removal of the invasive (but formerly popular landscaping element) Bradford pear trees on City property, perhaps using the tree fund if feasible. He also noted his deer concerns, voicing his opinion that at the level they are present in represents a kind of invasiveness, and also that they are very destructive to area plants.

Councilmember Heintz wondered if there might be a way to make funds available to residents to help with the removal of invasives on non-city property. Ms. Oppermann noted that there have been some recent uses of the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Grant Program that included the removal of invasives, but that this program is limited to subdivisions/HOAs with entryways on public Right-of-Ways. He also agreed that an informational guide on recognizing and proper methods for removing invasive species would be a good idea. He also suggested that the guide could also include recommended alternatives for replacing former commonly used invasive plantings (like Bradford pears). Ms. Mahoney agreed and said that she would get more information from City Landscape Architect Rick Meader.

4. Additional Discussion

The Committee also briefly discussed some other future efforts that they might consider such as collaborating with MSU Tollgate, a recycling bin audit of City properties/facilities, a speaker series with the Library, that a hashtag be created to promote their efforts on socials, and some collaboration with the PRCS Nature.Nurture.Novi programming. Councilmember Heintz noted an upcoming Urban Biodiversity talk that would be given in Macomb and wondered if there might be an opportunity to bring the same speaker to Novi while they are in town. Councilmember Gurumurthy expressed her admiration of the Sustainability Calendar from Holland, MI, pointing out programs like the Green Commute Week.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT: 6:26 p.m.

Motion: Gurumurthy; Seconded: Heintz; Approved 3:0

Novi Environmental Sustainability Committee

Composting Pilot Recommendation

March 23, 2026

Environmental Sustainability Committee Pillars



Pillar 1: Waste Minimization and Resource Efficiency

This pillar focuses on reducing waste, promoting recycling, and encouraging responsible resource use



Pillar 2: Clean Energy and Emission Reduction

This pillar emphasizes transitioning to clean energy, reducing greenhouse gases, and promoting energy efficiency.



Pillar 3: Sustainable Infrastructure and Natural Environment Preservation

This pillar is centered on sustainable building practices, maintaining biodiversity, and protecting natural resources.



Pillar 4: Community Engagement and Education

This pillar focuses on educating the community and fostering collaboration to promote sustainability

Composting Recommendation

The Novi Environmental Sustainability Committee recommends to City Council to support the funding of a composting initiative and invest up to \$10,000 into the startup and program cost. Novi is the recipient of a summer U of M fellow to support the success of this program. This initiative has potential costs savings, environmental benefits, and sets Novi as a continued community leader.



Service

- Help identify location
- 64 gallon waste carts
- Weekly pickup and compostable liners provided for each cart
- Minimal/ no staff effort needed





Cost

- No contract
- 4 bins at 2 locations = \$334/month
- Cart washing (optional/ seasonal) = \$60/month
- Total = \$4,488/year

Optional Add-ons

- 4-gallon buckets and liners for residents
- Compost soil



Local Examples

Royal Oak

- Farmers Market (14 bins)
- Positive feedback directly from residents
- Plans to expand



Ferndale

- 16 bins in different locations
- Estimates 10% participation

Farmington

- Farmers Market
- “It has become an engine for business growth”



Catalyst Leadership Circle Fellowship

- Novi awarded CLC Fellow to develop guide for cities to develop composting program
- Fellows are graduate students that apply through U of M
- Spend 40 hours/week for 10 weeks (June 8- August 14) on their project and related CLCF activities
- **Fellow Focus:** Monitor bins, records observations, public engagement, and develop a how-to guide for other cities to follow



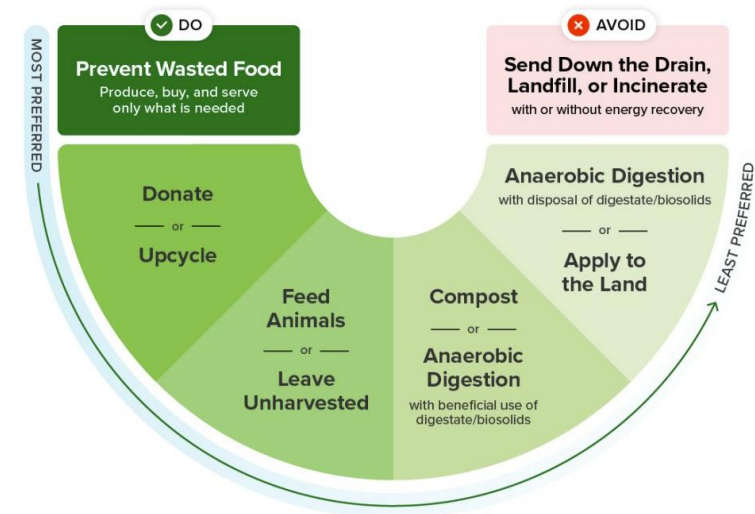
Resident Benefits

- Food waste priorities before composting are:
 - Reduce how much we buy
 - Donate/ Upcycle
- Composting helps residents see what they are throwing out and can help adjust how much residents buy
- We can identify additional ways to donate food and novel strategies like Too Good To Go



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



Environmental Benefits

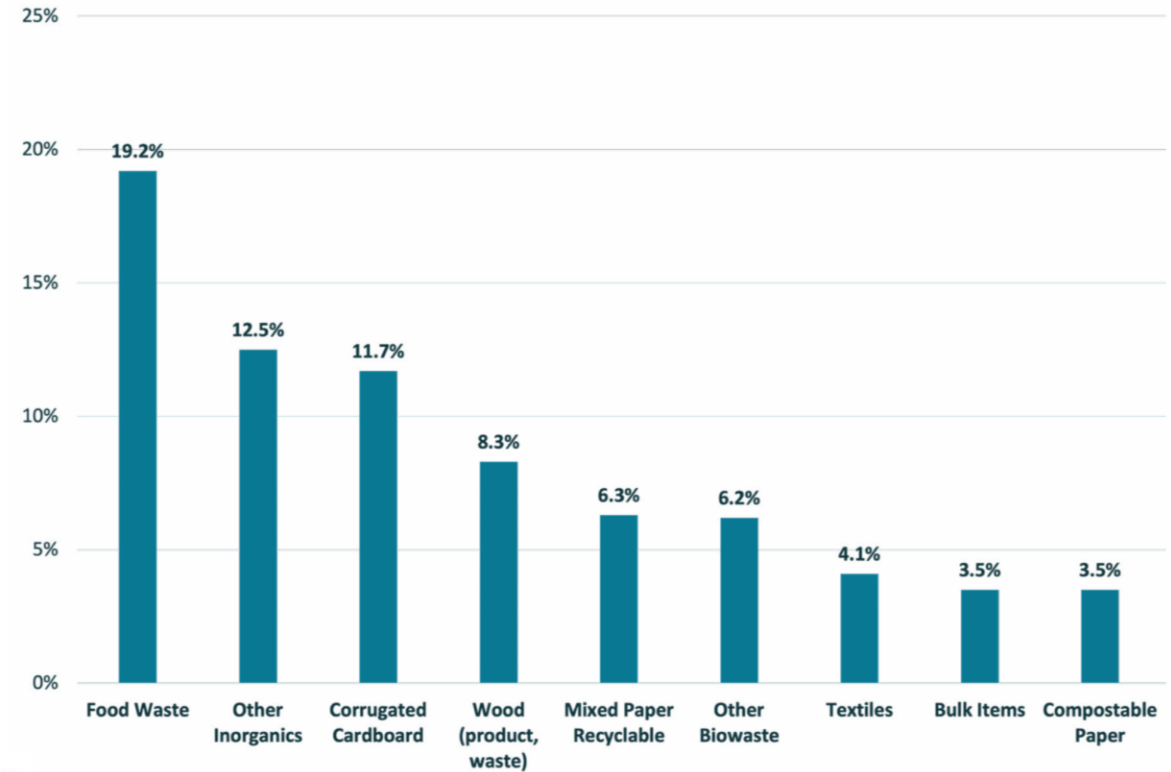
- 250 lb/ cart = 26 tons of food waste diverted from landfill each year.
- Diverting food waste from landfill reduces Greenhouse Gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide).
- Compost is able to be reused in a garden rather than taking up space in landfill.
- Novi is well positioned close to Wixom Spurt facility to minimize transit emissions.



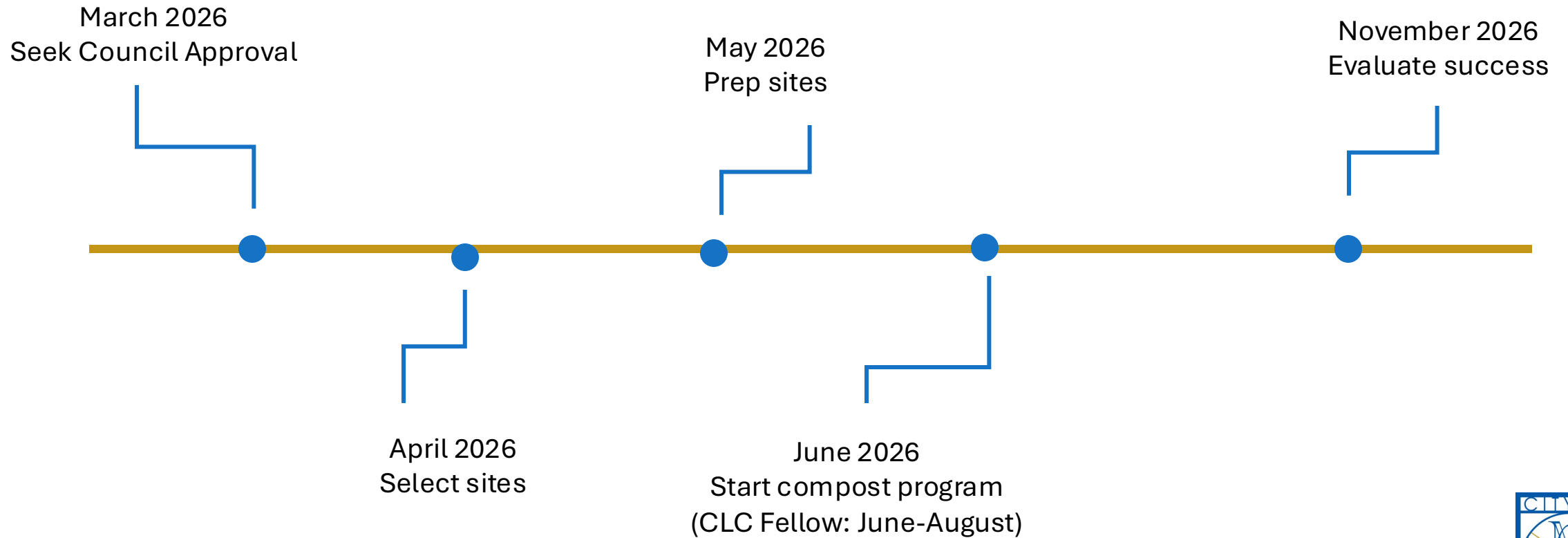
Community Leader

- Novi is gold-level certification with MI Green Community
- Michigan has a goal to reduce food waste 50% by 2030
- Food is most common solid waste
- Starting now helps us plan for future landfill coordination

Illustration 1.2: Michigan Municipal Solid Waste 2023



Potential Timeline



Proposed Outreach

- Outreach table at Novi events: Arbor Day, Novi Community Fest
- Talk about composting on Now You Novi podcast
- Share information through social media, website, Engage



Goals for Composting Success

After 4 weeks

- 1-1.5 full bins
- Minimal effort needed from City staff
- Fellow focus on communication and resident engagement

After 10 weeks

- 2-2.5 full bins weekly
- Evaluate program to assess interest and impact

After 6 months

- 3-4 bins full weekly



Questions?



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Consideration of a recommendation from the Environmental Sustainability Committee to support a food scrap composting pilot program, in partnership with My Green Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Manager's

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Pilot program to evaluate the feasibility, participation, and operational considerations of residential food scrap composting in Novi
- Drop-off model (not curbside collection), with My Green Michigan assisting in identifying and establishing appropriate collection locations
- Not-to-exceed cost of \$10,000, with reimbursement through Recycling User Fee revenues and repayment to the Rubbish Fund.
- Supports the committee's Resource Efficiency pillar by advancing waste diversion and sustainable materials management efforts

FINANCIAL IMPACT

	FY 25/26	Total
EXPENDITURE REQUIRED	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
BUDGET		
1. Rubbish Fund (226.528.00.808.100)	\$0	\$ 0
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
FUND BALANCE IMPACT	\$ 0	\$ 0
The Rubbish Fund will be reimbursed through Recycling User Fee revenues.		

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Environmental Sustainability Committee has identified food waste diversion as an opportunity to reduce landfill impact and advance the City's sustainability goals. As part of this effort, the Committee is recommending a pilot food scrap composting program in partnership with My Green Michigan.

The pilot will utilize a drop-off model (not curbside collection), with My Green Michigan assisting in determining appropriate locations for participation. The program is intended to evaluate participation levels, operational logistics, and overall feasibility before considering any long-term implementation. The proposed not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000 would support program setup, outreach, and initial operations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration of a recommendation from the Environmental Sustainability Committee to support a food scrap composting pilot program, in partnership with My Green Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000

Food Waste Recycling Proposal

Prepared for the City of Novi

Prepared by: My Green Michigan

Food Waste Recycling & Sustainability Services

Program Overview

My Green Michigan is pleased to submit this proposal to provide **food waste recycling services** for the City of Novi. This program is designed to divert organic material from landfill disposal, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide real-time transparency through digital sustainability reporting and service tracking.

Scope of Services

Food Waste Collection

- **4 – 64-gallon food waste carts**
- **Weekly scheduled collection**
- Food waste transported to a licensed composting facility and processed into beneficial soil amendments.

Compostable Bin Liners

- Compostable liners provided for each cart
- **Liners are replaced weekly** by the driver at the time of service.
- Supports cleanliness, odor control, and operational efficiency.

Pricing

One-Time Fees

- **Cart delivery:** \$20.00 per bin.
 - 4 bins × \$20.00 = **\$80.00 (one-time)**

Monthly Service Fees

Includes weekly food waste collection and compostable liner replacement.

- **Single collection location: \$310.50 per month**
(All four carts serviced at one location)

- **Two separate collection locations: \$334.00 per month**
(Four carts serviced across two locations)

Optional Add-On Service

Cart Washing Service (*Optional*)

- Available beginning **March**.
- **\$15.00 per bin per month**
- 4 bins × \$15.00 = **\$60.00 per month** (if elected)
- Enhances sanitation, reduces odors, and extends cart lifespan.

Estimated Annual Environmental Impact

Annual Food Waste Diversion (Estimated)

Assumptions (municipal average):

- Average weight per 64-gallon cart: **250 lbs. per week**
- Four carts collected weekly.
- Fifty-two collections per year

Estimated Annual Diversion:

- 250 lbs. × 4 carts × 52 weeks = **52,000 lbs. annually**
- **≈ 26 tons of food waste diverted from landfill each year.**

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (Estimated)

Diverting food waste from landfill to composting avoids methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas with a significantly higher climate impact than carbon dioxide.

Estimated Annual Emissions Reduction:

- **~80–95 metric tons of CO₂e avoided annually.**

Environmental Equivalents:

- Removing **17–20 passenger vehicles** from the road for one year
- Avoiding emissions from **100,000–120,000 vehicle miles driven**

Actual diversion and emissions reductions will be measured, verified, and reported through My Green Michigan's sustainability reporting platform.

Client Portal & Reporting Transparency

The City of Novi will have access to the **My Green Michigan online client portal**, which provides:

- **On-demand sustainability reports**, including:
 - Pounds and tons of food waste diverted.
 - Greenhouse gas (CO₂e) emissions avoided.

- Monthly and annual environmental impact summaries
- **Collection day service**, including:
 - **Live driver location tracking** on scheduled collection days
 - Confirmation of completed service
- **Exportable reports** suitable for:
 - City sustainability reporting
 - ESG and climate action initiatives
 - Public communications and internal benchmarking

Program Benefits

- Reduces landfill disposal and methane emissions.
- Provides measurable, reportable sustainability outcomes.
- Offers real-time service visibility and accountability.
- Supports City of Novi environmental and waste-reduction goals.
- Optional cart washing improves sanitation and operational efficiency.

Next Steps

Upon approval **with a signed General Service Agreement**, My Green Michigan will:

1. Schedule cart delivery
2. Confirm service locations and start date.
3. Provide staff guidance on acceptable food waste materials.
4. Activate client portal access.
5. Weekly food waste collections begin.

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Robb Harper

My Green Michigan

Business Development

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Phone - 248-739-1429



ACCEPTABLE COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS



Fruits/Vegetables



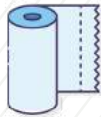
Dairy products



Tea bags/Coffee grounds and filters



Bread/Grains



Napkins/Paper Towel (without chemicals)



Meats/Bones



Grease



Eggshells



BPI Certified Products

BPI Certified Compostable Ware

BPI labeled products, i.e. compostable bags, containers, silverware, etc.



Biodegradable Products Institute

WHAT IS COMPOST?

Compost is the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material that has been sanitized through the generation of heat and stabilized to the point that it is beneficial to plant growth.

HOW IS COMPOST MADE?

There are many ways to make compost, but these basic principles apply to all composting processes:

- Combine organic material (leaves, sticks, food scraps).
- Add moisture.
- Continue adding organic material over time.
- Mix to incorporate new material, moisture, and oxygen.



www.mygreenmi.com



@MyGreenMichigan



877-304-5810



MyGREEN
M I C H I G A N



BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING:

- Fights climate change - Reduces greenhouse gas emissions at the landfill, sequesters carbon from the atmosphere when applied to soil.
- Improves public health - Reduces effects of erosion and drought; improves soil, plant health, and water quality.
- Reducing pollution - Replacement for chemical fertilizers, which cause eutrophication, algal blooms, and fish die offs.
- Landfill diversion - Building landfills is expensive, diverting organics extends the life of existing landfills, and compost facilities will never "fill up" like landfills.
- Circular economy and jobs - Composting turns waste products into new, valuable resources that can be sold back into the community, generating local revenue and new jobs.

BENEFITS OF USING COMPOST:

- Improves the soil structure, porosity, and density, thus creating a better plant root environment.
- Increases infiltration and permeability of heavy soils, thus reducing erosion and runoff.
- Improves water holding capacity, thus reducing water loss and leaching in sandy soils.
- Supplies a variety of macro and micronutrients.
- May control or suppress certain soil-borne plant pathogens.
- Supplies significant quantities of organic matter.
- Improves cation exchange capacity (CEC) of soils and growing media, thus improving their ability to hold nutrients for plant use.
- Supplies beneficial microorganisms to soils and growing media.
- Improves and stabilizes soil pH.
- Can bind and degrade specific pollutants.

Sources:

1. Excerpt from the 'Field Guide to Compost Use,' 2001, The United States Compost Council.
2. United States Compost Council. (n.d.). *Why implement organics collection programs and/or composting operations.*
<https://hub.compostingcouncil.org/why-implement-organics-collection-programs-and-or-composting-operations/>.



www.mygreenmi.com



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877-304-5810