



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

February 09, 2026 | 5:30 PM

Council 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

[January](#) 7, 2026 Minutes

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

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

Arbor Day 2026 Planning

Invasive Species Removal

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
January 7, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Smith

STAFF LIAISON: Katherine Oppermann, Assistant to the City Manager

ALSO PRESENT: Rebecca Runkel, Project Engineer
Robb Harper, My Green Michigan
Zac Spector, My Green Michigan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 23, 2025, Minutes

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

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Smith stated that he can't believe that it has been since September that they last convened this Committee. He is looking forward to getting back to work. He then turned the meeting to the first order of business, welcoming the representatives from *My Green Michigan*.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Food Scrap Collection Discussion with *My Green Michigan*

Mr. Harper introduced himself and spoke on his background and the beginnings of *My Green Michigan*. He worked as an economist and ran the local Edible Wow! Magazine ahead of it being bought out and then was brought on to *My Green Michigan*. He loves working on their variety of programs and has no interest in retiring. He stated that he was raised in the ethos of "leave it better/cleaner than you found it", composting is a messy business but that knowing what they keep out of landfills and the atmosphere makes all the difference. It's an exciting company and he is happy to discuss it further with the Councilmembers, he also encouraged them to talk to their peers in other organizations already utilizing the *My Green Michigan* services.

Councilmember Heintz said that he thinks that composting food is a great, achievable goal to approach that doesn't have too much upfront cost beyond the service fee.

Chair Smith asked what cities *My Green Michigan* was already working with and Mr. Harper responded Ferndale, Royal Oak, Lansing, Portage, Farmington, Canton, Meridian Township, Sterling Heights, St. Clair Shores, etc. He said that funding can sometimes be challenging for small communities but that they encourage a tiered approach. In Farmington they started with just one bin, but the program has been so popular, so they are now up to fourteen bins. He further stated that in his experience the main concern people have are cleanliness (concerns about smells, vermin, etc.) but that they have a variety of means to attend that including compostable bags, sealed trucks, portable bin washing, winter bin swapping if needed (the washing cannot be performed in winter). Mr. Spector said that the operation is highly customizable for the City. They can start with one bin with the option to add more bins and/or more locations as needed or desired. Food Waste in landfills is a huge problem, and this is the easiest approach to combat it.

Councilmember Gurumurthy asked if there was a phased approach, and if there is a study that helps the City determine need and placement. Mr. Harper said yes, they do a situation analysis to help determine where to place bins, the best way to maneuver in and out, and more. They are very hands-on in their approach. He also spoke on an Earth Day assembly they did at an elementary school in Livonia to show the full process from breakfast leftovers to rich compost, including vermiculture worms which the kids really enjoyed. This kind of event creates excitement and provides knowledge so that they can be proactive and involved. Mr. Spector also briefly spoke on commercial uses of the system, such as restaurants having shared bins between them. Mr. Harper also shared their experience in Farmington at the farmers' market where they were present for the entire 1st month to speak with people and educating them on the process and being sure they knew what could and couldn't go in the bins. They want to be involved in education to ensure program success. Councilmember Gurumurthy agreed that she thinks the education process is very important. She wants to be sure residents understand the full process, alleviate any cleanliness concerns, ensure as few contaminants in the bins as possible, etc. She asked if they recommended education or implementation first. Mr. Harper said that they encourage implementation alongside advertising and education. Mr. Spector said that education is often clearer when they have the tangible example. They also said that teaching area students is a great part of the program because they can then bring that information and education home to their families. Typically, families start with a 5-gallon bucket, like the type that can be bought at area hardware stores, as they are fairly smell proof, they also encourage the use of compostable liners since it improves cleanliness and ease.

Ms. Runkel asked if communities typically fence in the bin area, Mr. Spector said it is location dependent. She also asked about how they handle contaminants. Mr. Harper said that, if feasible, they remove it but too much contaminant means a batch cannot be used. He also said that they keep close track of such things and can implement fixes or further education if needed. They have a dash that provides data on a number of factors like any issues, where drivers are, and how much they are keeping out of landfills.

Councilmember Heintz said that he wants an appropriate start for the program that can be sold to the rest of the City Council and residents as a pilot. They will need the

hows and costs of potential expansion but wants to know what they would suggest for the 1st year. Mr. Spector said that there is the old adage of “crawl, walk, run” and would encourage their approach be much the same. He suggests two or three locations be selected with two bins each to start. Councilmember Heintz suggested that they might consider the Civic Center and Lakeshore Park to ensure they are covering both the north and south sides of the city. He then asked about costs. Mr. Harper and Mr. Spector said that the exact figure would be included in a proposal but as a “zone 3” the monthly rate for two bins would be approximately \$190, and 4 bins \$268, there are also option costs of cleaning and changing liners, which they can also include in a quote. This would put the cost of service at less than \$5,000 for a year. Councilmember Heintz requested that recommendations from other cities also be included along with the quote. Mr. Harper and Mr. Spector agreed, noting that they can provide several testimonials and test cases. They also noted that the proposed would be a monthly service agreement, not a hard contract, and that if necessary they could “pull the plug” on the program at any time, that said, they are confident that they can be a lasting presence – they have only ever lost a customer when the customer themselves goes out of business.

Councilmember Gurumurthy asked what the ask of city staff will be in the program, beyond being contact points and passive monitors or the site(s). Mr. Harper said that would be all. Chair Smith confirmed that to start all we really need a concrete pad a collection truck can pull up to. Councilmember Heintz said that he is very excited to get started and is looking forward to receiving their proposal.

The committee then spoke briefly on the potential of such a program in interesting other businesses to take part and that it could be an economic draw, especially if they implement a green business recognition program. The creation of a toolkit was also mentioned as was the opportunity for the Committee members to visit the compost processing facility in Wixom, as well as a the “circular process” that would allow residents to buy back compost.

Chair Smith stated that they want to make sure that if they go forward with the program that it wins. Councilmember Heintz agreed and spoke on his excitement to get started.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

The Committee would like to work on establishing a monthly standing date/time for their meetings.

It was also suggested that they should make a trip to see a *My Green Michigan* setup in one of the surrounding communities and that they would like to connect with MSU Tollgate.

They would like to aim for a Q2 composting pilot program rollout.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none

ADJOURNMENT: 7:02 p.m.

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

Oppermann, Katherine

From: Heintz, Matt
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2026 8:12 AM
To: Smith, Brian; Gurumurthy, Priya; Mahoney, Danielle; Oppermann, Katherine; Runkel, Rebecca
Subject: Fw: Proposal City of Novi
Attachments: Bin before cleaning.jpg; Bin after cleaning.jpg; Henry Ford Hospital Sustainability Report 5.2.25.docx

Hi ESC Team -

Here is the proposal from My Green Michigan. Rebecca reminded me that the CLC Fellow will be starting in June so we might want to wait until then before starting collections. However, it would still be beneficial to have this committee make a formal recommendation to Council as soon as we can.

During the ESC meeting, can we formalize a recommendation? I would like it to include \$15K funding for one year to include funds for 4 bins at two locations (washing and liners) that would start in June. Funds will also be used to purchase fencing material, signage, and compost soil and 5-gallon bins that we can distribute at Arbor Day events or other Novi community events to get residents excited about this initiative.

@Smith, Brian, @Mahoney, Danielle, and @Mahoney, Danielle - can we identify a monthly meeting time for ESC so that this is a reoccurring monthly meeting?

Who's excited to compost?
Matt



Matt Heintz | Council Member
City Council
City of Novi | 45175 Ten Mile Rd | Novi, MI 48375
cityofnovi.org



To receive monthly e-news and more social media options, [click here.](#)

From: Robb Harper <robb@mygreenmi.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 10:04 AM
To: Heintz, Matt <mheintz@cityofnovi.org>
Subject: Proposal City of Novi

Good morning Matt,

Below is information on our process for working with clients in the recycling process. I have structured this proposal based upon starting with 4 64-gallon bins. Attached you will also find photos of before and after pictures of our bin cleaning capabilities. I have also attached a sustainability report I created for Henry Ford Hospital while I was with CO Sustainability.

Please review the information and let me know if you have any additional questions. As we discussed at the meeting, our service is on a month by month basis and can be terminated by the City of Novi at any time should you not be pleased with our services.

Thank you Matt. I look forward to hearing from you.

Robb

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 \text{ bins} \times \$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 \text{ bins} \times \$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:

- $250 \text{ lbs.} \times 4 \text{ carts} \times 52 \text{ weeks} = \mathbf{52,000 \text{ lbs. annually}}$
- **≈ 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

Email - Robb@MyGreenMI.com

Phone - 248-739-1429







Henry Ford Hospital West Bloomfield

Sustainability Report

Prepared by CO Sustainability Each 64-gallon bin collected during the pilot averaged **225 pounds** of food waste. **Pilot Food Waste Diversion Project**
March 25, 2025 – April 22, 2025

Collection Summary

Collection Date Bins Collected Total Pounds Diverted

March 25	1.5 bins	337.5 pounds
April 1	1 bin	225 pounds
April 8	2 bins	450 pounds
April 15	3 bins	675 pounds
April 22	3 bins	675 pounds

Total Bins Collected: 10.5 bins

Total Pounds Diverted: 2,362.5 pounds.

Environmental Impact

✕ Greenhouse Gas Reduction

- Diverting 1 pound of food waste prevents approximately **0.92 pounds of CO₂e**.
- **CO₂e Avoided:**

$$2,362.5 \text{ pounds} \times 0.92 = \mathbf{2,173.5 \text{ pounds of CO}_2\text{e prevented}}$$

Energy Savings Equivalent

- 1 ton (2,000 pounds) of food waste diversion saves about **3,700 kilowatt-hours (kWh)**.
- **Tons Diverted:**

$$2,362.5 \text{ pounds} \div 2,000 = \mathbf{1.181 \text{ tons}}$$

- **Energy Saved:**

$$1.181 \times 3,700 = \mathbf{4,371 \text{ kWh}}$$

This is equivalent to:

- Powering **1 average U.S. home** for approximately **4 months**
 - Charging a **Tesla Model 3** about **12 times**
 - Saving approximately **326 gallons** of gasoline consumption
-



Sustainability Achievements

Thanks to Henry Ford Hospital West Bloomfield's leadership and commitment to sustainability, the pilot program:

- Diverted **2,362.5 pounds** of food waste from landfills.
 - Preventing **2,173.5 pounds of harmful greenhouse gases** from entering the atmosphere
 - Saved **4,371 kilowatt-hours** of energy.
-



Employee Survey Results

(Survey based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest score. This was a blind survey, and participants had complete anonymity.)

- **Separating food waste has been easy to do during my workday:** Average score **4.5**.
- **The food waste program has had a positive impact on the kitchen's operations:** Average score **4.5**.
- **The composting program is helping to protect the environment:** Average score **4.5**.
- **I received enough information and training to participate in the program:** Average score **5**.
- **I would like to keep composting food waste after our trial period ends:** Average score **5**.

Employee Quotes:

- *"The current process is easy to follow. Thanks for doing this."*
 - *"I look forward to seeing our food waste turned into compost and being used in our green house."*
 - *"The composting process was easier than I thought it would be."*
 - *"It is nice to know that the food that is thrown away is being repurposed."*
 - *"Composting our food waste is good for the environment."*
 - *"Thank you for supporting sustainability at Henry Ford Hospital!"*
-



Compost Conversion Report



Summary

CO Sustainability collected a total of 2,363 pounds of food waste and compostable items. These materials were diverted from landfill disposal and processed through an aerobic composting system.



Compost Yield

Based on standard composting conversion rates (30%–50%), the following estimates apply:

Yield Rate Approx. Finished Compost

30%	709 pounds
40%	945 pounds
50%	1,182 pounds



Environmental Benefit

By composting instead of landfilling, this process helped:

- ☒ Prevent methane and CO₂ emissions
 - ☒ Return organic nutrients to the soil
 - ☒ Reduce waste hauling and landfill burden
-



Did You Know?

Composting food waste is one of the most effective climate solutions, reducing methane—a greenhouse gas up to eighty-seven times more potent than CO₂.



Thank You

CO Sustainability is proud to partner with Henry Ford Hospital West Bloomfield. Together, we are building a healthier, greener future!
