



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

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



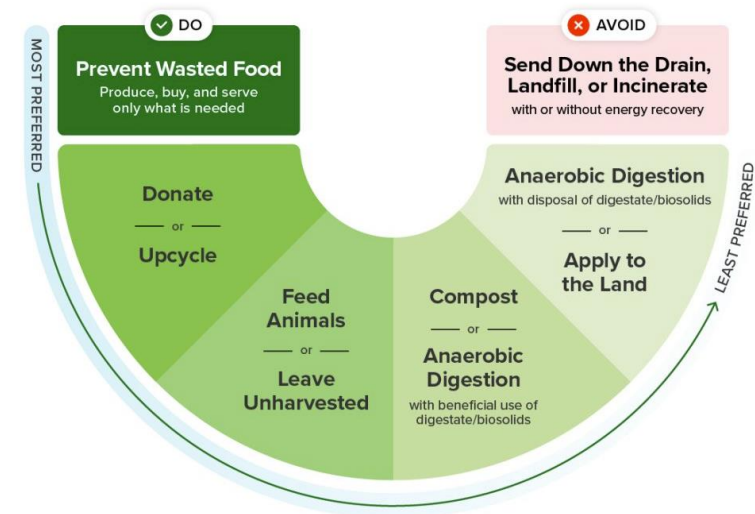
Resident Benefits

- 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

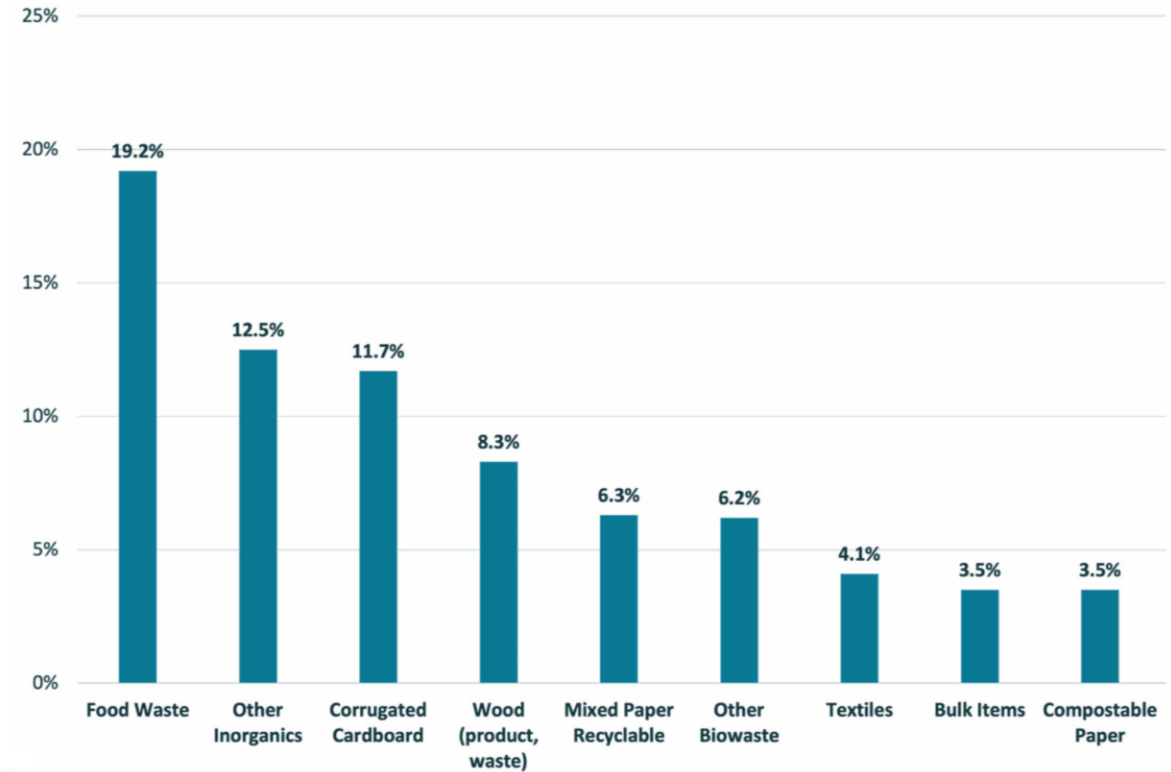
- 250 lb/ cart = 26 tons of food waste diverted from landfill each year.
- Diverting food waste from landfill reduces Greenhouse Gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide).
- Compost is able to be reused in a garden rather than taking up space in landfill.
- Novi is well positioned close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



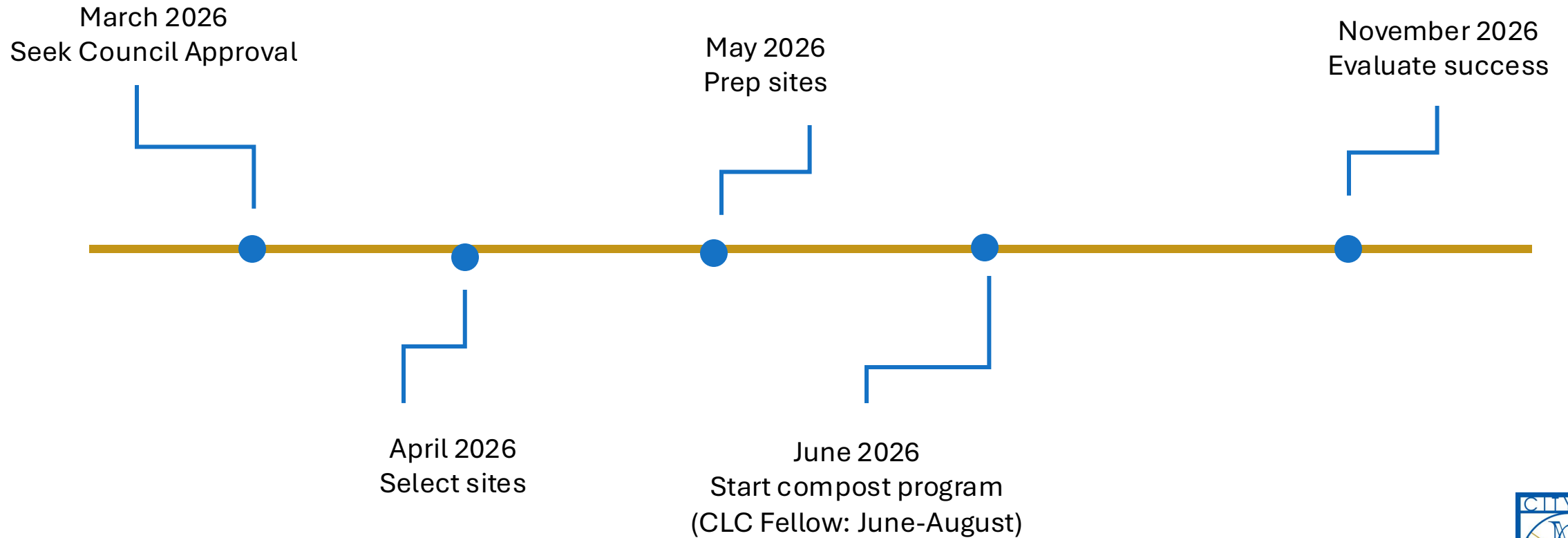
Community Leader

- 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?

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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ACCEPTABLE COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS



Fruits/Vegetables



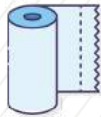
Dairy products



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.





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/>.

