Agenda

• About Takoma Park
• Pre-Existing Curbside Programs
• Food Waste Program
  – Pilot Phase
  – Expansion
  – Current phase
• Program Evaluation
• Moving ahead
• Question
City of Takoma Park

- Incorporated in 1890
- 2.4 Square Miles
- Shares a border with the District of Columbia
- Population: 16,715 (Census 2010)
- 7,000 housing units, 52% owner occupied, 48% rental

City provides curbside collection to 3,300 homes, primarily single family and apartments of 6 units and less
Robust curbside recycling and mandatory yard waste programs manage 56% of total Waste stream

Fiscal Year 2012
- Yard Waste: 2,240 Tons *
- Solid waste: 2,963 Tons
- Recycling: 1,526 Tons

* Yard Waste includes vacuum leaf collection each Fall as well as weekly collection of grass, leaves, branches and brush
Food Waste Collection Program

• Begun on February 2013 as a pilot program
• Targeted two neighborhoods with high recycling rates
• Collection by private haulers
  – The Compost Crew and
  – Growing Soul
• Voluntary Participation
Pilot Phase

• **Area 1**
  • Contractor collection on same day as trash
  • 260 total homes
  • 65 participants (25%)
  • Growing Soul

• **Area 2**
  • City collection on same day as yard waste
  • 850 total homes
  • 300 participants (35%)
  • The Compost Crew
Food Waste Collection - Status

- Approximately 1800 homes participating in the program
- Online sign in – Link
Collection Details

Each participant received:
- 5 gallon plastic bucket with screw top lid
- 6 month supply of compostable plastic bags
- Instructional information
- Website access for questions, comments

What Can Be Collected as Food Waste in Takoma Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items to be included</th>
<th>Items not to be included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fruit &amp; vegetable</td>
<td>diapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scraps meat, fish, shellfish</td>
<td>facial tissues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dairy products</td>
<td>fats, oils or grease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bread, pasta, rice, grains, cereal, baked</td>
<td>pet waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goods, etc.</td>
<td>styrofoam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nuts, beans, seeds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coffee grounds, filters, tea bags</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paper products/pizza boxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chopsticks and popsicle sticks</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Food Waste Collection - Status

- Trash, Recycling and Food Waste all collected on the same day
- Collected 4 days a Week (Tuesday (450), Wednesday (400), Thursday (560), Friday (351))
Program Evaluation

**FY 2014**
- Food Waste Compost = 110 Tons

**FY 2017**
- Food Waste Compost = 212.49 Tons

**FY 2018**
- Food Waste Compost = 302.42 Tons

Fiscal Year (FY) starts July of every year and ends on June 30th
Program Evaluation

FOOD WASTE COLLECTION (Current 2018 trend)

• Average weight of food waste per house = 6.6 lbs/week
• Percentage of households participating = 54%

COMPARISON TO OTHER COLLECTIONS

• Average weight of weekly trash per house = 37.2 lbs
• Average weight of weekly recycling per house = 15 lbs
• Average weight of weekly yard waste per house = 26 lbs

Note: If we assume the set out rate is 70%, the average household sets out 9.4 pounds per week of Food Waste
Program Evaluation

- Survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T9MSZDR](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T9MSZDR)
- Results: 158 responded to the survey
Q4: How often do you usually set your compost bin at the curb for pickup? Pick the choice closest to your average.

- Answered: 286  Skipped: 0
Q5: If you set out less frequently than once a week, please let us know why?
Q6: How much material do you put in your bin in a typical week? Is the bin:

- Full
- ¾ Full
- ½ Full
- ¼ Full or less
- Don't Know
Q7: Do you have less waste in your trash can as result of composting?
Q8: Is the 5-gallon bucket the right size for your household?
Q12: Have you had problems with the following:
Q13: Do you like the idea of setting out food waste collection on same day as trash and recycling?
Q14: Before the Food Waste Collection program did you do backyard composting?
Q16: Do you have a kitchen countertop container that you use to transfer food scraps into the bucket?
Q17: Do you use compostable bags?
Q18: If you answered no to the previous question, please indicate what do you use?
Cost for processing and Labor

- Tipping fee = $45/tons (302 * 45 = 13,590)
- Travel cost (Gas) = $700/year
- Compost Giveaway = $500/year
- Bucket and Bins = $10,000 (3.5 per liners and 10.5 per bucket and lid)
- Labor Cost = $52,000 (1 permanent staff with benefit)
- **Total = $63,245**
Lesson Learned

Food Waste Truck

Leachete from the food waste is corroding the truck body and fuel tank

Compost Bin
• Explore program options for businesses and institutions, current program is residential only

• Advocate for more local processing options
Question