



May 16, 2017

Re: Release of the District's Compost Feasibility Study

Dear Washington D.C. Residents,

I am pleased to share the Compost Collection Progress and Feasibility Report.

To meet the goal of diverting 80% of the waste generated in the District from landfill and waste to energy, the District will need to implement innovative programs. This report proposes one such program, detailing the benefits, costs, and steps to implement a composting program for DPW-serviced residents; as well as opportunities for food and yard waste diversion in the commercial sector.

In the coming months, DPW will present the report's findings to residents, community groups, environmental groups, and businesses to gather feedback. The report's findings and community feedback will inform the development of the District's zero waste plan – the plan to achieve 80% diversion from waste to energy and landfill - the development of which will commence in 2018.

In the interim, the District will advance diversion of food and yard waste through continued support and investment in:

- Food and yard waste prevention campaigns, such as the grasscycling campaign launching this spring led by the Department of Public Works
- The community composting collaborative led by the Department of Parks and Recreation,
- Public school cafeteria composting program led by DC Public Schools and the Department of General Services, and
- The Food Waste Drop Off Program led by the Department of Public Works.

In addition the District will:

- Review and update commercial sector food waste disposal regulations to make it easier for businesses to compost and to ensure alignment with the District's waste diversion & sustainability goals;
- Evaluate the feasibility of sending a portion of the organic waste generated in the District each year to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility to generate power and a soil amendment; and
- Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions and the District's Office of Public Private Partnerships to identify opportunities to encourage development of composting and anaerobic digestion infrastructure in the region.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve the District's zero waste goals.

Sincerely,

Christopher Shorter
Director Department of Public Works