

Community Composting Resolution Worksheet

Date: August 19, 2020

Suggested Motion:

“I move to approve Compost Pick-Ups In Parkfairfax.”

2nd:

Vote:

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Scott Buchanan				
Dan Courtney				
Susan Cox				
Maria Wildes				
James Konkel				
Dave Bush				
Nicholas Soto				
Robin Woods				
Jeff Lisanick				

To : Scott Buchanan, Susan Cox, Nicholas Soto, Maria Wildes, Jeff Lisanick, Robin Woods, Dan Courtney, James Konkell, Dave Bush, <BoardofDirectors@Parkfairfax.info>
From : Residents For Compost Pick-Ups In Parkfairfax
Subject: Call To Action
Date : August 19, 2020

This memo advances the discussion about compost pick-ups from July 15, 2020.

CALL TO ACTION:

Members of the Parkfairfax community are excited to bring a compost pick-up service to their doorsteps and are looking forward to making a real difference. The Parkfairfax Board can make this a reality for the residents by approving the proposed AR addition.

It is our collective responsibility to offer hope to everyday people that systems of governance are designed for progress and can indeed deliver positive results. There is a time and place where innovation, imagination and collective action can all merge to boost morale and mobilize for collective good.

In the middle of a global health pandemic, we have a one-of-a-kind chance to give residents an opportunity to express themselves, take direct action to protect our environment and be good stewards of the planet. We most sincerely hope that Members of the Board will join us.

QUICK SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM:

A compost pick-up service mirrors two well-understood concepts: a trash pick-up service and an Amazon delivery service. Participating homes are given a sealed, odor-proof and pest proof 5-gallon compost bin to collect their organics and food scraps. A sprinter van, just like the trash truck, comes to the resident's front door one day each week. The compost pick-up service collects the odor-proof, pest-proof and sealed compost bin from the resident's front door. In return, the compost service keeps a clean, washed and sanitized compost bin at the resident's front door. (It is just like receiving a box from Amazon or USPS.) The resident collects the bin and puts it back inside their home. Participating residents pay for the program.

COMPOSTING PARTNER DETAILS:

Company Name: Key City Compost
Collection Day: Thursday
Collection Time: 7:30 a.m. - approx 3:30 p.m. (end time depends on number of homes that have signed up)

MATERIALS ATTACHED:

- 1. Proposed changes to the AR ([URL here](#))**
 - 2. Questions Asked By Members Of The Board After July 15 Meeting ([URL here](#))**
 1. Where will the bins be placed?
 2. What is the collection timing?
 3. What are the penalties for violation of program conduct?
 4. Who would be the primary contact for reporting abuse and mishandling of the bins?
 5. What about smells from bins, pests, sanitation and mis-managed food?
 6. Why do we need a compost pick-up program when people can personally go and drop their compost at Mom's Organic Market or Alexandria Farmers Market?
 7. Who are the Fonners? What are their motivations? Are they receiving any kickbacks or bribes to organize this program?
 - 3. Other remarks and thoughts ([URL here](#))**
 8. "Compost bins are not aesthetically pleasing."
 9. "People in the community are irresponsible, will mess things up and create regulatory challenges."
 10. "How does Key City Compost clean the bins?"
 11. "I don't like this idea."
 - 4. List of items that can go into the compost bin ([URL here](#))**
 - 5. A photo montage about the everyday state of our trash and how a simple compost bin can help solve many of our problems ([URL here](#))**
 - 6. Sample of monthly sustainability report ([URL here](#))**
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AR. 2. (IV). (B4) DRAFT CHANGES

G. Directly outside the resident's front door: sealed compost bins only during the day of the pick-up not to exceed 5 gallons.

1. Where will the bins be placed?

The bins will be placed at the front door of the resident. The bins are **NOT** to be placed up the stairs, down the stairs, on the sidewalk or at the curb. It is explicitly stated that the bins will be placed at the front door on the stoop of the resident.

2. What is the collection timing?

Bins are placed at the front door by the resident on the day of the pick up at 7:30 am. Serviced bins are collected by the resident on the day of the pick up after the resident returns back from work.

3. What are the penalties for violation of program conduct?

Violations are treated just like any other violations.

4. Who would be the primary contact for reporting abuse and mishandling of the bins?

Violations are reported just like any other violations.

5. What about smells from bins, pests, sanitation and mis-managed food?

The compost bins' lids are the most effective defense for this issue. When the bins are sealed, they are odor proof and do not let pests or rodents get inside the bin. Our compost partner, Key City Compost, has tens of thousands of "compost bin swaps" under their belt and have not had an issue to date.

It is extremely important to understand that our proposal defines a "*Compost Pick Up*" program. Compost Pick-Ups are drastically different from "composting on one's own" or "using a composter." The points about mismanaged foods and sanitation problems are relevant when residents are composting themselves using certain types of composters (where quality controls are harder to implement). These points do not apply to a pick up service where residents only "collect" their compost and a service picks them up to compost in designated facilities.

6. Why do we need a compost pick-up program when people can personally go and drop their compost at Mom's Organic Market or Alexandria Farmers Market?

It's great that inspired residents are willing and able to take their compost to a drop-off site. This behavior is not a norm though. Data from our survey indicates that 70 out of 118 homes throw food waste with their trash.

There is a need to offer the community the ease and convenience that makes composting easier. Compost pick-ups (from the front door) offer that core functionality. In addition, we need to understand that hauling food waste and compostables each week is really no fun. This has also been a personal experience for us. Carrying multiple boxes filled with compostables has been taxing and distasteful. If we are dumping in the open big bin at the Mom's Parking lot, the rodents and the smells are unbearable. Given the pandemic, standing inside the store and emptying the bin in the compost section is a harrowing experience with people walking within inches of each other at the entry and exit gates.

To enable a broader segment of the community, the compost pick-up service is the way to go.

7. Who are the Fonners? What are their motivations? Are they receiving any kickbacks or bribes to organize this program?

"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." – Our dear friend, the late Lara Kinne quoting Anne Frank.

The opportunity to make a difference, collaborate with residents and Members of the Board, and, most importantly, the ease of the proposed solution inspire us to drive this initiative.

Climate action is an urgent need of the hour. The answers to our global problems lie in localized community action. Big, wicked problems can be solved when we start addressing smaller pieces of the puzzle as a community — compost pick-up service is one such effort.

Rest assured, we are not being bribed or receiving any kickbacks from any composting company or any other organization to advocate this common-sense program.

8. “Compost bins are not aesthetically pleasing.”

- A. The compost bin is meant to be kept inside the home. It is only on the pick-up day that the compost bin is kept at the front door.
- B. The compost bin is a functional piece. The design principle that goes into making such a product is its durability, its ability to contain odor and keeps pests and rodents out.
- C. As a primarily utilitarian object, it is unrealistic to expect it to meet each individual’s idea of beauty and aesthetics. Durability and functionality hold much higher relevance than an individual’s perception of aesthetic.
- D. Think about this: you go to the oceanside and the beach is lovely but there are several trash cans placed all along the boardwalk. Are the trash cans justified? Do they serve the bigger purpose of protecting oceans from getting littered? Using the same logic, we have to think about the composting bins from a utilitarian point of view. Does the compost bin help keep Parkfairfax clean? Does the compost bin make Parkfairfax more livable for our bird-life and wildlife, and more beautiful for the residents? Does this functional object help us solve our pest problem?
- E. It’s worth diving deeper and thinking about this subject a little bit more. The idea of aesthetics in our community seems to have a double standard. (Please refer to images that are shared in the photo montage.) What you see in these images is the daily state of affairs with our trash. Can the compost bin solve this problem? If your answer is yes, then we have a working solution.
- F. Regarding the color of the bin — there is an opportunity to realign personal preferences with the mission of launching and running the composting program pilot. The question we need to ask instead is: what details around functionality and logistics do we need to address to ensure we can make a case for widespread community adoption?
- G. Regarding what other people will think when they drive by our community on a pick-up day — people will say, “Wow! They all compost in this community. How cool is that?!?”
- H. We need to rethink the idea of aesthetics and dive deeper into how we define a truly livable community.

9. “People in the community are irresponsible, will mess things up and create regulatory challenges.”

- A. If you read announcements via emails/newsletters from Parkfairfax Association, you will notice that consistent reminders and notes are shared about subjects like: *“don’t flush your kids’ diapers or your sanitary pads or your Clorox wipes... they clog the drain.”* We also see notices like: *“please don’t leave doggie poop bags on the road or in the green spaces.”* Then there are notes that are sent to prevent trash fests (images shared as separate attachment). We realize that human behavior can be a problem.
- B. **But this is where the composting forum serves a platform to drive a culture of responsibility. Whatever reasons are driving poor behaviors in the community (example: lack of information/knowledge, momentarily haste or apathy), through the composting program, we have an opportunity to create a narrative based on empathy, facts and earth-love that can foster deeper education and action by**

residents. The informal nature of this forum and our openness to embrace all residents, hear their points of view and drive a visionary conversation gives this program an edge in connecting with the members of the community.

- C. We truly believe members of the composting group can foster a deeper love for Earth and create a forum for mindfulness that benefits the Association, the residents, and the bird/wildlife in the community.
- D. Rather than point fingers, we need to drive collective action and deeper earth-love.

10. How does Key City Compost clean the bins?

Key City Compost is a member of the Community Composting Coalition and the US Compost Council. Through these organizations Key City Compost is able to leverage the collective wisdom of the compost industry leaders. In early March when COVID was first ramped up, industry organizations released guidance for composting companies on acceptable cleaners and sanitization methods. Key City Compost relies on a biodegradable soap for the first step for removing liquids, films, grime, and any particulate matter left on the bin. Through this process the bin is clean and odor free. As a second step, Key City Compost dunks the bin in a diluted water and bleach solution to kill any virus spores that may remain after the initial scrubbing. The third step is to hang the bins on their rack to dry, usually for 24-36 hours minimum. Each step on this process is likely to be sufficient alone based on the guidance from CDC and our industry experts. Performing all three adds a level of resiliency that Key City Compost are satisfied with.

11. “I don’t like this idea.”

Since this is a voluntary initiative, those community members that do not want to participate are absolutely free to do so.

The everyday state of our trash pickup



GeoTag:

June 27, 2020 –
June 29, 2020

The everyday state of our trash pickup



GeoTag:

July 4, 2020 –
July 6, 2020

The everyday state of our trash pickup



GeoTag:

July 14, 2020
7:47 pm

The everyday state of our trash pickup



GeoTag:

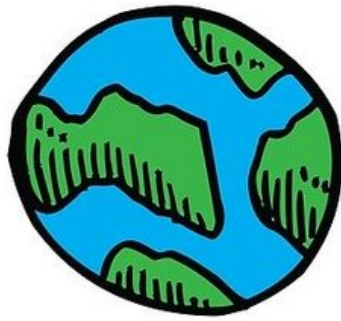
August 5, 2020
6:30 am

Nothing aesthetically pleasing about this!



GeoTag:

July 29, 2020
12:05 pm



**THERE IS NO
PLANET B**

Things don't have to be like this!

A simple compost bin can solve many problems!



A simple compost bin can solve many problems!





MONTHLY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

START DATE: 04-01-2020

END DATE: 04-30-2020

SAMPLE CUSTOMER

OFFSET EQUIVALENTS:



CO₂
EMISSIONS
FROM

43

GALLONS
OF GAS
CONSUMED



GREENHOUSE
GAS
FROM

943

MILES
DRIVEN
BY AN AVERAGE
PASSENGER VEHICLE



CARBON
SEQUESTERED
BY

6.3

TREE
SEEDLINGS
GROWN FOR
10 YEARS



CO₂
EMISSIONS
FROM

48,462

SMART
PHONES
CHARGED

COLLECTION WEIGHTS:

4/01: 200 lbs

4/08: 235 lbs

4/15: 195 lbs

4/22: 195 lbs

4/29: 220 lbs

Total Weight: 1045 lbs (0.532 Ton)

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