



City of Bloomington Common Council

Legislative Packet

Containing legislation and materials related to:

Wednesday, 02 August 2023

Regular Session at 6:30pm



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL

AGENDA AND NOTICE:
REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY | 6:30 PM
02 AUGUST 2023

*Council Chambers (#115), Showers Building, 401 N. Morton Street
The meeting may also be accessed at the following link:*

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/86838936477?pwd=Sk5udGdQaGRvYmsxYm5KS56bmh0UT09>

- I. **ROLL CALL**
- II. **AGENDA SUMMATION**
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - A. October 20, 2021 – Regular Session
 - B. October 12, 2022 – Special Session
 - C. October 19 2022 – Regular Session
 - D. November 02, 2022 – Regular Session
- IV. **REPORTS** *(A maximum of twenty minutes is set aside for each part of this section.)*
 - A. Councilmembers
 - B. The Mayor and City Offices
 - i. Compost Up, Downtown – BEAD Restaurant Composting Incentive Program Report from Economic and Sustainable Development Department and EarthKeepers
 - ii. Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission - Annual Report
 - C. Council Committees
 - D. Public*
- V. **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**
- VI. **LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READINGS AND RESOLUTIONS**
 - A. Ordinance 23-14 – To Amend Title 6 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Health and Sanitation”- Re: Updating and increasing fees for service and harmonizing Chapters 4 and 5 of Title 6 of the Bloomington Municipal Code.

(over)

*Members of the public may speak on matters of community concern not listed on the agenda at one of the two public comment opportunities. Individuals may speak at one of these periods, but not both. Speakers are allowed five minutes; this time allotment may be reduced by the presiding officer if numerous people wish to speak.

To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please call (812) 349-3409 or e-mail council@bloomington.in.gov.

Revised: 31 July 2023

VII. LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READINGS

- A. Ordinance 23-15 – To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Administration and Personnel” - Re: Amending 2.76.040 Entitled “Boundaries” to Expand the Service Area of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation

VIII. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT *

(A maximum of twenty-five minutes is set aside for this section.)

IX. COUNCIL SCHEDULE

X. ADJOURNMENT

*Members of the public may speak on matters of community concern not listed on the agenda at one of the two public comment opportunities. Individuals may speak at one of these periods, but not both. Speakers are allowed five minutes; this time allotment may be reduced by the presiding officer if numerous people wish to speak.

To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please call (812) 349-3409 or e-mail council@bloomington.in.gov.



**City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council**

Minutes for Approval

20 October 2021| 12 October 2022| 19 October 2022
02 November 2022

In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6:30pm, Council President Jim Sims presided over a Regular Session of the Common Council. Per the Governor's Executive Orders, this meeting was conducted electronically via Zoom.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
October 20, 2021

Councilmembers present via Zoom: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan
Councilmembers absent: none

ROLL CALL [6:32pm]

Council President Jim Sims summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:32pm]

Flaherty moved and it was seconded to cancel the Committee of the Whole scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, 2021. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to cancel Committee of the Whole [6:35pm]

Flaherty moved and it was seconded to amend the agenda to set aside the time limits for reports from City offices and to add a report from the Clerk's office. The motion to amend the agenda received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Volan).

Vote to amend agenda [6:37pm]

Flaherty moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of December 02, 2020 and October 13, 2021 as corrected. The motion to approve the minutes received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:38pm]

December 02, 2020 (Regular Session)

October 13, 2021 (Special Session)

Sandberg spoke about her attendance at the National Conference on Public Safety Social Work. She congratulated the organizers, Melissa Stone, Brittany Murphy, and Chief Mike Diekhoff for a great first conference.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS [6:38pm]

Smith recognized the 100th birthday of District Three resident, Dickie Scott.

Sims also wished Scott a happy birthday.

Sgambelluri echoed Sandberg's comments about the conference and announced her next constituent meeting.

Rosenbarger announced her upcoming constituent meeting.

Flaherty gave an update on accessibility and transportation safety issues.

Sims spoke about the death of General Colin Powell, recent newspaper articles about mortgage lending to Black residents, and systemic racism like red-lining.

Adam Wason, Director of Public Works, gave a Public Works Sanitation and Fees Report. He presented information on the quality and analyses of city services, data collection, tracking trucks, and more.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES [6:50pm]

There was council discussion following the report related to average number of household pick-ups per month, pay per-tipping pickups, as well as challenges the sanitation department faced. Council also discussed waste reduction incentives and successes, waste stream management, reopening the city landfill, information on carts, rates, sanitation subsidies, and accessibility.

Alex Crowley, Director of Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD) department, and Lauren Clemens, Assistant Director of Sustainability, presented the Climate Action Plan Update Report. The report covered ongoing and future programs, emissions, city operations, climate change and adaptation, energy and the built environment, and transportation. Additional information was provided on waste, water, food and agriculture, greenspace and ecosystem health, climate economy, and health and safety. Crowley acknowledged and thanked Clemens for her work and then noted the proposed path forward. Additional discussion included investments in the city’s reduction of carbon and additional data, clarification on the public engagement platform, water conservation goals, sustainability efforts, composting, mulching, and solar power. There was a brief discussion pertaining to annexation impacts.

- The Mayor and City Offices (cont’d)

Clerk Nicole Bolden made the following statement to the council:

“During consideration of a piece of legislation two weeks ago, I was dismayed when a member of your body said that ‘the Clerk and her staff would thank you upon passage of the ordinance.’” I take issue with that statement. The person who said that seems to have assumed they knew what my opinion would be. They did not.

To be clear, if the Office of the Clerk has something to say about an ordinance, I will make a statement directly to the council, or ask a member of the Clerk’s staff to do so on my behalf.

I, or any member of the Clerk’s staff, would never presume to speak on behalf of the council as a whole or for any individual member of the council. We would never assume we know what opinions are held by the members of your legislative body. I would request and expect the same courtesy. Please do not assume you know where the Clerk’s office stands on legislation. If I feel it is appropriate to weigh in, I will do so.

I truly appreciate the work that you all do, and the time and care that you take when you are considering matters that come before you. I know that we all have a lot of work ahead of us, and I look forward to continuing that work with you. Thank you.”

There were no council committee reports.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Renee Miller expressed concern regarding the upcoming colder weather and its effect on the unhoused, and the winter shelter.

- PUBLIC [8:18pm]

Smith commented that there was still a need for applicants for the Traffic Commission.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [8:20pm]

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to appointment Eliza Carey to seat C-10 on the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to appoint [8:23pm]

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [8:25pm]

Flaherty moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 21-35 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 4.

Ordinance 21-35 - To Amend the City of Bloomington Zoning Maps by Rezoning 1.31 Acres of Property from Mixed-Use Employment (ME) to Mixed-Use

Flaherty moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 21-35 be adopted.

Medium Scale (MM) - Re: 135,
201, 215 S. Westplex Avenue
(Wheeler Mission, Petitioner)
[8:25pm]

Eric Greulich, Senior Zoning Planner in the Planning and Transportation department, summarized the rezoning request.

Piedmont-Smith asked if the Environmental Commission (EC) reviewed the petition.

Council questions:

Greulich stated the EC had not since the request was for land use.

Piedmont-Smith asked if there would be additional greenspace in the plan.

Greulich responded there would be, in compliance with landscaping standards. With the removal of some parking, there would be additional shrubs planted. The petitioner had done a tree inventory as well and would likely add trees, and a bike rack, too.

Sims asked how the parking would be removed, and if the asphalt would need to be dug up.

Greulich said that the asphalt would need to be removed. There were many options and the city would work with the petitioner to determine parking needs, greenspace, and more.

Sims asked Dana Jones, petitioner, Wheeler Mission (WM), for clarification on the request for the number of police calls to the property by year. He listed the numbers of police calls from 2016-2020. He also asked for clarification on the petitioner's efforts in meeting and collaborating with neighboring business owners.

Jones said that they had discussed mitigation at a previous council meeting and had already implemented some efforts. Wheeler Mission staff was sensitive to the concerns of the local business owners but it was unrealistic for Wheeler Mission to take the lion's share of policing the entire area. He described meeting with local businesses on October 5 which was attended by several city staff members, Mary Morgan from the Chamber of Commerce, as well as local business owners around the area. Another meeting was currently being scheduled.

Sims hoped that he had not insinuated that it was exclusively WM's responsibility. He intended to initiate meetings and collaboration with local business owners.

Jones commented on the number of police calls, and that they did not pertain only to concerns with WM. The number of calls should not be misread as being from business owners.

Rollo said the number of calls was astounding. It was the city's responsibility, but Wheeler Mission also needed to collaborate with the city.

Jones responded that Wheeler Mission worked with the city regularly. Wheeler Mission was a regular attendee of the weekly Downtown Resource Officers (DRO) meetings. They also worked with the Centerstone outreach team who went to the site often. He noted the history of Wheeler Mission and said that the increase in calls, in 2019, was due to Wheeler Mission taking on the winter shelter. They had invited the DROs to meet and worked together that year. They also worked with Indiana University (IU) Health to reduce the amount of emergency calls. They obtained grant funding to hire a case manager to actively work on calls. He noted that many calls were due to chronic health conditions as well as mental health assistance calls. Jones explained this was all continued into the pandemic, too.

There was no public comment.

Public comment:

Sgambelluri commented on some concerning behaviors and the city’s statement on actions to improve safety in public places. She reminded everyone that the petition was for rezoning and those concerning behaviors were not acceptable in any zone. She would support Ordinance 21-35.

Council comments:

Sandberg stated that she would support Ordinance 21-35 and noted that it had the support of the planning department staff and the Plan Commission. She commented on calls for emergency services and some of the behaviors which could be handled by DROs, or others, if the incident did not involve criminal activity. She said that the goal was to provide wrap-around programming to help individuals move from a position of crisis to one of sustainability. She commended Jones and Wheeler Mission staff for their work. She acknowledged and empathized with the concerns of neighboring businesses.

Rollo thought that the rezone was separate from problems and concerns in the area. He appreciated learning more about the collaboration between Wheeler Mission and the city. He noted the increasing pressure put on the police department, and that the police force was already strained. If the need in that area increased, then more officers were needed too.

Sims thanked Greulich and Jones. He said that the rezone was simple and straightforward. He believed that council had an obligation to discuss and consider the concerns of the local business owners. He praised WM’s collaborative efforts.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 21-35 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 21-35 [8:50pm]

There was no public comment.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [8:50pm]

Heather Lacy, Council Assistant Attorney, reviewed the upcoming council schedule.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [8:51pm]

Flaherty moved and it was seconded to adjourn. Sims adjourned the meeting with no objection.

ADJOURNMENT [8:55pm]

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this ____ day of _____, 2023.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Sue Sgambelluri, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 6:30pm, Council President Susan Sandberg presided over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
October 12, 2022

Councilmembers present: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan
Councilmembers present via Zoom: none
Councilmembers absent: none

ROLL CALL [6:31pm]

Council President Susan Sandberg summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:32pm]

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND
READING AND RESOLUTIONS
[6:33pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-25 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 6, Nays: 1, Abstain: 2.

Ordinance 22-25 - An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Officers of the Police and Fire Departments for the City of Bloomington, Indiana, for the Year 2023 [6:33pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-25 be adopted.

Mayor John Hamilton spoke about the importance of the city budget, the Economic Development Local Income Tax (EDLIT), public safety, and investments in the city.

Caroline Shaw, Director of Human Resources (HR), noted that she was available for questions since she had presented in detail at a previous meeting.

Piedmont-Smith asked what the pay rate increase, based on the union agreements with firefighters and police.

Council questions:

Shaw stated the 2023 increase for the fire department was 2% and 12.67% for senior officers in the police department and 13.17% for first class officers. That did not include other additional pay.

There were no public comments.

Public comment:

There were no council comments.

Council comments:

The motion to adopt Ordinance 22-25 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 22-25
[6:38pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-26 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 1, Nays: 5, Abstain: 3.

Ordinance 22-26 - An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Appointed Officers, Non-Union and A.F.S.C.M.E. Employees for All the Departments of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, for the Year 2023
[6:39pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-26 be adopted.

Shaw summarized Ordinance 22-26 and highlighted the pay grades and salary ranges for appointed officers, non-union, and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. She provided additional details.

Sgambelluri moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 22-26.

Amendment 01 to Ordinance 22-26

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment was prepared at the request of the Human Resources Department to list a previously-created position under the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development that was inadvertently omitted from the ordinance.

Amendment 01 to Ordinance 22-26 (cont'd)

Shaw explained the purpose of Amendment 01 was to correct an accidental omission for the position.

There were no council questions.

Council questions:

There were no public comments.

Public comment:

There were no council comments.

Council comments:

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 22-26. received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 22-26 [6:43pm]

Rollo asked for an update on the contract negotiation.

Council questions:

Beth Cate, Corporation Counsel, said that negotiations were ongoing and negotiation meetings were being scheduled. She hoped the negotiations concluded by mid-November.

Piedmont-Smith asked about the \$1000 extra payment, in two payments, and if any employees were not eligible.

Shaw said that sworn police officers were not eligible. Dispatch employees were not ineligible but it was not budgeted for since their budget was drafted much earlier. The city was working to include dispatch employees to amend their department's budget.

Jeff Underwood, Controller, explained that the dispatch budget started about forty-five to sixty days before the city budget because it needed to be agreed upon between the city and county.

Piedmont-Smith asked about fire department employees.

Shaw stated they were eligible.

Steve Robertson spoke about staffing issues and employees leaving the city, contract negotiations, and the low pay for city staff.

Public comment:

Bradley Rushton commented, as President of the local 2487 AFSCME, on contract negotiations, scheduling, budget, timing, and wages for essential personnel.

Stephen French discussed the work of city workers and their important work like utilities, streets, police, fire, and more.

Jeff Morris talked about his experience in working in the Streets department. He noted the labor shortage to the private sector and other municipalities where there were better wages.

Allan Johnson also commented on his experience in the Streets department. He talked about wages, raises in recent years, and impacts on cost of living.

Rollo stressed the need to keep up with the cost of living increases. He discussed the 2008 recession, salary raises, funds, the EDLIT, wages, the budget process, and council's role. He was prepared to vote against non-essential appropriations the following year so that the funds could be used for wages. He did not have much faith in the administration's efforts in the contract negotiation. He would be voting in favor of Ordinance 22-26 and urged council to vote against fixing the salaries for elected officials because there was not a union contract yet. He encouraged all to work together on a solution.

Council comments:

Ordinance 22-26 (cont'd)

Volan said that it would be better if the contracts were completed before the budget. He commented on council's role to not interfere with contract negotiations. He discussed his involvement with the plan, authored by Public Works, to update the sanitation division in 2016 and 2017 though it had challenges and shortfalls. He noted that the rates that were set five years in the past were not high enough to fund the program. Volan talked about the benefits of having a truck arm lift the bins instead of an employee. He hoped to see a rate ordinance by the end of the year, and noted that an appropriation ordinance could be considered to fully fund the salary of union members. He would support Ordinance 22-26.

Smith supported fair and equitable pay for staff, especially with the high cost of living. He had been a union member for many years in the past. Smith commented on the staffing shortages and said that the employees needed to be fairly compensated.

Piedmont-Smith said that Rollo correctly explained the predicament of councilmembers wanting to support essential employees, but were not made aware of contract negotiation details. If Ordinance 22-26 did not pass, then non-union employees would not receive a raise. She supported Ordinance 22-26 and urged the administration to compensate appropriately and prioritize those already working for the city, prior to hiring new employees.

Rosenbarger planned to vote in favor of Ordinance 22-26 and was encouraged that there might be a new agreement by mid-November. She was discouraged that union representatives felt that there was a gap in communication between the negotiators. The best step forward was to approve the legislation and express support for the union and their right to collective bargain. She commented on the importance of living where one worked and employees should be compensated fairly. She supported the union members with the negotiation efforts.

Flaherty agreed that Rollo summed up the challenges clearly. He was concerned about employee retention and compensation in the face of inflation. There were different mechanisms that were in place to work to adjust salaries. He discussed benefits in the salary ordinance, like the 5% increase bonuses, and savings matching. He hoped that the contract resulted satisfactorily for all, and noted that it harmed the city to not retain employees. Council played a limited role in the strict and well-defined contract negotiations and asserted that there would be funding for any agreement that was reached. He commented further on options council could take to impact salaries. He discussed the importance of non-union employees, too, and referenced an anonymous uReport, from a city employee, that stated that they were not paid enough to live in Bloomington. Flaherty was interested in benchmarking salaries to compete with surrounding governmental units and the private sector. He noted the importance of retention, quantitative data, gender and racial pay equity, and more.

Sims thanked the union members in attendance and expressed support for working people's unions. He discussed his experience at Indiana University (IU) and working with unions. He said that if the Ordinance 22-26 did not pass, the salary would revert to the current year. Sims had spoken with the administration in support of the negotiation. He commented on council's role and the importance to not interfere with the negotiation process. He discussed cost of

living allowance, and fair and equitable salaries. He planned to support Ordinance 22-26.

Ordinance 22-26 (cont'd)

Sgambelluri appreciated the discussion and said it was better to say essential city services as opposed to basic services. She discussed the work that essential workers did to provide essential city services. She acknowledged the limitations in council's role and the importance of not interfering in the negotiation process. Many councilmembers had emphasized the importance of essential city services to the administration. She spoke about the interconnectedness of financial decisions in the city and that it was important to invest in staff and employees in the city.

Sandberg thanked the public for their attendance and staff for sharing information about their work and responsibilities. She commented on staffing shortages, essential services, and non-union employees. It would be fiscally irresponsible to not vote in favor of the salary ordinance. She urged staff not to leave the city and said there would be funds available to fully fund a new agreement.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 22-26 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 22-26 as amended [7:36pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-27 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 5, Nays: 3, Abstain: 0.

Ordinance 22-27 - To Fix the Salaries of All Elected City Officials for the City of Bloomington for the Year 2023 [7:37pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-27 be adopted.

Shaw briefly described Ordinance 22-27 and stated she was available to answer questions.

Council questions:

Sandberg asked why there was a recommendation from an HR viewpoint.

Shaw noted that consistency was important and referenced a compensation study in 2017 when council did not increase their compensation.

Sgambelluri asked for the total increase for councilmembers.

Shaw said the current salary was \$20,146 and that the increase would be 95% of that amount.

Sgambelluri estimated that it would be roughly \$1000 each, at about \$10,000.

Stephen Lucas, Council Attorney, stated that Ordinance 22-27 also set the salary for the mayor and city clerk.

Piedmont-Smith asked if the compensation study was done in 2017 and if it was correct that the council did not implement the recommendation until the next election year.

Shaw confirmed that was correct, and that the study began in 2016.

Dave Askins wondered the impact if Ordinance 22-27 did not pass.

Public comment:

Piedmont-Smith asked what would happen if Ordinance 22-27 did not pass.

Council comments:

Underwood believed the salary would revert to the current year's amounts.

Sgambelluri asked what would happen to the funds if the legislation did not pass.

Ordinance 22-27 (cont'd)

Underwood said the funds were in category 1 so could only be used there, and any monies not used would revert back to the fund they were budgeted in.

Volan understood that council could only set the salary for one year at a time.

Lucas confirmed and believed it was true for most expenses, too.

Volan stated that he was curious if the salary could be secured for a term versus just a year.

Lucas said he would research that option.

Rollo expressed his frustration with the budget regarding salaries. He said it was ideal to not approve an increase in salary for council. It was the under the mayor's purview to increase city staff salaries. He would vote for Ordinance 22-27 because there were other elected officials, like the city clerk, salaries in the legislation too.

Sandberg appreciated Rollo opting to vote in favor of Ordinance 22-27 because it was prudent to follow the recommended formula, especially because there were other elected officials.

Bolden asked if council wanted to amend Ordinance 22-27 to exclude council's salaries and vote separately against increasing it.

Sandberg stated that she did not want to complicate the process.

Volan asked if there could be two separate votes to separate the council's salary from the clerk and mayor.

Lucas responded that state code called for the legislative body to affix the annual compensation of all elected city officials. He would research the option of separating the salaries. He recommended postponing action on Ordinance 22-27 as opposed to separating the salaries that evening.

Volan commented on council salaries and noted that it was not a full time position, despite increasing demand from the public, and on councilmembers' time. It was prudent for council salaries to be a living wage. Otherwise only certain people would be able to serve on the city council.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 22-27 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 22-27 [7:56pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 22-02 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Appropriation Ordinance 22-02 - An Ordinance Adopting a Budget for the Operation, Maintenance, Debt Service and Capital Improvements for the Water and Wastewater Utility Departments of the City of Bloomington, Indiana for the Year 2023 [7:56pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 22-02 be adopted.

Vic Kelson, Director of Utilities, briefly summarized the legislation.

Volan asked when the next rate case would be, and specifically about the next water rate case would be.

Council questions:

Kelson said that it would be in November and in 2024 for water.

Sims supported Appropriation Ordinance 22-02 and reminded all of the EDLIT, a referendum for the Monroe County Community School

Corporation (MCCSC), possible trash rate increase, and higher assessed values. He noted the compounding effect on residents.

Appropriation Ordinance 22-02
(cont'd)

There were no public comments.

Public comment:

There were no council comments.

Council comments:

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 22-02 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 22-02 [8:02pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 22-03 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Appropriation Ordinance 22-03 - Appropriations and Tax Rates for Bloomington Transportation Corporation for 2023 [8:03pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 22-03 be adopted.

John Connell, General Manager for Bloomington Transit (BT), stated that there was no change in the budget.

Piedmont-Smith asked what the total budget request was. Connell stated that it was \$35,039,251.

Council questions:

Volan said that the budget was larger than in the past and asked what the following year's budget might be.

Connell said that the current request was up 131%, and anticipated that, with federal dollars, the budget would decrease to \$30 million.

Volan stated that was encouraging.

There were no public comments.

Public comment:

Volan pointed out that the local income tax had a dramatic impact on transit service. He commented on BT's budget and said he was excited about BT's future.

Council comments:

Rollo asked what sort of infrastructure was needed to have a fully electric bus fleet.

Connell said the challenge was the size of the property. There would be an analysis of how to best provide the electrical infrastructure for electric buses. He would share the information with council.

Flaherty thanked Connell and clarified that it was substantially cleaner to use electric vehicles. He provided data from the Union of Concerned Scientists which found that the average new battery for electric vehicles produced 50% less pollution. He discussed tail pipe emissions which were a driver of early death.

Rollo added that electric vehicles should be used and also the footprint of mining lithium, and more.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 22-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 22-03 [8:10pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and

Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 - An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates (Establishing 2023 Civil City Budget for the City of

synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 0, Nays: 6, Abstain: 3.

Bloomington) [8:10pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 be adopted.

Underwood presented Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 including a budget, with property tax caps, of \$129,435,299 across thirty four funds, but did not include Utilities and Transit department. It was an increase of \$22.4 million.

Sgambelluri moved and it was seconded that Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 be adopted.

Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 22-01

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment is sponsored by Cm. Sgambelluri and would reduce the Jack Hopkins Fund (#9508), Category 3 (Other Services and Charges) in the Council’s Department budget, by \$100,000. The intent behind this reduction is to give explicit guidance on an Emergency Reproductive Health Care Grant Program proposed for 2022 and 2023. As is proposed in Appropriation Ordinance 22-04 for 2022, this amendment is meant to indicate that any such grant program for 2023 should be funded and administered by the Community and Family Resources Department rather than out of the Jack Hopkins Fund.

Piedmont-Smith asked for clarification on Amendment 01.

Council questions:

Sgambelluri stated that the Jack Hopkins Social Services Fund (JHSSF) provided funding for a broad spectrum of services, assisting with food or housing insecurity. It was not ideal to earmark \$100,000 for one specific purpose in JHSSF.

Sandberg added that it made it clear that the funding would be managed by the Community and Family Resources (CFRD) department.

Lucas asked for clarification from Piedmont-Smith on her question.

Piedmont-Smith clarified that she was asking if Amendment 01 reduced the overall budget or if it removed the transfer from the General Fund into JHSSF.

Lucas said the intent was to just remove the transfer and leave the \$100,000 in CFRD.

Piedmont-Smith asked if it was appropriate to maintain the funding in CFRD.

Underwood responded that it was and since the money was coming from the General Fund, it needed to be appropriated. He provided additional details.

There were no public comments.

Public comment:

There were no council comments.

Council comments:

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 [8:19pm]

There were no council questions.

Council questions:

Joseph Wynia called for ending the general subsidy in the Sanitation budget and the proposed rate increase. There was disparity in those providing the subsidy and those benefiting from it. He said that it was not ideal to subsidize the hauling of waste, because of the

Public comment:

carbon footprint, pollution, and energy and pollution to landfill the waste. He provided additional details.

Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 as amended (*cont'd*)

Dave Askins asked what happened if council did not pass Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 by the end of the month, and commented on property tax rates, revenue, the appropriation of the funding, and timing. He also discussed the AFSCME agreement, salaries, and processes.

Volan stated that he agreed that those who generated waste should be responsible for disposing of it, and should be aware of the carbon footprint to do so. He commented on size of waste bins, and the process for disposing of waste. He supported Appropriation Ordinance 22-01.

Council comments:

Smith noted that 53.7% of the General Fund was funded by property taxes, and homeowners paid for their trash disposal. Decreasing the subsidy would not decrease pollution. If the bins were smaller, it would not help much. He questioned if property taxes needed to be reduced, or homeowners given a rebate. He agreed on the need for a smaller carbon footprint, but the city was de-incentivizing home ownership. He said that homeowners funded solar energy in parks, bicycle paths, and more. He said paying for trash when it was thrown out was ideal but removing the subsidy was not.

Flaherty pointed out that everyone paid property taxes, even renters via rent. He said that only one portion of the city got the benefit of a city service that everyone used. There was no subsidy available for trash service for multifamily housing units. He said the social and racial injustice that was born out in the empirical data that concerned him the most.

Volan agreed that everyone paid property taxes so it was irrelevant that property taxes funded half of the General Fund, and those funds could go towards other city services. Private hauling of waste was more expensive than the city fee which was a third the cost of private companies. In the five years since the modernization plan was implemented, the amount of trash had gone up nearly 60%. He had been pursuing paying for waste only when it was thrown out for a long time, with pushback, that pointed out legitimate issues. He said that the administration and city staff were continually bettering service and solving issues.

Piedmont-Smith looked forward to a discussion on the Sanitation department budget. It would be fiscally responsible to increase rates to cover the increase in cost or possibly reduce pickups to every two weeks. She expressed support for an overall focus on sustainability in the budget and provided examples like directly funding the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, supporting public transit, allocation for affordable housing, a commitment to convert a surface parking lot to affordable housing, changes to the leafing program, economic equity fund, local foods, the arts, and boosting salaries. She supported the budget that evening.

Sims thanked everyone for their work. He spoke about community good and believed that the budget could be transformative. He also commented on innovation and results. Everyone wanted to reduce trash and its disposal and noted that waste also included packaging. Sims discussed recycling changes in the city, regional efforts for sustainability, impacts, and appreciating the good that the administration and city staff were achieving.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 22-01 as amended [8:46pm]

Lucas reviewed the upcoming council schedule.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [8:46pm]

Sims moved and it was seconded to adjourn. Sandberg adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT [8:47pm]

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this ____ day of _____, 2023.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Sue Sgambelluri, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington

For Approval

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 6:30pm, Council President Susan Sandberg presided over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
October 19, 2022

Councilmembers present: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan
Councilmembers present via Zoom: none
Councilmembers absent: none

ROLL CALL [6:32pm]

Council President Susan Sandberg summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:32pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of September 29, 2021, October 06, 2021, and September 28, 2022. The motion was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:33pm]

September 29, 2021 (Special Session)
October 06, 2021 (Regular Session)
September 28, 2022 (Special Session)

Smith summarized three petitions considered at the recent Plan Commission meeting. First, a petition to extend time for the alley vacation relating to the Johnson Creamery property, which was approved with a vote of 9-0. Second, a petition for Strausser Construction for a storage facility on South Walnut Street, which was also approved. Third, a petition from Monroe County government requesting a zoning map amendment for the proposed county detention center. He provided additional details. The Plan Commission would take final action at the next meeting.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS [6:35pm]

Volan commented on early voting and election day, and his efforts with Vote Where You Sleep in consideration of students. He listed locations, rides to the polls, and more. He urged everyone to vote.

Rollo reported on the Food and Beverage Tax Advisory Commission's recent actions including the 2021 Annual Report, the election of officers, and yearend balances, and expenditures.

Lauren Clemens, Assistant Director of Sustainability in the Economic and Sustainable Development department, summarized the Climate Action Plan Progress Report. She discussed the goals of the 2018 Sustainability Action Plan and 2019 Climate Action Plan and progress made in the city. Other topics Clemens discussed included progress on emissions, climate mitigation and adaptation, buildings and energy use, transportation and land use, waste management, water and wastewater, local food and agriculture, health and safety, greenspace, and climate economy. She highlighted if the goal was either completed, underway, ongoing, not started, or inactive, and provided specific details.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES [6:45pm]

There was council discussion regarding the city's population growth and carbon impact, carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emission tracking, the Zero in Bloomington website and household registration, Geographic Information System (GIS) data and maps, Phase I actions, regional collaborations, partnerships, agreements, and next steps. The discussion also included timing of implementing goals, funding for things like electric buses, Commission on Sustainability efforts, public engagement, climate justice, and the Environmental Commission's efforts.

Council discussion:

Flaherty summarized the Climate Action and Resilience Committee meeting and its efforts including the phasing out gas-powered, off-road equipment in exchange for electric equipment.

• COUNCIL COMMITTEES [7:07pm]

Jennifer Pearl, President of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation, provided an update on the Economic Vitality Project.

• PUBLIC [7:10pm]

William Coulter commented on the Citizen Redistricting Advisory Committee’s (CRAC) process and some community members’ objections.

Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, spoke about Local Income Tax (LIT), transit infrastructure, city services, and the beautification of the downtown using Community Revitalization Enhancement District funding.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to make the following appointment(s):

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [7:22pm]

- To appoint Kirsten Hawley to seat C-2 on the Historic Preservation Commission
- To appoint Lara Christoun to seat C-4 and Raquel Anderson to seat C-5 on the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs
- To appoint Regina Moore to seat C-2A and Michael Schnoll to seat C-3A on the Parking Commission

The motion was approved by voice vote.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [7:25pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 22-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Appropriation Ordinance 22-04 – To Specifically Appropriate from the General Fund Expenditures not Otherwise Appropriated to Fund an Emergency Reproductive Health Care Program to Help Address the Impacts of Indiana’s Near-Total Abortion Ban [7:25]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 22-04 be adopted.

Beth Cate, Corporation Counsel, reviewed the legal landscape that led to Appropriation Ordinance 22-04. She noted the recent decision by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), referred to as Dobbs, and Senate Bill 01 passed by the Indiana General Assembly, regarding restrictions on abortions. She discussed additional information including access to healthcare, restrictions, integrity, repercussions, dangers to women and their reproductive health, autonomy, and more. She also referenced a statement signed by many local elected officials. Cate summarized the Appropriation Ordinance 22-04’s goals and intent. She noted that there were three lawsuits filed, challenging the validity of Senate Bill 01. There was a stay via an injunction. The Indiana Supreme Court would decide the validity of Senate Bill 01 and if it violated the state constitution.

Beverly Calender-Anderson, Director of the Community and Family Resources (CFR) department, provided details on the management of the funds, the grant application process and evaluation, memorandum of understanding (MOU), annual reports from agencies, and compliance.

Sgambelluri thanked Cate and Calender-Anderson for their presentation and asked about the city’s course of action if an agency did not follow the MOU.

Appropriation Ordinance 22-04
(cont’d)

Cate explained that a grant agreement was a contract and violating its terms allowed the city to seek repayment and more.

Council questions:

Sgambelluri asked about the application and process.

Calender-Anderson said that the application requested data on demographics, number of community members served, services provided, amount of funding needed, and how the program would be evaluated, what outcomes would be expected, and a budget.

Sandberg asked about the stay and if it impacted the expected number of applications. She also asked about leftover funds and if they could be rolled over to the following year.

Cate said that there was likely to be an impact. And, if there was money left over, it would be rolled over to the following year.

Sandberg asked if it was correct that the application clearly stated what the funding could and could not be used for.

Cate confirmed that was correct and that agencies would have to be compliant with local and state statute.

Scott Tibbs spoke against Appropriation Ordinance 22-04 and referenced bible verses against abortion.

Public comment:

Jessica Marchbank commented in favor of Appropriation Ordinance 22-04. She said that All-Options had seen a 120% increase in demand for diapers. She noted the high cost of abortions, difficulty with access, and the need to support families that were already struggling.

Renee Miller thanked staff and others for emergency funds for reproductive health and body autonomy. She spoke about the urgent need for the funding.

Jason Chen, Pastor of Chinese Reform Church of Bloomington, commented in opposition of Appropriation Ordinance 22-04. He said that all life was a gift from God and urged council to turn away from the murdering of babies.

Stephen Lucas, Council Attorney, read a statement submitted by Carol Canfield via Zoom chat. It stated reasons against Appropriation Ordinance 22-04 and asked council to quit playing God and support birth centers in the city.

Piedmont-Smith said that in the wake of Senate Bill 01, local staff and healthcare organizations were overwhelmed by requests for guidance from people who were pregnant and scared. They needed to have counseling on the options available to them. She noted that women were scared about having to carry a baby to full term when they were physically, psychologically, financially, or otherwise unprepared to do so. The decision to carry a pregnancy to term should be between the pregnant person and their healthcare provider. It was not the business of government, as it would be a violation of the separation of church and state. She thanked several community members, commissioners, and staff. She read a quote from a guest column in Bloom Magazine by Dr. Alice Wood, Obstetrician/Gynecologist, regarding pregnancy risks, and the dangers of prioritizing the growing life inside of a women over her physical and mental wellbeing was not pro-life or pro-family and interfered with her right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. She would be voting in favor of Appropriation Ordinance 22-04.

Council comment:

Sgambelluri appreciated Piedmont-Smith’s comments and the reminder of the foundational notions of bodily autonomy and reproductive rights being justice issues. She read a statement from Reverend Carlton Basey, President of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, in favor of reproductive justice including comprehensive sex education, family planning, contraception, adequate medical care, a safe environment, and more. She noted that was how she viewed the issue and would support Appropriation Ordinance 22-04.

Appropriation Ordinance 22-04
(cont’d)

Volan stated that there were about 78,616 live births in Indiana the previous year, and 531 died at birth, giving Indiana an infant mortality rate of 6.75 deaths per 1000 live births. The worst state for infant mortality was Mississippi with 8.12 per 1000 live births and the best was California with 3.92 per 1000 live births. He explained that there were opportunities to lower the infant mortality rate. He said that there were 8414 terminated pregnancies in Indiana and only about 1.25% occurred after thirteen weeks. If Indiana invested in reducing the mortality rate, 200 infants could be saved, which was double the number of abortions after thirteen weeks. He did not subscribe (ascribe?) to someone else’s idea of the law, based on a book that was written a long time ago, and believed that the overturning of Roe v. Wade was a mistake. The continued unwillingness to invest in all aspects of childhood, and to only consider those who were not born yet, was also a mistake.

Sims wanted to make it clear that council did not make decisions on personal choices regarding abortive services. The legislation was an appropriation ordinance only. He believed in a woman’s unrestricted right to choose.

Sandberg spoke about illegal and dangerous abortions prior to Roe v. Wade. It was known that abortions would happen regardless of safety, legality, or rareness. Council was attempting to assist those in need, especially those with low-income who could not afford legal and safe abortions, and was an emergency measure for the community. Women’s rights were under attack, including their body and futures, and if they wished to become a parent or not. It was women who decided their fate. Much of the funding would go towards preventing unwanted or accidental pregnancies. Sandberg spoke about her daughter, who moved to Oklahoma, which was a very restrictive state. She did not want to have an accidental pregnancy and thus took preventative measures.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 22-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 22-04 [8:07pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Resolution 22-18 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Resolution 22-18 – Resolution Proposing an Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Allocations in Monroe County and Casting 56.66 Votes in Favor of the Ordinance – Re: Adjusting the Allocations Between the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and General Public Safety Purposes Tax Rates Without Changing Other Allocations or the Total Expenditure Tax Rate [8:07pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Resolution 22-18 be adopted.

Lucas, summarized the recommendation from the Public Safety Local Income Tax (PSLIT) committee which was an annual action that the Monroe County Local Income Tax Council took to adjust the allocation amounts divided up between Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and general public safety purposes. He noted proposed changes for 2023 and provided additional details on the amounts

proposed to go to the remaining bodies including Monroe County, City of Bloomington, Towns of Ellettsville, and Stinesville.

Resolution 22-18 (cont'd)

Volan asked for a brief report from the chair.

Council questions:

Lucas said the chair was Geoff McKim, who was not present. He explained that another purpose of the committee was to review applications for funding and that year there was only one application from the Bean Blossom Fire Department. The committee recommended not funding that application.

Sims spoke as a member of the committee and noted that part of the discussion was for a new position for the PSAP. He asked for additional information on it and recalled that it was for mental health services.

Lucas said that was correct and the original request was for \$2.5 million but had an additional \$85,000 for the additional position pertaining to mental health.

There was no public comment.

Public comment:

Piedmont-Smith mentioned the PSAP budget could be met with a smaller portion of the PSLIT due to substantial reserves for both the city and county, totaling about \$1.8 million.

Council comment:

The motion to adopt Resolution 22-18 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Resolution 22-18 [8:19pm]

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING [8:19pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-28 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 22-28 – Final Approval to Issue Economic Development Revenue Notes and Lend the Proceeds for the Renovation of Affordable Housing – Re: Country View Apartments, 2500 S. Rockport Road, Bloomington, Indiana (Country View Housing, LP, Petitioner) [8:19pm]

Sandberg referred Ordinance 22-28 to the Committee of the Whole (COW) to meet on October 26, 2022.

Flaherty moved and it was seconded that the Council discharge the COW from considering Ordinance 22-28.

Council discussion:

Flaherty explained his objection to the COW meeting for three reasons. First, it created unnecessary meetings and was a burden on staff, BPD, councilmembers, and the public. Second, was that the public record was different for committee meetings. Flaherty stated that was problematic since most of the substantive discussion, and the presentation of legislation, occurred at the COW instead of a Regular Session. Third, was the confusion on what the purpose of the COW was versus actions taken at Regular Sessions. He did not believe it was necessary to send legislation to the COW.

Volan agreed with Flaherty and added that it made it difficult to amend legislation. He would be making a motion to discharge all legislation from the COW and to instead send to a second reading.

Rollo stated that he did not fully concur and did not see the confusion between committee meetings and Regular Sessions. He believed that Ordinance 22-28 did not need to be sent to the COW, but perhaps other legislation did.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 2 (Sgambelluri, Sandberg), Abstain: 0.

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-29 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Sandberg announced that she would not refer Ordinance 22-29 to the Committee of the Whole to meet on October 26, 2022.

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-31 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Sandberg referred Ordinance 22-31 to the Committee of the Whole to meet on October 26, 2022.

Volan moved and it was seconded that the Council discharge the Committee of the Whole from considering Ordinance 22-31.

Volan stated that he had met with the resident who had brought the concerns to council. He preferred that the presentation be in the record and presented at a Regular Session. If needed the legislation could go to a third reading.

Rollo stated that the resident was prepared to present at the COW as well as the Regular Session the following week.

Flaherty disagreed on sending the legislation to the COW and said that a second reading allowed for final action to be taken. Or, legislation could have a third reading, and that a presentation was not necessary since it had been presented at the second reading.

Volan understood the safety concerns with the intersection. He reiterated that sending the legislation to the COW would complicate submitting potential amendments to the legislation which could improve the remedy to the safety concerns.

Rollo said that he sponsored the legislation because he felt it was the best remedy for the safety concerns at the intersection. He saw value in hearing from the public at the COW, which could have a recommendation which was not binding.

Sandberg stated that she would be voting against discharging the legislation due to council's current schedule. She said sending the legislation to a third reading could affect other items council would be considering.

Volan commented on petitioners and their presence at Regular Sessions and the COW. He also did not have a preconceived notion about the intersection.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 4 (Rosenbarger, Volan, Flaherty, Piedmont-Smith), Nays: 5 (Sims, Sgambelluri, Sandberg, Rollo, Smith), Abstain: 0. FAILED

Lucas read a statement from Renee Miller submitted via Zoom chat that stated the COW was a waste of staff's and the public's time.

Vote to discharge Ordinance 22-28 [8:22pm]

Ordinance 22-29 – Ordinance Authorizing and Approving a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (“PILOT”) Agreement With Country View Housing Limited Partnership for Country View Apartments [8:23pm]

Ordinance 22-31 – To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” – Re: Amending Section 15.12.010 (Stop Intersections) to Change a Stop Intersection Location to a MultiStop Intersection Location [8:26pm]

Council discussion:

Vote to discharge Ordinance 22-31 [8:41pm]

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [8:42pm]

Lucas reviewed the upcoming council schedule, including a Work Session that Friday, and items for consideration.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [8:42pm]

Flaherty stated that not all councilmembers could attend work sessions because they were scheduled during the work day. He provided alternatives to receiving information from staff and petitioners regarding upcoming legislation not already in the packet. He commented on his experience as a member of the public attending work sessions, which to him seemed to not be welcoming to the public. He also noted that there was substantial debate during the work session which was not appropriate.

Council discussion:

Volan concurred with Flaherty and noted that at Work Sessions councilmembers could ask for additional information from staff to be included in the presentation.

Piedmont-Smith agreed that it was necessary to reconsider Work Sessions and that perhaps emailing would work best. If the council president would notify councilmembers of upcoming legislation for consideration, then they could correspond with staff directly.

Sandberg commented that she was interested in hearing more about the petition from Peerless Development and the utility rates at the upcoming Work Session. She found Work Sessions to be useful.

Volan suggested that Sandberg reach out to presenters about the Peerless petition for information and ask questions directly to them.

Rollo appreciated the discussion and also recognized that it was important to not have any substantive discussion at Work Sessions.

Volan moved and it was seconded to cancel the Council Work Session on October 21, 2022. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Vote to cancel Work Session [8:51pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adjourn. Sandberg adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT [8:53pm]

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this ___ day of _____, 2023.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Sue Sgambelluri, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, November 02, 2022 at 6:30pm, Council President Susan Sandberg presided over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
November 02, 2022

Councilmembers present: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan
Councilmembers present via Zoom: none
Councilmembers absent: none

ROLL CALL [6:31pm]

Council President Susan Sandberg summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:31pm]

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:34pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of May 04, May 05, May 06, May 12, and May 13 of 2021. The motion was approved by voice vote.

May 04, 2021 (Special Session)
May 05, 2021 (Special Session)
May 06, 2021 (Special Session)
May 12, 2021 (Special Session)
May 13, 2021 (Special Session)

Piedmont-Smith urged community members to vote, and spoke about recent elections, misinformation with voter fraud, and those who did not believe President Joe Biden truly won the recent presidential election.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS [6:35pm]

Rosenbarger mentioned her upcoming constituent meeting.

Smith reported on constituent feedback regarding traffic backups on East Third Street. It was an Indiana Department of Transportation street and suggested community members contact that agency.

Volan said it was the anniversary of the Cubs win. He discussed the Parking Commission which had voting, and non-voting, members and provided a history and roles of commissioners. Volan also suggested rescinding the recent appointments and other steps.

Sims concurred with Piedmont-Smith's plea for community members to vote. He reported on the Committee of the Whole's (COW) do-pass recommendation of 5-1-0 for Ordinance 22-31.

Sgambelluri reminded all of her upcoming constituent meeting.

Pedro Ramirez, Commissioner on the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs (CHLA), presented the Annual Report. CHLA worked to identify and address issues that impacted the Hispanic and Latino population in Bloomington in the areas of health, education, public safety, and cultural competency. CHLA had participated in an all-Spanish language COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the convention center. Commissioners had also met with Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) Superintendent Dr. Jeff Hauswald on issues at the schools like transportation for Dual Language Program students. They also met with students from the Amigos Club from both local high schools. Commissioners were involved in the Black y Brown Arts Festival which celebrated African and Latino creative arts and artists. CHLA was involved with the Fiesta del Otoño 2021 and El Mercado, which worked to create an inclusive city and make resources available to underserved communities. There was brief council discussion on the CHLA, its work and upcoming events, and a current vacancy.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES [6:46pm]

Jackie Scanlan, Development Services Manager in the Planning and Transportation department, gave a report on Plexes/Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) per Ordinance 21-23. She summarized the reporting requirement, and zones where plexes were conditionally permitted. She provided information on applications and conversations staff had with community members on plexes. One duplex had been approved and there were two more that would be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). There was brief council discussion regarding plexes, process, and caps for ADUs.

There were no council committee reports.

Jennifer Crossley spoke about the Community Justice Response Committee (CJRC) and the proposed new jail, decriminalizing mental health and homelessness, and collaborative efforts. She urged councilmembers, and the community, to attend the meetings.

Kevin Weinberg appreciated Crossley's comments. He also said it was important to carefully consider the jail on Fullerton Pike and spoke about Care Not Cages' work.

Jim Allison noted his concerns on gerrymandering and appreciated the work done by council and the redistricting committee.

Renee Miller spoke about Indigenous People's History Month and acknowledged the indigenous lands and people. She also appreciated Crossley's comment.

Marc Haggerty discussed the history of local government and voting, including write-in candidates. He said that in the last election there were long lines and three hour plus waits.

There were no appointments to boards and commissions.

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-28 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Chief Deputy Clerk Sofia McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-28 be adopted.

Alex Crowley, Director of Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD) department, introduced the individuals presenting on the legislation.

Larry Allen, Assistant City Attorney, explained the economic development bonds, and said that the city was lending its tax exempt status but did not bear any liability. He provided additional details including the process that had been taken, and the payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) which was part of Ordinance 22-29.

Adam Richter, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Glick Philanthropies, petitioner, explained the philanthropic efforts of the Glick Housing Foundation (GHF), a nonprofit whose mission was to preserve quality, affordable housing and to improve the lives

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES (*cont'd*)

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES [7:00pm]

- PUBLIC [7:00pm]

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [7:12pm]

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [7:13pm]

Ordinance 22-28 – Final Approval to Issue Economic Development Revenue Notes and Lend the Proceeds for the Renovation of Affordable Housing – Re: Country View Apartments, 2500 S. Rockport Road, Bloomington, Indiana (Country View Housing, LP, Petitioner) [7:13pm]

Ordinance 22-28 (cont'd)

of residents via the service coordinator program. GHF focused on, and improved, properties that were at risk and maintained them as affordable, quality housing. He commented further on GHF's efforts.

Jeanine Betsy, Director of Tax Credit Development, GHF, spoke about Country View. She discussed the two hundred and six units, nearby resources, renters with vouchers, agreement with Shalom Center for housing referrals, improvements, hotel vouchers for residents while improvements were made, and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

Stephen Taft, on-site Services Coordinator, discussed his work in the city including Shalom Center, Crawford Apartments, and the COVID-19 winter shelter. He appreciated GHF and their efforts and said that the improvements were great. He noted that in the Country View Apartment community, there was even a pet food pantry for those in need of pet food.

Crowley said the goal was to have quality, affordable housing, especially in a neighborhood where there was upcoming development. He explained the PILOT details and reinvesting in Country View, social services programming, and ongoing maintenance and repairs. The public investment was about \$15,000, per unit. He commented on other projects with public investments.

Volan asked if it was correct that the petitioner would have had to pay \$4.5 million in taxes, over thirty years, but that the PILOT would fix the tax rate and would not increase. He asked if it was like a tax abatement.

Council questions:

Crowley responded that with the PILOT, the current tax liability would remain, and the city would forego the incremental increase in assessed value over thirty years. He said that tax abatements were limited to ten years, and the PILOT was for thirty years.

Piedmont-Smith asked if Country View was an economic development facility. She also asked what was meant by "of benefit to the health and general welfare of citizens of the issuer."

Allen confirmed that it was and that the city was the "issuer" and Country View was the borrower.

Piedmont-Smith asked about the City Clerk's role regarding the selling of the notes, as per the legislation.

Allen clarified that the City Clerk was not responsible for the selling of the notes/bonds. The Common Council was authorizing the bonds in the name of the city and the City Clerk was acting as the representative of the city.

Sgambelluri asked for more information on the housing vouchers, the additional 10% set aside, and how that would be maintained.

Betsy said that the tax credit program required accepting housing choice vouchers, and that there was word-of-mouth communication amongst voucher holders. She noted that rents in Country View were about \$150 below the average in the city.

Sandberg asked Taft about being the onsite social services coordinator, and if he would be making referrals for individuals to other services.

Taft stated that he would, and that his connections would help with the referrals.

Sandberg asked about meeting with residents to deliver services.

Taft said he would meet residents in their homes, as well as scheduled meetings. The role was somewhat new to Country View,

and previously had not been welcomed, but was now. Taft looked forward to working with residents.

Ordinance 22-28 (cont'd)

Smith asked how the PILOT benefitted the mission of the GHF.

Richter explained that Country View would not become market-rate units and would be kept affordable. The goal was not money-driven. He also discussed construction costs and said that GHF would have zero profit, which private companies would never agree to. GHF had bought the property in November of 2021 and would invest in it. If everything went well, there would not be a loss.

Volan asked what grocery store was one mile away.

Taft said that it was the Dollar General which was less than one mile away.

Sandberg asked about amendments that were recently considered.

Allen said the amendments added details, like suite numbers, as well as how the PILOT was memorialized.

Judy Sharp, Monroe County Assessor, explained her role and said that large, commercial property owners always contested their assessed value. She commented on the GHF's properties and said that they had asked for a decrease in the assessed values in the past. Sharp discussed the public good that GHF did for their properties and her experience in visiting their properties. She talked about the joy that residents had with their improved neighborhood. She provided additional details and supported the PILOT.

Public comment:

Volan commented that it was a shame that more outcomes like the GHF's could not be done independently as a city, due to restrictions by the state. He would support the proposal.

Council comment:

Piedmont-Smith thanked GHF and staff for their work on the important proposal being considered. She commented on bus services for residents.

Smith thanked everyone and was happy to support the proposal.

Sandberg thanked the GHF and stated the proposal was important for the community and residents. She would support the project.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 22-28 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 22-28 [8:11pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-29 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 22-29 – Ordinance Authorizing and Approving a Payment in Lieu of Taxes ("PILOT") Agreement With Country View Housing Limited Partnership for Country View Apartments [8:12pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-29 be adopted.

Piedmont-Smith asked what the impact of the PILOT was on other taxing units.

Council questions:

Allen stated that it would fix the rate which was capped at a certain amount, so the taxing units would still have the same percentage.

There was no public comment.

Public comment:

Volan clarified that the money that would have been collected in taxes would be redirected to the property itself. He believed it was worth doing.

Council comment:

Sandberg said that it was a community benefit to approve the PILOT for the project to move forward.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 22-29 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 22-29 [8:16pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-31 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 5, Nays: 1, Abstain: 0.

Ordinance 22-31 – To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” – Re: Amending Section 15.12.010 (Stop Intersections) to Change a Stop Intersection Location to a Multi-Stop Intersection Location [8:16pm]

There was brief council discussion regarding the report.

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-31 be adopted.

Council discussion:

Flaherty asked for staff’s input on the proposal.

Sims asked Stephen Lucas, Council Attorney, to provide information regarding the previous week’s Committee of the Whole (COW).

Lucas stated that city code called for the chair of the COW to report the committee’s recommendation which was what Sims had done. He provided additional details regarding input from sponsors and staff.

Flaherty commented that it was concerning that staff was not invited to the previous week’s COW specifically because the proposal pertained to an engineering and traffic issue.

Lucas explained that staff’s position regarding Ordinance 22-31 was communicated by a memo and was included in the packet.

Rollo summarized Ordinance 22-31 which would add a four-way stop at Sheridan Road and Maxwell Lane. He discussed traffic concerns at the intersection.

Stephanie Hatton, community member, presented the traffic concerns at the intersection. She discussed processes, safety concerns at the intersection, reasons supporting the request for a four-way stop, sidewalks in the area, unique features of the intersection, pedestrian safety, crashes, alternatives to the proposal, and civic engagement.

There was brief discussion by the sponsors of Ordinance 22-31 in support of the proposal.

Sgambelluri asked staff for their input.

Council questions:

Andrew Cibor, Director of Engineer, referenced the memo presented to the Traffic Commission which represented the Engineering department’s conclusion and analysis of the proposal. He noted the discussion in the recent Traffic Commission’s meeting resulting in a 5-2 vote supporting the engineering report and not the proposal. He commented on safety, concerns on the intersection, and metrics with recommended guidelines which were not met, in regards to the intersection. Some examples included zero reported crashes, the speed limit that allowed for slowing or stopping to avoid a crash, his experience in observing traffic patterns at the intersection. He noted that staff received many requests across the city and it was important to be mindful in selecting which ones to

address. He highlighted the importance of justifying why addressing that intersection as opposed to the many others that also had safety concerns. Cibor stressed the need to evaluate all requests from residents with some metrics as a standard. Ordinance 22-31 (cont'd)

Flaherty thanked Hatton for her presentation. He asked about the criteria for adding a four-way stop, and staff's report that noted that the criteria had not been met.

Cibor explained that the engineering report focused on the recommended considerations in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for all-way stops, as well as guidance for where to place yield or stop signs.

Flaherty asked for clarification on left turn conflicts and why it was not applicable.

Cibor clarified that there were certain intersection configurations where left turns conflicted with traffic going in opposite directions. He said that all left turns were possible at Sheridan and Maxwell, and there were no conflicts so that particular criteria was not met.

Sims asked if staff supported or did not support Ordinance 22-31.

Cibor stated that he intended to be neutral but that the Traffic Commission had voted to not support an all-way stop. He recognized that there were some unique considerations in that area.

Sims asked if there were other options that had been considered.

Cibor responded that staff had discussed options with residents in the area including reconstructing the intersection and traffic calming alternatives.

Sandberg asked if a four-way stop at that intersection would make it less safe.

Cibor reiterated that safe was a complex term because anytime a car was on the road, there was potential for accidents, et cetera. Since there had been no reported crashes at that intersection he hesitated to say what was safer. He did not have significant concerns about the intersection having a four-way stop, but was concerned about the immediate time period following the installation since it altered traffic patterns.

Sandberg appreciated metrics and thresholds. She asked if staff also considered residents' experience with dangerous situations in that intersection, despite there being no reported crashes.

Cibor said that residents' experience mattered and also urged the public to report crashes when they occur.

Rollo noted the potential short-term crash risk following a change in traffic patterns and asked Cibor if that was technically true for all new installations, including the recent Seven Line which removed stop signs. He also asked if there were ways to mitigate that short-term risk.

Cibor responded that was correct and said that if Ordinance 22-31 passed, then staff would do all that they could to make drivers aware of the change, including advanced signs, flags on the stop signs, and possibly using electronic message signs.

Piedmont-Smith asked about the neighborhood traffic calming program through the Planning and Transportation (PT) department. She noted that Hatton had indicated that she had originally pursued that route, but then found it to not be as useful as a four-way stop.

Scott Robinson, Director of PT, confirmed that was correct and that resident-led requests, like Hatton's, needed to meet a threshold, which Hatton's request had not met. He noted the many efforts staff

Ordinance 22-31 (cont'd)

had done to address the various concerns in the area near the intersection.

Piedmont-Smith asked if it was correct that the resident-led request was rescinded because there had not been enough resident buy-in from neighbors.

Robinson believed that was correct.

Hatton said that out of the forty-eight affected household units, she would have only needed fourteen signatures. She could have done that but it became apparent that the neighbors did not want traffic calming options, like speed bumps, though staff indicated that was the only option. She provided additional details on the process.

Piedmont-Smith asked for clarification on vertical impediments being the only option, per staff.

Robinson explained that the options were suggested by staff due to costs process and timing to design an improved intersection, and more. Traffic calming options immediately address residents' concerns, and staff did not indicate that other options were not possible.

Hatton clarified that the residents' request was to stop traffic, not to calm it, and provided some information on costs.

Rosenbarger spoke about safety and traffic in the area of the intersection, including young elementary students crossing on Clifton, one block west of High Street and about four blocks east of the proposed four-way stop. She asked how a four-way stop sign would impact that route for elementary school students.

Cibor said that he did not expect that it would affect crossing about four blocks away. He noted that was an example prioritizing the installation of a stop sign in one intersection versus another.

Rosenbarger asked what would be the best way to help people cross the street in that area.

Cibor stated that the best way to make pedestrians feel safe crossing the street along a long corridor, was to consider corridor traffic calming options, which the city had a process for.

Rosenbarger read from the engineering report about stop signs, which were not an effective tool for reducing speeds and only stopped traffic at a specific intersection. She noted that the report said that drivers tended to increase their speed in between stop signs. She asked if that would be of concern for pedestrians in that corridor and the intersections around the four-way stop.

Cibor said that specific intersection did not cause him concern, and that the concern was setting a bad precedent. It was important to prioritize project based on standards, criteria, and thresholds. He noted that there were already controlled stops in that corridor.

Flaherty asked about alternatives with meeting the goals of the residents, especially regarding safe crossing, including flexible delineator posts to decrease turn radii and crossing distances. Both were lower cost options.

Cibor said that those options were discussed, but they were more of a temporary, short-term fix prior to a long-term improvement. He noted that prioritizing improvements mattered when considering intersections with safety concerns. There were many other locations in the city that had safety issues with pedestrian crossing or even a lack of pedestrian facilities entirely. Some met the thresholds and criteria more than the intersection in question.

Robinson concurred with Cibor that those options were short term. He also highlighted challenges with maintenance for those options. Residents also were concerned with aesthetics and did not always like those types of tactical urbanism.

Volan asked about restoring the faded crossing stripes on Sheridan.

Cibor stated that he did not have an exact cost, and explained what was involved as well as challenges with maintenance. He believed it would be somewhere around \$1000.

Volan asked how much it would cost to properly add signage to address the short term risks of a change in a traffic pattern.

Cibor referenced the cost estimate provided in the memo, which was around \$1000.

Volan spoke about the narrowing of the road on Third Street and Mitchell, which changed Third Street from two lanes to one in that area. He asked what the cost was, as well as details on the process.

Cibor explained the reason for that traffic pattern change which was due to predictable and regular crashes one block west of Mitchell on Third Street and Swain. He provided additional details. He said the goal had been to take incremental steps which proved to be ineffective. He believed the cost was around \$5000-\$10,000.

Flaherty asked for clarification on the concerns of installing a four-way stop, and learned non-compliance such as a false sense of security, drivers not complying with the stop sign, and speeding up between stop signs.

Cibor discussed controlled stops and requests that came in to the city. He noted concerns regarding drivers not obeying a four-way stop and residents' not wanting four-way stops. He also noted that there was a psychology to drivers obeying traffic laws, especially when implementing new traffic patterns.

Flaherty asked for more information on drivers speeding up in between stop signs.

Cibor responded that he had not analyzed behavior regarding new stop signs, but he had learned from other city engineers that new stop signs lowered the speed in the immediate vicinity only.

Rollo referenced data on the intersection from the engineering report, like the number of cars that passed through, and asked if it would be a reality for drivers not to obey the stop sign.

Cibor stated that there was a fair amount of traffic there but that it was not a large amount.

Rollo said that the amount of traffic indicated to him that drivers would not disobey a stop sign.

Volan commented on different possibilities for improving the intersection, and noted the many differing opinions. He asked what would make the intersection the safest given that there were zero crashes, et cetera.

Cibor said that there were many options if there were unlimited resources for the city. He explained that the hill was the biggest issue because it limited sight distance. He listed additional types of improvements.

Volan asked what would be needed to narrow the road.

Cibor discussed options like sidewalk, storm water drains and curbs, and other things that would narrow the road. The cost would be significant.

Volan asked for clarification on resident-led traffic calming projects.

Robinson provided history on the previous traffic safety program, and summarized the current program. He also noted that the council's Sidewalk Committee discussed the corridor near Sheridan and Maxwell. He listed costs and resources for improving it.

Volan asked why painting parking spots had not been done.

Robinson said it had been discussed and recalled that there were not cars that needed to park there. He explained that residents were not always receptive to on-street parking in their neighborhood.

Volan asked if vertical impediments were the only option.

Ordinance 22-31 (cont'd)

Robinson clarified that he was not able to give specifics on all the options because there were many factors to consider, like cost and utilities, and more.

Cibor said there was not anything that precluded other options, but that vertical impediment were fairly new and were mainly speed humps. He commented on prioritization.

Tomi Allison spoke in favor of Ordinance 22-31.

Public comment:

Chuck Livingston provided reasons in favor of Ordinance 22-31.

Jim Allison supported Ordinance 22-31.

Lisa Thomison discussed her concerns with the intersection.

Virginia Metzger commented in favor of Ordinance 22-31.

Wendy Bernstein opined her support for a four-way stop.

Hunter Rackley discussed his support for Ordinance 22-31.

Teresa Swift urged council to pass Ordinance 22-31.

Natalia Galvan spoke in favor of Ordinance 22-31.

Geoffrey Bingham commented in support of the proposal.

William Coulter supported a four-way stop.

Kerry Thomson discussed her experience with the intersection.

Renee Miller believed stop signs would be useful at that intersection.

Eric Ost supported Ordinance 22-31.

Martha Harsanyi spoke in favor of Ordinance 22-31.

Betty Rose Nagle provided reasons in support of the proposal.

Greg Alexander named other intersections with safety concerns.

Babk Seradjek commented in favor of Ordinance 22-31.

Jeff Richardson discussed safety and his support for the proposal.

Rosenbarger asked if the engineering report considered costs and resources, and if another option was still recommended.

Council comment:

Cibor said that ideally, other options would be more useful, but that the costs for those options would be significant. It would not be appropriate to apply those resources to that intersection.

Volan asked for clarification on crash reports.

Cibor said that staff looked at police generated crashes, and not the hospital data.

Volan asked about signage and why No Turn on Red signs had not been installed for a long time despite legislation passing long ago.

Cibor stated that the signs were currently being installed.

Volan asked if Ordinance 22-31 passed, should the residents of that area expect to wait.

Cibor discussed the installation of the No Turn on Red signs, which was more complicated than a stop sign. The installation of stop signs would be conducted by Public Works and would not take as long.

Volan commented on how staff worked with city departments to install signage.

Cibor discussed the different factors involved with staffing and other resources and the process the city takes.

Volan said that a four-way stop at the intersection would allow for pedestrians and bicycles to cross and asked why that was not sufficient reason to install stop signs.

Cibor reiterated that it was complex because with that logic, then every intersection needed a stop sign.

Volan noted that it was a city engineer's job to make the entire city safer and not just one intersection. He asked Cibor to explain why he was not able to only focus on the intersection in Ordinance 22-31 so that the public better understood.

Cibor understood residents' concerns but reiterated the complexity of city planning and urban intersections. He commented on the need for criteria, and to be fair across the city regarding requests from residents.

Volan asked if there was a fiscal impact statement for Ordinance 22-31, and if not, why not.

Rollo stated that there was not and estimated that the cost for a stop sign was around \$1000 but that there were additional costs.

Volan confirmed that the sponsors did not bother to draft an impact statement despite council having debated the need for them. He asked why the sponsors had not invited staff to the COW.

Rollo explained that he had not invited staff because he had not believe it would be needed. He said it might have been an oversight, and that he took responsibility for it.

Rollo stated that the intersection was hazardous and appreciated that staff had met with the sponsors. He commented on costs, alternatives, priorities, and urged support for Ordinance 22-31.

Flaherty thanked the sponsors, public, and staff. He shared the goal of improving safety on streets and had fought for funding for doing so, resulting in significant resistance from councilmembers and the administration. The decision to not support Ordinance 22-31 was a difficult one, for reasons relating to equity and process, and safety. He commented on process including the resident-led program as well as the ordinance before council. He discussed city engineering and urged the public to not substitute their opinion over staff's expertise regarding traffic safety. He reviewed safety concerns with stop signs, and also referenced staff's input via the engineering report. Flaherty commented on council's role in city engineering and provided examples.

Rosenbarger said that she originally supported the idea when Hatton first reached out to her, until she reviewed the engineering report. She stated that she was not an expert on city engineering and relied on staff's expertise. Traffic calming efforts were a better way to force drivers to abide by the speed limit. She commented on residents' and staffs' somewhat conflicting concerns. She supported Vision Zero where the goal was to have no traffic deaths. She spoke about a recent death on North Walnut, bike lanes, and working towards solutions. She would not support Ordinance 22-31.

Piedmont-Smith commented on the difficult decision and believed that planners' and engineers' expertise was important. She

expressed concerns with drivers disregarding stop signs and a false sense of safety, as well as speeding between stop signs. She was also concerned with some problems in the processes available to residents. She noted that not all neighborhoods had advocates like Hatton and provided the metaphor of the 'squeaky wheel getting the grease' which was not the best way to govern. Piedmont-Smith spoke about her experience with the intersection. She would vote in favor of Ordinance 22-31.

Ordinance 22-31 (cont'd)

Sims thanked everyone for the discussion. He said that there were many other intersections that needed to be addressed in an equitable way. He spoke about process, approaches for solutions, safety at intersections, warning signs for an upcoming stop sign, and provided an invitation for other neighborhoods to come before council with concerns in their area. Sims noted that staff had not attended the COW and said that three councilmembers were also not in attendance.

Volan commended Hatton and commented on how he had been mocked as she had been. He discussed his intense interest in process and procedure, his entrance into local government, consensus, engaging in dialogue, and Ordinance 22-31's process. He addressed not attending COW meetings, but indicated that was not an opinion on legislation. He questioned why Hatton was given an unlimited amount of time to present, there being no time limits on council questions and comments, and why the request for a third reading had been negated. He hoped that the public saw how complicated city issues were. He noted that the majority of councilmembers in favor of Ordinance 22-31 appeared to not consider other options. Staff's expertise had been mocked by the public. He expressed his disdain for the councilmembers in support of the proposal, who rejected the minority's opinion of seeking better solutions. He noted that Cibor followed the legal definition of safety. There were three pedestrians killed at intersections in his district in the past two years and fortunately the city improved those intersections. He concluded by discussing traffic calming options, process, and consensus. He would be abstaining that evening.

Sgambelluri agreed that the solution was complex. She applauded the residents who worked towards a solution. She was concerned that staff did not attend the previous week's COW but believed it was an unintentional oversight, and likewise that there was no impact statement. She commented on changing traffic patterns and the immediate risk with the change and said the city would need to take appropriate actions to mitigate risk. She spoke about safety and making the city safer, and listening to and working with constituents. She would support Ordinance 22-31.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 22-31 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 2 (Flaherty, Rosenbarger), Abstain: 1 (Volan).

Vote to adopt Ordinance 22-31 [11:11pm]

There was brief council discussion about the options for the rest of the meeting, considering the 10:30pm rule.

Michael Cordaro, Peerless Development, noted that his petition was on the Board of Public Works (BPW) agenda on November 7, 2022. If Ordinance 22-15 was postponed that evening, then they would need to reschedule the meeting with BPW.

Ordinance 22-15 – To Vacate a Public Parcel – Re: A 12-Foot Wide Alley Segment Running East/West between the B-Line Trail and the First Alley to the West, North of 7th Street and the South of 8th

Lucas provided options for council action.

The Common Council did not make a motion to take Ordinance 22-15 from the table to be considered that evening.

Street (Peerless Development, Petitioner) [11:11pm]

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING [11:12pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-33 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 22-33 – To Amend Title 10 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Wastewater” (Rate Adjustment) [11:12pm]

Sandberg referred Ordinance 22-33 to the Regular Session to meet on November 16, 2022.

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-34 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 22-34 – To Amend Title 10 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Wastewater” (Stormwater Rate Adjustment) [11:16pm]

Sandberg referred Ordinance 22-34 to the Regular Session to meet on November 16, 2022.

Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, discussed the beautification of Bloomington and the value of the Waldron Arts Center and the Buskirk Theater. He also talked about planters around the city and the Community Revitalization Enhancement District funds that could be used to beautify the city.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [11:18pm]

Lucas reviewed the upcoming schedule. There was brief council discussion.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [11:23pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded to cancel the COW on November 09, 2022. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Vote to cancel Committee of the Whole [11:27pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded to adjourn. Sandberg adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT [11:30pm]

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this ___ day of _____, 2023.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Sue Sgambelluri, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington



**Compost Up, Downtown
BEAD Restaurant Composting Incentive Program**



Sustainable Solutions for Organic Waste Management



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March 15th, 2023

Final Report

EarthKeepers

In 2021, the City of Bloomington was given funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, a portion of which was allocated by the City for economic recovery initiatives that could dovetail with sustainable development goals. Per the City’s goals of revitalizing COVID-affected downtown businesses and implementing public actions in response to the Climate Crisis, the City of Bloomington’s Economic and Sustainable Development Department reached out to EarthKeepers about partnering on a project to serve these and related ends. In meetings between the City’s former Assistant Director of Sustainability, Lauren Clemens, and EarthKeepers leadership, the contours of the collaboration took shape around the economic development case for downtown restaurants to consider food-waste reduction through the provision of composting services and related commercial-kitchen consulting.

Derived from leading climate science, food systems, and waste management research results, [the *Compost Up. Downtown* program](#) was launched as a proof-of-concept pilot intended to sense market interest, perceived barriers, operational barriers, price-sensitivity, and trainability, around composting services for local commercial kitchens. Restaurants located within the [Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District \(BEAD\)](#) constituted the pool of potential applicants from which up to 16 would be accepted, on a quarterly basis for 1 year, to take part in the program. Participation in the program involved a 3-month commitment to a free trial of commercial composting services, including mandatory administrative consultation, staff training, and waste auditing, with such services valued at approximately \$5,000 per restaurant.

The program succeeded in attracting and administering services to all 16 expected participants; however, significant financial, operational, and behavioral barriers emerged that resonate with findings in waste management research and reportings in public news media. Bloomington’s “Culture of Composting” is currently underdeveloped, requiring significant educational outreach and institutional investment if a long-term, community-scale organic waste processing apparatus is to avoid pitfalls experienced in similar communities and parallel recycling systems.

Background:

Project Drawdown, a flagship coalition of climate scientists, has consistently ranked “Reducing Food Waste” as the #1 most impactful measure that any business, government, individual, or nonprofit can take to fight climate change, highlighting the environmentally protective significance of any food waste management project undertaken at scale ([Drawdown 2022](#)).



<https://www.drawdown.org/>

Reducing Food Waste is the #1 Action that any Company, Government, or Individual can take to fight climate change, according to climate science.

* Gigatons CO2 Equivalent Reduced / Sequestered (2020–2050)

SOLUTION	SECTOR(S)	SCENARIO 1*	SCENARIO 2*
Reduced Food Waste	Food, Agriculture, and Land Use / Land Sinks	87.45	94.56
Health and Education	Health and Education	85.42	85.42
Plant-Rich Diets	Food, Agriculture, and Land Use / Land Sinks	65.01	91.72
Refrigerant Management	Industry / Buildings	57.75	57.75
Tropical Forest Restoration	Land Sinks	54.45	85.14
Onshore Wind Turbines	Electricity	47.21	147.72
Alternative Refrigerants	Industry / Buildings	43.53	50.53
Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaics	Electricity	42.32	119.13
Improved Clean Cookstoves	Buildings	31.34	72.65
Distributed Solar Photovoltaics	Electricity	27.98	68.64

[Image: [Project Drawdown 2022](#)]

Further, ReFED – the nation’s leading research conglomerate studying the logistics, econometrics, and impact of food waste – has generated research reports demonstrating that commercial kitchens can save up to 6% on their operating costs just by starting to monitor their production of food waste, highlighting a clear case for sector-wide economic development through resource conservation: ReFED estimates that organic waste tracking in the Foodservice Sector of Indiana, alone, could save it \$53.1M annually ([ReFED 2018](#), [ReFED 2022](#), includes figures below).

PREVENTION SOLUTIONS

THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE

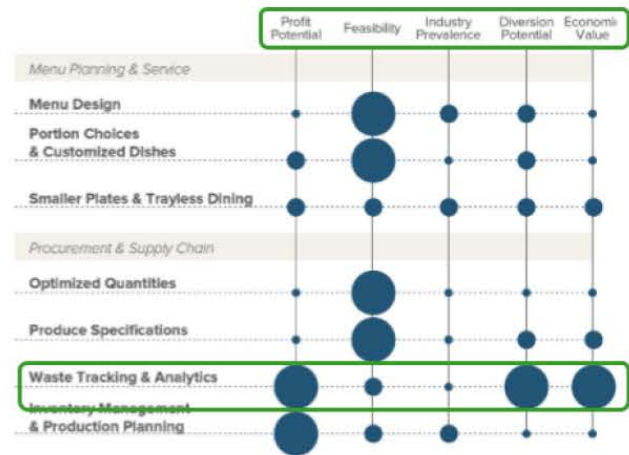
The full cost of food, including purchases, preparation, and disposal costs, to restaurants averages approximately \$4,000 per ton.¹⁸ Based on a survey conducted by the National Restaurant Association, nearly half of restaurant operators track food waste as a prevention method,¹⁹ but there is still an opportunity to do more, especially in capturing post-consumer food waste. Prevention solutions are not only some of the most cost-effective but can also be easier to implement without having a negative impact on the guest experience.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Solutions that prevent waste in restaurants have the greatest economic value and net environmental benefit, saving almost 400 thousand tons of waste annually.

- Prevention solutions provide restaurants nearly \$620 million in business profit potential annually.
- Tracking food thrown away could cut food costs by 2 to 6% by increasing awareness of food waste within the company and focusing attention on front- and back-of-house prevention activities.

PREVENTION SOLUTIONS



https://refed.org/downloads/Restaurant_Guide_Web.pdf

ANNUAL NET FINANCIAL BENEFIT POTENTIAL OF FOOD WASTE SOLUTIONS U.S. DOLLARS

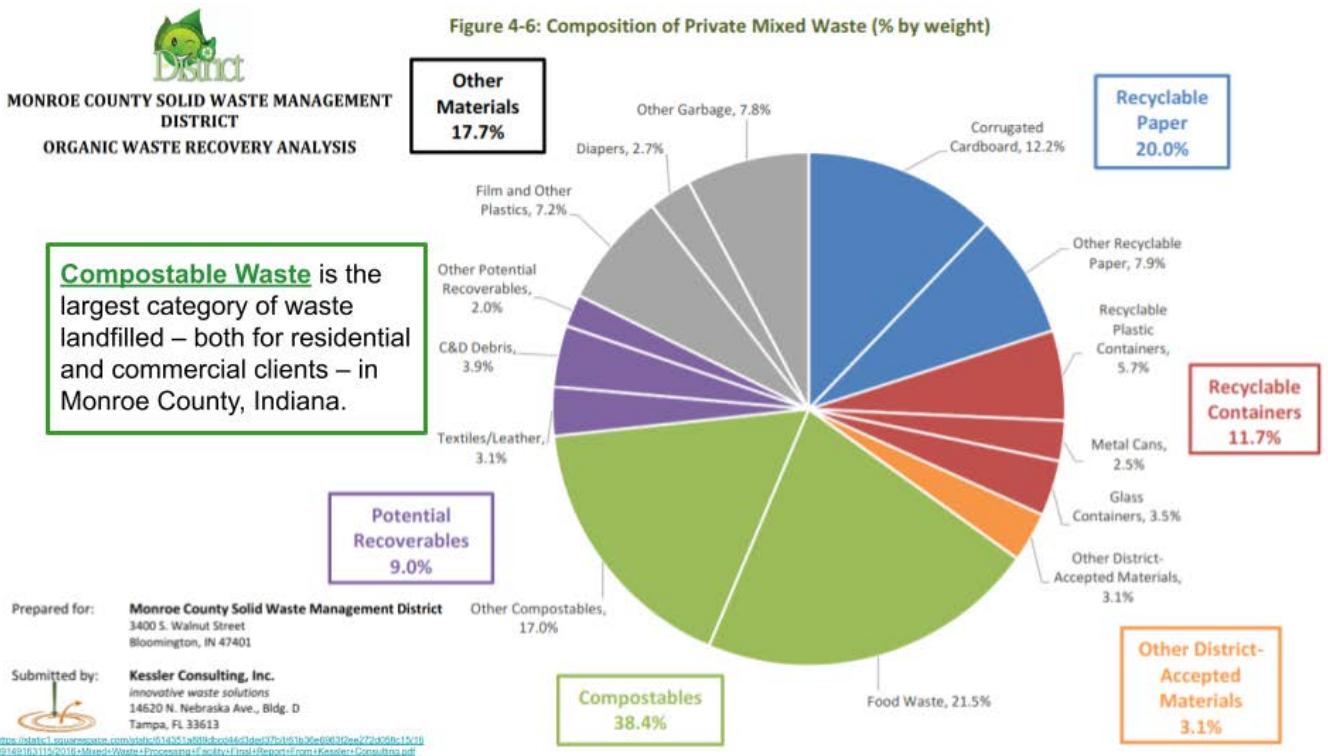


Impact Metric: **Net \$** | Tons | Climate | Water | Meals | Jobs

Stakeholders: Foodservice | Data View: Total | Food Type: All Food Types | States: Indiana

ACTION AREA	SOLUTION NAME	NET FINANCIAL BENEFIT	VIEW DETAILS
Document	Waste Tracking (Foodservice)	\$ 53.1M	VIEW DETAILS >
Document	Markdown Alert Applications	\$ 37.7M	VIEW DETAILS >
Leaf	Imperfect & Surplus Produce Channels	\$ 14.5M	VIEW DETAILS >
Person	Portion Sizes	\$ 11.1M	VIEW DETAILS >
Person	Small Plates	\$ 5.1M	VIEW DETAILS >

Noting all of this, the *Compost Up, Downtown* program is an object-lesson in Triple Bottom Line program development, specifically given the fact that recent studies on the local waste stream – conducted by Kessler Consulting, under agreement with the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District in 2018 – revealed that almost 40% of the County waste stream was food and potentially compostable waste ([Kessler 2018a](#), [2018b](#)).



This level of waste is an indicator of potential economic development opportunities which could be captured through the remediation of operational inefficiencies that can be productively addressed through cultivating awareness of food waste at various steps in operations management, including procurement, inventory handling, food prep, portioning, and plating. Industry research on kitchen operational costs corroborates this macro-level indication, suggesting that (1) a typical food service location wastes 4%-10% of procured food inventory *before* it leaves the kitchen; (2) the labor wasted on handling food that ends-up wasted – inventorying/stocking, preparing/trimming, overproducing/overplating – is estimated to be between 4%-8% of compensated labor-hours ([LeanPath 2022a](#), [2022b](#)).

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR REDUCING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE: RESTAURANTS

A Report on Behalf of Champions 12.3

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SUMMARY FINDINGS

We analyzed data of preconsumer waste from 114 restaurant sites, located across 12 countries, and calculated the following results:

- The average benefit-cost ratio for food waste reduction was 7:1 over a three-year time frame.
- Within the first year of implementing a food waste–reduction program, 76 percent of the sites had recouped their investment. Within two years of implementing a program, 89 percent of the sites had recouped their investment.
- By reducing food waste, the average site saved more than two cents on every dollar of cost of goods sold (COGS).
- There appears to be no clear correlation between benefit-cost ratios and a site’s market segment or geography.
- Key strategies for achieving food waste reduction were to measure the food waste, engage staff, reduce food overproduction, rethink inventory and purchasing practices, and repurpose excess food.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication focuses on the financial business case for reducing food loss and waste in restaurants. It is a supplement to *The Business Case for Reducing Food Loss and Waste* and provides additional sector-specific data and analyses. *The Business Case for Reducing Food Loss and Waste* was published in March 2017 and is available at www.champions123.org/the-business-case-for-reducing-food-loss-and-waste/.

AUTHORS

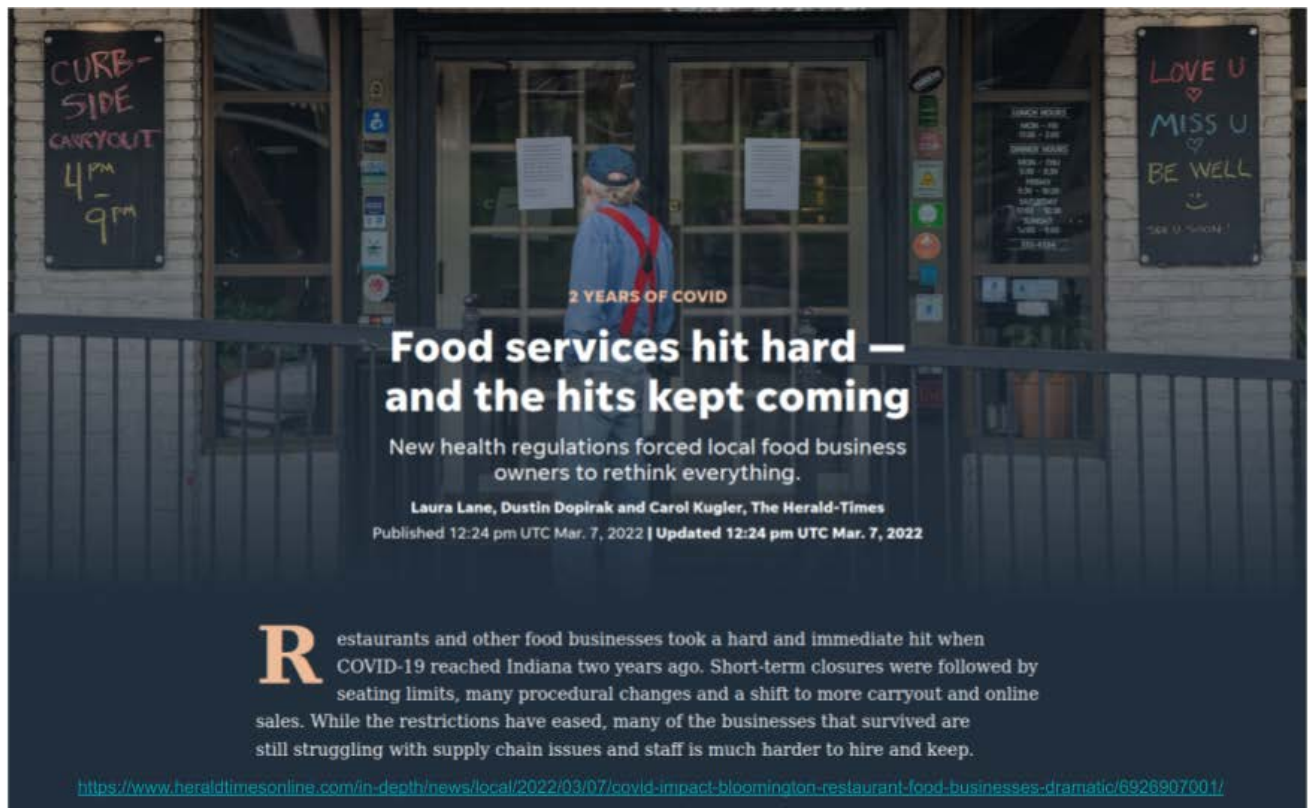
Austin Clowes (WRI), Craig Hanson (WRI), and Richard Swannell (WRAP)

The authors thank Champions 12.3 and their associates for reviewing and providing helpful input on draft versions of this publication (see Acknowledgments).

[Image: [Champions 12.3 2019](#)]

Investigating precisely these economic development opportunities, [Champions 12.3](#) – a global, cross-sector group of industry and institutional executives organized to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, to halve per capita global food waste and food loss by 2030 – commissioned a series of studies on the financial case for organic waste reduction [[Champions 12.3 2023](#)]. The series included studies on the economic effects of organic waste reduction in Catering, Households, Hotels, and, most relevant to this program’s purpose, Restaurants. The results suggest a staggering potential for medium-term and long-term economic gains (\$7 returned for each \$1 invested, over a 3 year period); however, the ascendant power of short-term financial incentives and perceived risks of operational change – in a tight and fluctuating COVID-era market environment – call into question the durability and

generalizability of these results to the Bloomington food service market, warranting both investigation (to gather data) and short-term intervention (to overcome short-term incentives).



The coherence among the results of the aforementioned research consortiums and their associated studies suggested a strong financial case for commercial kitchens to track and divert food waste. However, to address additional proprietor concerns regarding their perceived risk of short-term losses from the process of operational change, additional research literatures were consulted to consider indirect economic benefits and operational benefits that could more immediately accrue from the adoption of organic waste tracking and diversion.

According to local and national reporting, maintaining adequate staff to support conventional open-hours has been a major struggle for restaurants in the COVID-era, compounding the sector's troubles born from the downregulation of consumer interest during government-mandated lockdowns, occupancy restrictions, mask mandates, and the general, public promotion of responsible personal caution ([IDS 2022](#), [HT 2022](#), [WAPO 2022](#), [RBO 2022](#)). As such, designing educational interventions about the staffing benefits of organic waste diversion became an imperative. Since EarthKeepers administrators have had lived-experience working in commercial kitchens, the potential staff benefits were intuitively obvious: throwing-out huge, heavy bags of commercial kitchen waste is an unpleasant and potentially hazardous duty that most kitchen operators would prefer to avoid.

This is corroborated by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) research and findings by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) that suggest: (1) the #3 most common injury for fast food kitchen employees is to be “Hurt while lifting or carrying items” (34% of employees have experienced lifting injuries); (2) the #4 most common injury for fast food kitchen employees is to be “Injured by a fall on a wet, slippery, or oily floor” (23% of employees have experienced slipping injuries); and, (3) 25% of workers compensation indemnity claims involve back injuries ([Mashed 2021](#), [UoM 2022](#)). Hence, it became clear that a major asset of organics diversion services that deserves emphatic promotion is the workplace-safety benefits and staff-satisfaction benefits that accrue from shifting organic waste disposal from mixed-waste garbage-bags – which need to be hurled into a dumpster – over to leakproof rolling carts (“rollers”) that can be easily maneuvered from the side of a prep-table out into an alley, by staff of varying physical capacities. Minimizing the hazards of a least-favored task in the kitchen can boost staff morale by reducing physical load, reducing psychological stress, and increasing a sense of being cared-for, all while reducing the commercial operation’s overall risk profile.

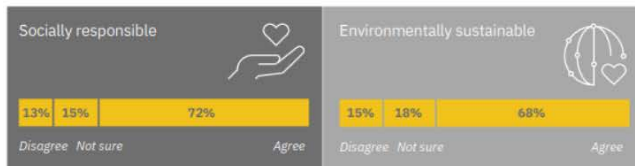


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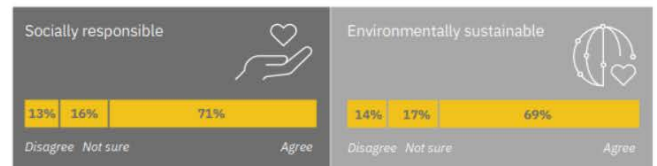


The safety-enhancing operational changes brought by adopting organics diversion services can be a helpful tool for retaining staff but promoting organics diversion programming during the hiring search can also help to *attract* new staff. In 2021, IBM’s Institute for Business Value conducted research on consumer and labor-pool opinions around sustainability programming in business, finding that 68%-69% of employment-seekers say that environmentally sustainable companies are more attractive employers ([IBM](#)). 48% said they would even consider a pay-cut!

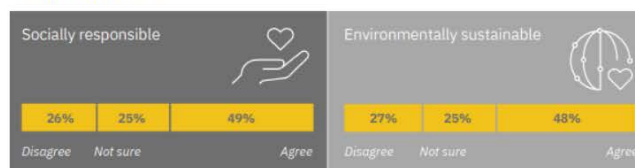
I am more likely to apply for a job with an organization that I consider to be



I am more likely to accept a job offer from an organization that I consider to be



I am more likely to be willing to accept a lower salary to work for an organization that I consider to be



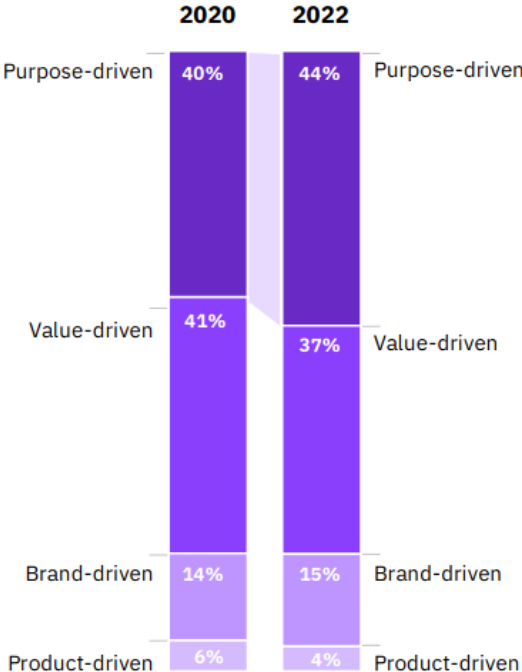
IBM IBM Institute for Business Value

<https://www.ibm.com/downloads/cas/WLJ7LVP4>

Regarding the downregulation of restaurant patronage in the COVID-era, committing to commercial organics diversion services – and being sure to proudly promote it – can have knock-on benefits for client attraction, much as it can for employee attraction. In early 2022, IBM’s Institute for Business Value partnered with the National Retail Federation to analyze consumer demands and experiences in the COVID-era, noting that “Retailers and brands must align their offerings and capabilities with these new consumer expectations that have emerged from the crucible of COVID. But what changes are mission critical?” [IBM NRF 2022, 1]. According to their survey work, “consumers expect companies to cater to their needs and live up to their social and environmental responsibility claims” [ibid 1]. Specifically: “roughly 4 in 5 consumers say sustainability and health and wellness benefits are important to them when choosing a brand” [ibid 8]. Further, “While Millennials are leading the charge, every age group indicates that sustainability, environmental, and/or personal wellness attributes are significant considerations in selecting brands” [ibid 8].

The rise of the purpose-driven consumer

Purpose-driven consumers have overtaken value-driven consumers as the largest segment of the population.



- Purpose-driven consumers (44%)**
seek products and brands that align with their values and provide health and wellness benefits. They’re willing to change their shopping habits to reduce environmental impact and they care about sustainability and recycling.
- Value-driven consumers (37%)**
want value, convenience, and products and services that will simplify their lives. They’re less inclined to switch habits to reduce negative environmental impact.
- Brand-driven consumers (15%)**
trust brands and prioritize the brand when making purchasing decisions. Compared to other groups, they have the highest average income, and they love staying on top of new trends.
- Product-driven consumers (4%)**
are focused primarily on product functionality and value for price. They aren’t tied to any brand or product attribute and are the least engaged shoppers.

Note: Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.



With all of this research in-hand, the next clear steps were to outline program details, to create targeted proposals and consulting interventions, and to approach both restaurants and the wider business community with the information and offerings.

Program Design and Official Launch:

The principal elements of the pilot program were crafted to maximize restaurant benefit from the organics services and minimize operational friction with perceived barriers, so as to demonstrate the ease and long-term financial viability of such commitment. Specifically, the program was designed to relieve barriers-to-entry associated with the time-cost of training staff and routinizing procedures, hoping also to inspire proprietor confidence in the existing research that suggests multi-year cost-recovery timelines, even in the face of immediate reshuffling and a potential, short-term break-even.

The maximum number of participants was decided to be 16 restaurants, so that an even and reachable number of applicants could be designated for each quarter of the program's yearlong rollout (April 2022 through May 2023), with each quarter constituted by a cohort of 4 restaurants. It was intuited that there could be quarterly discrepancies in restaurant willingness to participate, due to seasonal fluctuations in staff size, labor-pool availability, and staff turnover; however, no viable way of executing the program within 1 year could be discerned if staff-disrupting periods of Summer Break and Winter Break were to be avoided. Hence, it was agreed among the parties that the 4-cohort timeline would proceed but with openness to program recruitment adaptations that could account for seasonal disruptions of staffing and related proprietor interest in the pilot. Participating restaurants were also slated to receive customized, discounted quotes for choosing to continue organics diversion services by the end of their trial-period.

After launching the program through an [Informational Webinar](#), hosted by City of Bloomington ESD on March 7th 2022, food service businesses were invited to apply for the program through an online form found on the [program's webpage](#), which included entrance-survey questions regarding the eatery's current waste management operations, their desired cohort for the year, and requiring a scanned copy of their Monroe County Health Department permanent retail food establishment license. Anticipating inertial difficulties in gaining attention and interest, the program was also amended to be open to eateries outside of the BEAD if a cohort's application deadline passed without being full.

When a business applied and was approved through the online application portal, they were immediately eligible for the included suite of services: EarthKeepers would schedule administrative meetings and staff trainings, explain the program-kickoff waste-audit, review kitchen waste-management logistics, discuss common barriers and contamination hazards, negotiate optimum indoor and outdoor rolling cart placement, and consult on the development of new standard operating procedures to reduce food waste and sustainably divert it from the landfill. EarthKeepers also developed educational materials, slide presentations, and various signage that was deployed and situated during trainings, and which eateries adapted to their convenience and workflow over the course of the free trial. Total program incentives included:

– Weekly collection of hot-stamped rollers (32-gallons each) and delivery of sanitized replacement rollers. Rollers may be collected two or three times per week, depending on assessed needs.

- 5-gallon buckets and 1.5-gallon pails, with lids, for internal use.
- Waste audit, including presentation and Q&A for owners and staff, a staff training session, discussions with staff to identify common composting contaminants, and custom signage and bin placement.
- *Window decals for participants. (most participants were not interested or didn't post it)
- *Personalized web-profile on the EarthKeepers website. (some interest emerged but difficulties in getting buy-in and follow-up on bios and descriptions inhibited implementation)
- Mixed-media promotions of participating restaurants as EarthKeepers partners.

Anticipated Cohort Dates:

Cohort 1: April 2022 - July 2022

Application due date: March 25th
 Confirmation of participation: March 31st
 Program prep and waste audit: April 4th - April 18th
 12 week trial period: April 18th - July 17th

Cohort 2: June 2022 - October 2022

Application due date: June 10th
 Confirmation of participation: June 17th
 Program prep and waste audit: June 27th - July 11th
 12 week trial period: September 16th

Cohort 3: September 2022 - January 2023

Application form due date: September 9th
 Confirmation of participation: September 16th
 Program prep and waste audit: September 26th - October 10th
 12 week trial period: October 10th - January 8th, 2023

Cohort 4: January 2023 - May 2023

Application due date: January 13, 2023
 Confirmation of participation: January 20, 2023
 Program prep and waste audit: January 30, 2023 - February 12, 2023
 12 week trial period: February 12, 2023 - May 14th, 2023

Recruitment Efforts, Barriers, and Innovations:

As noted from the research above, EarthKeepers anticipated that restaurant proprietors would perceive barriers-to-entry for organics diversion programming; hence, recruitment efforts and consulting materials were designed to alleviate those concerns. EarthKeepers initially attempted to contact proprietors through site-visits as well as emails and voicemails to owners or top-level administrators, leading with research on the business-case for deploying organic waste reduction and diversion programming. EarthKeepers routinely encountered communications barriers with proprietors, usually being unable to find them on-site or not getting responses to email or voicemails. As such, every prospective applicant received multiple site-visits, emails, and voicemails to advertise the benefits of the program.

Due to these challenges, the application deadline for Cohort 1 passed without a sufficient number of applicants, so the BEAD-area limitation was relaxed for that cohort – in accordance with the plan memorialized on the [program launch page](#) – and new recruitment methods were deployed. Though a candidate just outside of the BEAD was immediately recruited to fill the open slot – completing the roster for Cohort 1 – EarthKeepers was inspired by the challenge and quickly went about addressing it by seeking to identify collaborative organizations in the local food-service sector that could help disseminate information and promote participation in the program. EarthKeepers first came across the Bloomington Independent Restaurant Association ([BIRA](#)), which has existed [since 1995](#), and Local First Bloomington (LFB), which [nonprofit data](#) shows has existed since 2009 after beginning as a [project](#) of the Center for Sustainable Living. Unfortunately and to our surprise, both BIRA and LFB have fallen out of existence: both organizations' website links are dead or redirected; plus, corroborating this, BIRA's last Facebook post was made in May 2019 and LFB's last Facebook post was made in July 2017, suggesting that neither are maintained.

In order to bypass this challenge – to broaden the reach of recruitment and to demonstrate credible commitment to promoting the health of the downtown businesses we wished to serve through the program – EarthKeepers resolved to join local economic development groups like [Downtown Bloomington Inc.](#), the [Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce](#), and the [Bloomington Economic Development Corporation](#) to expand the reach and authenticity of the program messaging content.

Downtown Bloomington Inc (DBI) is Bloomington's local manifestation of [Main Street America](#) and [Indiana Main Street](#), subsidiaries of the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) that were launched in 1980 to address a multitude of issues negatively affecting the economic development potential of older and historic downtowns across the United States. With a board consisting of local government and economic development leaders and with a broad membership base of businesses in downtown Bloomington, working with DBI presented an unparalleled opportunity to learn about specific challenges in the local market and to learn about on-the-ground challenges facing local business owners, beyond the headlines and the studies. Particularly, DBI offers a tiered membership structure that provides a variety of benefits to members based on their desired level of contribution and involvement, creating opportunities for motivated local community members to plug-in and help shape the collective's downtown vision.

As such, EarthKeepers signed-up with DBI as Champion members, hoping to make the most of what was offered to community organizations opting for that level of membership:

CHAMPION

■ \$1,500

- Visionary involvement for future planning of downtown and the organization
- Eye on the Horizon—help with consistent long term physical projects
- Renaissance Leader—leads in support of cultural, economic and social rebirth
- Introduce speaking opportunity at Downtown Annual Meeting and events
- Involve your Associates—complimentary tickets and invites to DBI events
- Networking
- Promotion
- Education
- Let's customize your sponsorship to meet your needs



YOUR CONNECTION. YOUR PARTNER. YOUR VOICE.
A MAIN STREET AMERICA PROGRAM

As Champion members, EarthKeepers was given the opportunity to attend a wide variety of organizational meetings, with both the leadership and general membership, wherein the program and the broader concept of a Culture of Compost could be presented. Having gathered information from the leadership team and the organization's web-presence, EarthKeepers requested 3 presentations – to the DBI Board, to DBI's Kirkwood Group, and to the DBI membership – and agreed to be a part of the [Taste of Bloomington](#) steering committee. Though Taste of Bloomington ended-up being canceled in 2022 – due to restaurant-staffing issues and the reluctance of regional beer distributors – conversations with steering committee participants were insightful. Further, the 3 presentations to DBI sub-groups were both insightful and immediately successful, establishing solid contact with administrative representatives of multiple restaurants, 6 of which ultimately participated in the *Compost Up, Downtown* program, including the [Monroe Convention Center](#) out of which DBI operates.

With similar hopes of accessing and understanding the challenges facing downtown eateries, EarthKeepers also joined the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce as Classic members and attended mixer events, where we had an opportunity to pitch the program and get feedback. Though it did not directly yield a cluster of applicants, learning about the local culture of business networking and the overall health of the small-business economy was helpful for understanding barriers and refining the program pitch to address local proprietors' pain-points. Concurrently, EarthKeepers applied for Board Membership with the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation to afford us the opportunity to communicate the business-case for commercial organics diversion, meet members in food-service with catering divisions that serve the areas larger corporations, and to broaden the word-of-mouth reach of the program through highly-central local business network actors.

The additional effort to join local business and economic promotion organizations was pivotal to successfully recruiting applicants, providing EarthKeepers leadership with market-specific insights and direct connections to leaders and proprietors in the local food service sector. Nonetheless, recruiting prospective participants to fill the 16 available slots remained challenging, with 47 total eateries recruited and only 16 eateries applying and participating, even though EarthKeepers spent 3x as much time as anticipated on recruitment-oriented site-visits. Most of the eateries that were recruited for the program but failed to apply did not articulate a defining reason for non-participation but, rather, the bulk of them continued to express cautious interest that did not ultimately result in a callback or application. Nonetheless, a handful of generic concerns and doubts tended to inflect their hesitancy, typically those already anticipated from the background research: staffing issues, doubts about training staff given issues, COVID-era operational adaptations, and COVID-era economic shocks (rising prices, fewer clients).

Summary Program Results:

COHORT	Restaurant	Pilot Start Date	Pilot End Date	Organic waste diverted	Number of bins collected	Collection frequency	Average number of bins collected per pickup	Contamination Rate (% of bins containing contaminants)
1	Nicks	4/1/2022	9/30/2022	5811	73	Mon, Wed, Fri	1.2	3
	Osteria	4/1/2022	9/30/2022					
	Southern Stone	4/1/2022	9/30/2022	10605	124	Tues, Fri	3.5	18
	Convention Center	4/1/2022	9/30/2022	8624	108	Tues, Thur, Sun	4	8
2	FARMBloomington	5/1/2022	10/31/2022	11746	139	Tues, Fri, Sun	3.3	4
	BuffaLouie's	6/1/2022	10/31/2022	18206	348	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	6	31
	Soul Juice	6/1/2022	10/31/2022	4587	66	Mon, Wed, Fri	1.3	5
	Uptown Cafe	7/1/2022	11/30/2022	14822	150	Tues, Fri, Sun	4	6
3	Crazy Horse	9/1/2022	12/31/2022	294	15	Mon, Thur	1	13
	DaVinci's Pizza	9/1/2022	12/31/2022	3259	43	Mon, Wed, Fri	1.2	9
	Trojan Horse	9/1/2022	12/31/2022	0	0	Tues, Fri	0	0
	Juannita's	9/1/2022	12/31/2022	140	10	Tues, Fri	0.7	40
4	InBloom	9/16/2022	1/6/2023	561	18	Mon, Thur	1	6
	Cup & Kettle	9/16/2022	1/6/2023	236	32	Mon, Thur	1.5	0
	Baked!	9/16/2022	1/6/2023	400	15	Thur	1	7
	Pili's Party Taco	9/16/2022	1/6/2023	1720	42	Mon, Wed, Fri	1	12

			*This is equivalent to Greenhouse Gas Emissions from			*This is equivalent to carbon sequestered by	
Total Tons of Food-waste recovered	Tons of Methane (CH4) emissions reduced	Equivalent tons of CO2	Gallons of Gasoline consumed	Miles driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle	Home's electricity use for one year	Tree seedlings grown for 10 years	Acres of U.S. forests in one year
40.5	10.125	279	28,483	628,308	49.3	4,185	300

* Data calculated with the [EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#)

Program Successes:

The program, overall, was a remarkable success given the economic and labor-market circumstances. Not only were all 4 cohorts filled and completed but responding participants also provided very positive reviews of the program, while many new market and institutional connections were made in the advancement of a local Culture of Compost.

Cohort 1 (April 2022 - July 2022) kicked-off with the iconic Bloomington eatery [Nick's English Hut](#) and it's sister-operation [Osteria Rago](#), was anchored by the commercial kitchen ([MCL Restaurant & Bakery](#)) at the [Monroe Convention Center](#), and was rounded-out with an eagerly wait-listed eatery just outside of the BEAD, at the time known as [Southern Stone](#). The owners and managers at each location were exceptionally forward-thinking in rapidly adopting the program while promoting buy-in from their managers and staff. Not only were these administrators receptive to the research in the consultations but several had already implemented food-waste tracking measures in their kitchens that interfaced with their financial analysis, with standout spreadsheet wizardry going to Nick's English Hut and Osteria Rago. Monroe Convention Center provided broad exposure to a wide range of local and visiting clients while also promoting program awareness in support of downtown businesses, through DBI.

The total amount of organics diverted by **Cohort 1 was 25,040lbs** (12.5 tons) through the servicing of 305 rollers.

Cohort 2 (June 2022 - October 2022) kicked-off with a solid connection from DBI and Nick's English Hut: [FarmBloomington](#) administrators had heard about the program from a DBI Kirkwood Group meeting plus a manager there had a good relationship with Nick's from a prior stint of managing there, too. [Michael's Uptown Cafe](#) was quick to join as soon as they knew what was going on next door...and with over 90 staff in the all-staff training, there was some serious awareness being raised! [SoulJuice](#)'s management was skeptical, at first, but once the owner became excited about the idea, it was revealed that the skepticism had been rooted in their already-existing diversion of some organic waste to a local farmer that they wanted to keep supporting. [BuffaLouie's](#) was something of a crowning achievement, joining the program after EarthKeepers administrator's *fifth* site-visit made the pile of applications worthy of an actual meeting...But, come on, their burgers are just too good and it was a great excuse to eat them!

The total amount of organics diverted by **Cohort 2 was 49,361lbs** (24.7 tons) through the servicing of 703 rollers.

Cohort 3 and Cohort 4 were anticipated to run from September 2022 through May of 2023; however, ground-level learning in the restaurant recruitment process – coupled with emergent developments of instability in geopolitical and macroeconomic indicators, around the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Inflation/Interest-Rate nexus – informed EarthKeepers that the level of owner receptivity to the program could change for the worse, or even collapse through the winter. As such, after a rapid-action acquisition of the Cohort 3 participants, CoB ESD was consulted to request a combining of timelines of Cohort 3 and Cohort 4 in the hopes of completing the program before any potential worsening of global or local economic conditions

could occur. With that approval in-hand, EarthKeepers set about rapidly recruiting the final restaurants for cohort 4, ultimately running the two cohorts side-by-side. Though the major concern with this approach was manageability for EarthKeepers' staff and fleet, it worked-out that the 8 eateries of Cohorts 3 & 4 were much smaller and produced waste volumes that were tiny in comparison to those in Cohorts 1 & 2, fortuitously allowing a smooth run to program completion by the end of January 2023. Though the hope was to divert consistently large volumes of organic waste from each of the cohorts, what our experience with Cohorts 3 & 4 reveal is a heterogeneous distribution of waste among the commercial kitchens of downtown, a reality that is helpful when considering logistical solutions to organic waste diversion throughout the whole sector.

Cohort 3 kicked-off with another DBI connection, this time with long-time DBI supporter, Board member, and core organizer Ron Stanhouse, who's staff at [Crazy Horse](#) was welcoming. Another horse joined the race – [The Trojan Horse](#) – after seeing their neighbors at Uptown and FarmBloomington on the organics track. Language barriers were overcome with EarthKeepers' Spanish-speaking assets, allowing us to plant the seed with kitchen managers at [DaVinci's](#) and [Juanita's](#), whose owners were buoyed and quickly onboard.

The total amount of organics diverted by **Cohort 3 was 3,693lbs** (1.8 tons) through the servicing of 68 rollers.

Cohort 4 began much as Cohort 3 ended, with [Pili's Party Deli](#) being first to the punch, likely on the good-influence of their neighbors at Trojan Horse, Michael's Uptown, and FarmBloomington. [InBloom Juicery](#) was the second participant from the downtown juice-brigade, though it took 4 visits to get a meeting among the owners...at least we never walked away thirsty! Bloomington's late-night cookie-ninjas at [Baked!](#) brought sweetness to the final lap and the [Cup & Kettle](#) tea house was a welcome respite at the end of the trail, with matcha cookies and golden milk as innovative menu favorites.

The total amount of organics diverted by **Cohort 4 was 2,917lbs** (1.46 tons) through the servicing of 107 rollers.

	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4	TOTAL
Lb	25040	49361	3693	2917	81011
Tons	12.5	24.7	1.8	1.5	40.5
# bins	305	703	68	107	1183

Knock-on benefits from pursuing the program also became clear throughout the process: First off, even the eateries that didn't apply were given consulting information and local waste system data, raising overall awareness about the organics problem and planting the seeds of data-driven solutions. For the few that did respond directly that they weren't sure if it was the right time for them, EarthKeepers still encouraged their tracking of organic waste to help improve their bottom-lines.

Second, the greater Bloomington business networks have each been primed on the topic, given EarthKeepers' work to connect with the core economic organizing platforms at DBI, the Chamber of Commerce, and the BEDC: the business-case for composting can now be more commonly considered and discussed, now that core concepts and research has been brought to the table. Social proof can be a key driver for adoption of organics diversion programming, so with many businesses now participating – and many more interested in the discussion – subsequent programmatic interventions are likely to be successful, assuming market conditions stabilize or improve.

Third, in the process of raising awareness around the organic waste issue, other modes of traditional recycling almost always became part of the discussion with eatery administrators. Two major recycling issues were often repeated: doubts about the efficacy & affordability of existing services as well as spatial constraints on placing organics rollers. In the process of our consulting with these proprietors, EarthKeepers was able to help several downtown restaurants navigate their other recycling challenges by connecting them with the [Green Business Network](#) that operates discounted commercial recycling services under the auspices of the [Monroe County Solid Waste Management District](#). Not only did this raise awareness about the GBN program but it also helped reduce restaurants' overall waste-management costs and resolved the spatial constraints issues facing some in their alleys and parking lots: medium-sized rolling bins are much more spatially adaptive than multi-yard dumpsters.

Lastly, the awareness-raising was not limited to restaurant proprietors or the area's business development organizations but also expanded to include kitchen and dining staff. We see this as an important benefit of the program because it has the potential to broaden the reach of the organic diversion idea as well as the potential to spread effective organics management procedures learned in training. Kitchen staff can be highly mobile in the local labor pool and, as we have learned from this program experience, they bring their ideas and training with them wherever they go: EarthKeepers locked-in a pilot participant because their former employer spoke highly of the program; further, EarthKeepers has been approached by clients outside of the downtown restaurant pool whose new kitchen managers have had previous exposure to EarthKeepers services and found the diversion work to be both easy and important. This also speaks to the importance of cultivating staff-level manager buy-in: staff-manager enthusiasm can go a long way in keeping-up morale during SOP-adoption periods and is the core source of reinforcing the trainings provided by EarthKeepers. If the staff are enthusiastically motivated and consistently reminded of their training, it can stick and travel with them when they move on.

Program Challenges:

The most immediate and obvious challenges to the program are the persistent shortages of staff and persistent sector-level hardship from COVID-era economic shocks, which both put strain on margins and drive consolidation in the restaurant industry (as further demonstrated by back-to-back cancellation of the 30-year running Taste of Bloomington event). Perhaps surprisingly, this strain was illustrated by EarthKeepers' experience with restaurants in the [Endeavor Hospitality Group](#): only one of the group's restaurants agreed to participate in the

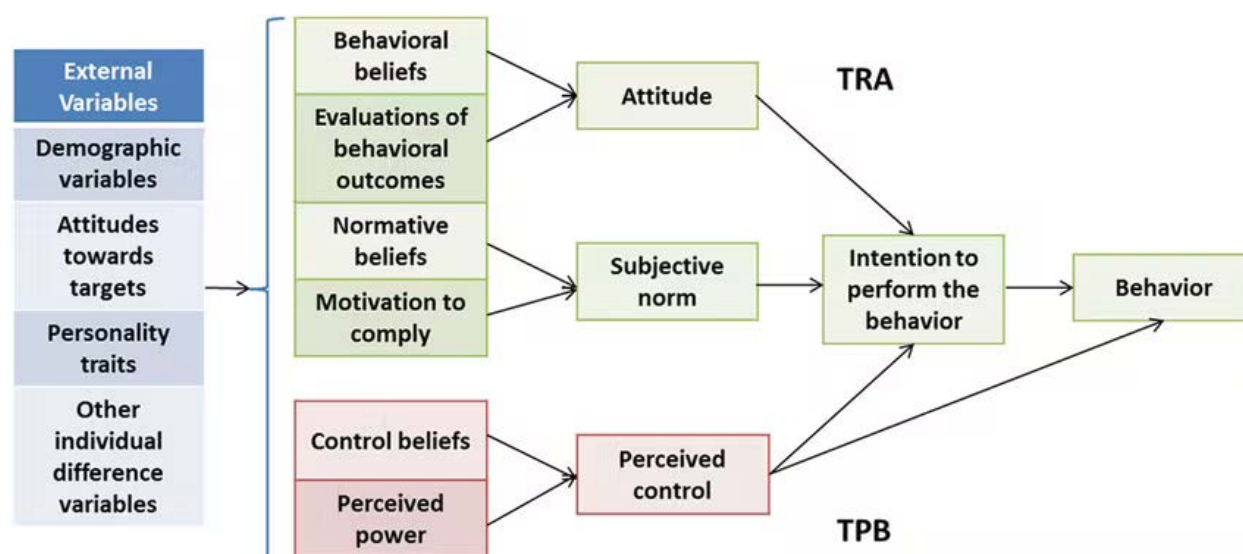
program and when there was a change in management after the program was complete, the new manager was confident in maintaining the service, only to report-back, days later, that corporate demanded immediate termination of the service. It turned-out that the original manager was paying for the post-trial service out of his own funding, which was heroic but couldn't last. Given the size of the group's restaurant holdings – 11 local eateries – this is a huge missed-opportunity. Supposing that economies of scale and resource-shuffling could more easily be accomplished by a multi-holding hospitality group, it is tempting to speculate that shareholder demands were actively trumping local value demands; however, a similarly missed opportunity presented itself in the refusal by [Finney Hospitality Group](#) to have it's 4 restaurants participate in the program, even though the founding proprietor of the group is local to the area, hailing from Bedford. These two groups represent a sizable portion of the restaurants on the Square and surrounding blocks; hence, special efforts should be made to work with their administrators to get detailed descriptions of their perceived barriers, pain-points, and risks.

The time spent on applicant recruitment was enormous given that **47 restaurants** were approached for recruitment and only 16 participated, with all prospective restaurants receiving at least 2 site-visits, some receiving 4 site visits, and one receiving 5, not to mention several phone-calls in the process of prospecting. This was expected to be the case for Cohort 1, given the lack of social proof in addition to the very brief latency between the program's official launch and the cut-off date for starting programmatic service. However, it was a high recruitment failure-rate in pursuit of Cohort 2 that suggested a change of strategy and a modification of recruitment tactics would be needed to accomplish the full scope of the pilot. These developments drove the acceleration of recruitment and combination of Cohorts 3 & 4, suggesting that our adaptation of recruitment tactics was successful but still leaving concerning questions about the future ability and interest of the sector to participate in organics diversion.

Time spent on calibrating and re-training was also surprisingly immense, though the surprise quickly faded once we became aware of these calibration difficulties and training issues being related to cycles of mass staff-turnover. Calibration difficulties took the form of things like negotiating where rollers were designated to be set in an alleyway, how full a roller should be before needing collection, and how many times per week would collection be desired. Re-Training issues primarily took the form of serious and repeated contamination offenses that required an additional presentation, conversation, or redesign/redistribution of signage. To be fair, this last issue was somewhat expected given emerging research on organics recycling contamination issues and enduring facts about contamination issues in the (inter)national, conventional recycling market (fibers, glasses, and metals, but most especially plastics) [[EPA 2021](#), [Resource Recycling 2018](#)]. The pilot's inclusion of a waste-auditing component of the program was specifically intended to identify and to prevent contamination issues, anticipating it to be the most pernicious challenge to the long-term viability of organics diversion services. Indeed, all eateries fell prey to some degree of this challenge – even the occasional glove or hairnet – which is the hardest to address: behavioral change, even among the highly motivated.

The Value-Action Gap is a notorious problem in the social sciences, plaguing everything from New Year's Resolutions to the implementation of environmental policies. The core of the

problem stems from the widespread intuition that people’s beliefs translate into effective actions that manifest those beliefs. Research conducted in the 1960’s first formalized these intuitions as Theories of Reasoned Action (TRA) and were updated in the 1980’s with an elaborated Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) [[The Decision Lab 2023](#)]. Indeed, beliefs can certainly motivate implementation; however, analyzing the gap between values and actions can help to reveal structural challenges that condition the incentives of individual actors, promoting their ability to act or inhibiting it. The original research on TRA and TPB has increasingly been challenged by observational studies around citizen/consumer behavior and, especially in the environmental context, it has been noted that: “while people over time had reported increased awareness of issues such as global warming and high concern for the environment, there was no notable increase in pro-environmental behavior, such as recycling or limiting energy use” [ibid].



[Image: [The Decision Lab 2023](#)]

Experts in the field have generated a compelling set of variables that can intervene between a person’s stated values and their observable behavior [list & links from [Effectivology](#)]:

- **Failure to generate concrete intentions for acting in accordance with values.**
- **Failure to recognize opportunities to act in accordance with values.**
- **Motivational complexities**, for example in cases where people have [competing values](#) that support different actions.
- **Social dilemmas**, such as feeling that it’s [unfair](#) to support a certain value when many other people don’t.
- **Lack of trust that acting in accordance with values will be effective**, for example when it comes to [not believing](#) that a certain product will actually be recycled if you put it in the recycling bin.
- **Counter-incentives that outweigh the associated values**, for example when a product that is [manufactured](#) in a more ethical way is [more expensive](#) than competing products (this specific example is a [case of](#) an *attribute tradeoff*, whereby the attribute of the product being more ethical is balanced by it being more expensive).

- **Lack of relevant options or increased difficulty of choosing those options**, for example in the case of having no environmentally friendly version of a necessary product [available](#) for purchase.
- **External forces that prompt people to act against their values**, such as [marketing](#) that encourages people to buy a certain type of unhealthy food.

And, similarly, general consideration for overcoming the value-action gap can be summarized in a short series of steps [[Effectivology](#)]:

- First, people must acquire the necessary *knowledge* on a certain topic.
- Then, people must process this knowledge in a way that causes them to form relevant *values*.
- Next, people must translate these values into *intentions* to take action.
- Finally, people must translate these intentions into real *actions*.

However, this articulation of potential hazards and guidepost for effective solutions must always be understood in the specific context to which the general analysis is being applied. In the context of the *Compost Up, Downtown* pilot, the Value-Action Gap first manifests itself in the administrative decision of whether or not to participate in the organics diversion program, in the first place. From our discussions with proprietors, this example of the Gap seems largely driven by “Counter-incentives” imposed by current market constraints; “Lack of trust [in efficacy]” regarding the research on cost-recovery, staff-retention, and client-attraction; and “Social dilemmas” wherein a strained proprietor perceives insufficient collective adoption by the sector and doesn’t want to be the one individual making a personal sacrifice for the greater good.

The Value-Action Gap then manifests itself more specifically in this context as related to the waste-handling behaviors of individual staff members. Structural risk for externalizing personal labor-cost and succumbing to moral hazard are huge in a context where staff waste behaviors are not periodically monitored and when neither management nor staff perceive a cost to recycling food waste improperly. In the case of providing costless trial service, there is a latent temptation for staff to forgo assigning value or risk-evaluation to their behavior with that service: there is no “stake in the game” to incentivize adhering to the behaviors outlined in the service trainings. Moral hazard – a “situation when an individual can take advantage of a deal or situation, knowing that all the risks and fallout will land on another party” – still remains a dominant behavioral risk even in the context of clients actively paying for the service: the client may be paying to have their organics collected for composting but they are not paying for the extra staff hours, equipment use, and commercial disposal costs EarthKeepers expends to handle the gloves, hairnets, metals, and plastics that some staff repeatedly toss into the organics bins [[Corporate Finance Institute 2022](#)]. Financial penalties for contamination and other service-violations have been the only tool that EarthKeepers has at its disposal to manage these structural risks to individual behavioral incentives; however, the limitations of this tool are revealed in studies of organics recycling markets in similar communities, with the most salient example being Madison, Wisconsin, where multiple attempts at municipal and university composting have been stymied by the increasing cost of contamination management (because of implemented financial penalties) and the breakdown of the agricultural systems where their

organics were sent to be composted or biodigested [[Kessler 2018b](#), [MinnPost 2022](#)].

Indeed, the Madison Wisconsin experience deserves detailed attention from local policymakers and has been pointed-out by previous, publicly-funded research on our community's waste stream. Excitement around the *concept* of municipal composting or biodigesting must be tempered by the behavioral, market, and logistical *realities* that are clearly and repeatedly demonstrated in the reporting on our community and similar communities. There is a temptation for public officials to fixate on the "make it go away" element of organic waste collection services, often to the perilous neglect of system-level perspectives that necessarily include the processing of that waste and the distribution of the processed residual (compost or biodigestate). If we break the place the "make it go away" goes away to, it can't go away anymore. [Timeline source: [UW-Madison Office of Sustainability: Compost](#)]

Food Waste Collection Timeline



The Madison Wisconsin example, suggested to our community by Kessler Consulting in 2018, is particularly helpful because of their resilient insistence on learning from their prior mistakes and re-launching ever-tighter programming around organic waste diversion [[UW-Madison 2022](#)]. According to Madison-area news reporting and publications available at the UW-Madison Office of Sustainability composting webpage, Madison has been through *three iterations* of large-scale composting programs that have failed because of contamination, cautiously stepping through their fourth attempt. Summarizing some of the learning in their experience, Green Fund Program Manager Ian Aley notes:

"We found that the entire chain of food systems at UW-Madison was intimately connected. Purchasing decisions affect staff training, which in turn affects messaging within an organization. That messaging affects waste hauling, which affects compost processing. Through relationship building and regular communication, we have been able to harmonize our efforts across the system." [[UW-Madison 2018](#)]

Unfortunately, even with this enhanced level of insight, instances of the Value-Action Gap plaguing operational waste-management behaviors continued for several years. Indeed, the UW-Madison campus was not alone in this struggle, as the City of Madison fumbled through their own attempts at municipal composting services, which are both described in Madison-local news coverage [[MinnPost 2022](#)]. System-level insights are, again, articulated by frontline operators, this time by DNR solid waste coordinator Casey Lamensky, noting:

“We need people to divert material to create enough business for facilities that want to compost and then have enough end markets for those. And they all need to happen simultaneously...And we’re still early enough that if one of those options falls through, there aren’t a lot of backup solutions” [[MinnPost 2022](#)].

Noting these experiences and this research, it becomes clear that logistical and infrastructural capacity are necessary but insufficient assets for the development of a long-term sustainable organic waste recycling system. If waste-management behavioral change for commercial kitchen operators is not well incentivized, monitored, and consistently updated, contamination will spoil the organics recycling system and squander the available assets.

Corroborating these conclusions are a host of parallel developments in the traditional recycling market, both domestically and internationally. Recyclable materials long fell-prey to the moral hazard problem, wherein we have collectively treated recycling processors in developing countries as dumping grounds for our “[wishcycling](#),” greasy pizza boxes, and unwashed plastics: *attempts* to recycle have been half-hearted for decades and resulting contamination has long gone unchecked, leading to a critical level of impurities that began to reduce the capacity of international processors to transform all of the recyclable materials into new goods, owing to the amount of contaminated solid waste they had to separate and landfill. [Image: [Resource Recycling 2013](#)]



Relying on their processors for almost 25 years, by 2013, recyclable scrap was the United State's top export to China, which was importing approximately 70% of the world's electronic waste (500m tons) and plastic waste (12m tons) every year [[Guardian 2013](#)]. In that same year, China had had enough: to signal credible commitment about its contention with the current state of its imported recyclables, China implemented "Operation Green Fence" to try to stem the tide. The policy imposed a 10-month window in which it set a strict allowance of 1.5% contamination per bale of imported recyclables, rejecting 55 shipments and approximately 7,600 tons of imported materials [ibid]. And this was just the start.

By 2017, the contamination of internationally-shipped recyclables had continued, mostly unabated, and China's policy leadership felt it was time to take more drastic action. "Operation National Sword" was announced, portending more strict import inspections and increased rejection of contaminated shipments. Implemented by March of 2018, Operation National Sword reduced the variety of recyclable materials accepted and imposed a 0.5% contamination limit per bale for post-consumer plastics. The effects of the program are stark: in 2017, China imported nearly 5.7million metric tons of plastic from around the world; by 2018, it was only importing 50,000 metric tons. [[Sustainability 2022](#), [JCP 2022](#), [YE360 2019](#)]

Given that several other global recyclables processors quickly followed suit with China's policy – Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam – U.S. domestic material recovery facilities (MRF's) were left with few alternatives for export, and the volume of U.S. plastics exports dropped from 1.25million metric tons in 2017 down to 600,000 metric tons in 2021 [[JCP 2022](#)]. And what became of those plastics? New research on the effects of Operation National Sword suggests that the quantity of plastics *landfilled* in the U.S. increased by 23.2% in just the first year of the policy [[Sustainability 2022](#)].

The reckoning for recycling has come.

Indeed, this could easily become the fate of the domestic organics recycling market and it must be avoided – even at great and enduring cost – given the massive environmental impact that science suggests we can achieve through the reduction and diversion of food waste.

Contamination – or rather our failure to robustly manage our behaviors, through reflection or incentive-building – is the great threat, the result of the moral hazard at the heart of our waste-commons tragedy. Investments in organic waste management systems are squandered if they are not predicated on larger investments in awareness-raising, education, commercial consultation, and widespread training. Institutionalizing these educational investments – through policymaking, interlocal partnership, and public-private partnership – is the only way to guarantee that sufficient behavioral and commercial norms are cultivated and enforced for the greater flourishing of the entire community, in its struggle to reduce and manage its waste.

Moving Forward: Reflections on Building a Culture of Compost

The analyses in this report paint a hopeful yet challenging picture of Bloomington's commercial organic waste management landscape. Importantly, this pilot program contributed substantially

to EarthKeepers 5-year (and ongoing) efforts to help the local community cultivate a Culture of Compost. It has been a labor of love to forge working-relationships with multiple divisions of City and County government, and among multiple stakeholders in the economic community from which our fabled food scene emerges and upon which it depends. The *Compost Up, Downtown* program was a welcome and supportive boost from the City of Bloomington, providing us with a programmatic incentive to pursue a deepening of the network of partnerships we have slowly been weaving in pursuit of a local organic waste management apparatus. There are many people to thank and much work to do.

Planning for public policymaking in the organics space must be research-based, locally contextualized, and coordinated for coherence. As an interlocal special-district, whose governance is shared among the City administration, City legislature, County administration, and County legislature, the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District (MCSWMD) is the most appropriately network-central, power-sharing government entity within which policy-planning pursuits can be most fruitfully negotiated. It is encouraging that the City of Bloomington forged-ahead to produce not one but *two* sets of policy-plans for addressing Climate and Sustainability action, while the MCSWMD lagged in producing an update to its 1992 long-range plan. However, organics-related actions outlined in the [Climate Action Plan](#) are unrealistic or misaligned with infrastructural and logistical realities, while the [MCSWMD has recently produced a 5-Year Plan](#) from updated research and community feedback that could help to bring the City's waste-management plans into alignment with what is currently feasible ([City of Bloomington 2018](#), [City of Bloomington 2021](#), [MCSWMD 2021](#)).

EarthKeepers believes that Planning updates are needed for the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), particularly around food waste collection. Currently, the #1 Goal (Strategy WM 1-A) of the CAP in the [Waste Management section](#) is to "Increase organics diversion by 40% of 2018 values," a worthy goal, indeed ([City of Bloomington 2021](#)). However, the #1 Action proposed for meeting this goal (WM1-A-1) is to create a " 'Food Scraps Bag' pilot program to test food scraps composting collection across restaurant, commercial and residential customer base where food scrap bags are separated at landfill without separate compost bins and collection vehicles"(ibid). Contained within the description is the key source of the error: things don't get separated at a landfill, they get landfilled. Who would do the separating? What would be their financial incentive? Where would the organics be taken, once separated? These questions aren't addressed because they can't be answered: the only places EarthKeepers have found that are *piloting* such programs rely on high-technology Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) with optical-sensors and robot-arms that detect and push the organics-specific specialty bags onto a conveyor that sends it for further preprocessing before being taken to an area composting facility. This is even specifically noted in the *only* waste district where this is piloting:

"How are the bags going to be sorted from the trash?"

Robotic sorting technology will be used to separate the bags from the trash. Robotics have been used successfully for this purpose in other locations. [[Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy 2023](#)]

Not to mention that *rollout is only beginning this year (2023)*, meaning that it was neither a common nor feasible practice worthy of suggestion by the consultancy team running the Climate Action Plan development (ibid). The only evidence for prior piloting of such a program comes from the mention of a 2016 pilot conducted in partnership with Randy's Environmental Services, which simple web search reveals was acquired, since then, by Republic Services, who do not offer organics services in the Randy's service area, even though that area is within reasonable driving distance of the MRF where such mixed-waste loads would need to be taken ([City of Osseo 2016](#), [Republic Services 2023](#)). According to reporting, Ben Knudson, Hennepin County Minnesota's waste reduction and recycling supervisor suggests that:

"[O]ut of the 44 local governments in the county collecting organics, he isn't aware of any that collect their food and yard waste together. The vast majority use separate carts for these streams, though a small (and potentially shrinking) number use bags of a specific color to co-collect organics with MSW. [[Waste Dive 2022](#)]

By comparison, the MCSWMD's updated 5-Year Plan addresses community waste issues by prioritizing Education and Waste Reduction goals over and above its emphasis on Diversion ([MCSWMD 2021](#)). EarthKeepers agrees that this is wise: overproduction of waste is the upstream crisis that is in need of resolution; focusing on how and where we truck that waste is downstream-thinking and misses the point on the nature of the crisis while also missing the mark in terms of cost-savings: *reducing* organic waste is the most environmentally impactful and what helps commercial & household wallets. To create more waste diversion programs – without investing significant public finance into a multi-year educational and training campaign – is to continue using local policy to engineer a moral hazard for commercial clients and residents by essentially saying "Sure, throw out as much as you like; we won't ask you to think about it."

Further, where the MCSWMD's 5-Year Plan *does* address Diversion planning, it recognizes the priority of educational initiatives around Diversion guidelines, information-outreach needed to expand the compost end-user market, and increased data collection on contamination issues affecting current diversion programs [ibid]. Specifically:

1. Diversion Education

Both recycling and composting require clear guidance and adherence to best practices to ensure a successful end result. The district can provide business and residents with easily accessible, streamlined resources to explain these practices and the importance of following them. Digital and printable versions of accepted materials, contamination control, home composting, and food waste diversion guides will help residents divert their waste reliably and minimize land-filled material. [ibid]

4. Expand Compost End-User Market

Advancing the widespread diversion of organics to the composting stream will not be possible without planning for the finished compost that is produced as a result. The district can reach out to public and private sector parties who can incorporate high volume compost application into their SOP for uses like back fill, public space landscaping, erosion control, and others to

develop a market that makes large-scale composting a viable industry. [ibid]

5. Increase Available Data on Diversion Performance and Contamination Rates/Losses

Because recycling data is not closely tracked or widely available, the efficacy of management practices is difficult to analyze. The district should work with the Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management District's, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the State legislature, to lobby for improved reporting requirements on all waste streams which would provide better insight into developing optimal practices, and better means of evaluating their results in the long term. [ibid]

The significance of Contamination cannot be overstated and is a substantial risk to any facility that receives recyclable waste, either conventional or organic. EarthKeepers is highly supportive of the concept of [Waste-to-Energy](#) and of the City's investigation of how its wastewater treatment plant can be updated to run more efficiently through the capture and biodigestion of fats, oils, and greases (FOGs) and local brewery waste that can enter the current water system. However, we humbly offer our most sincere concern and dire warning that seeking to create a biodigester system that relies both on our wastewater solids and a 5-county area's worth of compostable waste is an invitation to a crisis larger than those experienced, above, in Madison, Wisconsin. For Madison's case, at least it was just their municipal and campus food scraps pilots that had to be shelved. For Bloomington, if the wastewater treatment plant that treats our sewer solids must also attempt to capture and treat 5 counties worth of organic waste, a contamination-based facility failure would affect 5 counties worth of people, logistical systems, and our city's sewer solids. Nobody wants the toilet clogged. A contamination-based facility failure is not simple speculation; it has actually occurred in Monroe County at the former Green Earth composting facility in 2018 because of Contamination in Indiana University's original composting pilot, documented in a televised MCSWMD meeting [[MCSWMD 2019](#)].

Based on our research and 5 years of experience in the local commercial and residential organics diversion markets, EarthKeepers believes that this type of consolidated system engineers a single-point-of-failure that increases the scale and cost of risk in the entire system of organics collection, processing, and compost distribution. EarthKeepers, instead, proposes that the City of Bloomington and Monroe County governments partner with the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District and the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District to work with area farmers and landowners to develop a multi-site "distributed system" that is more robust in the face of potential failures, with a design where several facilities in the system can make-up the difference if one facility in the network goes down. This is no more of a stretch-goal than is the current speculation that the City would create stable, contractual relationships with enough farmers to distribute the estimated 600 acres worth of Class B biosolids that would be created from biodigesting our current sewer solids, alone, not to mention the vast increase in acreage needed if organic waste was imported from a 5-county area. A local network to robustly process local organic waste – with both lower infrastructure development costs and lower risk – may be more suited to local goals, local needs, and local values.

Planning and forging partnerships around commercial consulting, community education, and

kitchen operator training is the foundational next step. Institutionalizing collaborative partnerships inherently requires careful cultivation and consistent maintenance of relationships among leaders within and across multiple sectors. EarthKeepers' goal has been to leverage the nucleic collaboration between EarthKeepers and Fable Farms Indiana to form an apparatus of overlapping, cross-sector partnerships for the advancement of a **Culture of Compost** – *that is, the policies, markets, and behavioral norms a community shares around organic waste management that consistently provide incentives for individual behaviors to benefit collective goals*. Hence, the mission is a mode of [Policy Entrepreneurship](#) that leads by identifying dispersed assets and aligning their incentives through proven research, to link and leverage them for mutual gains [[Mintrom 1997](#), [Ostrom 2005](#), [Arnold 2020](#)].

Deliberate institutional development through the cultivation of an overlapping network of partnerships can create a county-wide organics waste management apparatus that bridges community needs identified by local government leadership with economic development imperatives facing commercial bottom-lines. Identifying and articulating the intersecting incentives for both the public good of the community and the private benefit of individual market actors can help to bring alignment among the market of policy ideas and the market of organics waste management services, conferring long-term prospects for synergies among private investments and public policymaking, furthering both economic and democratic development in Bloomington and Monroe County.

Partner education, policy advocacy, client consultancy, and staff training have been core modalities of project implementation, given that the main barrier to institutional development in the organics space is a lack of actionably collated information. Research exists on the economics of organic waste, on policy frameworks for addressing organic waste, and on the psychology of behavioral change, meaning that the information is out there, waiting to be found, combined, and applied in-context. Technical assistance, then, has been core to this project and to demonstrating commitment and leadership in the organics space: to attract the participation of corporate clients, the econometric case had to be demonstrated; to maintain corporate client performance, staff trainings have been mandatory; to encourage the development of local policymaking, the public & environmental benefit case has had to be demonstrated; and, to maintain a high-efficiency, high-precision business model, our team is continuously reminded of these cases while all operational training is delivered in the context of the whole system's functioning, in pursuit of the community mission.

EarthKeepers is grateful to the City of Bloomington and the area businesses and residents that support the development of the local organic waste recycling market. To advance education and training around this market, EarthKeepers representatives remain on the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation, Champion members of Downtown Bloomington Inc., and fulfill a statutory advisory role on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors of the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District. We are grateful to all of these organizations for their work for the Bloomington and Monroe County community.

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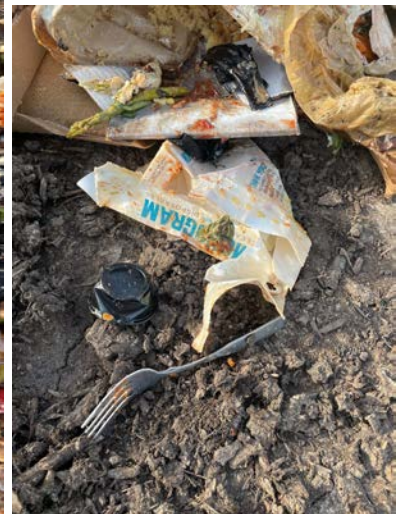
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Audits





Restaurant 1 - Audit & Contamination Sample, Week 2



Restaurant 2 - Audit & Contamination Sample, Week 3



Restaurant 2 - Audit & Contamination Samples, Week 6 (left), Week 7 (middle), Week 8 (right)



Restaurant 3 - Audit Week 3 (top). EarthKeepers bucket accidentally melted in the kitchen. Week 5 (bottom). Organics bin was filled with yard waste.



Restaurant 4 - Audis, Week 2 & Week 3



Restaurant 4 - Audit & Contamination Sample, Week 3 and Week 4



FARMBloomington - Initial set-up in alley; bungies secure roller lids closed and discourage people from using them as trash cans (top-left); Farm joined the Green Business Network (top-right). During September, a new gate was installed to keep recycling and compost rollers secured (bottom-left). FARMBloomington also made signage for their staff (bottom-right).



Restaurant 5 - Audits Week 2, Week 3, Week 4. Use of certified compostable sauce containers (bottom-center)



Restaurant 6 - Set up in the alley with 6 rollers collected at least 4 times per week. Regular disposal of greasy liquid (presumably not from the fryer).



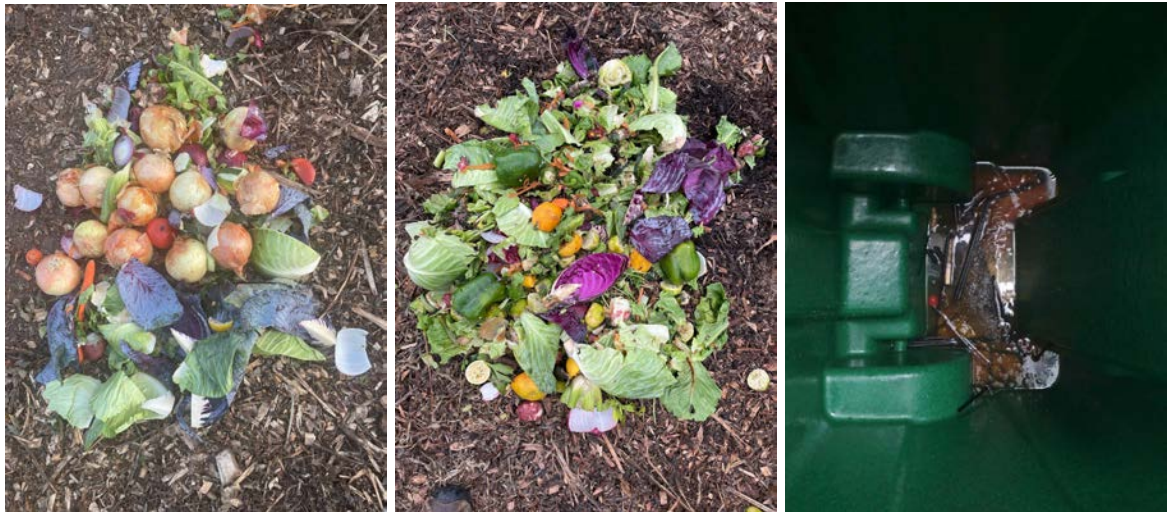
Restaurant 6 - Audits, week 3 and week 4. Mostly paper products, lettuce and chicken wing bones.



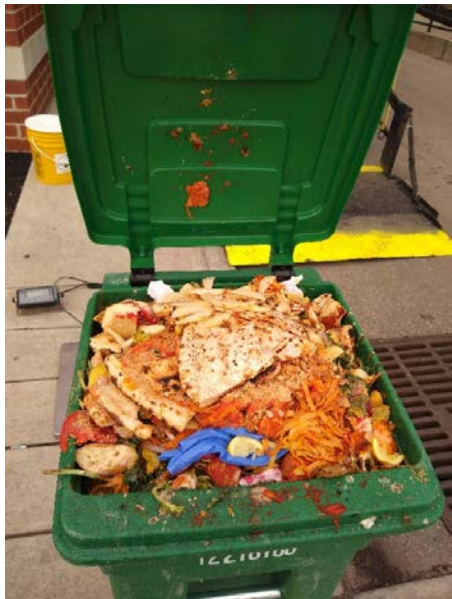
Restaurant 7 - Audits, week 3 and week 4 (top). Repeated contamination with plastic liners, presumably from the dish washing area (middle). Spilled food on the ground in the alley (bottom-left); rollers were graffitied in October (bottom-right).



Restaurant 8. Plastic contaminant (left). Recurring spills on the alley (middle). Use of safety cones to park on Walnut and load full rollers (right).



Restaurant 9. Audits, Week 2 and Week 4 (left and middle). Neglected roller, left open, filled with rain water and contaminants (right)



Restaurant 10. Audits and contamination samples for Week 1, Week 2, Week 3 (top). Overflowing roller with contaminant (bottom-left). Large dumpster area in a room accessed through the alley, good signage (bottom-right).



Restaurant 11. Rollers were frequently filled with trash (top). Audits, Week 1, Week2 and Week 3.



Restaurant 12. Audits Week 1 and Week 2. Egg shells and flour bags are discarded every Thursday after weekly dough preparation.



Restaurant 13. Audit, Week 2 (left). Dumpster corral was frequently blocked by vehicles of apartment tenants (right).



Restaurant 14. Audits Week 1 and Week 2 (top). Repeated tossing of vegetables with twist ties (bottom).

Restaurant Impact Reports

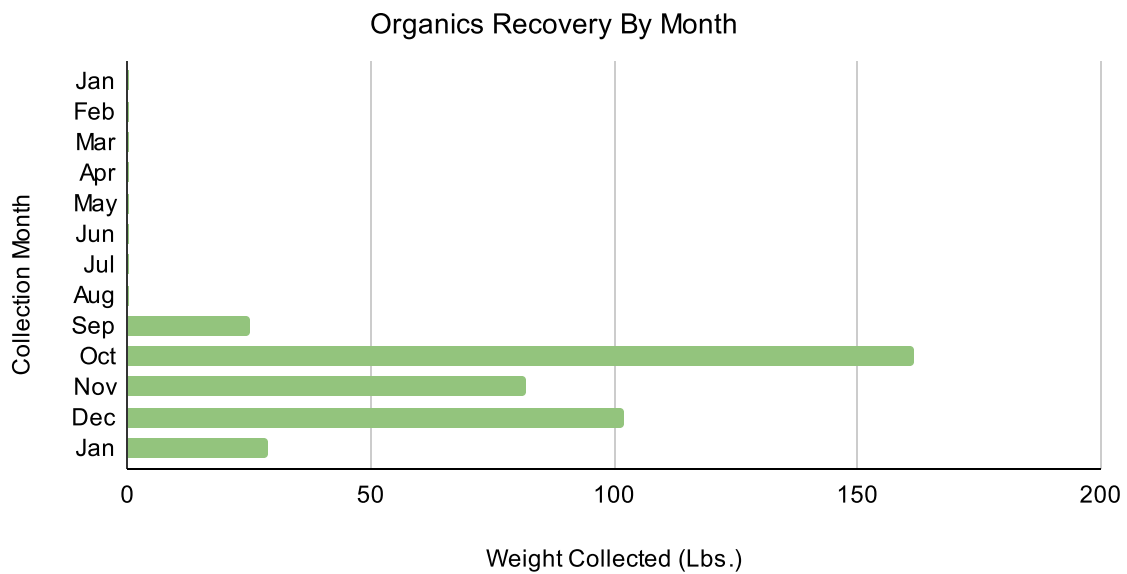


Baked! Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Baked! diverted a total of 400 lbs (0.20 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 0.05 tons, equivalent to 1.14 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 128 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 0.2 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 0.1 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Baked! during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

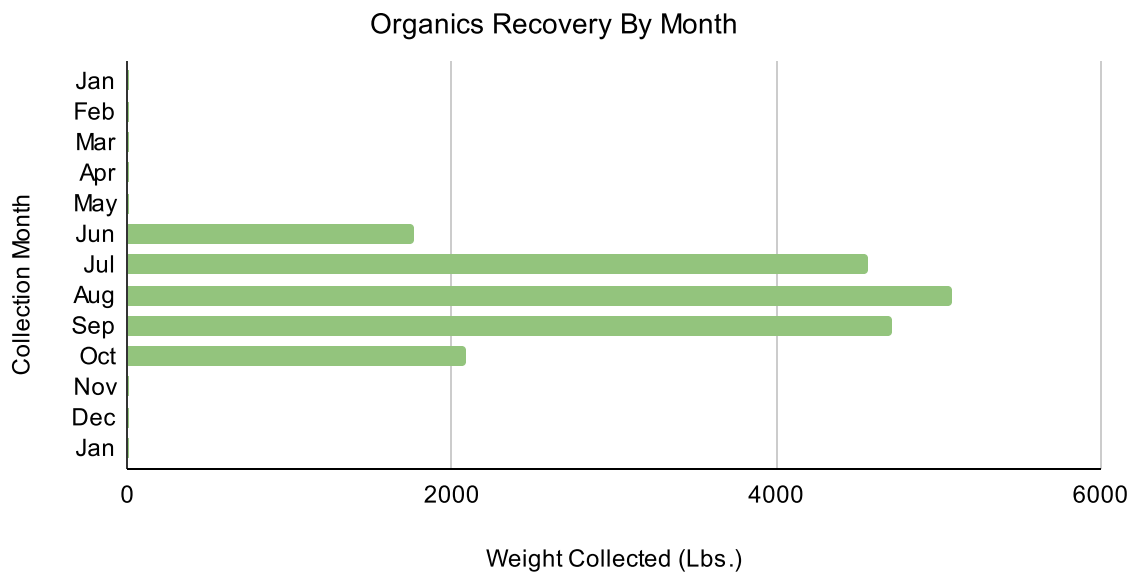
- The EarthKeepers

BuffaLouies Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, BuffaLouies diverted a total of 18,207 lbs (9.10 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 2.28 tons, equivalent to 51.66 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 5,813 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 10.1 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 6.1 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at BuffaLouies during each month of the program



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- The EarthKeepers

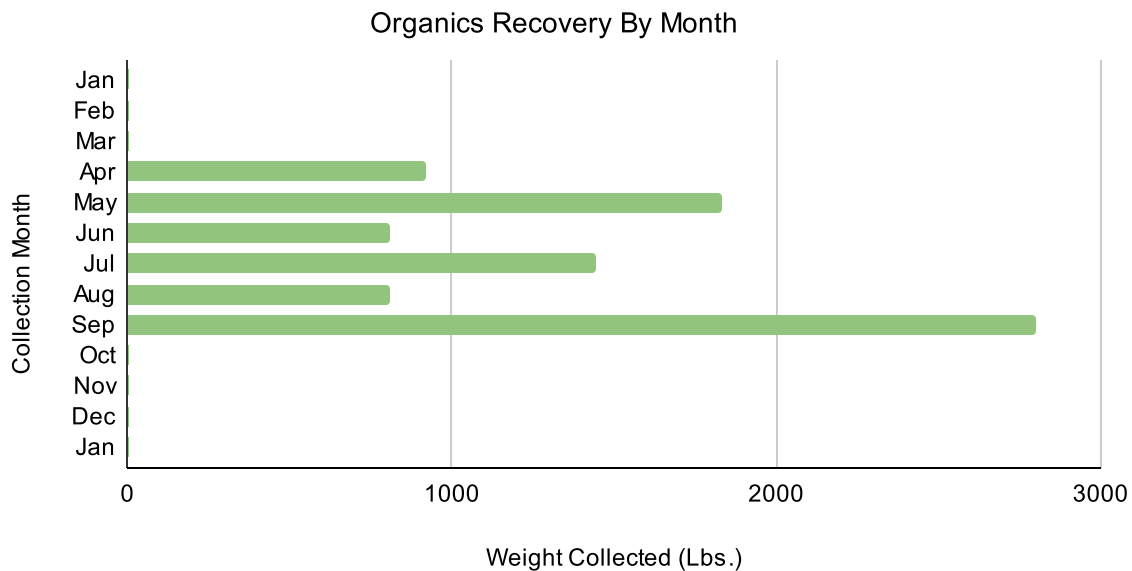


Convention Center Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Convention Center diverted a total of 8,624 lbs (4.31 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 1.08 tons, equivalent to 24.47 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 2,754 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 4.8 home's electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 2.9 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Convention Center during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

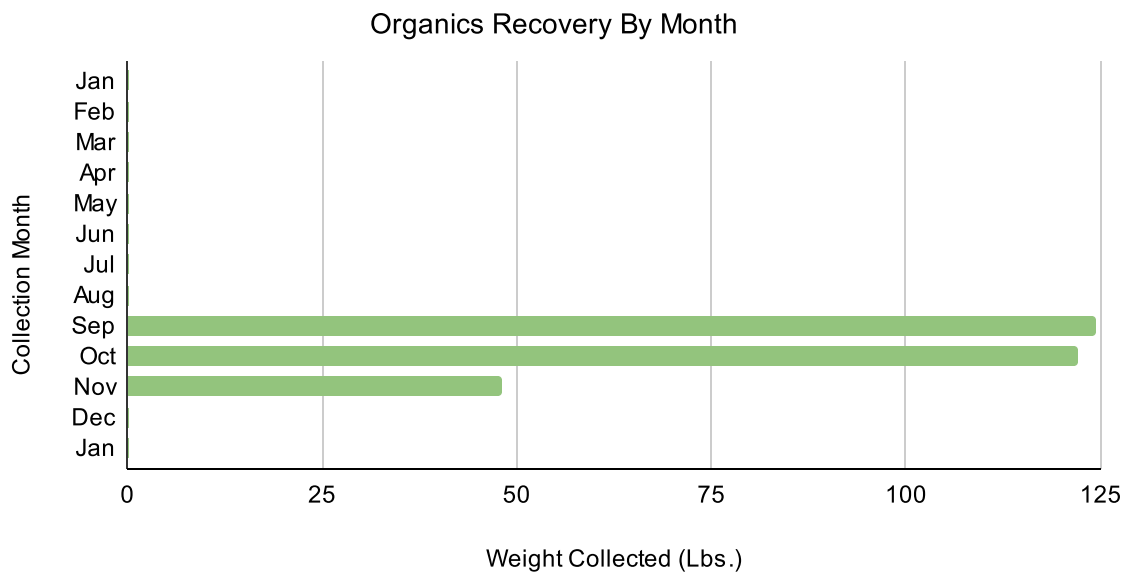
- The EarthKeepers

Crazy Horse Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Crazy Horse diverted a total of 294 lbs (0.15 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 0.04 tons, equivalent to 0.84 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 94 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 0.2 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 0.1 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Crazy Horse during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

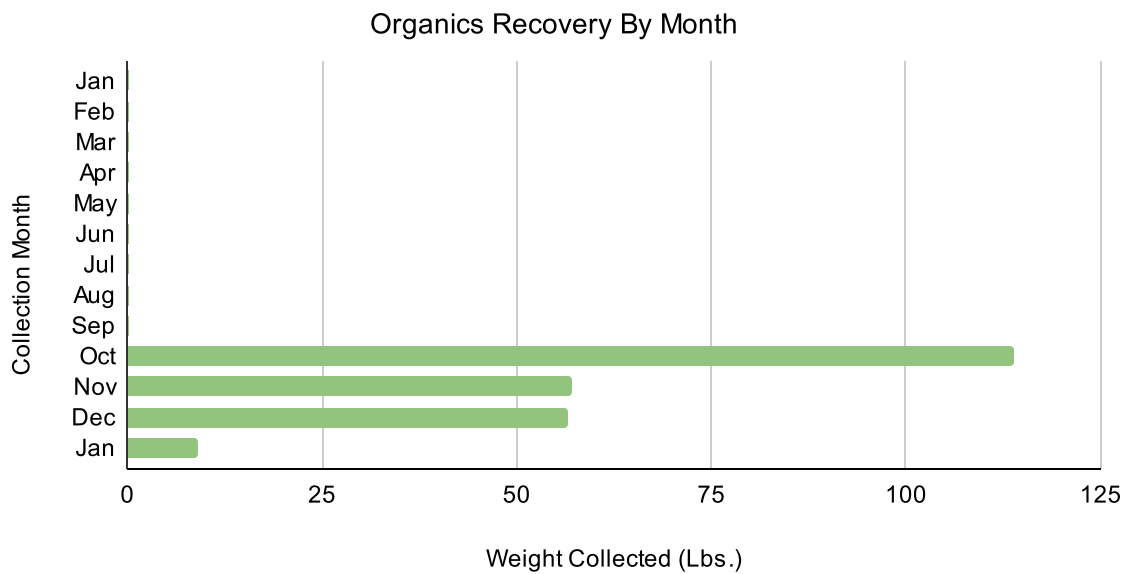
- The EarthKeepers

Cup & Kettle Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Cup & Kettle diverted a total of 237 lbs (0.12 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 0.03 tons, equivalent to 0.67 metric tons of CO₂ emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 76 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 0.1 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 0.1 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Cup & Kettle during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

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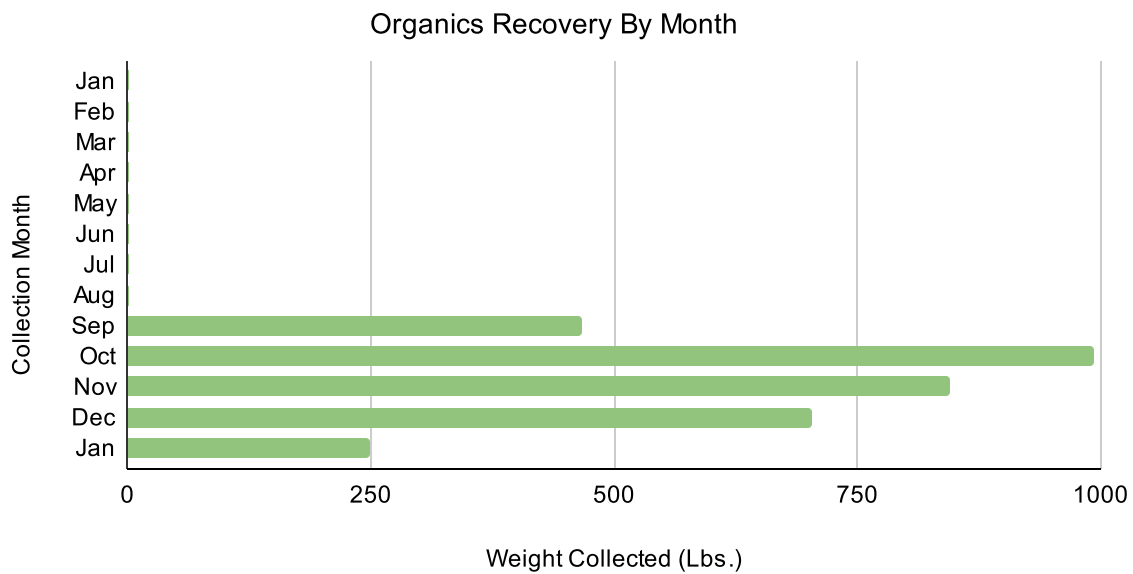


DaVinci's Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, DaVinci's diverted a total of 3,259 lbs (1.63 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 0.41 tons, equivalent to 9.25 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 1,041 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 1.8 home's electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 1.1 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at DaVinci's during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

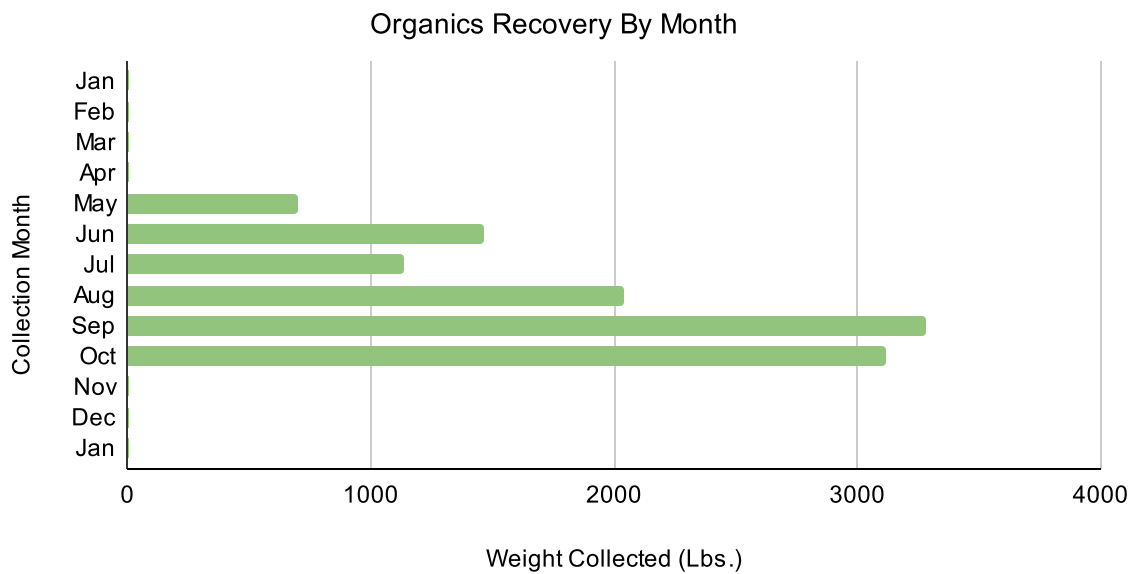
- The EarthKeepers

Farm Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Farm diverted a total of 11,746 lbs (5.87 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 1.47 tons, equivalent to 33.33 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 3,750 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 6.5 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 3.9 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Farm during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

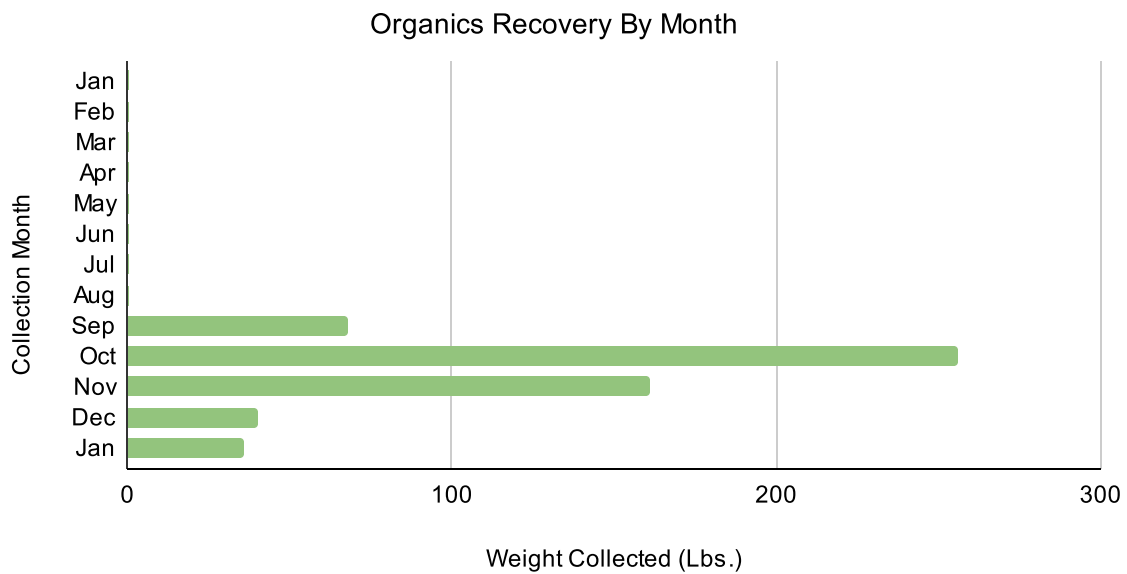
- The EarthKeepers

InBloom Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, InBloom diverted a total of 561 lbs (0.28 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 0.07 tons, equivalent to 1.59 metric tons of CO₂ emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 179 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 0.3 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 0.2 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at InBloom during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

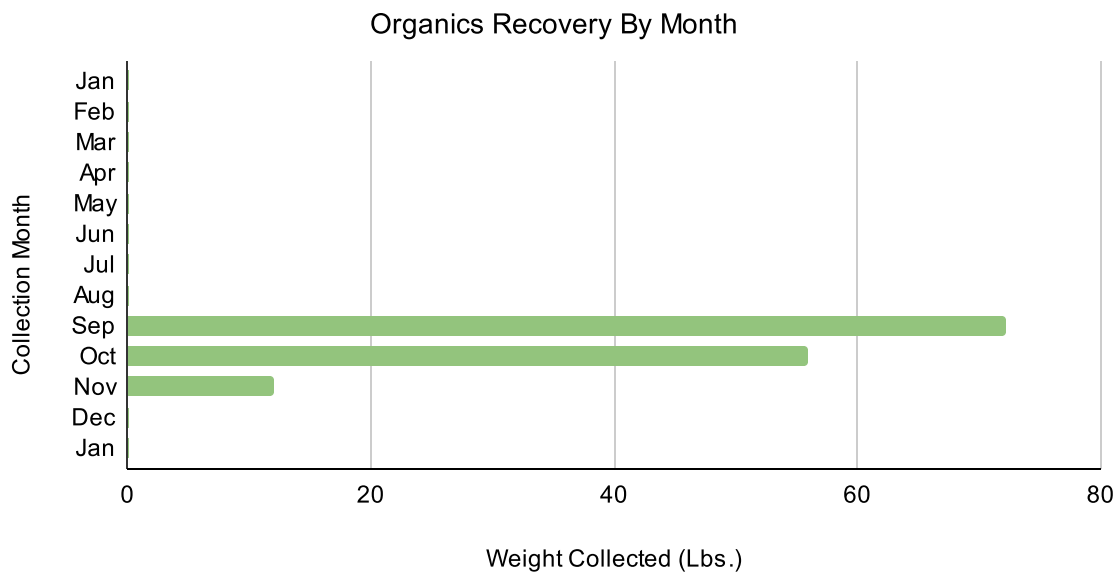
- The EarthKeepers

Juannitas Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Juannitas diverted a total of 140 lbs (0.07 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 0.02 tons, equivalent to 0.40 metric tons of CO₂ emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 45 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 0.1 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 0.0 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Juanitas during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

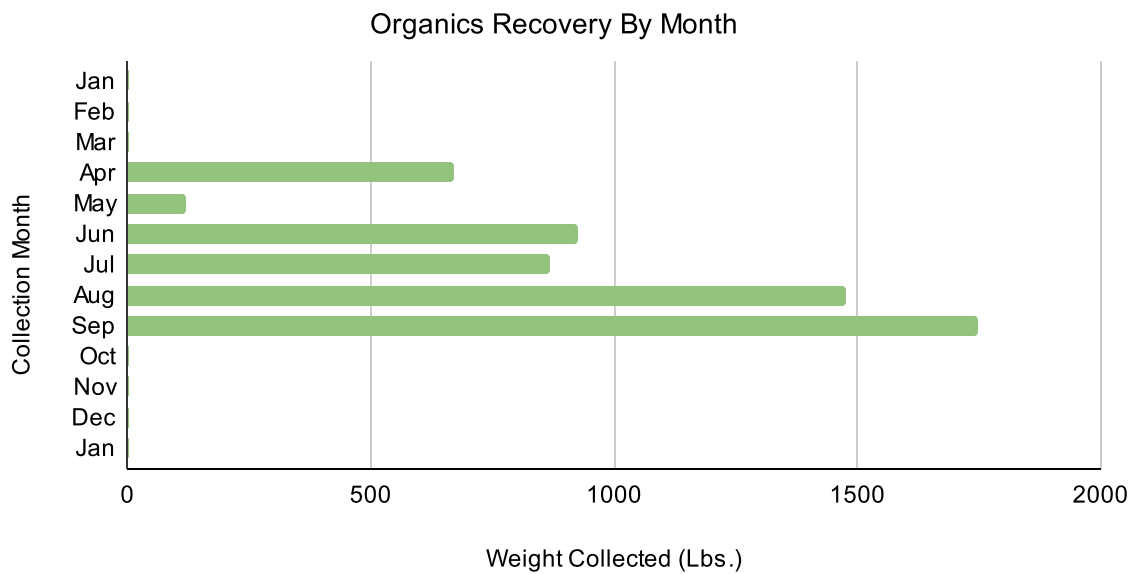
- The EarthKeepers

Nicks-Osteria Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Nicks-Osteria diverted a total of 5,811 lbs (2.91 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 0.73 tons, equivalent to 16.49 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 1,855 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 3.2 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 2.0 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Nicks-Osteria during each month of the program



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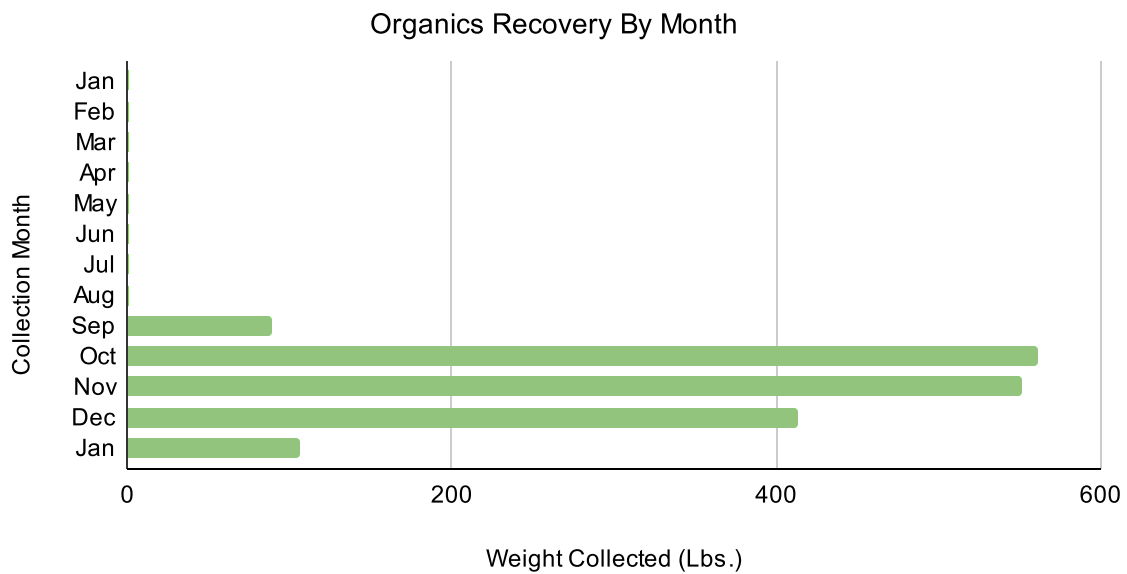


Pili's Party Taco & Deli Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Pili's diverted a total of 1,720 lbs (0.86 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 0.22 tons, equivalent to 4.88 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 549 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 1.0 home's electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 0.6 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Pili's during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

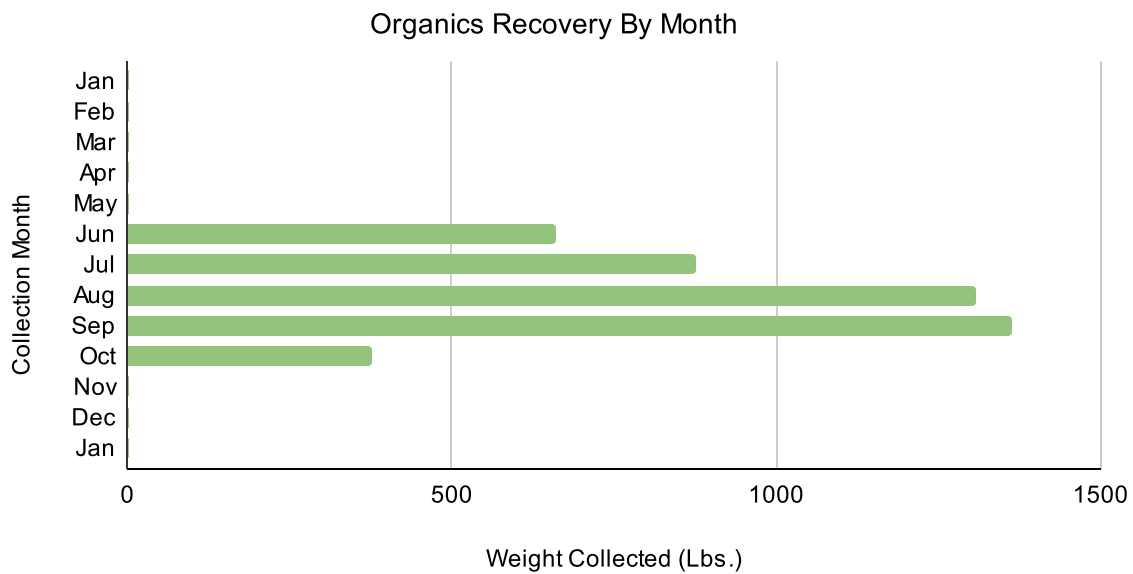
- The EarthKeepers

Soul Juice Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Soul Juice diverted a total of 4,587 lbs (2.29 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 0.57 tons, equivalent to 13.02 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 1,465 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 2.5 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 1.5 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Soul Juice during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

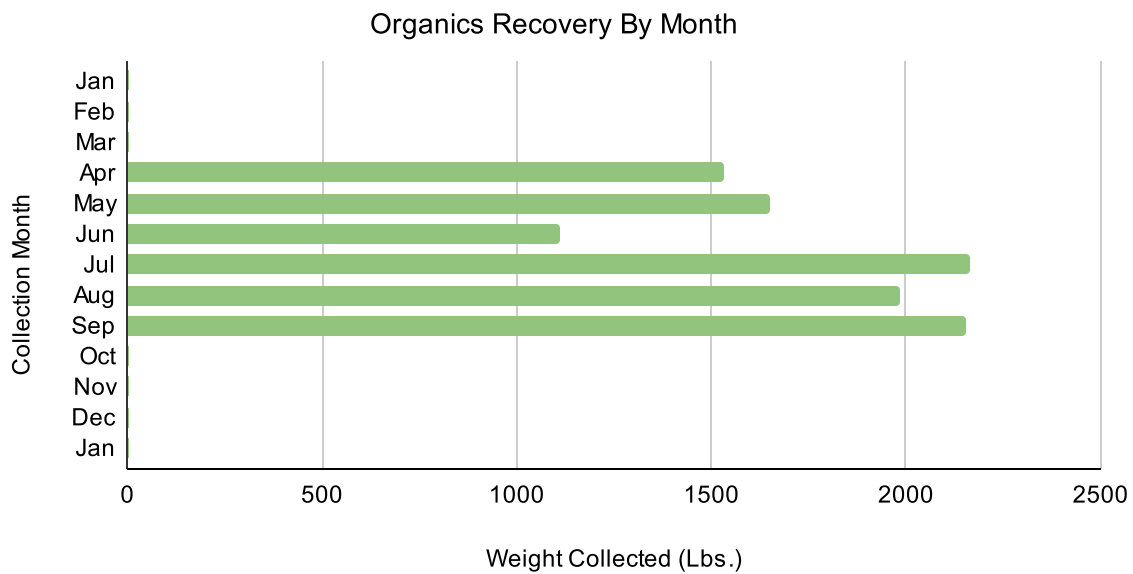
- The EarthKeepers

Southern Stone Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Southern Stone diverted a total of 10,605 lbs (5.30 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 1.33 tons, equivalent to 30.09 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 3,386 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 5.9 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 3.6 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Southern Stone during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

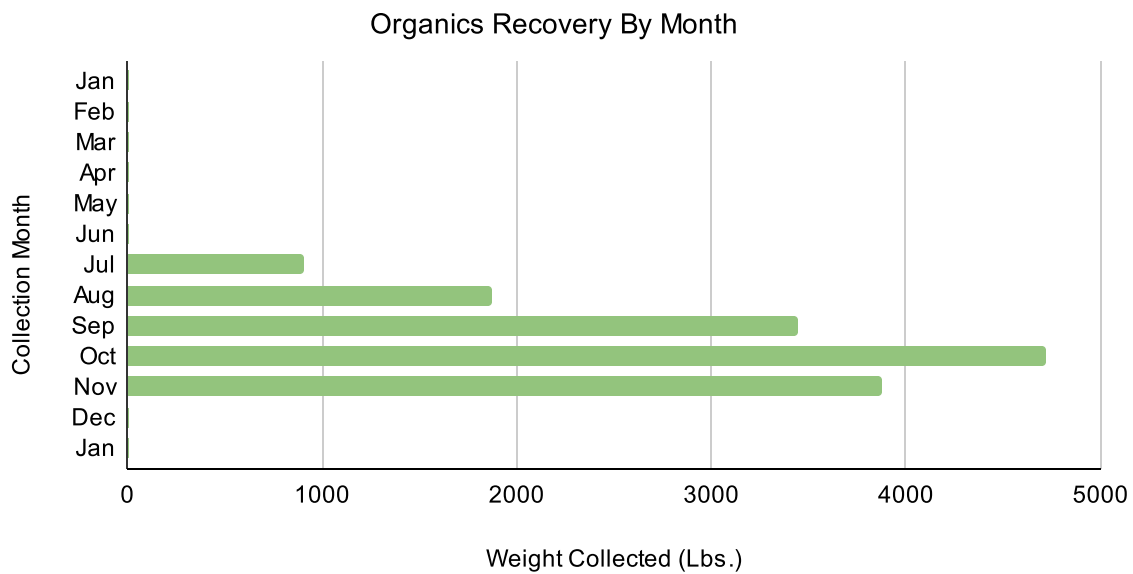
- The EarthKeepers

Uptown Cafe Composting Impact Report, Compost Up, Downtown Program

During the Compost Up, Downtown Program, Uptown Cafe diverted a total of 14,822 lbs (7.41 tons) of organic waste from the landfill with EarthKeepers Compost. By composting these materials, local landfill methane emissions were reduced by 1.85 tons, equivalent to 42.06 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

This greenhouse gas reduction is equivalent to preventing 4,732 gallons of gasoline from being consumed, or eliminating 8.2 home’s electricity consumption for one year. It is also the equivalent amount of carbon sequestered by 5.0 acres of U.S. forests in one year. (source: EPA greenhouse gas equivalences calculator)

The figure below shows the breakdown of organics collected at Uptown Cafe during each month of the program



We appreciate your commitment to keeping organics out of the landfill, and thank you for your support in 2022!

- The EarthKeepers

Supplement 1: Participant Interview Summary

Lacey Lingelbach

Sustainability Fellow,

Economic and Sustainable Development Department

City of Bloomington, IN

Over the last month, all participants in the Compost Up program were contacted for a follow-up interview. Three interviews took place for four of the participating businesses. This represents twenty-five percent of the sixteen participating businesses. The participants that provided feedback included managers from Buffalouies, Nick's English Hut, Osteria Rago, and FARM Bloomington. Each interview is summarized below.

Buffalouies

Buffalouies participated in the program because they had been waiting for the right time to work with EarthKeepers and the grant provided them this opportunity. The general manager was heavily involved in implementing the program. They started the Compost Up program with five composting containers. During the three months, the program was overall successful at reducing waste, especially since so much of it comes from the use of paper products. The staff was happy with the program and the customer service provided by EarthKeepers.

However, Buffalouies experienced issues once the Compost Up grant ended and they signed on to continue the subscription. This timing coincided with the beginning of classes in the fall when business picks up and staff grows. Managers found it difficult to train all the new staff of part-time employees while business was hectic. Due to this lag in training, they found that there was less buy-in from staff for the program as non-compostable items were thrown into the compost bins. Also, it became more difficult to find the time to sort through items especially as the scale of composting increased. Moreover, pricing became a concern with the scale of composting because they found no evidence that the cost of trash service downsized. Instead, they were losing money from switching to products that are compostable and cost more, such as sauce cups and container boxes.

Despite ending the service, they are looking to revisit the program again in the spring or summer when business slows down. They are hoping to find the time to reconsider capacity needs and habit changes to successfully implement a scaled up composting program.

Nick's English Hut and Osteria Rago

Since the owners of Nick's and Osteria Rago are the same, they started the Compost Up program for both businesses at the same time. The owners, who have been composting for a

long time in their personal lives, thought Compost Up was a great opportunity for their businesses to get involved in food waste reduction efforts. The general managers at both restaurants oversaw the program in coordination with the kitchen manager.

Overall, they found the program was really successful at reducing waste as well as teaching staff about the importance of composting. Staff adjusted to the program pretty easily after working out some communication. Since then, non-compostable items are rarely, if ever, found in the compost bin. Staff thought EarthKeepers was very professional and timely in their communications, billing, and pick-ups. They found the waste analytics provided through the service useful and insightful. Lastly, they noted that the three months paid for by the grant provided enough time to train behaviors and get the program going.

Their main challenges with the program included adjusting waste habits and space constraints. They had to get their staff to adjust the frequency of taking out the compost containers to the bins outside as they filled up more over time. Additionally, they have had problems with adding more compost vessels as their kitchen area is tight. This space constraint is also one of the main reasons they are only composting scraps from the kitchen. There is little space for containers in the dining areas that could be used for plate scraps.

Despite these challenges, Nick's and Osteria have continued their subscription since the end of the Compost Up grant. They felt like operating the program was doable and worth it for the sake of sustainability. While they did not see a reduction in waste fees from participation, they believe the cost of service is reasonable. Additionally, they wanted to help support another local business that has values that match their values.

FARM Bloomington

FARM Bloomington participated in the grant program to start integrating green restaurant initiatives into their operations. The program was overseen by the service manager with help from the kitchen manager. They compost both pre- and post-consumption food scraps. Overall, they gave a positive review of the program. Their interior bins were kept pretty clean and rarely had cross-contaminated waste streams. Staff adjusted to the program well, especially because they used compostable products that made it easy to discard food waste. Staff also liked EarthKeepers because they provided reasonable pickup frequency, maintained easy and timely communication, and accommodated the managers request for changes or help with the program. Moreover, the staff found the waste analytics very useful and insightful, especially when right-sizing their orders. For instance, FARM Bloomington adjusted their purchases of bread after noting the sizable discarding of bread in their compost.

Similar to Buffalouies, Nick's, and Osteria Rago, FARM Bloomington experienced challenges with space constraints and adjusting frequency of dumping containers into bins. Additionally, they noted that the external bins were difficult to maintain as some staff from the Root Cellar would throw non-compostable items in there. Lastly, they said that they did not see any

decrease in trash costs, but that is likely because the trash receptacles are shared with other nearby businesses.

Nonetheless, FARM Bloomington continued their subscription after the grant program because they want to achieve green restaurant status and have found it useful in educating staff on sustainability.

Key Takeaways from Interviews

The following bullets highlight the key takeaways discovered through these follow-up interviews with participants.

Positive Feedback about the Compost Up Program

- Participants were excited to partake in a program that would help achieve business and city-wide sustainability goals.
- Program helped reduce food waste for all participants.
- Program was useful for educating staff and participants on waste reduction efforts.
- Staff was relatively happy and okay to adjust behaviors to participate in the program.
- EarthKeepers received high praise for providing services and interacting with program participants.
- Participants liked the waste analytics provided by EarthKeepers.
- Participants thought the 3-month grant period was enough time to train staff and get the program started.

Challenges Experienced during the Compost Up Program

- All participants experienced limitations in the amount composted due to the space needed to store containers and bins.
- All participants experienced challenges in adjusting waste behaviors of staff to more frequently take out waste and to make compostable products placed in the compost vessels.
- None of the participants found evidence that composting reduced the price they pay for trash receptacles and services.
- Some participants experienced challenges scaling up the composting when business was in peak season.
- Some participants experience challenges with finding time to train new staff during times of turnover and peak season.

Suggestions for Improving the Compost Up Program or Other Waste Diversion Programs

- Identify a new metric to measure the financial benefit for program participation that could encourage participation from businesses that are not sustainability-focused.

- Make sure the program is timed so that businesses that are affected by the academic year season will have less issues in adjusting and scaling up their programs.
- Create a circular program that provides free or reduced price compost to participating businesses so that staff or businesses can learn how to use it and see the end product of the process.
- Recommend participating businesses consider switching to compostable products to make it easier to discard plate scrapes.
- Marketing of the program should focus on the connection between food waste reduction and the level of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Increase marketing of the program through the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce or the Downtown Bloomington, Incorporated associations.
- Continue to support EarthKeepers as a business by giving them more grants to expand their operations or providing marketing assistance to help them advertise their services.
- Consider creating a recycling education or assistance program for downtown businesses who are having difficulty discarding cardboard from space limitations.

COMPOST UP DOWN TOWN



Reducing Restaurant Food Waste: Business Case – Operations – Education

EarthKeepers Report to City Council
August 2nd 2023

BACKGROUND



CURB-
SIDE
CARRYOUT

4PM
-
9PM

LOVE U
♥
MISS U
♥
BE WELL
😊
SEE U SOON!

LUNCH HOURS

MON - FRI
11:30 - 2:00

DINNER HOURS

MON - THU
5:30 - 9:30

FRIDAY
5:30 - 10:30

SATURDAY
12:00 - 10:30

SUNDAY
12:00 - 9:00

332-4334

2 YEARS OF COVID

Food services hit hard — and the hits kept coming

New health regulations forced local food business
owners to rethink everything.

Laura Lane, Dustin Dopirak and Carol Kugler, *The Herald-Times*

Published 12:24 pm UTC Mar. 7, 2022 | Updated 12:24 pm UTC Mar. 7, 2022

Restaurants and other food businesses took a hard and immediate hit when COVID-19 reached Indiana two years ago. Short-term closures were followed by seating limits, many procedural changes and a shift to more carryout and online sales. While the restrictions have eased, many of the businesses that survived are still struggling with supply chain issues and staff is much harder to hire and keep.

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/in-depth/news/local/2022/03/07/covid-impact-bloomington-restaurant-food-businesses-dramatic/6926907001/>



Figure 4-6: Composition of Private Mixed Waste (% by weight)

MONROE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ORGANIC WASTE RECOVERY ANALYSIS

Compostable Waste is the largest category of waste landfilled – both for residential and commercial clients – in Monroe County, Indiana.

Other Materials
17.7%

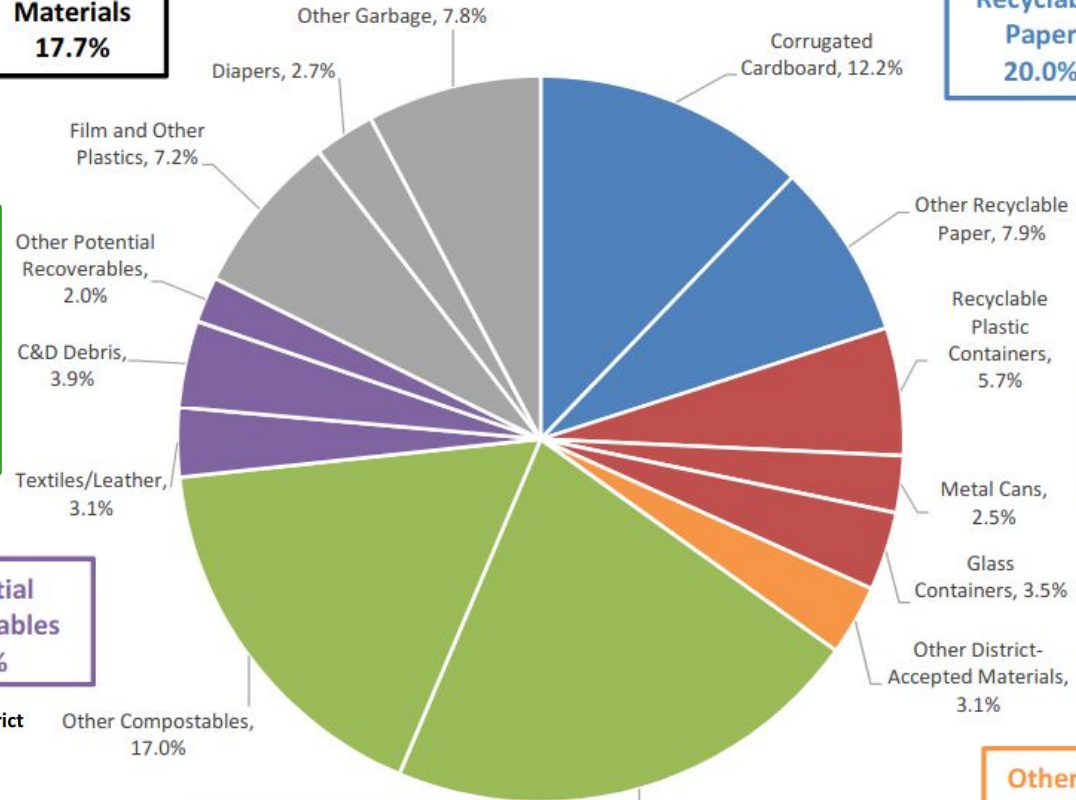
Recyclable Paper
20.0%

Recyclable Containers
11.7%

Potential Recoverables
9.0%

Compostables
38.4%

Other District-Accepted Materials
3.1%



Prepared for: **Monroe County Solid Waste Management District**
3400 S. Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Submitted by: **Kessler Consulting, Inc.**
innovative waste solutions
14620 N. Nebraska Ave., Bldg. D
Tampa, FL 33613



MONROE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

ORGANIC WASTE RECOVERY ANALYSIS

DECEMBER 2018

Table 2: Estimated Food Waste Generated by Significant Non-Residential Sources (Tons/Year)

Generator Type	Number of Locations	% Food Waste ¹	Tons Food Waste ¹
Restaurants (> 15 FTEs) ²	84	47%	5,260
Grocery Stores (> 15 FTEs)	10	30%	2,200
Food Manufacturing (> 12 FTEs)	7	46%	180
Nursing Homes	20	20%	170
Schools	20	30%	170
Hospitals	3	20%	40
		Total	8,010

¹ Waste composition and generation rates based on CalRecycle's 2014 Generator-based Characterization Study.

² FTEs = full-time employee equivalents.

Submitted by:



Kessler Consulting, Inc.

innovative waste solutions
14620 N. Nebraska Ave., Bldg. D
Tampa, FL 33613

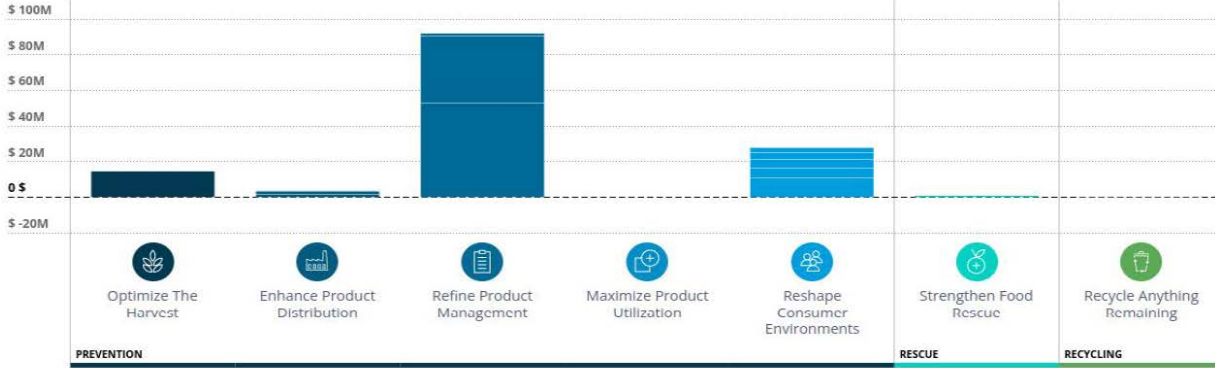


ReFED

Rethink Food Waste
Through Economics and Data

Explore solutions to food waste

ANNUAL NET FINANCIAL BENEFIT
POTENTIAL OF FOOD WASTE SOLUTIONS
U.S. DOLLARS



Impact Metric:

- Net \$
- Tons
- Climate
- Water
- Meals
- Jobs

Stakeholders:

Foodservice

Data View:

Total

Food Type:

All Food Types

States:

Indiana

ACTION AREA	SOLUTION NAME	NET FINANCIAL BENEFIT	
	Waste Tracking (Foodservice)	\$ 53.1M	VIEW DETAILS >
	Markdown Alert Applications	\$ 37.7M	VIEW DETAILS >
	Imperfect & Surplus Produce Channels	\$ 14.5M	VIEW DETAILS >
	Portion Sizes	\$ 11.1M	VIEW DETAILS >
	Small Plates	\$ 5.1M	VIEW DETAILS >

PREVENTION SOLUTIONS



Rethink Food Waste
Through Economics and Data

THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE

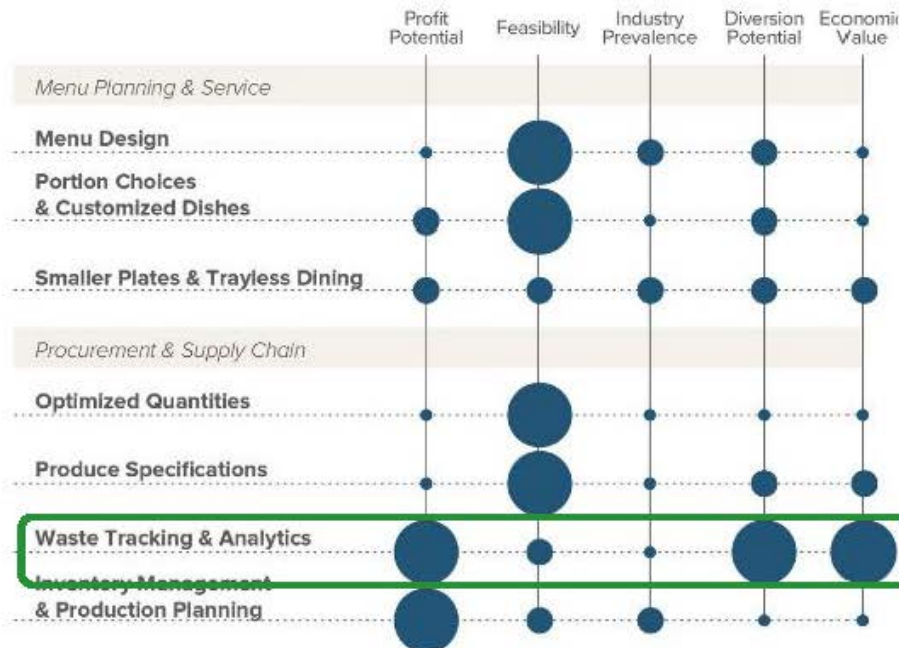
The full cost of food, including purchases, preparation, and disposal costs, to restaurants averages approximately \$4,000 per ton.¹⁸ Based on a survey conducted by the National Restaurant Association, nearly half of restaurant operators track food waste as a prevention method,¹⁹ but there is still an opportunity to do more, especially in capturing post-consumer food waste. Prevention solutions are not only some of the most cost-effective but can also be easier to implement without having a negative impact on the guest experience.



KEY INSIGHTS

- Prevention solutions provide restaurants nearly \$620 million in business profit potential annually.
- Tracking food thrown away could cut food costs by 2 to 6% by increasing awareness of food waste within the company and focusing attention on front- and back-of-house prevention activities.
- Solutions that prevent waste in restaurants have the greatest economic value and net environmental benefit, saving almost 400 thousand tons of waste annually.

PREVENTION SOLUTIONS



https://refed.org/downloads/Restaurant_Guide_Web.pdf

Wasted Inventory & Wasted Labor: Cost Savings when Reducing Food Waste

Wasted Inventory: Industry data suggests that a typical food service location wastes 4% - 10% of procured food inventory *before* it leaves the kitchen.

Wasted Labor: Food-waste causes Labor-waste in 3 main ways in a commercial kitchen:
(1) Inventorying [**Inventory spoilage**], (2) Preparing [**Trim waste**], and
(3) Serving food that is ultimately discarded [**Overproduction**].

If a kitchen cuts overproduction in half, it is likely save 4%-8% on wasted labor alone.



ROI when Reducing Food Waste:



Investing \$1 in reducing food waste
Saves \$7 for an average Restaurant.



THE BUSINESS CASE FOR REDUCING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE: RESTAURANTS

A Report on Behalf of Champions 12.3



SUMMARY FINDINGS

We analyzed data of preconsumer waste from 114 restaurant sites, located across 12 countries, and calculated the following results:

- The average benefit-cost ratio for food waste reduction was 7:1 over a three-year time frame.
- Within the first year of implementing a food waste-reduction program, 76 percent of the sites had recouped their investment. Within two years of implementing a program, 89 percent of the sites had recouped their investment.
- By reducing food waste, the average site saved more than two cents on every dollar of cost of goods sold (COGS).
- There appears to be no clear correlation between benefit-cost ratios and a site's market segment or geography.
- Key strategies for achieving food waste reduction were to measure the food waste, engage staff, reduce food overproduction, rethink inventory and purchasing practices, and repurpose excess food.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication focuses on the financial business case for reducing food loss and waste in restaurants. It is a supplement to *The Business Case for Reducing Food Loss and Waste* and provides additional sector-specific data and analyses. *The Business Case for Reducing Food Loss and Waste* was published in March 2017 and is available at www.champions123.org/the-business-case-for-reducing-food-loss-and-waste/.

AUTHORS

Austin Clowes (WRI), Craig Hanson (WRI), and Richard Swannell (WRAP)

The authors thank Champions 12.3 and their associates for reviewing and providing helpful input on draft versions of this publication (see Acknowledgments).

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PROJECT DRAWDOWN®

<https://www.drawdown.org/>

* Gigatons CO2 Equivalent Reduced / Sequestered (2020–2050)

◆ SOLUTION	◆ SECTOR(S)	▼ SCENARIO 1*	◆ SCENARIO 2*
Reduced Food Waste	Food, Agriculture, and Land Use / Land Sinks	87.45	94.56
Health and Education	Health and Education	85.42	85.42
Plant-Rich Diets	Food, Agriculture, and Land Use / Land Sinks	65.01	91.72
Refrigerant Management	Industry / Buildings	57.75	57.75
Tropical Forest Restoration	Land Sinks	54.45	85.14
Onshore Wind Turbines	Electricity	47.21	147.72
Alternative Refrigerants	Industry / Buildings	43.53	50.53
Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaics	Electricity	42.32	119.13
Improved Clean Cookstoves	Buildings 114	31.34	72.65
Distributed Solar Photovoltaics	Electricity	27.98	68.64

Recover Forward: Employee Retention

OSHA: #3 most common injury for fast food kitchen employees is to be “Hurt while lifting or carrying items” (34% of employees have experienced **Lifting Injuries**). https://www.coshnetwork.org/sites/default/files/FastFood_Workplace_Safety_Poll_Memo.pdf
<https://www.mashed.com/124676/things-dont-know-fast-food-employees/>

OSHA: #4 most common injury for fast food kitchen employees is to be “Injured by a fall on a wet, slippery, or oily floor” (23% of employees have experienced **Slipping Injuries**). https://www.coshnetwork.org/sites/default/files/FastFood_Workplace_Safety_Poll_Memo.pdf
<https://www.mashed.com/124676/things-dont-know-fast-food-employees/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics: 25% of workers compensation indemnity claims involve **Back Injuries**. <https://essr.umd.edu/about/occupational-safety-health/ergonomics/back-injuries-fact-sheet>

EVERYONE: Leaky garbage bags are disgusting! Dumpsters are for vape-breaks, not workplace injuries ;))



VS



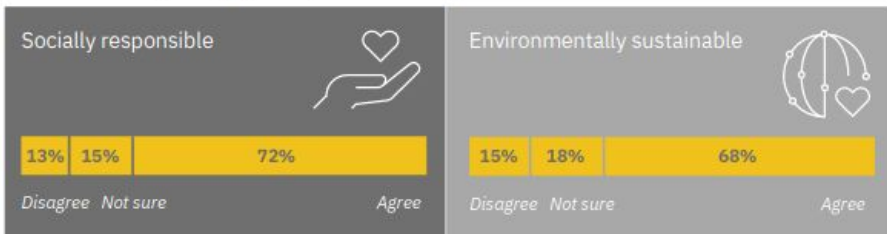
Rolling carts eliminate the risks related to lifting wet or over-filled bags, like back injuries and slipping

Recover Forward: Employee Attraction

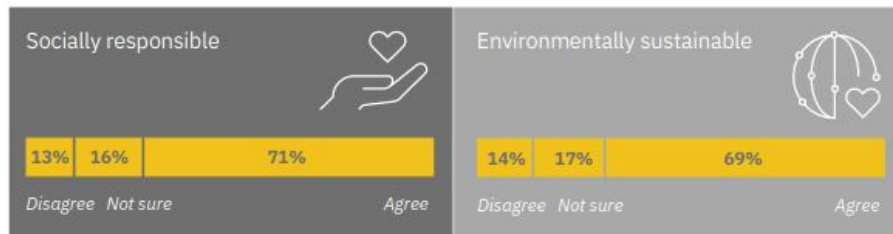
Employee Attraction: Sustainability Pride

IBM “Sustainability at a Turning Point” (2021): 71% of employees and employment-seekers say that **environmentally sustainable companies are more attractive employers.**

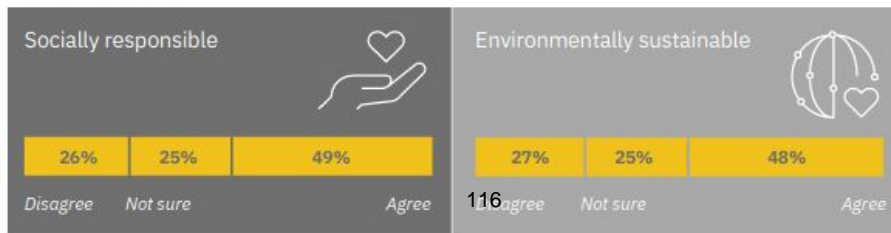
I am more likely to apply for a job with an organization that I consider to be



I am more likely to accept a job offer from an organization that I consider to be



I am more likely to be willing to accept a lower salary to work for an organization that I consider to be



IBM IBM Institute for Business Value

Recover Forward: Client Attraction

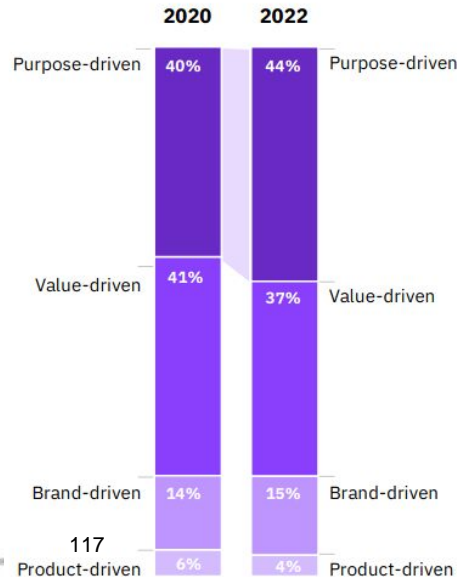
Client Attraction: Sustainability Purpose

IBM & NRF “Consumers Want it All” (2022):

“In 2022, roughly 4 in 5 consumers say sustainability and health and wellness benefits are important to them when choosing a brand.”

“While Millennials are leading the charge, every age group indicates that sustainability, environmental, and/or personal wellness attributes are significant considerations in selecting brands.”

The rise of the purpose-driven consumer
Purpose-driven consumers have overtaken value-driven consumers as the largest segment of the population.



Purpose-driven consumers (44%)

seek products and brands that align with their values and provide health and wellness benefits. They're willing to change their shopping habits to reduce environmental impact and they care about sustainability and recycling.

Value-driven consumers (37%)

want value, convenience, and products and services that will simplify their lives. They're less inclined to switch habits to reduce negative environmental impact.

Brand-driven consumers (15%)

trust brands and prioritize the brand when making purchasing decisions. Compared to other groups, they have the highest average income, and they love staying on top of new trends.

Product-driven consumers (4%)

are focused primarily on product functionality and value for price. They aren't tied to any brand or product attribute and are the least engaged shoppers.

LAUNCH





BLOOMINGTON
ENTERTAINMENT
& ARTS DISTRICT



COMPOST UP DOWN TOWN



INFORMATION SESSION- MARCH 7

News Releases >> 2022 >> March >> 09

Bloomington Restaurants in the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District Invited to Apply for New Composting Program

Share:

401 N Morton Street
Suite 150
Bloomington IN 47404

812-349-3418

esd@bloomington.in.gov

Connect on Facebook

Page last updated on March 9, 2022 at 11:21 am

March 9, 2022

For more information, please contact

Lauren Clemens, Assistant Director of Sustainability
Economic and Sustainable Development Department
lauren.clemens@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3837



Cohort 1: April 2022 - July 2022

Application due date: March 25th
Confirmation of participation: March 31st
Program prep and waste audit: April 4th - April 18th
12 week trial period: April 18th - July 17th

Cohort 3: September 2022 - January 2023

Application form due date: September 9th
Confirmation of participation: September 16th
Program prep and waste audit: September 26th - October 10th
12 week trial period: October 10th - January 8th, 2023

Cohort 2: June 2022 - October 2022

Application due date: June 10th
Confirmation of participation: June 17th
Program prep and waste audit: June 27th - July 11th
12 week trial period: September 16th

Cohort 4: January 2023 - May 2023

Application due date: January 13, 2023
Confirmation of participation: January 20, 2023
Program prep and waste audit: January 30, 2023 - February 12, 2023
12 week trial period: February 12, 2023 - May 14th, 2023



PROGRAM INCENTIVE

Participating restaurant & retail food establishments in the program will receive the following during the three month trial:

- **Weekly collection** of organics-customized rollers (32-gallons each) and delivery of sanitized replacement rollers. Rollers may be collected two or three times per week, depending on assessed needs.
- **5-gallon buckets and 1.5-gallon pails** - with lids, for internal use at prep stations.
- **Waste audit** - introductory period of physically examining and categorizing organic waste stream.
- **Window decals** - for interested participants to display.
- **Personalized web-profile** - logo on the EarthKeepers website; feature piece for interested participants.
- **Mixed-media promotions** - local promotion of restaurants as compost innovators & EarthKeepers partners.

The program incentive is valued at \$5,000 per participating establishment.

Promotional Partners:



WORK IT





Consulting



Training



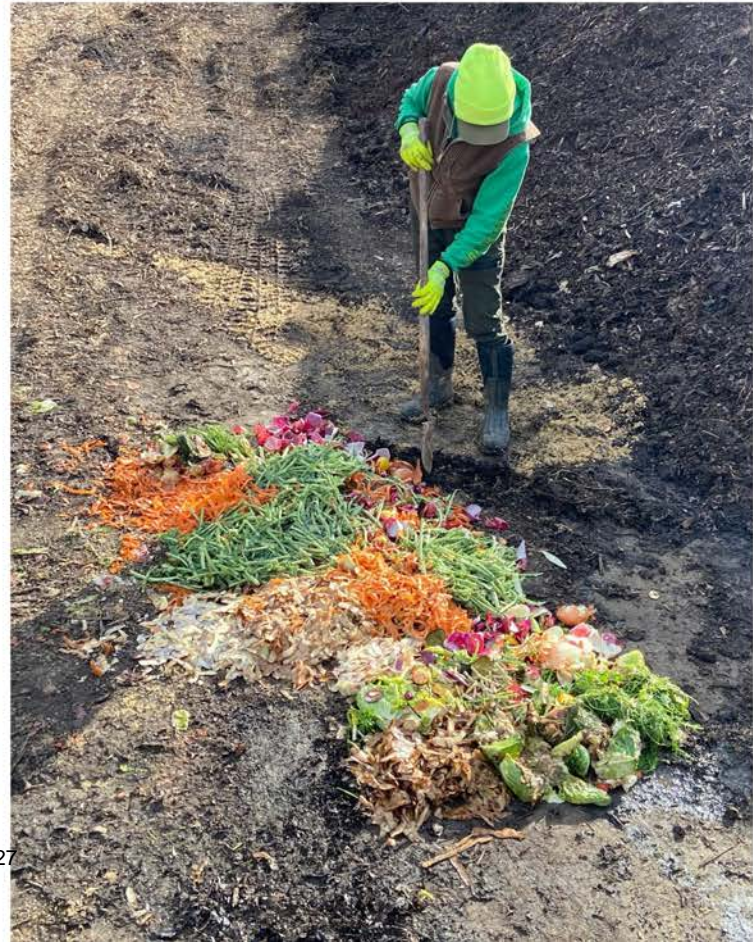
Marketing



Hauling



Auditing



CONTAMINATION!





More Auditing!



Making Compost



Making MORE Compost



Feeding Animals



Feeding People



Delivering



...to Schools



...to Nonprofits



...to Farms



The EarthKeepers



RESULTS



COHORT	Restaurant	Pilot Start Date	Pilot End Date	Organic waste diverted	Number of bins collected	Collection frequency	Average number of bins collected per pickup	Contamination Rate (% of bins containing contaminants)
1	Nicks	4/1/2022	9/30/2022	5811	73	Mon, Wed, Fri	1.2	3
	Osteria	4/1/2022	9/30/2022					
	Southern Stone	4/1/2022	9/30/2022	10605	124	Tues, Fri	3.5	18
	Convention Center	4/1/2022	9/30/2022	8624	108	Tues, Thur, Sun	4	8
2	FARMBloomington	5/1/2022	10/31/2022	11746	139	Tues, Fri, Sun	3.3	4
	BuffaLouie's	6/1/2022	10/31/2022	18206	348	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	6	31
	Soul Juice	6/1/2022	10/31/2022	4587	66	Mon, Wed, Fri	1.3	5
	Uptown Cafe	7/1/2022	11/30/2022	14822	150	Tues, Fri, Sun	4	6
3	Crazy Horse	9/1/2022	12/31/2022	294	15	Mon, Thur	1	13
	DaVinci's Pizza	9/1/2022	12/31/2022	3259	43	Mon, Wed, Fri	1.2	9
	Trojan Horse	9/1/2022	12/31/2022	0	0	Tues, Fri	0	0
	Juannita's	9/1/2022	12/31/2022	140	10	Tues, Fri	0.7	40
4	InBloom	9/16/2022	1/6/2023	561	18	Mon, Thur	1	6
	Cup & Kettle	9/16/2022	1/6/2023	236	32	Mon, Thur	1.5	0
	Baked!	9/16/2022	1/6/2023	400	15	Thur	1	7
	Pili's Party Taco	9/16/2022	1/6/2023	1720	42	Mon, Wed, Fri	1	12

	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4	TOTAL
Lb	25040	49361	3693	2917	81011
Tons	12.5	24.7	1.8	1.5	40.5
# bins	305	703	68	107	1183

			*This is equivalent to Greenhouse Gas Emissions from			*This is equivalent to carbon sequestered by	
Total Tons of Food-waste recovered	Tons of Methane (CH4) emissions reduced	Equivalent tons of CO2	Gallons of Gasoline consumed	Miles driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle	Home's electricity use for one year	Tree seedlings grown for 10 years	Acres of U.S. forests in one year
40.5	10.125	279	28,483	628,308	49.3	4,185	300

* Data calculated with the [EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#)

SUCCESSSES



Program Successes

- **Raised Awareness of Business-Case:**

Small business proprietors, foodservice entrepreneurs, and institutional kitchen administrators were provided with operations research that they could apply in their management, even if they didn't participate.

- **Elevated the Economic Development Case:**

Generated tangible Triple-Bottom-Line results for local foodservice sector savings, local labor wellbeing enhancement, and local farm & food-system support.

- **Consolidated Actionable Research:**

EarthKeepers' consulting work, like this report, help to consolidate cutting-edge research in foodservice political-economy, waste management, and behavioral psychology for the purpose of local application.

- **Initiated Recycling Partnerships with MCSWMD:**

Established multiple partnerships between project participants and the discounted commercial recycling services of MCSWMD's Green Business Network.

- **Trained & Educated Local Foodservice Labor Pool:**

Foodservice is a highly-mobile segment of the labor pool and this helped EarthKeepers recruit additional participants, through kitchenstaff connections to former employers or to eateries that they migrated into.

CHALLENGES



Program Challenges

- **COVID-Era Foodservice Economic Hardship:**
Foodservice was among the hardest-hit sectors, forcing a focus on immediate survival over aspirations.
- **Large Hospitality Groups Refused to Participate:**
Many local restaurants have been acquired by larger marketing groups, shifting their incentives.
- **General Reluctance: 47 Eligible Eateries Recruited | 16 Participated | 5 Stayed & Paid**
Recruitment time was enormous, with each eatery receiving multiple calls, emails, and in-person visits.
- **Persistent Foodservice Staff Shortage & Rotation:**
Staff turnover led to learning-loss and management strain broke-down the monitoring of contamination.
- **New Content - Culture Change must be Intentional:**
Many eateries don't recycle, so Operating Procedures were new and changing operational culture is slow.
- **Value-Action Gap - Behavioral Change must be Intentional:**
Research in Psychology and Organizational Science exists for application to waste behaviors (see Report).
- **CONTAMINATION - the Scourge of Recycling Systems:**
Contamination has damaged national recycling markets and cannot be allowed to ruin organics (see Report).

RECOMENDATIONS



Recommendations

- **Apply the Known Research:**

These are well-studied problems with potential solutions that must be contextually applied. This report is a round-up of leading industry research + consultancy the community already paid for (cf Kessler Report 2018).

- **Upstream Solutions (Waste REDUCTION) > Downstream Solutions (Waste DIVERSION):**

Business Case & Emissions Case rely on cost-savings & emissions-savings from REDUCING waste, rather than simply diverting waste through hauling. Public Education & Commercial Consulting are pivotal for reducing waste & preventing contamination. Hauling Subsidy distorts the Business Case & incentive for reducing waste.

- **Heed the Promises & Perils of Comparators:**

The City of Madison, WI and the campus of UW-Madison provide a model of mindful persistence after breaking a farm composting system and an anaerobic digester system (see Report; cf Kessler Report 2018).

- **Organics Recycling (Composting) is still Recycling:**

Problems plaguing conventional recycling systems can & will affect organic waste systems and must be directly addressed before they transfer. There is a moral hazard to externalizing our costs that must be addressed.

- **Climate Crisis requires Mindful Movement (Slow Down):**

“Move Fast and Break Things” has become more a truism than a tech motto. “Bigger is Better” has been equally perilous. Rushing and scaling are intuitively tempting when facing crisis but these urges have also gotten us into the problems we face and we can’t afford to break the remaining tools in our kit.

Recommendations

- **Think in Systems - Adapt to Known Risks:**

Hauling organic waste is a perilous thought-exercise in the absence of robust & redundant facility capacity. Haulers must be mindful of risks brought to facilities by contamination, otherwise hauling is imperilled. Facility throughput (management & marketing of end-products) must be considered, as well. They are linked systems.

- **Build Resilience - Distribute Risk by Growing Local Systems:**

Centralizing systems like waste management presents tempting cost-savings through scale efficiencies...However, single-point-of-failure systems have incredibly costly breakdowns, suggesting that critical infrastructure functions can benefit from redundancy: it increases some costs but avoids major risks. Multiple, local outlets for organic waste processing – farms & facilities – must be considered in tandem.

- **Ending Contamination: Behavioral Change > Technology Fixes**

Technological fixes to cultural problems can be a sometimes cynical mismatch. Democratic approaches to resilient problem-solving requires personal engagement & education among local leaders, local constituents, local owners, and local labor. It is slower to build a Culture of Compost but this is more adaptable

- **Collaborate - Our Democracy and Our Markets will Benefit:**

MCSWMD exists as a Special District specifically to encourage issue-specific local government collaboration. It's 5-Year Plan incorporates waste-specific elements of CoB Climate plans but Expands upon them by harnessing the needs and the resources of County government as well. Great venue to experiment with policy!



Sustainable Solutions for Organic Waste Management



End of an Era





MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE ON:

Ordinance 23-14 – To Amend Title 6 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Health and Sanitation" – Re: Updating and increasing fees for service and harmonizing Chapters 4 and 5 of Title 6 of the Bloomington Municipal Code

Synopsis

This ordinance makes several changes to Title 6 of the BMC to bring the Title in line with changed local practice, to increase service fees, to clarify references, and to harmonize current practices with the City Code.

Relevant Materials

- [Ordinance 23-14](#)
- Staff Memo from Adam Wason, Director of Public Works
- Strikethrough document showing proposed amendments to Title 6
- Sanitation Division 2023 Budget Memo provided in August 2022

Background

Public Works proposed adjustments to sanitation rates, among other changes to [Title 6](#) ("Health and Sanitation") of the Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC), in [Ordinance 23-11](#). That ordinance came forward to the Council for first reading on May 17, 2023, was considered in a committee of the whole meeting on June 7, 2023, and returned to the Council for second reading on June 14, 2023 with no committee recommendation. The ordinance failed by a vote of 3-5-0 on June 14, 2023. Council discussion of [Ordinance 23-11](#) is available at the following links: [June 7, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting](#) and [June 14, 2023 Regular Session](#).

Public Works is now bringing forward [Ordinance 23-14](#), which is almost identical to [Ordinance 23-11](#) with the exception of the proposed rate increases for sanitation fees. Instead of providing for a range of rates as is currently included in local code and was proposed in [Ordinance 23-11](#), [Ordinance 23-14](#) incorporates fee schedules that increase on an annual basis through 2029. This change, from rate ranges to an annual fee schedule, is being proposed by Public Works in response to council discussions of [Ordinance 23-11](#).

Summary

[Ordinance 23-14](#) amends Title 6 of the Bloomington Municipal Code to make several updates to [Chapter 6.04](#) of that title related to trash, recycling, and yard waste collection services, including the adjustment of fees for trash service. One change to [Chapter 6.05](#) is also included related to the hours during which commercial refuse collection should occur.



There are ten sections of the ordinance that make text changes to Title 6. The changes made by the ordinance, in brief, are listed below. All of the proposed changes are identical to what was proposed in [Ordinance 23-11](#), with the exception of the rate adjustments in Section 6.

Section 1 clarifies that solid waste must be bagged and that trash cart lids must be completely closed for collection to occur.

Section 2 clarifies that recyclable items must be placed loosely (not bagged) in the cart and that recycling cart lids must be completely closed for collection to occur. The section also adds language to state that recyclable items should not be mixed with solid waste items, which can lead to a fine under [BMC 6.04.100](#). Finally, this section addresses the list of recyclable items prepared by the Public Works Department and approved by the Board of Public Works by removing styrofoam and referring to plastic containers rather than plastic bottles.

Section 3 removes a provision that references fall [leaf collection services](#), which the Public Works Department has announced will be discontinued in the fall of 2023.

Section 4 clarifies that large items may be set out for collection for an additional cost and makes updates to how and when customers should request that service.

Section 5 states that items infested with vermin will not be collected, that items with waste must be “completely” rather than “adequately” sealed before being placed in a refuse cart, and that collection shall only occur between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. (currently 10:00 p.m.).

Section 6 includes adjustments to the service fees for disposal of solid waste. The current ranges for rates are based on cart size as follows:

- (i) Thirty-five gallon solid waste cart fee range: \$4.82—\$6.51.
- (ii) Sixty-four gallon solid waste cart fee range: \$8.60—\$11.61.
- (iii) Ninety-six gallon solid waste cart fee range: \$13.72—\$18.52.

The ordinance proposes to increase sanitation rates along a fee schedule instead of rate ranges that were subject to the determination of the board of public works. Fees will instead increase on an annual basis according to the fee schedule listed below. The proposed schedule of rate increases is as follows:



Thirty-five gallon solid waste cart fee schedule:

Year	Fee
Prior to January 1, 2024	\$6.51
Beginning January 1, 2024	\$8.75
Beginning January 1, 2025	\$9.80
Beginning January 1, 2026	\$10.85
Beginning January 1, 2027	\$11.90
Beginning January 1, 2028	\$12.95
Beginning January 1, 2029	\$14.00

Sixty-four gallon solid waste cart fee schedule:

Year	Fee
Prior to January 1, 2024	\$11.61
Beginning January 1, 2024	\$16.00
Beginning January 1, 2025	\$17.92
Beginning January 1, 2026	\$19.84
Beginning January 1, 2027	\$21.76
Beginning January 1, 2028	\$23.68
Beginning January 1, 2029	\$25.60

Ninety-six gallon solid waste cart fee schedule:

Year	Fee
Prior to January 1, 2024	\$18.52
Beginning January 1, 2024	\$24.00
Beginning January 1, 2025	\$26.88
Beginning January 1, 2026	\$29.76
Beginning January 1, 2027	\$32.64
Beginning January 1, 2028	\$35.52
Beginning January 1, 2029	\$38.40



Section 6 also includes adjustments to the service fees for additional pickup requests. Currently, the rates for large items and appliances are \$10.00 per item. The ordinance proposes to increase the rates to \$25.00 per large item pickup and \$35.00 per appliance pickup. This section additionally clarifies that residents are still responsible for the full rate of the pickup costs should they fail to place the items at curbside prior to collection time.

The increase in service fees would help cover increased expenses the City has seen to provide trash service. It would also reduce the amount of support out of the City's General Fund needed to provide trash service, which was mentioned as a goal for the Sanitation Division during the 2023 budget hearings conducted in August, 2022. The Sanitation Division's 2023 budget memo from last August is included in this packet for reference. This includes an organizational chart, a narrative memo with activity descriptions and goals, and expenditure sheets for both the Solid Waste Fund and General Fund showing actual expenditures (2019-2021) and budgeted expenditures (2022-2023).

Please note that state law ([IC 36-1-3-8](#)) requires that the City not impose a service charge or user fee greater than that reasonably related to reasonable and just rates and charges for services.

Section 7 adds language to specify the form a notice of violation (NOV) may take related to violations of BMC 6.04 – either a notice from a neighborhood compliance officer or a notice of non-collection left on the cart. It also expands on the NOV appeals process and relevant deadlines.

Section 8 clarifies that when carts and containers are removed from the street or sidewalk, they should be removed in a manner that ensures the public right-of-way is passable.

Section 9 includes a revision to specify that the capital items to be funded out of the non-reverting capital replacement fund are items of the sanitation division.

Section 10 updates the hours during which commercial refuse collection should occur so that collection ends at 9:00 p.m. instead of 10:00 p.m.

Note that Public Works has indicated it intends to propose decreasing the fee for exchanging sanitation carts from \$50 to \$25 through the board of public works. Costs for the replacement of carts for other reasons are set forth in the rate structure set by the board of public works.

For more information on the rate models used by Public Works and the gradual reduction of general fund support to Sanitation, please consult Adam Wason's staff memo.



City of Bloomington Indiana

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Note: Both state law and the Council's [electronic meeting policy](#) provide that councilmembers may not participate in a meeting electronically if the Council is attempting to take final action to establish or increase a fee or penalty. When this ordinance appears on a meeting agenda for possible adoption, members should plan to attend the meeting in person.

Contact

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ORDINANCE 23-14

TO AMEND TITLE 6 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "HEALTH AND SANITATION"- Re: Updating and increasing fees for service and harmonizing Chapters 4 and 5 of Title 6 of the Bloomington Municipal Code

WHEREAS, a review of Title 6 of the Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC), Chapter 6.04, entitled "Solid Waste, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection by the City" and Chapter 6.05, entitled "Commercial Refuse Hauling and Collection," indicates that there are several sections that require maintenance, and a review of such has determined that multiple sections should be updated and amended; and

WHEREAS, changes to local practice warrant an update to Title 6 to reflect current and best practices; and

WHEREAS, increased operational costs warrant an adjustment to service fees and fines;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 6.04.030, entitled "Solid waste collection" shall be amended as follows:

Subsection (e) shall be amended by adding the words "be bagged and" in the first sentence and "In order for a cart to be considered closed, its lid must be completely flush with the container so that there is no gap between the lid and the container. A cart that is over-filled with solid waste such that its lid does not rest flush with the container is not considered closed" as a third and fourth sentence" so that the subsection reads as follows:

(e) All solid waste, before being placed in said carts, shall be bagged and have drained from it all liquids. Solid waste must be free of vermin and pests, and said cart must be closed and facing the street for collection. In order for a cart to be considered closed, its lid must be completely flush with the container so that there is no gap between the lid and the container. A cart that is over-filled with solid waste such that its lid does not rest flush with the container is not considered closed. Carts not placed appropriately at the curb or without lids closed will not be collected.

SECTION 2. Section 6.04.040, entitled "Recycling collection," shall be amended as follows:

Subsection (a) shall be amended such that the first and second sentences will be the new subsection (a), the third sentence will be the new subsection (b), and the fourth and subsequent sentences will be the new subsection (c). The original subsection (b) will become the new subsection (d).

The new subsection (b) shall be amended by adding the words "loosely, and not bagged" in the first sentence and "Solid waste items should never be placed in recycling carts. Failure to comply with these provisions will result in non-collection of the recycling container and the owner or occupant of the premises will be subjected to fines in accordance with Section 6.04.100" as the second and third sentences so that the new subsection reads as follows:

(b) Recyclable items must be placed loosely, and not bagged, into the recycling cart provided by the City of Bloomington. Solid waste items should never be placed in recycling carts. Failure to comply with these provisions will result in non-collection of the recycling container and the owner or occupant of the premises will be subjected to fines in accordance with Section 6.04.100.

The new subsection (c) shall be amended by inserting "In order for a cart to be considered closed, its lid must be completely flush with the container so that there is no gap between the lid and the container. A cart that is over-filled with recycling such that its lid does not rest flush with the container is not considered closed" as third and fourth sentences so that the new subsection reads as follows:

(c) Residents shall choose a cart they deem appropriate for their needs from the following sizes: sixty-four gallon, or ninety-six gallon. The lid must be closed with the cart facing the street for collection to occur. In order for a cart to be considered closed, its lid must be completely flush with the container so that there is no gap between the lid and the container. A cart that is over-filled with recycling such that its lid does not rest flush with the container is not considered closed. Carts not placed appropriately at the curb or without the lids closed will not be collected.

The new subsection (d) shall be amended by deleting the word “Styrofoam” and replacing the word “bottles” with the word “containers” in the first sentence.

SECTION 3. Section 6.04.050, entitled “Yard waste collection,” shall be amended to delete subsection (c) in its entirety.

SECTION 4. Section 6.04.060, entitled “Large item collection,” shall be amended to add the words “for an additional cost, as stated in Section 6.04.090” at the end of the first sentence, to replace the word “call” with the word “contact” and the words “by 8:00 p.m. on the” with the words “during operating hours Monday through Thursday at least one business” in the third sentence, and delete the last sentence in its entirety so that the section reads as follows:

Large items, other than appliances, may be placed on the curb on the customer’s assigned collection day for an additional cost as stated in Section 6.04.090. The department of public works, upon approval by the board of public works, shall prepare and promulgate annually a list of what types of items are considered large items. For the purposes of route optimization, customers are required to contact the sanitation division during operating hours Monday through Thursday at least one business day prior to their assigned collection day to request large item collection.

SECTION 5. Section 6.04.080, entitled “General collection practices and guidelines,” shall be amended as follows:

Subsection (c)(1) shall be amended by adding the words “the” and “option” to the last sentence of the subsection so that the sentence reads as follows: “Any resident requesting to be an assisted stop shall contact the sanitation division to receive the necessary paperwork and instructions in order to be approved to receive the assisted service option.”

Subsection (c)(2) shall be amended by replacing the word “cars” with the word “vehicles” in the last sentence.

Insert a new subsection (e) to read as follows: “Items that are infested with vermin, including but not limited to bedbugs, cockroaches, or rodents, will not be collected.”

Subsection (e) is renamed subsection (f), subsection (f) is renamed subsection (g), subsection (g) is renamed subsection (h), subsection (h) is renamed subsection (i), subsection (i) is renamed subsection (j), and subsection (j) is renamed subsection (k).

The new subsection (h), entitled “Disposal of Diapers, Animal Feces, and Cat Litter” shall be amended by replacing the word “adequately” with the word “completely.”

The new subsection (j) shall be amended by replacing the time of “10:00 p.m.” with “9:00 p.m.”

SECTION 6. Section 6.04.090, entitled “Fees and billing,” shall be amended as follows:

Subsection (1) shall be amended by deleting the words “beginning the month following the commencement of automated collection services by the city sanitation division” at the end of the sentence.

Subsection (1)(A) shall be amended by deleting the word “ranges” in the first sentence and by deleting the second and third sentences in their entirety, such that the subsection reads as follows:

The following fee schedule will apply based on the solid waste cart size chosen by customers.

Subsections (1)(A)(i)-(iii) shall be deleted in their entirety and shall be replaced by adding the following:

Schedule of Service Fees for Disposal of Solid Waste

(i) Thirty-five gallon solid waste cart fee schedule:

Year	Fee
Prior to January 1, 2024	\$6.51
Beginning January 1, 2024	\$8.75
Beginning January 1, 2025	\$9.80
Beginning January 1, 2026	\$10.85
Beginning January 1, 2027	\$11.90
Beginning January 1, 2028	\$12.95
Beginning January 1, 2029	\$14.00

(ii) Sixty-four gallon solid waste cart fee schedule:

Year	Fee
Prior to January 1, 2024	\$11.61
Beginning January 1, 2024	\$16.00
Beginning January 1, 2025	\$17.92
Beginning January 1, 2026	\$19.84
Beginning January 1, 2027	\$21.76
Beginning January 1, 2028	\$23.68
Beginning January 1, 2029	\$25.60

(iii) Ninety-six gallon solid waste cart fee schedule:

Year	Fee
Prior to January 1, 2024	\$18.52
Beginning January 1, 2024	\$24.00
Beginning January 1, 2025	\$26.88
Beginning January 1, 2026	\$29.76
Beginning January 1, 2027	\$32.64
Beginning January 1, 2028	\$35.52
Beginning January 1, 2029	\$38.40

Subsection (2)(C) shall be amended by replacing “\$10.00” with “\$25.00.”

Subsection (2)(D) shall be amended by replacing “\$10.00” with “\$35.00.”

Subsection (2)(E) shall be amended by inserting “(4.30)” in the first sentence and adding “In the event a resident schedules an additional pick-up and fails to place the cart at the curbside prior to the collection time, said resident will still be charged the full rate for the additional pick up” as a second sentence so that the subsection reads as follows:

Additional pick up requests: one hundred twenty-five (125) percent of regular weekly solid waste charges based on four and three-tenths (4.30) weeks on average per month, per year. In the event a resident schedules an additional pick-up and fails to place the cart at the curbside prior to the collection time, said resident will still be charged the full rate for the additional pick up.

Subsection (3) shall be amended by inserting the word “the” in the first sentence so that it reads as follows: “The fees for solid waste collection and disposal services provided to single-family residential dwellings shall be billed directly to the customer of record with CBU.” The final sentence of subsection (3) shall remain in place and unaltered.

SECTION 7. Section 6.04.100, entitled “Enforcement procedures,” shall be amended as follows:

Subsection (a) shall be amended by adding “The NOV may be in the form of a citation from the neighborhood compliance officer or a notice of non-collection that is left on the cart by sanitation division staff” as the second sentence so that the subsection reads as follows:

(a) If the director of public works, sanitation division director, director of the housing and neighborhood development department, the assistant director, any neighborhood compliance officer, or any other designee of the directors (collectively referred to as “staff”) determines that there exists a violation of this chapter, that person shall issue a notice of violation (NOV) to the responsible party. The NOV may be in the form of a citation from the neighborhood compliance officer or a notice of non-collection that is left on the cart by sanitation division staff. For purposes of issuing an NOV, the following persons shall be considered responsible parties, with liability for fines and responsibility for remedy of the violation: persons with any possessory interest in the property; property owner(s); and/or any persons who have caused the violation.

Subsection (b)(7) shall be amended by adding “appealed to the board of public works within seven days of the date of the NOV” and deleting “contested in the county circuit courts” so that the subsection reads as follows: “That the fine may be appealed to the board of public works within seven days of the date of the NOV.”

Subsection (c), entitled “Schedule of Fines” shall be amended by replacing “\$15.00” with “25.00” in the first sentence.

Subsection (d) shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with “Any person issued a written NOV of this chapter shall pay the total amount of the penalty to the City of Bloomington within seven days of such notice, unless such notice is appealed in conformity with this chapter.”

A new subsection (e) shall be added and shall read as follows: “All appeals shall be filed to the board of public works within seven days of the day of the NOV.”

A new subsection (f) shall be added and shall read as follows: “All appeals from the written findings of the board of public works shall be made to courts of competent jurisdiction within sixty (60) days.”

A new subsection (g) shall be added and shall read as follows: “Upon failure to appeal an adverse finding or failure to comply with a written order or assessed penalty, the city legal department shall be empowered to take all appropriate action necessary to enforce the written findings of the enforcement officer or of the board of public works.”

SECTION 8. Section 6.04.110, entitled “Removal of solid waste and recycling carts and yard waste containers,” shall be amended by adding “to ensure the public right-of-way is passable” to the end of the second sentence.

SECTION 9. Section 6.04.130, entitled “Capital recovery fund,” shall be amended by inserting the words “items of the sanitation division” in the second sentence so that the sentence reads as follows: “This fund shall be established for the purpose of paying for the costs of capital equipment purchases necessary to replace capital items of the sanitation division on schedules outlined by industry standards.”

SECTION 10. Section 6.05.020, entitled “Collection practices,” shall be amended by replacing the words “five” and “ten” with the numbers “5:00” and “9:00” respectively, so that the section reads as follows: “Collection shall be made only during the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.”

SECTION 11. If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or application of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 12. This ordinance shall be in effect after its passage by the Common Council and approval of the Mayor, any required publication, and, as necessary, other promulgation in accordance with the law. The changes in this ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

SUE SGAMBELLURI, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk,
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This ordinance makes several changes to Title 6 of the BMC to bring the Title in line with changed local practice, to increase service fees, to clarify references, and to harmonize current practices with the City Code.



**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS •
SANITATION DIVISION**

**PROPOSAL TO
ADJUST SERVICE
FEES**

Memorandum

TO: Members of the City of Bloomington Common Council

FROM: Adam Wason, Director of Public Works
Rhea Carter, Sanitation Director
Michael Large, Special Projects and Operations Manager

Date: July 20, 2023

Re: City of Bloomington - Department of Public Works Sanitation Division
Ordinance 23-14 Updating Title 6 To Adjust Service Fees

Background

After discussion and consideration of Sanitation rate adjustments by the Common Council in June of 2023, the ordinance ultimately failed. In those discussions, it was noted that there was interest from the Council in considering a rate structure that did not have a higher per gallon charge for the larger cart sizes, and that the reduction of the general fund support to the Sanitation Division budget over a longer period of time may be preferred by a majority of Council members.

Rate Proposal

This proposal to adjust rates takes into consideration the points from those conversations, and attempts to produce a rate structure that also meets the revenue needs of the division in an ever changing solid waste management environment. The rates will not be set with a range for the Board of Public Works to set annual rates within. This proposal codifies the annual rate increases from 2024-2029, meaning that if market or operating conditions change beyond the projections and forecasting included in our model, we would need to come back to Council for any rate adjustments.

We are also proposing to reduce the cart exchange fee from \$50 to \$25. All other aspects of the ordinance previously discussed in June are still in place which includes increased rates for large item and appliance pickup, as well as for additional weekly pickups.

One clarification from previous discussions is that while we have roughly 13,500 accounts at any given time, the rate models are based on the number of revenue generating carts in circulation which hovers closer to 14,600. The point of clarification comes down to the fact that one address may have multiple units, and multiple carts that are on the same account. The models previously discussed in June, and currently under consideration in this proposal were based on the 14,600 cart numbers, but we were often discussing in the context of the number of accounts.

Below is the proposed fee structure that gradually reduces the general fund support to the Sanitation Division over a six year period from 2024-2029. The model reflects rates that take into consideration annual cost increases for the division at 3% per year. Additionally, this model takes into account monthly delinquency rates, as well as an anticipated shift of account holders continuing to choose the smaller cart sizes to reduce waste and household costs.

Constant cost per gallon across cart sizes		35 gallon	64 gallon	96 gallon	Total Annual Revenue
Year	GF Subsidy	Monthly Price	Monthly Price	Monthly Price	
2023	\$1,000,000	\$6.51	\$11.61	\$18.52	\$1,688,606.88
2024	\$1,000,000	\$8.75	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$2,272,824.00
2025	\$800,000	\$9.80	\$17.92	\$26.88	\$2,545,562.88
2026	\$600,000	\$10.85	\$19.84	\$29.76	\$2,818,301.76
2027	\$400,000	\$11.90	\$21.76	\$32.64	\$3,091,040.64
2028	\$200,000	\$12.95	\$23.68	\$35.52	\$3,363,779.52
2029	\$0	\$14.00	\$25.60	\$38.40	\$3,636,518.40

Amendments to Sections of Bloomington Municipal Code Title 6 (“Health and Sanitation”) proposed by Ordinance 23-14 shown in context (proposed additions are shown in **bold**, proposed deletions are show in ~~strikeout~~)

Section 1 of Ordinance 23-14

6.04.030 Solid waste collection.

- (a) Solid waste carts shall be provided by the City of Bloomington. Said carts shall be maintained in good and sanitary condition, with no ragged or sharp edges or any other defect that could hamper or injure the person collecting the contents thereof.
- (b) Solid waste will only be collected from the cart provided by the city on the customer's assigned collection day unless the owner or occupant arranges for an additional pickup on another day with the sanitation division in accordance with board of public works policies. Items outside of the cart will not be collected. Residents shall choose a cart they deem appropriate for their needs from the following sizes: thirty-five gallon, sixty-four gallon, or ninety-six gallon.
- (c) It will be the responsibility of the resident to notify the sanitation division should a cart become damaged and unusable. The cost of replacing a damaged cart not due to normal wear and tear may be the responsibility of the resident, subject to the discretion of the sanitation division director. The replacement cost will be set forth in the rate structure set by the board of public works.
- (d) Solid waste scattered by animals or weather shall be removed promptly by the owner or occupant of the premises or be subject to fines in Section 6.04.100.
- (e) All solid waste, before being placed in said carts, shall **be bagged and** have drained from it all liquids. Solid waste must be free of vermin and pests, and said cart lid must be closed and facing the street for collection. **In order for a cart to be considered closed, its lid must be completely flush with the container so that there is no gap between the lid and the container. A cart that is over-filled with solid waste such that its lid does not rest flush with the container is not considered closed.** Carts not placed appropriately at the curb or without the lids closed will not be collected.

Section 2 of Ordinance 23-14

6.04.040 Recycling collection.

- (a) Recycling collection is provided to recipients of solid waste collection. Collection occurs every week on the customer's assigned collection day.
- (b) Recyclable items must be placed **loosely, and not bagged**, into the recycling cart provided by the City of Bloomington. **Solid waste items should never be placed in recycling carts. Failure to comply with these provisions will result in non-collection of the recycling container and the owner or occupant of the premises will be subjected to fines in accordance with Section 6.04.100.**

- (c) Residents shall choose a cart they deem appropriate for their needs from the following sizes: sixty-four gallon, or ninety-six gallon. The lid must be closed with the cart facing the street for collection to occur. **In order for a cart to be considered closed, its lid must be completely flush with the container so that there is no gap between the lid and the container. A cart that is over-filled with recycling such that its lid does not rest flush with the container is not considered closed.** Carts not placed appropriately at the curb or without the lids closed will not be collected.
- (d)(b) The department of public works, upon approval by the board of public works, shall prepare and promulgate annually a list of what types of paper products, metal cans, glass containers, Styrofoam and plastic **containers** bottles are recyclable. The list may change from time to time as the recycling market adjusts to shifting demands and technologies. All paper products must be clean and dry. All metal cans, glass containers and plastic containers must be clean, rinsed out and with the lids removed.

Section 3 of Ordinance 23-14

6.04.050 Yard waste collection.

- (a) All grass, weeds, leaves and other similar yard and garden materials shall be placed in appropriate watertight thirty-five gallon or less container or two-ply biodegradable wet strength paper bag with each weighing less than forty pounds separate from solid waste and recycling and shall not be mixed with any other substances. Said container shall be maintained in good and sanitary condition, with no ragged or sharp edges or any other defect that could hamper or injure the person collecting the contents thereof. Yard waste will be collected weekly on the customer's assigned collection day.
- (b) Brush, tree trimmings, hedge clippings and similar materials shall be cut to a length not to exceed four feet and securely tied in bundles not more than two feet thick before being deposited for collection.
- ~~(c) During the free leaf collection period in the fall of each year, residents may obtain biodegradable two-ply wet strength paper bags from their choice of local retail establishments. Those bags may be filled with leaves only and placed out for collection on the customer's assigned collection day. The bags may not contain trash or other refuse. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected.~~

Section 4 of Ordinance 23-14

6.04.060 Large item collection.

Large items, other than appliances, may be placed at the curb on the customer's assigned collection day **for an additional cost as stated in Section 6.04.090.** The department of public works, upon approval by the board of public works, shall prepare and promulgate annually a list of what types of items are considered large items. For the purposes of route optimization, customers are required to **contact** ~~call~~ the sanitation division **during operating hours Monday through Thursday at least one business** ~~by 8:00 p.m. on the day prior to their assigned collection day to request large item collection.~~ **Items such as clothesline poles and swing sets must be broken down before being placed at the curb.**

Section 5 of Ordinance 23-14

6.04.080 General collection practices and guidelines.

- (a) Collection of solid waste, recycling, yard waste, large items and appliances shall be made at least once each week or more often as may be ordered by the board of public works. Collection schedules shall be established and published by the board.
- (b) Collection shall be made from all places of residence within the city limits except for the following:
 - (1) Buildings containing more than four residential units;
 - (2) Residences located above or in the same structure as a business or businesses;
 - (3) Residential units located on private streets.

However, collection may be provided to the above listed residences if specifically authorized in writing by the director of public works. Before authorizing such collection, the director of public works may require terms and conditions to protect the city and residents. The director of public works may revoke such authorization in writing at his or her discretion.

- (c) Collection shall be made from curbs or, where there are no curbs, the property line immediately adjacent to the public thoroughfare. In order to be collected, all carts, yard waste, and other items must be placed adjacent to the curbs, facing the street and suitable for automated collection.
 - (1) All residents except those approved for special assistance for a person with a disability, illness or infirmity shall place their solid waste and recycling carts and yard waste containers at curbside or at the edge of the street no later than 5:00 a.m. on the day of collection. Any resident requesting to be an assisted stop shall contact the sanitation division to receive the necessary paperwork and instructions in order to be approved to receive **the assisted service option.**
 - (2) The cart or container shall be placed in such a manner as not to interfere with overhead power lines or tree branches, parked cars, vehicular traffic, or in any other way that would constitute a public hazard or nuisance. Carts and containers are to be at least four feet from any tree, pole, mailbox, fire hydrant, etc., and at least ten feet away from any **vehicles cars** parked in the street.
 - (3) The cart is not to be painted, abused, mutilated, altered or modified in any manner.
- (d) Paints, stains and similar materials still in their liquid form shall not be placed in refuse carts or dumpsters and shall not be collected by the department of public works as a part of regular collection.
- (e) **Items that are infested with vermin, including but not limited to bedbugs, cockroaches, or rodents, will not be collected.**
- (f) ~~(e)~~ No person shall remove or attempt to remove materials from any refuse cart or dumpster belonging to another person or business. All materials placed in a refuse cart or dumpster shall be the property of the city.

- (g) ~~(f)~~ Highly flammable, combustible, explosive or hazardous materials shall not be placed in refuse carts or dumpsters and shall not be collected by the department of public works as a part of regular collection. Such materials shall be disposed of as prescribed by state and local laws.
- (h) ~~(g)~~ Disposal of Diapers, Animal Feces, and Cat Litter. All diapers, animal feces, cat litter and similar wastes shall be placed in durable plastic bags **completely** ~~adequately~~ sealed before being placed in a refuse cart.
- (i) ~~(h)~~ Collection shall not be made from alleyways.
- (j) ~~(i)~~ Collection shall be made only between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and **9:00 p.m.** ~~10:00 p.m.~~
- (k) ~~(j)~~ It shall be a violation of this chapter for any unauthorized commercial enterprise to collect, obtain, possess, pick up or cause to be collected, obtained, possessed or picked up any refuse, solid waste, garbage or yard waste from places of residence on routes within the city limits that are served by the city sanitation division. Occasional removal of bulk trash associated with construction, moving, or seasonal cleaning does not require authorization other than for approval of placement of dumpsters within the right-of-way. The board of public works shall determine such authorization. Any and each such violation hereof from one or more locations shall constitute a separate and distinct violation of this chapter.

Section 6 of Ordinance 23-14

6.04.090 Fees and billing.

Service fees for the disposal of solid waste shall be prepared, billed and collected by the City of Bloomington Utilities Department (CBU) as agreed to by the utilities service board and the board of public works.

- (1) The service fees for all users shall be prepared and billed monthly in accordance with the established billing procedures of CBU ~~beginning the month following the commencement of automated collection services by the city sanitation division.~~
- (A) The following fee schedule ~~ranges~~ will apply based on the solid waste cart size chosen by customers. ~~The board of public works shall determine the final fee for each of the three solid waste cart sizes. At no time shall the individual cart size fees exceed the highest amount of the following ranges, without amendment of this chapter by the common council.~~
 - ~~(i) Thirty five gallon solid waste cart fee range: \$4.82 — \$6.51.~~
 - ~~(ii) Sixty four gallon solid waste cart fee range: \$8.60 — \$11.61.~~
 - ~~(iii) Ninety six gallon solid waste cart fee range: \$13.72 — \$18.52.~~

Schedule of Service Fees for Disposal of Solid Waste

(i) Thirty-five gallon solid waste cart fee schedule:

Year	Fee
Prior to January 1, 2024	\$6.51
Beginning January 1, 2024	\$8.75
Beginning January 1, 2025	\$9.80
Beginning January 1, 2026	\$10.85
Beginning January 1, 2027	\$11.90
Beginning January 1, 2028	\$12.95
Beginning January 1, 2029	\$14.00

(ii) Sixty-four gallon solid waste cart fee schedule:

Year	Fee
Prior to January 1, 2024	\$11.61
Beginning January 1, 2024	\$16.00
Beginning January 1, 2025	\$17.92
Beginning January 1, 2026	\$19.84
Beginning January 1, 2027	\$21.76
Beginning January 1, 2028	\$23.68
Beginning January 1, 2029	\$25.60

(iii) Ninety-six gallon solid waste cart fee schedule:

Year	Fee
Prior to January 1, 2024	\$18.52
Beginning January 1, 2024	\$24.00
Beginning January 1, 2025	\$26.88
Beginning January 1, 2026	\$29.76
Beginning January 1, 2027	\$32.64
Beginning January 1, 2028	\$35.52
Beginning January 1, 2029	\$38.40

(2) The monthly bill will also include service fees for the disposal of additionally requested solid waste carts, yard waste, large items, appliances, and additional pickup requests (including pickups requested due to not having carts properly placed for pickup by 5:00 a.m.). Additional fees will not be charged if the sanitation division changes the collection day due to inclement weather or holidays. The following fees will apply:

- (A) Additional carts will cost the full amount of the solid waste cart fee set forth in the fee schedule approved by the board of public works.
- (B) Yard waste: \$1.00 per approved container, bag or bundle.
- (C) Large items: ~~\$25.00~~ \$10.00 per approved large item.

- (D) Appliances: **\$35.00** ~~\$10.00~~ per approved appliance.
- (E) Additional pickup requests: one hundred twenty-five (125) percent of regular weekly solid waste charges based on four and three-tenths (**4.30**) weeks on average per month, per year. **In the event a resident schedules an additional pick-up and fails to place the cart at the curbside prior to the collection time, said resident will still be charged the full rate for the additional pick up.**
- (3) The fees for solid waste collection and disposal services provided to single-family residential dwellings shall be billed directly to **the** customer of record with CBU. In the event that the single-family residential dwelling of four units or fewer is not a current customer of CBU, or receives billings through a master meter, the customer shall receive a monthly bill for solid waste disposal services only.
- (4) Bills shall be paid in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by CBU and the board of public works.
- (5) Late fees of three percent of the unpaid balance will be assessed to any account holder that fails to pay the amount due within twenty days of billing. This is modeled from the late fee procedures used by CBU. Partial payments shall be allocated in accordance with the interdepartmental agreement between the City of Bloomington and CBU.
- (6) In the event a customer of the CBU requests to shut down the water meter to his/her residential premises, CBU shall also contemporaneously discontinue the billing of service fees for the collection performed at the residential premises in accordance with this chapter. In the event that service is discontinued, it is the responsibility of the account holder to notify the sanitation division for removal of the solid waste and recycling carts. If the account holder fails to do so, a replacement fee in accordance with the fee schedule approved by the board of public works will be applied to the account holder's final CBU bill.

Section 7 of Ordinance 23-14

6.04.100 Enforcement procedures.

- (a) If the director of public works, sanitation division director, director of the housing and neighborhood development department, the assistant director, any neighborhood compliance officer, or any other designee of the directors (collectively referred to as "staff") determines that there exists a violation of this chapter, that person shall issue a notice of violation (NOV) to the responsible party. **The NOV may be in the form of a citation from the neighborhood compliance officer or a notice of non-collection that is left on the cart by sanitation division staff.** For purposes of issuing an NOV, the following persons shall be considered responsible parties, with liability for fines and responsibility for remedy of the violation: persons with any possessory interest in the property; property owner(s); and/or any persons who have caused the violation.

Liability for fines shall not attach to nonpossessory property owner(s) for a period of seven days following issuance of the NOV, provided that the violation is remedied, or that the nonpossessory property owner(s) presents to HAND, within seven days after issuance of the NOV, a true and exact copy of any and all leases in effect during the time period covered by the NOV.

- (b) The NOV shall be in writing and shall be served on one or more of the responsible parties in one or more of the following manners: delivery in person; by first class mail; and/or by placement in a conspicuous place on the property where a violation occurs. The notice shall state:
 - (1) The location of the violation;
 - (2) The nature of the violation;
 - (3) The period of correction (if any);
 - (4) The fine assessed for the violation;
 - (5) Additional remedies the city may seek for violation;
 - (6) That the fine is to be paid at the city controller's office;
 - (7) That the fine may be **appealed to the board of public works within seven days of the date of the NOV** ~~contested in the county circuit courts.~~
- (c) Schedule of Fines. The fine for any violation of Section 6.04.110 shall be **\$25.00** ~~\$15.00~~. The fine for all other violations of this chapter shall be \$50.00. Nonpossessory property owners shall not be subject to fines for the seven-day period after issuance of the NOV, provided that the provisions outlined in subsection (a) of this section are met. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.
- (d) **Any person issued a written NOV of this chapter shall pay the total amount of the penalty to the City of Bloomington within seven days of such notice, unless such notice is appealed in conformity with this chapter.**

~~If the responsible party fails to remedy the violation cited in the NOV, the city legal department may bring suit in a court of competent jurisdiction to collect the accumulated fines, any other costs associated with remedy of the violation as are allowed by law, and obtain any other legal remedy available at law.~~
- (e) **All appeals shall be filed to the board of public works within seven days of the day of the NOV.**
- (f) **All appeals from the written findings of the board of public works shall be made to courts of competent jurisdiction within sixty (60) days.**
- (g) **Upon failure to appeal an adverse finding or failure to comply with a written order or assessed penalty, the city legal department shall be empowered to take all appropriate action necessary to enforce the written findings of the enforcement officer or of the board of public works.**

Section 8 of Ordinance 23-14

6.04.110 Removal of solid waste and recycling carts and yard waste containers.

Carts, containers and other articles to be picked up shall not be placed upon the street or sidewalk so as to be visible from the street more than twenty-four hours prior to the time when such solid waste, recycling or yard waste is to be collected. Carts and containers shall be removed from the street or sidewalk on the same day as the collection is made **to ensure the public right-of-way is passable.**

Section 9 of Ordinance 23-14

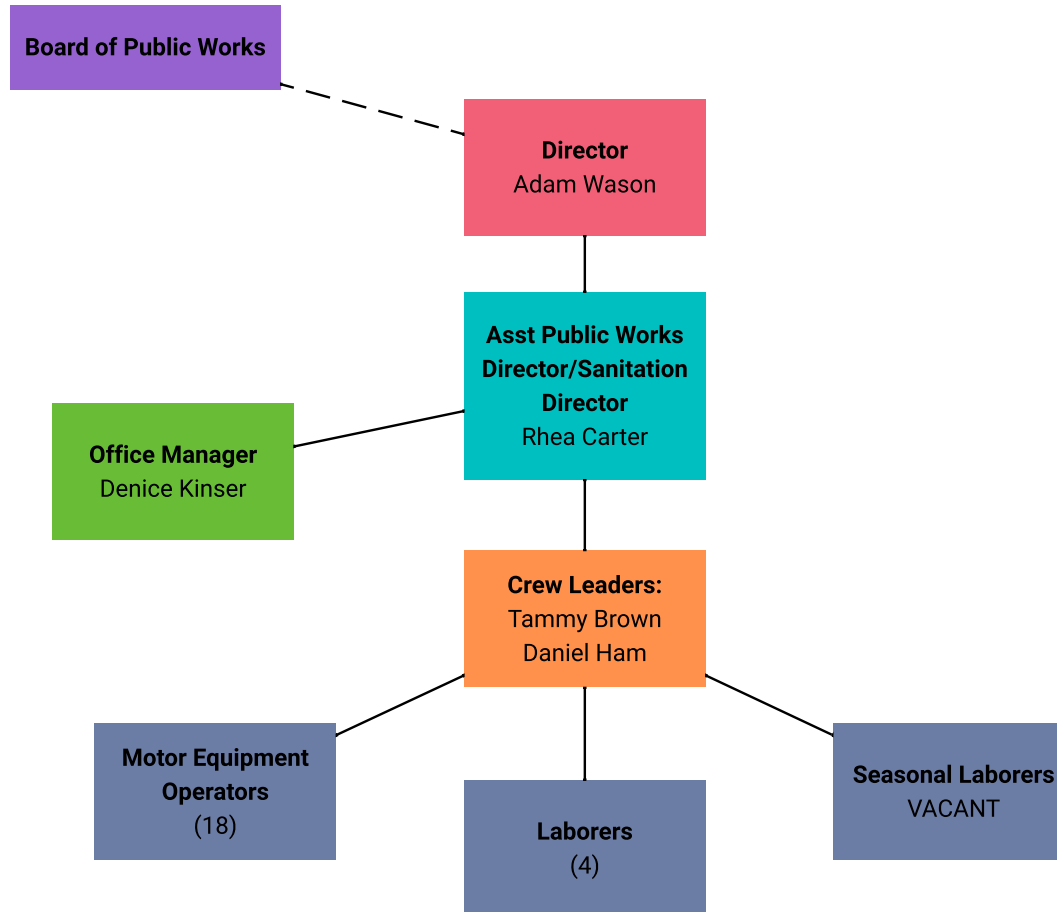
6.04.130 Capital recovery fund.

The revenue deposited into the non-reverting enterprise fund, which is intended for capital re-placement of vehicles, equipment and other capital related expenses, shall be transferred by the controller into a non-reverting capital replacement fund. This fund shall be established for the purpose of paying for the costs of capital equipment purchases necessary to replace capital **items of the sanitation division** on schedules outlined by industry standards.

Section 10 of Ordinance 23-14

6.05.020 Collection practices.

Collection shall be made only during the hours of **5:00** ~~five~~ a.m. and **9:00** ~~ten~~ p.m.



Memorandum

TO: Members of the City of Bloomington Common Council

FROM: Rhea Carter, Assistant Public Works Director/Sanitation Director
Adam Wason, Director of Public Works

Date: August 25, 2022

Why We Exist

Sanitation is a division of the Department of Public Works responsible for providing weekly collection and disposal of household solid waste. It also promotes community sustainability through weekly curbside recycling pick-up and seasonal biweekly yard waste from residences inside the corporate City limits.

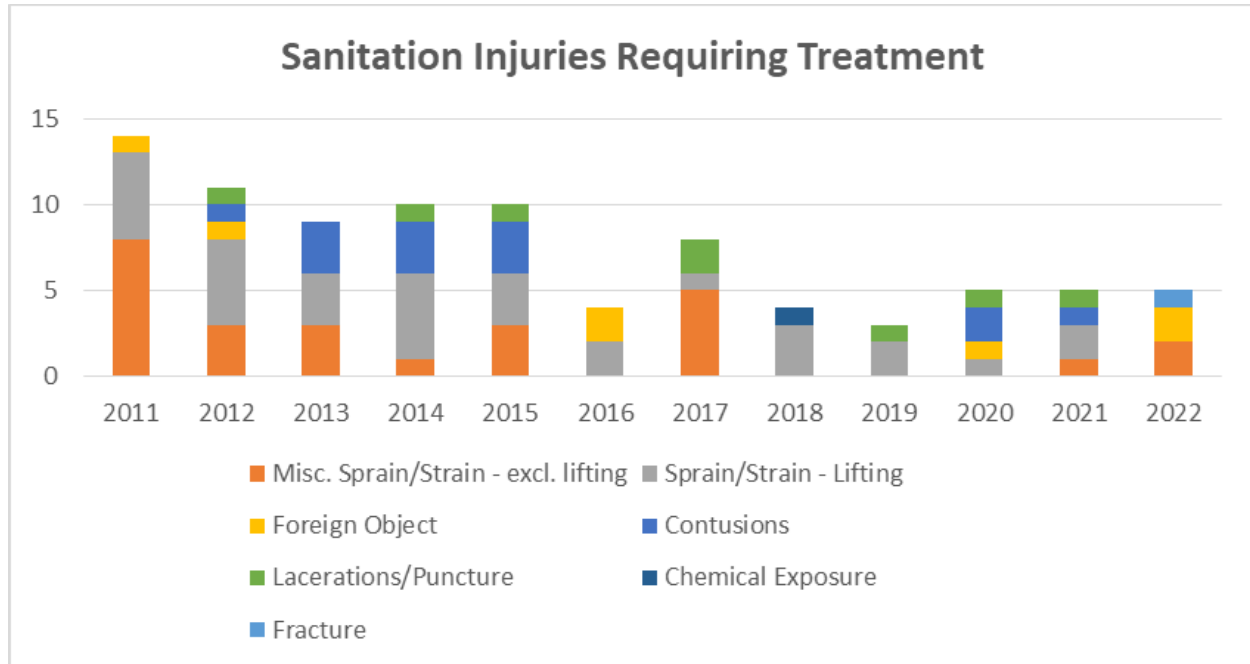
Sanitation also collects large items, such as furniture and appliances, from residences on a request basis. Additionally, Sanitation provides trash collection for City Hall, downtown containers, City parks, various City facilities and numerous special events in the community.

Background

The Sanitation Division has 24 full-time employees and 19 fleet vehicles. It serves an approximate population of 37,000 people in single-family homes, mobile homes and multi-family residential structures containing between 1 to 4 units, plus thousands more via containers that are located in City parks and throughout the downtown area.

Since the City modernized trash and recycling services in 2017, the Sanitation Division has experienced noticeable declines in employee injuries while on the job and related workers' compensation costs. Sanitation Division workers' compensation claims have dropped from over

\$125,000 in 2017 to approximately \$10,600 last year, and are at around \$10,100 so far in 2022. Additionally, the improved efficiencies of the modernized program continue to allow the Sanitation Division to keep an open FTE position unfilled for yet again in 2023, which helps to further reduce costs.



As an essential public health municipal function, Sanitation personnel have delivered critical trash, recycling and yard waste collection services throughout the entire COVID-19 pandemic. One major impact continued to be felt by Sanitation is the much higher than usual volume of both trash and recycling collection tonnages, as well as the associated landfill and materials collection costs, due to the large number of Bloomington residents still working from home either on a permanent or semi-regular basis.

2023 Budget Highlights

The Sanitation Division will continue to provide essential municipal services in 2023 through several new initiatives to increase efficiency, better utilize current resources and lower environmental impacts. Several areas to emphasize include the following initiatives:

- Begin a phased elimination of the City’s General Fund subsidy for sanitation services, which will come forward in a legislative package of rate changes to the council over the next few months
- Crews performing weekly preventative maintenance checks on all sanitation vehicles.
- Stressing the importance of “clean recycling” to the community.
- Providing targeted recycling information to the public via the ReCollect software system to prevent compromised recycling items from being sent to the landfill.

- Selling additional new yard waste containers using surplus containers as a means to further divert yard waste from entering the waste stream.
- Continuing educational outreach and information sharing efforts with community groups regarding City sanitation services.

Department of Public Works-Sanitation 2023 Budget Summary

Summary Budget Allocation	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	Change (\$)	Change (%)
100 - Personnel Services	1,639,504	1,683,484	1,677,768	1,865,368	1,915,269	49,900	2.7%
200 - Supplies	134,227	105,667	138,642	172,049	284,072	112,023	65.1%
300 - Other Services	812,655	896,258	942,877	2,577,865	2,605,577	27,712	1.1%
400 - Capital Outlays	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total	2,586,386	2,685,409	2,759,286	4,615,282	4,804,918	189,635	4.1%

2023 Activity Descriptions and Goals

Solid Waste Collection

Activity Description: Provide weekly collection and disposal of household trash. Collect large items and appliances from residences on a request basis.

Goals:

- Completely eliminate the City’s General Fund subsidy for sanitation services over the next 3 years.
- Utilize on-board vehicle software functionality in 2023 to document all noncompliance with sanitation collection requirements (overflowing carts, lids not being closed, trash not bagged, carts not placed at curb, etc.) and use this data to educate 100 residents to increase overall collection.
- Participate in at least 2 neighborhood large item and excess trash clean-up events sponsored through the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department by the end of Q3.
- Attend a minimum of 3 local homeowner and/or neighborhood association meetings in 2023.

City of Bloomington Solid Waste Collection Totals (tons)					
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	YTD 2022
5,683.14	6,771	7,195	8,061	8,261	4,139

City of Bloomington Number of Appliances & Large Items Collected *** <i>(No Data Available for 2017)</i>					
Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	YTD 2022
Appliances	307	309	441	319	189
Large Items	2,020	3,786	4,584	3,254	1,555

Solid Waste Collection Budget Allocation	2022 Budget \$	2023 Budget \$	Staffing (FTE)	Population Served
100 - Personnel Services	782,506	777,599	10.15	37,000 single-family homes, mobile homes and multi-family housing (1-4 units).
200 - Supplies	68,820	113,629		
300 - Other Services	476,424	533,894		
400 - Capital Outlays	0	0		
Total	1,327,749	1,425,122		

Fund: General, Other

Recycling Collection

Activity Description: Provide weekly curbside collection of recyclable materials.

Goals:

- Maintain the City's current 35% recycling diversion rate through the end of 2023 to exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recorded national diversion rate (EPA rate is set at 32%).
- Partner with at least one Indiana University class to research and promote clean recycling practices to college students in 2023.

City of Bloomington Recycling Collection Totals (tons)					
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	YTD 2022
2,939	3,415	3,155	3,882	3,630	1,279

Recycling Collection Budget Allocation	2022 Budget \$	2023 Budget \$	Staffing (FTE)	Population Served
100 - Personnel Services	719,273	746,955	9.75	37,000 single-family homes, mobile homes and multi-family housing (1-4 units).
200 - Supplies	68,820	113,629		
300 - Other Services	370,552	415,251		
400 - Capital Outlays	0	0		
Total	1,158,645	1,275,834		

Fund: General, Other

Yard Waste Collection

Activity Description: Provide biweekly curbside collection of yard waste. This collection keeps yard waste from entering the landfill and promotes sustainable and eco-friendly disposal practices in the community.

Goals:

- Complete yard waste collection service by December 31, 2023, with 800 tons or more of collected materials.
- Explore a partnership in 2023 with the Monroe County Solid Waste District to jointly purchase compost bins for sale to the community in order to reduce yard waste collection totals.
- Sell 100 additional yard waste carts to residents during 2023.

City of Bloomington Yard Waste Collection Totals (Truckload/Tonnage)					
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	YTD 2022*
950	830	650	640	700	230

* Starting in 2022, yard waste collection totals changed from truckloads to tonnage in order to better reflect existing trash and recycling collection metrics.

Yard Waste Collection Budget Allocation	2022 Budget \$	2023 Budget \$	Staffing (FTE)	Population Served
100 - Personnel Services	158,082	168,544	2.20	37,000 single-family homes, mobile homes and multi-family housing (1-4 units).
200 - Supplies	25,807	42,611		
300 - Other Services	158,808	177,965		
400 - Capital Outlays	0	0		
Total	342,697	389,119		

Fund: General, Other

Municipal Collection

Activity Description: Remove trash from approximately 225 total containers from downtown sidewalks, City Hall, police and fire stations, the Utilities Service Center, the Public Safety Training Center, City buildings and downtown municipal-owned parking lots, and at City parks and trailheads.

Goals:

- Annually replace 50% of can liners in downtown trash containers.

Municipal Collection Budget Allocation	2022 Budget \$	2023 Budget \$	Staffing (FTE)	Population Served
100 - Personnel Services	205,507	222,171	2.90	85,000 people.
200 - Supplies	8,602	14,204		
300 - Other Services	52,936	59,322		
400 - Capital Outlays	0	0		
Total	267,045	295,696		

Fund: General, Other

Total Departmental Budget by Fund

Category	General Fund	Solid Waste	Total
1	0	1,915,269	1,915,269
2		284,072	284,072
3	1,419,146	1,186,431	2,605,577
4		0	0
Total	1,419,146	3,385,772	4,804,918

2023 Budget Request Highlights

The Sanitation Division's general fund budget request is \$4,804,918, which is an increase of \$189,635.

Category 1 – Personnel request is \$1,915,269, which is an increase of \$49,900.

Category 2 – Supplies request is \$284,072, which is an increase of \$112,023. This increase is due to higher fuel and oil costs.

Category 3 – Other Services & Charges request is \$2,605,577, which is an increase of \$27,712. This increase is the result of rising annual landfill collection and recycling processing fees and a slight increase to the South Central Community Action Program's qualified household assistance program in 2023.

Category 4 – Capital Outlays request is \$0, no change from 2022.

Conclusion

As a division of the Department of Public Works, Sanitation will continue to provide curbside collection of trash, large items/appliances, recycling, and yard waste to all single-family residences that are within the City limits, plus continue to provide trash removal from parks, downtown containers, City Hall, a number of City facilities, and numerous special events in the community.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

	Account Number	Account Description	2019 Actual Amount	2020 Actual Amount	2021 Actual Amount	2022 Adopted Budget	2023 Council	\$ +/-	% +/-
Fund: 730 - Solid Waste (S6401)									
<u>Expenditures</u>									
Department: 16 - Sanitation									
Personnel Services									
	51110	Salaries and Wages - Regular	990,019	1,021,566	1,011,933	1,141,499	1,182,452	40,953	3.59%
	51120	Salaries and Wages - Temporary	4,142	21,478	29,836	30,000	30,000	-	0.00%
	51130	Salaries and Wages- Overtime	63,808	51,819	49,205	70,011	70,011	-	0.00%
	51210	FICA	75,771	78,691	79,262	94,975	98,108	3,133	3.30%
	51220	PERF	148,914	153,081	150,682	172,034	177,848	5,814	3.38%
	51230	Health and Life Insurance	356,850	356,850	356,850	356,850	337,350	(19,500)	-5.46%
	51320	Other Personal Services -DC Match	-	-	-	-	19,500	19,500	N/A
Total: Personnel Services			1,639,504	1,683,484	1,677,768	1,865,368	1,915,269	49,900	2.68%
Supplies									
	52110	Office Supplies	272	-	158	400	400	-	0.00%
	52210	Institutional Supplies	203	-	-	540	540	-	0.00%
	52230	Garage and Motor Supplies	100	-	154	350	350	-	0.00%
	52240	Fuel and Oil	118,390	96,793	119,255	139,349	251,372	112,023	80.39%
	52310	Building Materials and Supplies	1,371	-	-	2,500	2,500	-	0.00%
	52420	Other Supplies	13,027	8,874	17,425	21,850	21,850	-	0.00%
	52430	Uniforms and Tools	863	-	1,650	7,060	7,060	-	0.00%
Total: Supplies			134,227	105,667	138,642	172,049	284,072	112,023	65.11%
Other Services and Charges									
	53130	Medical	355	323	470	1,000	1,000	-	0.00%
	53140	Exterminator Services	370	1,845	1,625	2,000	2,000	-	0.00%
	53150	Communications Contract	12,518	6,828	7,478	13,150	13,150	-	0.00%
	53160	Instruction	350	-	-	500	500	-	0.00%
	53210	Telephone	6,040	5,616	5,995	17,600	17,600	-	0.00%
	53220	Postage	607	3,771	-	3,600	4,100	500	13.89%
	53230	Travel	181	-	-	300	300	-	0.00%
	53240	Freight / Other	271	535	1,734	3,000	3,000	-	0.00%
	53310	Printing	12,576	11,580	2,178	17,000	17,000	-	0.00%
	53410	Liability / Casualty Premiums	24,674	38,045	43,294	51,456	51,456	-	0.00%
	53420	Worker's Comp & Risk	49,952	49,651	49,651	49,651	49,651	-	0.00%
	53510	Electrical Services	2,170	2,654	3,446	5,350	5,350	-	0.00%
	53530	Water and Sewer	1,796	2,058	1,988	1,500	2,000	500	33.33%
	53540	Natural Gas	1,848	2,510	2,878	2,500	3,000	500	20.00%
	53610	Building Repairs	6,919	1,738	10,822	7,000	97,500	90,500	1292.86%
	53620	Motor Repairs	260,170	299,196	350,687	359,640	375,324	15,684	4.36%
	53640	Hardware and Software Maintenance	10,000	-	359	5,000	5,000	-	0.00%
	53650	Other Repairs	8,391	-	-	10,500	10,500	-	0.00%
	53910	Dues and Subscriptions	150	-	-	200	200	-	0.00%
	53920	Laundry and Other Sanitation Services	2,097	1,931	1,549	4,950	4,950	-	0.00%
	53950	Landfill	401,933	460,780	455,815	480,972	500,000	19,028	3.96%
	53990	Other Services and Charges	9,286	7,198	2,908	21,850	22,850	1,000	4.58%
Total: Other Services and Charges			812,655	896,258	942,877	1,058,719	1,186,431	127,712	12.06%
Expenditures Grand Total:			\$ 2,586,386	\$ 2,685,409	\$ 2,759,286	\$ 3,096,136	\$ 3,385,772	\$ 289,635	9.35%

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

	Account Number	Account Description	2019 Actual Amount	2020 Actual Amount	2021 Actual Amount	2022 Adopted Budget	2023 Council	\$ +/-	% +/-
Fund: 101 - General Fund (S0101)									
<u>Expenditures</u>									
Department: 16 - Sanitation									
Other Services and Charges									
	539010	Inter-Fund Transfers	985,625	1,009,620	978,492	1,519,146	1,419,146	(100,000)	-6.58%
Total: Other Services and Charges			985,625	1,009,620	978,492	1,519,146	1,419,146	(100,000)	-6.58%
Expenditures Grand Total:			\$ 985,625	\$ 1,009,620	\$ 978,492	\$ 1,519,146	\$ 1,419,146	\$ (100,000)	-6.58%



MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE ON:

Ordinance 22-15 – To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Administration and Personnel” - Re: Amending 2.76.040 Entitled “Boundaries” to Expand the Service Area of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation

Synopsis

This ordinance is sponsored by Councilmember Volan. It would authorize Bloomington Transit to expand services within the boundaries of Monroe County through appropriate interlocal agreement(s) that specify exact areas and funding mechanisms for those services.

Relevant Materials

- Ordinance 23-15
- Memo from Bloomington Transit Board of Directors to Common Council dated July 20, 2023
- Bloomington Transit Board of Directors Resolution 23-14
- Letter from Bloomington Transit Board of Directors to Mayor dated June 5, 2023
- Bloomington Transit Full System Map
- Selected pages from Transform BT – Strategic Plan for Bloomington Transit

Summary

Ordinance 23-15 would approve of Bloomington Transit expanding its services outside of the city limits to serve locations within Monroe County. Indiana Code [36-9-4-29.4](#) provides that a public transportation corporation may provide regularly scheduled passenger service or demand responsive service outside of the system’s operational boundaries if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The legislative body approves of any expansion of service outside the municipality's corporate boundaries.
- (2) The expanded service is reasonably required to do any of the following:
 - (A) Enhance employment opportunities in the new service area or the existing service area.
 - (B) Serve persons who are elderly, persons with a disability, or other persons who are in need of public transportation.
- (3) With certain exceptions, the expanded service does not extend beyond the boundary of the county in which the corporation is located.



On July 18, 2023, Bloomington Transit’s Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution (included in this packet) requesting that the Common Council consider extending the service area for Bloomington Transit throughout the county. The Board of Directors found that such an expansion of service would enhance education and employment opportunities and would also serve persons who are in need of public transportation, including the elderly and persons with a disability. The Board of Directors set forth additional reasons supporting a service area expansion in both a memo to the Council and a letter to Mayor Hamilton, both of which are included herein.

At its January 2023 meeting, Bloomington Transit’s Board of Directors approved of a strategic plan, ***Transform BT***, intended to guide decision-making of Bloomington Transit over the next 5-7 years. The full strategic plan is available at Bloomington Transit’s website: <https://bloomingtontransit.com/transformbt/>.

The strategic plan sets out various goals and related objectives that are relevant to this ordinance:

Goal 1: Serving customers

Objectives:

- Make service more dependable, convenient, and useful.
- Expand service area and work with partners to make our service more effective.

Goal 2: Innovation

Objective:

- Adopt innovative practices that make BPTC more efficient and effective.

Goal 5: Community and Equity

Objectives:

- Align service and fees with the needs of people who rely on transit.
- Support the region’s economic development.

The strategic plan also includes a number of initiatives, which are then supported by several strategies. Of note here is:

Initiative 1: Partnerships and Engagement

Strategy 1.1: Remove barriers to allow Bloomington Transit to provide service throughout Monroe County.

Bloomington Municipal Code [2.76.040](#) currently provides that the boundaries of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the city of Bloomington. Existing Bloomington Transit routes are shown on the Full System Map, which is included in this packet. Ordinance 23-15 would add the following new sentence to this section of code:



City of Bloomington Indiana

City Hall | 401 N. Morton St. | Post Office Box 100 | Bloomington, Indiana 47402

Office of the Common Council | (812) 349-3409 | Fax: (812) 349-3570 | email: council@bloomington.in.gov

Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-9-4-29.4, the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation is authorized to expand its services outside the city's corporate boundaries provided that the expanded services do not extend beyond the boundaries of the county of Monroe.

If a service area expansion is approved, Bloomington Transit's Board of Directors would still, under Indiana Code [36-9-4-35.1](#), determine all rates, routings, and hours and standards of service, subject to regulation by the state.

The ordinance recognizes and sets forth the expectation that an extension of services outside of city limits would need to be supported through funding sources other than city funds or tax revenues already generated from city residents. Funding arrangements would need to be determined through interlocal agreements between the relevant entities and Bloomington Transit's Board of Directors.

The ordinance sets forth an expectation that such agreements would address the specific areas of extended transit services and the funding mechanisms for those services, which should reflect the overall cost to city residents of funding the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation. Because of this, there is no anticipated impact to city revenues, expenditures, or debt obligations directly tied to the passage of this ordinance.

Contact

Councilmember Stephen Volan, volans@bloomington.in.gov, 812-349-3409

John Connell, General Manager of Bloomington Transit,
john.connell@bloomingtontransit.com, 812-3325688

ORDINANCE 23-15

**TO AMEND TITLE 2 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED
ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL” - Re: Amending 2.76.040 Entitled “Boundaries” to
Expand the Service Area of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation**

- WHEREAS, in 1982, the Bloomington Common Council (“Council”) adopted Ordinance 82-41, thereby creating the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation, specifying the number of directors for the corporation, and setting forth the boundaries of the corporation, all of which is codified in Bloomington Municipal Code (“BMC”) Chapter 2.76; and
- WHEREAS, BMC 2.76.040, entitled “Boundaries”, provides that the boundaries of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the city of Bloomington; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-9-4-35.1 states that the board of directors of a public transportation corporation may determine, among other things, the rates, routings, and hours and standards of service for the transportation system; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-9-4-29.4 provides that a public transportation corporation may provide regularly scheduled passenger service to specifically designated locations outside the system’s operational boundaries if certain conditions are met, including:
- (1) The legislative body of the municipality approves any expansion of the service outside the municipality's corporate boundaries.
 - (2) The expanded service is reasonably required to do any of the following:
 - (A) Enhance employment opportunities in the new service area or the existing service area.
 - (B) Serve persons who are elderly, persons with a disability, or other persons who are in need of public transportation.
 - (3) With certain exceptions, the expanded service does not extend beyond the boundary of the county in which the corporation is located; and
- WHEREAS, on July 18, 2023, the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation Board of Directors adopted its Resolution 23-14 to express support for the extension of Bloomington Transit services outside the city boundaries and extending throughout Monroe County; and
- WHEREAS, city and county residents would benefit if the public transportation services of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation were extended beyond the city limits of Bloomington, Indiana to the boundaries of Monroe County; and
- WHEREAS, such an extension of service would increase participation in public transit, would accordingly reduce demand for private car transportation and reduce the greater community's carbon footprint, would enhance employment opportunities in the new service area and existing service area, would serve persons who are in need of public transportation, including the elderly and persons with a disability, and would provide a blueprint for greater regional cooperation in public transit provision;
- WHEREAS, the Council expects that Bloomington Transit and the city administration will pursue any needed interlocal cooperation agreements with Monroe County or other entities necessary to finance the service expansion contemplated by Bloomington Transit; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Bloomington Common Council approves of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation expanding its services outside the corporate boundaries of the city of Bloomington provided that the expanded service does not extend beyond the boundary of Monroe County.

SECTION 2. Bloomington Municipal Code Section 2.76.040, entitled "Boundaries" shall be amended by inserting "Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-9-4-29.4, the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation is authorized to expand its services outside the city's corporate boundaries provided that the expanded services do not extend beyond the boundaries of the county of Monroe" as the last sentence so that the revised section reads as follows:

That the boundaries of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the city of Bloomington. A map showing such boundaries shall be prepared and certified by the transportation and traffic engineer and shall be available for public inspection in his or her office. Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-9-4-29.4, the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation is authorized to expand its services outside the city's corporate boundaries provided that the expanded services do not extend beyond the boundaries of the county of Monroe.

SECTION 3. Any expansion of services outside of the city limits shall be funded through sources of revenue other than city funds or tax revenues already paid by city residents to the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation, and any resulting interlocal agreements shall be equitable in relation to the level of support city residents already provide to the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation.

SECTION 4. If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

SUE SGAMBELLURI, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This ordinance is sponsored by Councilmember Volan. It would authorize Bloomington Transit to expand services within the boundaries of Monroe County through appropriate interlocal agreement(s) that specify exact areas and equitable funding mechanisms for those services.



Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation

130 West Grimes Lane, Bloomington, Indiana 47403
812.332.5688 Fax 812.332.3660



TO: Bloomington City Council
FROM: Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transit Corporation
DATE: July 20, 2023
RE: Transit Service Area Expansion

On July 18, 2023, the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transit Corporation (BPTC) unanimously passed Resolution 23-14, attached hereto, expressing the board's support for expanding the service area for Bloomington Transit.

The reasons the board strongly believes the service area expansion is necessary are listed below:

- Stakeholder meetings were held as part of the development of BPTC's Strategic Plan, *Transform BT*, in which we received significant community input that described the existing service area as inadequate to meet the mobility needs of our customers, employers and educational institutions. City residents voiced frustration of not being able to reach desired destinations outside city limits.
- Adopting a regional approach to public transit will better position BPTC to align with goals within the City of Bloomington's Climate Action Plan. BPTC could explore additional regional innovative mobility options and potentially leverage additional federal funding for climate reduction programs.
- The BPTC is poised to invest approximately \$450,000 of LIT funds to explore the feasibility of a high frequency east/west route. Significant amounts of the corridor identified for the study purposes include areas that BPTC cannot currently serve. The feasibility study could potentially recommend a bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor that includes areas outside the existing service area. Prior to committing funding for the study, the board believes it needs to have the legal capacity to potentially serve all areas within the study area corridor.
- The most recent Census Map has redefined the urbanized area which now includes areas which may be ripe for private developer funded transit services that BPTC cannot currently serve.
- The redefined urban area is used to calculate the federal formula funding levels for the BPTC. Accordingly, BPTC should have the ability to serve, at a minimum, the entire urbanized area which contributes to federal formula funding.
- In 2024, the revised urbanized area will prevent Rural Transit from providing services to existing customers in the new urban area. These individuals, many of whom are elderly or disabled, will be left without service in 2024. BPTC, is prepared to meet the needs of those individuals if adequate funding is made available. Negotiations for funding needs to begin now as 2024 budgets are being prepared.

In September of 2022, The City Council unanimously passed resolution 22-16, expressing support for expanding BPTC's service area. Furthermore, this council was instrumental in establishing a LIT funding commitment to enhance and strengthen public transit services. BPTC believes this Council, which has consistently demonstrated support and a visionary approach for transit service improvements, can begin the journey to "Transform BT" by approving service area expansion.

Thank you for your continued support of the BPTC.

RESOLUTION 23-14

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE EXTENSION OF
BLOOMINGTON TRANSIT SERVICES OUTSIDE THE CITY BOUNDARIES AND
EXTENDING THROUGHOUT MONROE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-9-4-35.1 states that the board of directors of a public transportation corporation may determine, among other things, the rates, routings, and hours and standards of service for the transportation system; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-9-4-29.4 provides a mechanism for the expansion of service outside the operational boundaries of a public transportation corporation; and

WHEREAS, city and county residents would benefit if the public transportation services of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation were extended beyond the city limits of Bloomington, Indiana to the boundaries of Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, such an extension of service would increase participation in public transit, would accordingly reduce demand for private car transportation and reduce the greater community's carbon footprint, would enhance employment opportunities in the new service area and existing service area, would serve persons who are in need of public transportation, including the elderly and persons with a disability, and would provide a blueprint for greater regional cooperation in public transit provision; and

WHEREAS, BPTC understands that an agreement would need to occur with Monroe County concerning the financing for the expansion of such services.

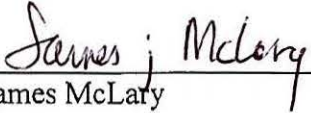
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BPTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation hereby endorses and requests the Bloomington Common Council consider through the introduction of an ordinance, extending the BPTC service area to match the boundary of the County of Monroe.

SECTION 2. Such expansion of service will enhance education and employment opportunities outside Bloomington city limits and within Monroe County. Such expansion would also serve persons who are in need of public transportation outside of Bloomington city limits but within Monroe County, including the elderly and persons with a disability.

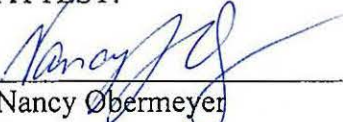
SECTION 3. It is understood that an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Monroe County and perhaps other interlocal agreements will be necessary in order to finance the service expansion contemplated by this Resolution.

APPROVE:



James McLary
Chair

ATTEST:



Nancy Obermeyer
Secretary

Distributed to: Clerk, Council, Legal, Mayor, Bloomington Transit, Planning & Transportation



Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation

130 West Grimes Lane, Bloomington, Indiana 47403

812.332.5688 Fax 812.332.3660



Mayor John Hamilton
401 N Morton St
Suite 210
Bloomington IN 47404

June 05, 2023

Dear Mayor Hamilton,

I am writing to inform you of the unanimous opinion of the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation (BPTC) the time has come for BPTC to expand its service area. The reasons the board strongly believes the service area expansion is necessary are listed below:

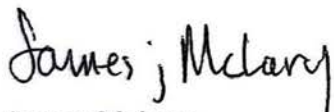
- Stakeholder meetings held as part of the development of BPTC's Strategic Plan, *Transform BT*, yielded community input identifying the existing service area as inadequate to meet the mobility needs of our customers, employers and educational institutions. City residents voiced frustration of not being able to reach desired destinations outside city limits.
- Adopting a regional approach to public transit will better position BPTC to align with the goals of the City of Bloomington's Climate Action Plan. BPTC could explore additional regional innovative mobility options and potentially leverage additional federal funding for climate reduction programs.
- The BPTC is poised to invest approximately \$450,000 of LIT funds to explore the feasibility of a high frequency east/west route. Significant areas of the corridor identified for the study purposes include areas that BPTC cannot currently serve. The feasibility study could potentially recommend a bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor that includes areas outside the existing service area. Prior to committing funding for the study, the board believes it would be prudent to have the legal capacity to potentially serve all areas within the study area corridor.
- The most recent Census Map has redefined the urbanized area which now includes areas which may be ripe for private developer funded transit service contracts that BPTC cannot currently undertake.
- The redefined urban area is used to calculate the federal formula funding levels for the BPTC. Accordingly, BPTC should have the ability to serve, at a minimum, the entire urbanized area used for federal formula funding calculations.

- In 2024, the revised urbanized will prevent Rural Transit from providing services to existing customers in the newly revised urban area. These customers, a majority of which are elderly or disabled, will be left without service in 2024. BPTC, is prepared to meet the needs of those individuals if adequate funding is made available. Negotiations for funding obligations need to begin now as 2024 budgets are being prepared.
- In September of 2022, The City Council unanimously passed resolution 22-16, expressing support for expanding BPTC's service area. BPTC believes it should capitalize on the existing political support for service area expansion.

The Board of Directors acknowledge any expansion of services outside the City limits may require financial support from partner agencies such as, other units of government, private developers, and or major employers. Accordingly, negotiating terms for financial support for expanded services outside the city will prove impossible for BPTC without first having the legal authority to actually operate the service.

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss the matter in greater detail with you and develop a plan for BPTC to move forward. Would you be willing to solicit a sponsor of an Ordinance reestablishing BPTC's service area throughout Monroe County for City Council's consideration?

Sincerely,



James McLary

Chair

Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation

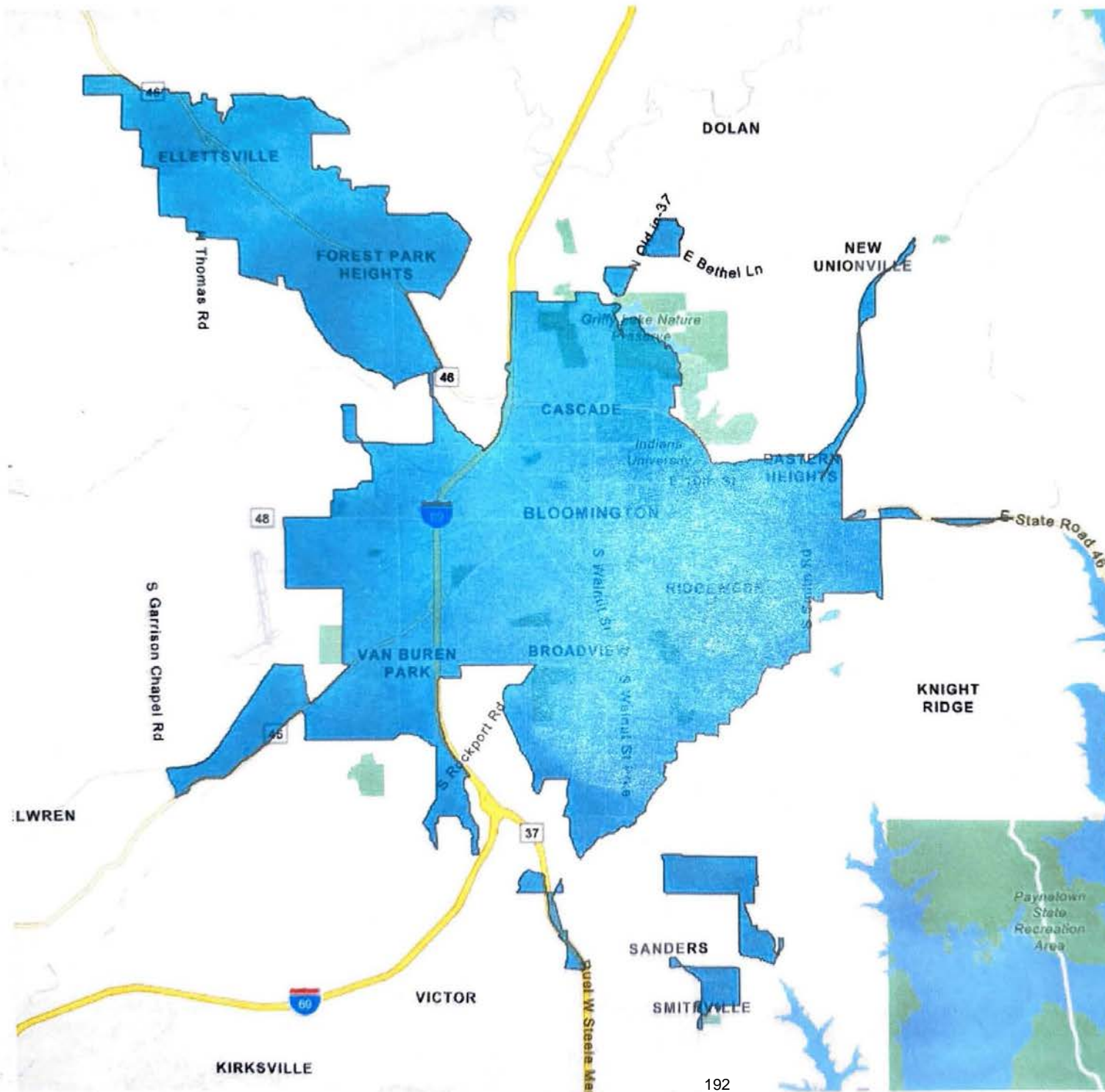
CC: Kent McDaniel

Doug Horn

Nancy Obermeyer

Marilyn Hartman

John Connell



Goals and Objectives

To realize our mission and vision, we set five overarching goals. Each goal is comprised of two or three objectives. Progress toward each objective can be measured by the key performance indicators presented in the [Performance Monitoring](#) section.



GOAL 1: SERVING CUSTOMERS

Attract and retain customers by providing safe, reliable, high-value, and convenient transportation services.

Objectives

- A. Make service more dependable, convenient, and useful.
- B. Expand service area and work with partners to make our service more effective.
- C. Improve the customer experience.



GOAL 2: INNOVATION

Continually innovate to promote mobility management solutions for the public.

Objectives

- A. Proactively pursue technologies to enhance the customer experience.
- B. Adopt innovative practices that make BPTC more efficient and effective.

GOAL 3: FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Operate in a responsible manner that maintains the organization's long-term financial strength and creates effective governance.

Objectives

- A. Use public resources responsibly.
- B. Maintain the long-term financial health of BPTC.
- C. Ensure long-term operational and organizational effectiveness.



GOAL 4: EMPLOYEES

Be an employer of choice by providing a career-based work environment based on a culture of respect, professional and personal growth, and integrity.

Objectives

- A. Invest in employees' well-being and advancement to retain employees
- B. Improve employees' day-to-day work experience
- C. Streamline and advance hiring, onboarding, and training processes



GOAL 5: COMMUNITY AND EQUITY

Contribute to the economic, social, and environmental vitality of the community by equitably providing service to all members of the community.

Objectives

- A. Align service and fees with the needs of people who rely on transit.
- B. Support the region's economic development.
- C. Reduce pollution resulting from BPTC operations.



These goal icons will appear below strategies which support each goal.

INITIATIVE 1:

Partnerships and Engagement

1

The strategies under this initiative relate to our relationships with partners including the City and County government and agencies, Indiana University, the Bloomington-Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and other entities whose activities are related to mobility.

STRATEGY 1.1

Remove barriers to allow BPTC to provide service throughout Monroe County

GOALS



While the City of Bloomington has grown and developed, our operations remain limited to within the City's boundary. The impact of this constraint is clear: customers, stakeholders, and various studies have repeatedly emphasized the importance providing access to educational institutions (e.g., Ivy Tech); job centers (e.g., Park 48); and shopping centers outside the City limits.

Expanding BPTC's service area would:

- ▶ Provide customers with access to these key destinations (Ivy Tech, Park 48) today.
- ▶ Service other key destinations where growth may occur in the future.
- ▶ Support increased operational integration with Rural Transit (which would be accompanied by a funding partnership per Tactic 1.1.3).
- ▶ Allow BPTC to develop an East-West Rapid Transit Corridor that meets the needs of our community ([Strategy 4.7](#)).

TACTIC 1

Review steps necessary for service expansion and dedicated funding implications

BPTC will work with partners to identify options for the legislative changes necessary to operate outside the City. Staff will identify any necessary changes to governance, cost allocation, and program operations. BPTC can implement service outside the City boundary in phases. Limited expansion can occur without a comprehensive cost-sharing agreement between the City and Monroe County.

TACTIC 2

Develop political and community support for expansion

We will support the legislative process by mobilizing our network of supportive partners. We will work with them to identify actions we can take to further this strategy.

TACTIC 3

Develop partnerships to negotiate and implement cost-sharing framework for expanded service

BPTC will explore opportunities for funding with partners like Monroe County, employers, and educational institutions whose residents, employees, and customers would benefit from service expansion. A stronger external partnership program would provide external stakeholders an opportunity to shape BPTC service and support the expansion of transit service for their constituents.

STRATEGY 4.7

Study and implement East-West Rapid Transit Corridor

GOALS



The \$3.8 million of local income tax funding allocated to BPTC in May 2022 included \$1.6 million for the creation of a new East-West Rapid Transit Corridor. Such a route could feature elements of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), including designated right-of-way along portions of the route and off-board fare payment. While the initial planning of the new route can begin immediately, it is important that BPTC have authorization to operate beyond the Bloomington City limits before proceeding with costly design and environmental review processes ([Strategy 1.1](#)).

TACTIC 1

Issue Feasibility RFP for BRT

BPTC will issue an RFP in early 2023 to begin exploring the potential costs and ridership of a new East-West transit corridor. The resulting study will help us determine what destinations to serve and provide initial cost estimates. The study's findings will be used to support efforts to authorize service outside the City ([Tactic 1.1.2](#)).

TACTIC 2

Design and environmental review for BRT

Before the East-West corridor can be implemented, we will complete design and engineering, as well as any necessary environmental reviews. As part of this step, BPTC will complete the necessary alternatives evaluation for the corridor, conduct public engagement, and initiate any necessary land procurement.

TACTIC 3

Final design and implementation of BRT

In addition to the construction of stations and protected guideways, BPTC will develop a service launch plan to ensure that the East-West Rapid Transit Corridor operates effectively from day one. BPTC will train operators on the new route and new procedures associated with any bus priority elements of the route. The agency will also create a name and brand for the new service, develop marketing materials, and update the agency's trip planning and bus tracking services.

