

Town of Boonsboro
Food Scrap & Soiled Paper Drop-off Pilot Program Proposal
(Compost Drop-Off Pilot Program: C-DROP)

This pilot project will establish – at minimal cost to the Town – a community food waste drop-off program for residents to divert food scraps. The waste will be turned into compost by a private composting enterprise, which will generate finished compost for the Town’s community garden as part of the company’s compost give-back initiative.

The program will give residents – who are unable to compost food scraps where they live – the opportunity to regularly compost at the community drop-off location. Educational materials, such as pamphlets, posters and news releases, will be produced to help citizens understand the importance of composting and how to participate in the drop-off program.

Members of the Boonsboro Environmental Commission plan to regularly monitor the site in the Community Center parking lot to help prevent the misuse of the bin(s) and to help inform users about compost procedures. Information regarding what items can and cannot be composted will be posted at the site, as well as sent to utility customers in Town newsletters and posted on social media.

Composting reduces harmful greenhouse gas emissions, including the CO₂ and methane (25 times more harmful than CO₂), by reducing reusable materials being buried in the county landfill and saving on landfill fees. And household trash cans won’t stink between weekly curbside pick-up days!

Logistics Overview:

- Cost as per Key City Compost’s quote for once-a-week pick-up of one 64-gallon bin (provided and labeled): \$220/month
- One bin is estimated to serve 25-35 families. If a second bin is deemed necessary, the price for pick-up will increase to \$330/month.
- Each week the bin will be exchanged for an empty, clean bin.
- The Boonsboro Environmental Commission will create signage regarding materials that can and can’t be composted through the pilot program and prepare educational materials for the Town newsletter and website.
- The recommended site for the compost collection is the area alongside the Shafer Park Community Center, near the Apple Valley recycling bins. This provides convenience for residents, park attendees, and anyone using the Community Center for events producing food waste. This site will also provide ease of pick-up for Key City Compost.
- The BEC budget can support this program for the first year, but should it prove successful, it is recommended that this become part of the sanitation budget.
- This program would qualify for the Town’s recertification in Sustainable Maryland Certified.

Attachments include: photographs from the compost collection area in Middletown, the proposed site in Boonsboro, the quote from Key City Compost, as well as sample educational materials.

5/26/2023