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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Ashley Overton, Sustainability Planner  
**Date:** September 6, 2022  
**Subject:** Discussion of a grant funded residential composting pilot project.

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**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

This item presents the opportunity for The City of Dunwoody and Sandy Springs to submit a joint application for a Georgia EPD waste reduction and recycling grant. The pilot program will provide residents with a free compost bin. Should the City Council express interest, the staff will proceed with the preparation of the grant application and submission by September 30th.

**DISCUSSION**

Food waste, also known as organic waste, equates to 12% percent (over 80,000 tons) of the solid waste sent to Georgia landfills each year, with 48% coming from the greater Atlanta area. The attached presentation slides provide details regarding an option to divert Dunwoody residential food waste from landfills and avoid additional production of methane gas and air pollution.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Presentation slides



*City of*  
**Dunwoody**  
*Georgia*

# Food Composting Grant Application

September 6, 2022

# Dunwoody Compost Program

**Overview:** Collaborative effort between the City of Dunwoody and Sandy Springs to provide opportunities for residential composting and education in the Perimeter Area.

**Funding Source:** Georgia EPD – Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant

**Project Cost Estimate:** \$15,000

**Project Term:** 2 years

## **Project Components:**

- Accessible and affordable options for composting
  - Compost Bins
- Composting 101 Education Workshop
- Regional partnerships
- Support of local community gardens

## **Project Partners:**

- City of Dunwoody, Community Development
- City of Sandy Springs
- Keep North Fulton Beautiful
- Keep DeKalb Beautiful
- Dunwoody Community Garden & Orchard
- University of Georgia Extension Office



# Project Timeline

<b>September 30, 2022</b>	Grant Applications Due
<b>December/January 2023</b>	Grants Awarded
<b>January 2023</b>	Project Planning
<b>February/March 2023</b>	Start Sustainability Speaker Series
<b>March 2023-2025</b>	Composting Program
<b>September 2023, March 2024, September 2024, March 2025</b>	Semi-Annual Check-Ins / Data Collection

# Organic/Compostable Waste

In the state of Georgia, food residuals make up **12% of landfill waste** per year.

- **151 pounds of food** per Georgia resident every year
- **1.6 billion pounds of trash** deposited into Georgia landfills
- **\$1.92 billion → \$1500 per household of food wasted per year**

Benefits of Composting:

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Promotes healthy soils
- Supports local and urban agriculture
- Reduces residents' exposure to air pollution, thus improving their quality of life

# Backyard Composting



## Free to Dunwoody residents

Number of Units	200
Average Price per Unit	\$50
Volume	80 gallons
Recycled Content	100%
Total Cost	Approx. \$10,000

# Total Project Cost

Description	Compost Bins	Total Project Cost (2 years)
Compost Bins	\$5,000	\$10,000
Education and Outreach, Storage	\$5,000	\$5,000
		<b>\$15,000</b>