



180143

MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Works & Environmental Concerns Committee

THROUGH: Carl S. Goldsmith, Director of Public Works *g*

FROM: David P. Gorman, PE, Asst. Director of Public Works *DPG*

SUBJECT: **Composting Program**

DATE: February 6, 2018

Many residents are practicing composting at their homes; however, some residents have recently expressed an interest in a curbside collection program as has been recently implemented in some other communities. This memo provides a history of the Village's actions and policies regarding composting and also an option for a curbside compost collection program.

Background:

The Village's Environmental Concerns Committee and the Board of Trustees passed the attached Compost Bin Reimbursement Grant Policy in 2009 with the explicit goals of reducing refuse hauling and to treat food scraps as a resource rather than a waste. This program was the first of its kind and its success is due to (a) providing residents the flexibility to obtain any bin of their choosing, (b) enabling residents to possibly reduce the size of their refuse toter from 64-gal to 35-gal and save approximately 20% on their refuse bill, (c) encouraging local business to stock compost bins (some even have copies of the grant application at the store), (d) limiting staff's time needed to administer the program, and (e) providing the benefit of compost for use in home gardens and landscaping. To date, the program has funded 198 bins.

In conjunction with the development of the Grant Program, the Village Board approved a Code amendment to §94.40 that allowed the composting of "biodegradable food waste" in addition to landscape waste in vermin-proof enclosures. Lombard's Code Enforcement Division has received no complaints with the increase in composting.

Yard waste and food residuals constitute 20-30% of the US waste stream, according to the USEPA. Contamination has been a problem in curbside recycling programs to obtain useful, marketable raw materials. Likewise, some level of contamination can also be expected in curbside composting. Items prohibited from normal composting include diseased/infested plants, fats/oils/grease, meat/bones and pet waste. Due to Staff's experience with recycling contamination (e.g. food residue, tempered glass, ceramics, light bulbs, plastic bags, pizza boxes), it is foreseen that curbside compost will occasionally need to be rejected/uncollected due to the hauler discovering unacceptable materials. Composting of pet waste is deemed a particular hazard to human food sources by the USEPA due to lack of sufficient reactionary heat to kill all parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses.

Curbside Collection Programs:

In the western suburbs, the following municipalities have started operating optional curbside compost collection programs for an added fee (64-gal toter size unless otherwise noted):

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Hauler</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>
Glen Ellyn	Republic	Apr-Nov Dec-Mar	weekly biweekly	\$12.27
Elmhurst	Republic	All year	weekly	\$17.50
Wheaton	Lakeshore Recycling	Apr-Dec Dec-Mar	weekly biweekly	\$11.24 (4 x \$2.81 sticker) (35-gal) \$5.62 (2 x \$2.81)
Naperville	Waste Management	All year	weekly	\$10.00 (\$111.89/yr toter* rental)
Oak Park		Apr-Nov	weekly	\$14.85
Schaumburg	Republic	All year	weekly	\$3.00** (\$36.00/yr toter* rental)

* for yard + other organic waste
** Village pays for basic disposal

Wheaton allows either a toter or a biodegradable bag. However, bags may be torn and contents scattered. Therefore, a toter with hinged lid is deemed preferred in the interest of public health.

Proposed Curbside Program:

The Village’s Solid Waste Contract provides that Waste Management is the sole franchised hauler for curbside collection of household refuse and recycling. Waste Management is willing to add a separate curbside compost collection program, as explained below. Such a program would be subscription-based, similar to the other municipal programs.

Under the proposed program, residents would call Waste Management at 800-796-9696 to add this service to the normal weekly refuse collection. For an annual cost of \$120 assessed each April 1st and prorated monthly through the following March if started later, residents would receive an additional grey 64-gal toter for organic waste, which may include grass clippings and leaves. The toter would be serviced without need of a sticker on the regular weekly collection day from the first week in April through the second week of December. The program could start as soon as the Summer of 2018, after the Contract is amended. The cost would be increased by the CPI each April 1st.

The contents would be mixed in with general yard waste and delivered to Waste Management’s transfer station and then to a compost facility. The resulting compost would be typically used for landscaping and farming. Residents would be responsible to clean the toter, including removing any adhered waste and also any unacceptable materials. Waste Management would report the tonnage to the Village quarterly, along with the amounts for the other waste streams.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the PW ECC vote to recommend a curbside compost collection program, as explained herein. If approved, Staff would then process an amendment to the Solid Waste Contract with Waste Management for approval by the Board of Trustees.

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
VILLAGE BOARD POLICY MEMORANDUM

Subject: **Compost Bin Grant Program**

Number: 09-02
Date: March 19, 2009

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Compost Bin Grant Program is to promote the on-site recycling of landscape waste and biodegradable food waste to reduce the volume collected from single family residential properties.

II. Procedures/Guidelines

- A. All owners of single family residences in the Village of Lombard are eligible for 100% reimbursement for one compost bin at a cost not to exceed \$80. All compost bins and their use shall comply with the Lombard Code of Ordinances, Title IX, Chapter 92 "Composting". As such, they shall be appropriately closed to vermin.
- B. Grant applications shall be submitted to the Department of Public Works along with a copy of the store receipt and a photo of the installed bin. Public Works shall evaluate the grant application and shall verify correct installation of the bin prior to approving the grant.
- C. Upon successful completion of the work and final inspection, the Village will reimburse the applicant per the Village's standard check mailing procedure.
- D. Reimbursement is on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the annual budget approved by the Village Board of Trustees.
- E. The compost bin shall be maintained by the property owner, not the Village of Lombard.
- F. The effective date of this policy is June 1, 2009.

III. Legislation/Documentation

Minutes of October 28, 2008 Environmental Concerns Committee meeting.
Minutes of the March 19, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting.

APPLICATION FORM

Part 1 -- GRANT REQUEST

Name: _____ Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

Address: _____ Lombard, IL 60148

I certify, under penalty of law for misrepresentation, that the attached receipt and photo(s) are for the compost bin installed at my property. (The Village may require an inspection prior to grant approval.)

Signature of Applicant _____/_____/_____
Date

Direct questions and return applications to the Public Works Department either by mail at 255 E. Wilson Avenue, Lombard, IL 60148, by fax at 630-620-5982 or by email at publicworks@villageoflombard.org.

Part 2 -- GRANT APPROVAL

Approved for reimbursement in the amount of \$ _____ for one compost bin installed in accordance with Board of Trustees Policy Memorandum 09-02.

Signature of Public Works Official _____/_____/_____
Date