



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date:
December 8, 2025

Submitted by:
Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator

Item Title: Information Memo | Composting Update | December 2025

Work Session Item [X]
Council Meeting Item [X]

Documentation Attached:
PowerPoint

Recommended Action:

This report provides a summary of the Composting Program that the Town has been implementing in Partnership with Edmonston, allowing us to meet Sustainable Maryland objectives. | **No formal action is needed - Information Only**

Item Summary: Edmonston's Collaborative Group is a food composting program that aims to sustain local food scrap processing beyond the grant period while minimizing costs for residents. The Town has been participating since 2024, and this memo is to keep the Council informed. We will continue to participate as part of the Town's Green initiatives.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Sustain food scrap composting in five towns initiated by a USDA grant.
- Minimize traffic and emissions by processing scraps locally.
- Provide valuable soil enrichment products to the Collaborative.
- Develop a financial model that benefits residents and the Compost Crew.

CURRENT PROGRAM

- Resident costs were funded by a USDA grant, which ended in November 2025.
- A minimum of 220 households is needed to maintain reasonable costs.
- The finished compost is used at ECO City Farms, with potential sales to residents.

CURRENT PARTICIPATION LEVELS

- A total of 151 households are participating across five towns.
- Participation: Edmonston (34), Cheverly (62), Cottage City (14), Bladensburg (27), Colmar Manor (14).

POST-GRANT PROGRAM

- The program needs at least 220 households for continued weekly collection and processing.
- Monthly cost per home would be \$34.40, higher due to local processing.
- Options available to reduce costs for residents.

TO REDUCE PROGRAM COST - OPTION #1

- Edmonston sells shipping containers to Compost Crew at depreciated prices.
- Containers purchased over 2-3 years via reduced monthly fees.
- Monthly rate could drop to \$27.28 (two years) or \$30.00 (three years).

TO REDUCE PROGRAM COST - OPTION #2

- Implement a partially-subsidized program with small resident fees.
- Example fees for residents (monthly): Alexandria (\$5), Falls Church (\$8), Greenbelt (\$10).
- Small fees may limit attrition; subsidies can vary by town.

The Town Administrator will be present to answer any questions on this matter.

Budgeted Item: Yes [X] No []
Budgeted Amount: 9,400 yearly if no subsidy
One-Time Cost:
Ongoing Cost:

Continued Date:

Council Priority: Yes [] No []

Approved Date: