



# City of Hartford \* County of Van Buren \* State of Michigan

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March 24, 2025

City of Hartford  
Nicol Brown  
19 W. Main Street  
Hartford, MI 49057

Dear Proposal Committee for “NextCycle Michigan Accelerator Track Program”:

The City of Hartford is pleased to support the proposal by the Van Buren Conservation District to the NextCycle Michigan Accelerator Track Program to continue the work of the Conservation District and our local municipalities and County officials. Our local municipalities rely on the conservation district for many of our recycling services and education. In our area, the local municipalities have little capacity to dedicate staff to recycling. The Van Buren Conservation District has been an asset to the county - working regionally to spearhead efforts and streamline our processes so we can efficiently provide recycling for our communities. The Van Buren Conservation District and their proposed project would assist in bringing materials management education and recycling opportunities to residents and would provide technical assistance for our municipalities.

The City of Hartford recognizes the financial, environmental, and social issues posed by materials management. Van Buren County has limited access and education around recycling. Providing the operational planning for recycling and organics will help our residents increase recycling rates and conserve our resources. As such, we are excited to partner with the Van Buren Conservation District to increase the education and services for recycling in our community.

Our commitment to this project will include:

- Assistance with education by providing recycling information at our office and at in person events.
- Assistance with education by sharing information on our website, Facebook, newsletters, or mailers.
- Engagement in the operational planning and organics infrastructure opportunity for our community.

We estimate that by accepting the Van Buren Conservation District Recycling Coordinator into the NextCycle Michigan Accelerator Track Program, it would help us divert tons of recyclable items from the landfills, conserving our natural resources for years to come and improving the circular economy in Southwest Michigan. We eagerly look forward to partnering with the Van Buren Conservation District. We have seen the benefits of their ability to create awareness, educate, manage, and help community members plan conservation-minded goals in helping to preserve our local ecosystems and surface water.

Sincerely,

Nicol Brown  
City Manager

19 West Main St \* Hartford \* MI \* 49057 \* 269-621-2477 \* 269-621-2054 fax  
[www.cityofhartfordmi.org](http://www.cityofhartfordmi.org)