

Novi Environmental Sustainability Committee

Composting Pilot Recommendation

March 23, 2026

Environmental Sustainability Committee Pillars



Pillar 1: Waste Minimization and Resource Efficiency

This pillar focuses on reducing waste, promoting recycling, and encouraging responsible resource use



Pillar 2: Clean Energy and Emission Reduction

This pillar emphasizes transitioning to clean energy, reducing greenhouse gases, and promoting energy efficiency.



Pillar 3: Sustainable Infrastructure and Natural Environment Preservation

This pillar is centered on sustainable building practices, maintaining biodiversity, and protecting natural resources.



Pillar 4: Community Engagement and Education

This pillar focuses on educating the community and fostering collaboration to promote sustainability

Composting Recommendation

The Novi Environmental Sustainability Committee recommends to City Council to support the funding of a composting initiative and invest up to \$10,000 into the startup and program cost. Novi is the recipient of a summer U of M fellow to support the success of this program. This initiative has potential costs savings, environmental benefits, and sets Novi as a continued community leader.



Service

- Help identify location
- 64 gallon waste carts
- Weekly pickup and compostable liners provided for each cart
- Minimal/ no staff effort needed





Cost

- No contract
- 4 bins at 2 locations = \$334/month
- Cart washing (optional/ seasonal) = \$60/month
- Total = \$4,488/year

Optional Add-ons

- 4-gallon buckets and liners for residents
- Compost soil



Local Examples

Royal Oak

- Farmers Market (14 bins)
- Positive feedback directly from residents
- Plans to expand



Ferndale

- 16 bins in different locations
- Estimates 10% participation

Farmington

- Farmers Market
- “It has become an engine for business growth”



Catalyst Leadership Circle Fellowship

- Novi awarded CLC Fellow to develop guide for cities to develop composting program
- Fellows are graduate students that apply through U of M
- Spend 40 hours/week for 10 weeks (June 8- August 14) on their project and related CLCF activities
- **Fellow Focus:** Monitor bins, records observations, public engagement, and develop a how-to guide for other cities to follow



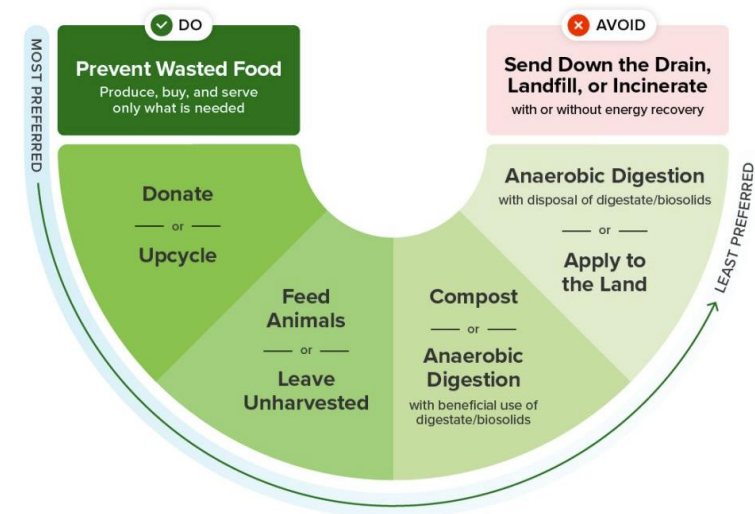
Resident Benefits

- Food waste priorities before composting are:
 - Reduce how much we buy
 - Donate/ Upcycle
- Composting helps residents see what they are throwing out and can help adjust how much residents buy
- We can identify additional ways to donate food and novel strategies like Too Good To Go



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



Environmental Benefits

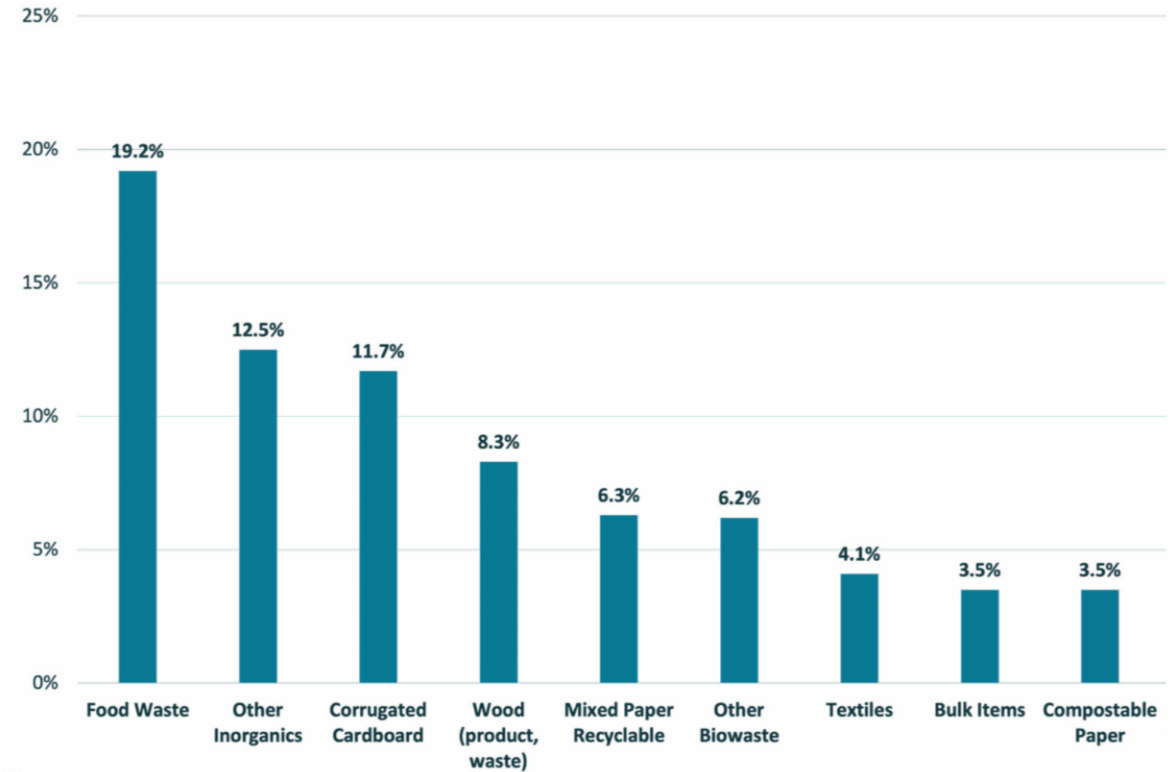
- 250 lb/ cart = 26 tons of food waste diverted from landfill each year.
- Diverting food waste from landfill reduces Greenhouse Gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide).
- Compost is able to be reused in a garden rather than taking up space in landfill.
- Novi is well positioned close to Wixom Spurt facility to minimize transit emissions.



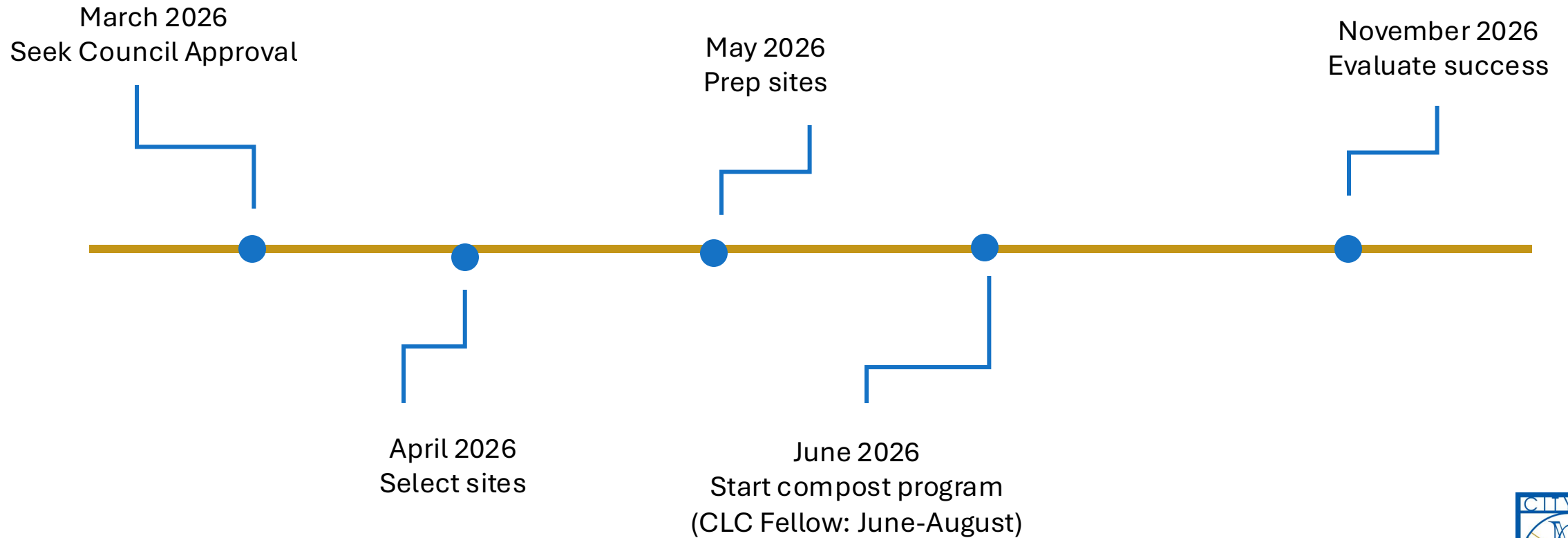
Community Leader

- Novi is gold-level certification with MI Green Community
- Michigan has a goal to reduce food waste 50% by 2030
- Food is most common solid waste
- Starting now helps us plan for future landfill coordination

Illustration 1.2: Michigan Municipal Solid Waste 2023



Potential Timeline



Proposed Outreach

- Outreach table at Novi events: Arbor Day, Novi Community Fest
- Talk about composting on Now You Novi podcast
- Share information through social media, website, Engage



Goals for Composting Success

After 4 weeks

- 1-1.5 full bins
- Minimal effort needed from City staff
- Fellow focus on communication and resident engagement

After 10 weeks

- 2-2.5 full bins weekly
- Evaluate program to assess interest and impact

After 6 months

- 3-4 bins full weekly



Questions?
