

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Resolution 241483 relative to the awarding of food waste recovery and composting mini-grants to community organizations as part of the Environmental Collaboration Office's FEED MKE Pilot Project.*

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

*The FEED MKE Pilot Project addresses the problem of food insecurity by focusing on food waste prevention and increase composting capacity with the following approaches: 1) conduct outreach and education initiatives to inform the public about how food waste impacts climate change; 2) provide funding through mini-grants to support capacity-building for community-based organizations and community composting sites; 3) foster relationship-building between gleaners and food pantries, food kitchens, emergency food banks, restaurants, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and neighborhood associations. This approach builds equity by including the recipients of support directly in the process of addressing the problem and creating solutions..*

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

*Food insecurity is reported at over 17% for Milwaukeeans, which is dramatically more significant than the 10%-12% seen elsewhere in the United States—but even those figures are too high. The majority of Milwaukeeans experiencing food insecurity are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Issues of hypersegregation in the City compound the lack of access to resources and language barriers within insulated communities - especially Hmong and Spanish speaking populations—further compromise the availability of meaningful support. These mini-grants will provide solutions that assist the City's most vulnerable. In addition, all communication materials are available in different languages.*

4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

*Mini-grant applications were available to all community members and organizations within the City of Milwaukee who had a proposal for feedings hungry people and keeping edible food out of landfills. The process of application included direct engagement with community members who serve our most vulnerable right within the communities in which they themselves live and work. ECO hosted grant workshops for all interested Milwaukeeans and more than 85 organizations and individuals attended the workshops. A total of 42 grant applications were received and were blind reviewed for efficacy and impact – with a total of 11 organizations being selected for funding; however, all interested organizations are receiving support from ECO and the FEED MKE Program.*

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

*The process will include monthly reports on impact connected to the key issues of recovering food to provide to our most hungry and most vulnerable, saving food (by weight) from going to landfills, and increasing composting efforts - further reducing organic waste, which has a negative impact on the ecosystem, impacting all. Food recovery efforts will focus on weight of food recovered, number of individuals and families fed, and percentage of increased access to fresh and healthy foods. Our data will be shared with food banks, food pantries, and related partners in the Milwaukee area who will collaborate with us in data-sharing and reporting over the life of the mini-grant and larger grant.*

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

*Historically, one of the largest issues impacting access to fresh, healthy food has been consistent availability. Food banks may run out of available food and large-store donations can sometimes yield as much as 40%-60% of produce that is only suitable for discard. The mini-grant recipients are being further supported by the the FEED MKE network – which offers educational programming, support with gleaning direct from growers and farms, and other networked opportunities including things like access to transportation and cold-storage for preservation of fresh and healthy foods. We continue to seek additional funding and support these efforts through supplemental programs and increased collaboration through reporting via the EPA and ReFED.*

Name: **Erick Shambarger**

Signature: **Erick Shambarger**

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Date: **1/27/2025**