



## CURBSIDE ORGANICS COLLECTION PILOT PROGRAM **TALKING POINTS**

### *MILWAUKEE, LET'S GROW SOMETHING TOGETHER!*

- Nearly half of the materials that end up in landfills can be composted. Collecting food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings at the curb will help keep valuable materials out of our landfills, reduce harmful greenhouse gases and help Milwaukee divert 40 percent of solid waste by 2020.
- Compost is the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material. Composting is a natural process that breaks down organic materials, like food scraps and yard trimmings, into an earthy, nutrient-rich, soil-like material. The pilot program will target specific neighborhoods on the city's East side and Bay View communities.
- A curbside organics collection service builds on the city's food waste reduction initiatives which have included: 1.) annual compost bin sales, 2.) promotion of backyard composting, 3.) promotion of the use of in-sink disposers and 4.) the "Clean Kitchen/Green Community" food waste reduction demonstration and study project. The City of Milwaukee's Department of Public Works remains committed to providing options to reduce the amount of food waste city residents send to landfills in an effort to create a sustainable community for everyone.
- Joining more than 150 cities in the United States offering some form of curbside organics collection, the City of Milwaukee is launching a Curbside Organics Collection Pilot Program to collect food scraps and yard waste from





local residents. Materials will be sent to a local composter, and recovered to be made into a resource – nutrient rich compost.

- Through this pilot, the city's objective is to gather reliable data that can provide much-needed insight regarding the efficiency of collection routes, determine if participants see value in the curbside organics collection service and educate residents about the importance of diverting waste from landfills.
- **Participating in the program is easy!**
- **Sign up** for the Curbside Organics Collection Program at [www.milwaukee.gov](http://www.milwaukee.gov) or by calling 414.XXX.XXXX. There is a monthly service fee for this program.
- **Receive** your Curbside Organics bin, a biobag kitchen caddy and a month's supply of compostable bags
- **Line your biobag** kitchen caddy with a compostable bag and when full, take to your curbside cart
- Place your bin out on your scheduled pick up day for collection
- This is a 12-month demonstration pilot tentatively planned to run from April 2016 through March 2017.
- Participants will be invoiced directly by the city of Milwaukee. Preliminary estimated cost is \$10 per household per month.

