

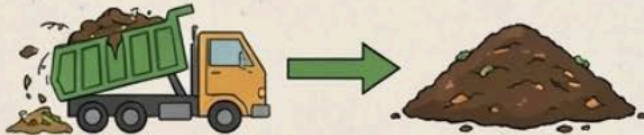
# ARTICLE 42: PROPOSED COMPOSTING RATE PAYER PLAN FOR CONCORD

## WHY COMPOST?

21% of the Massachusetts landfill content is food waste.



Food Waste produces most landfill GHG emissions as methane, which is 84 times more heat-trapping than CO<sub>2</sub>.



Composting organics is an opportunity to avoid greenhouse gas emissions and decrease landfill use.

## WHY NOW?



We have an existing goal of a 30% organics reduction in the waste stream by 2030.

At the state level, they are planning a 100% ban on commercial and residential solid food waste by 2030.



If Concord acts now, we can help local restaurants and businesses financially and support them in going green.

## WHAT IS A RATEPAYER SYSTEM?



Citizens can opt into the plan, just like recycling and trash, through the town website.

Essentially, we would be outsourcing the composting process but making it easier to access for the entire community.



We are asking the town to consider negotiating with composting company vendors so that the entire town has lower rates to pay

## BENEFITS OF A RATE PAYER SYSTEM



With ~670 households (out of ~6500) participating in Black Earth composting, Concord is already at the maximum density discount.



The next step would be for the town to negotiate a lower rate with Black Earth as sign-up benchmarks are generally \$10 off per six-month billing cycle, or currently, a 10% discount.



Reduced garbage and solid waste costs (tipping fees) will result from composting. Concord is charged Solid waste by the ton, while composting is not; there is one fixed rate.



Increased accessibility to composting to residents.



Current average household organic waste generation is 8lbs/week. Without composting, this is equivalent to creating 4,298 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

## WHO'S ALREADY DOING IT?



Bedford, Watertown, Arlington, Newton, Lexington, and many other surrounding towns already have composting programs available.

## WHO WOULD PAY FOR IMPLEMENTING IT?



The state has many grants available for the town to apply for.

MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) has awarded \$350K in grants to municipalities over the past 10 years to promote the past 10 years to start or expand upon their curbside collection programs. Bedford received enough grants to give 10\$ back to residents through utility credit.