

CITY OF BOSTON

IN CITY COUNCIL



ORDER OF CITY COUNCILORS MATT O'MALLEY AND AYANNA PRESSLEY

- WHEREAS:** Compost is rich in nutrients, improves the water-holding capacity of soil and encourages good root structure while reducing or eliminating the need for chemical pesticides making it a great material for use in gardens, landscaping and agriculture; and
- WHEREAS:** City-run curbside composting programs exist in over 90 cities in the United States, including Portland, OR, Seattle, WA, Boulder, CO and San Francisco, CA where it has existed since 1996; and
- WHEREAS:** San Francisco diverts 80 percent of its waste from landfills through composting and recycling. In its first year of curbside composting, Portland decreased trash production by 37 percent; and
- WHEREAS:** Cambridge conducted a feasibility study in the summer of 2012 and will begin a one-year curbside composting pilot program for about 800 households starting in April 2014; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston should explore the citywide use of recycling receptacles similar to those used on the Boston Common; and
- WHEREAS:** In Jamaica Plain, a local start-up called Bootstrap Composting that picks up food waste curbside, has 550 residential and 21 commercial customers, and is partnered with four farms. This service has diverted more than 240,000 pounds of food scraps from landfills for fertilizing fields since 2011; and
- WHEREAS:** Local colleges have embraced composting programs, with Boston University diverting 1,120 tons of compost from its waste and Harvard University planning to become “zero waste” by 2020 through increased composting among other initiatives; and
- WHEREAS:** The finished compost can be used for landscaping in Boston’s parks and gardens or could be sold to local farmers, creating a full circle of food returning to food for Boston residents; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** The Boston City Council, hereby assembled, orders a hearing on the feasibility of a curbside composting program in the City of Boston. Representatives from the Department of Public Works, Bootstrap Composting, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.