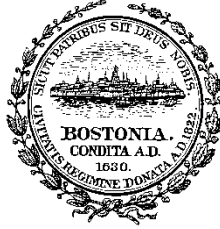


CITY OF BOSTON

IN CITY COUNCIL



ORDER OF CITY COUNCILOR MATT O'MALLEY

- 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:** The City Council's Environment, Sustainability and Parks Committee held a hearing in August 2018 during which the Mayor's Offices of Environment and Public Works, environmental advocates and other stakeholders offered public testimony on the status of curbside composting in Boston; and
- WHEREAS:** City-run curbside composting programs exist in over 100 cities in the United States, and
- WHEREAS:** San Francisco diverts more than 80 percent of its waste from landfills, or more than 1.5 million tons every year, through composting and recycling. In its first year of curbside composting, Portland, Oregon decreased trash production by 37 percent; and
- WHEREAS:** Since April 2018, the City of Cambridge began a citywide curbside compost program and there has been an 8% reduction of the City's trash tonnage; and
- WHEREAS:** A Jamaica Plain start-up called Bootstrap Composting serves every Boston neighborhood and has diverted more than 4 million pounds of organics from landfills for fertilizing fields at farms since 2011; and
- WHEREAS:** Local colleges have embraced composting programs, with Boston University diverting more than 1,000 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.

Filed in City Council: April 8, 2019