

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Sustainable Materials Management Round 2 Program

New Haven Office of Climate and Sustainability

July 22, 2025

Funding request: \$2,989,257

The New Haven Office of Climate and Sustainability is seeking authorization to apply for and accept funding to implement curbside co-collection of food scraps for all households served by City refuse and recycling collection. The City will utilize grant funds to launch a multi-year implementation and education campaign to shift residential trash collection to uniform collection bags. This effort will involve multi-faceted outreach including door-to-door canvassing, distributing sets of free bags to residents at the program launch and an ongoing basis for those in need, recruiting a wide network of vendors to sell bags, and ongoing education of residents on recycling, food scrap diversion, and the use of standardized bags.

Co-collection programs are most effective when residents utilize standardized bags. A co-collection program with standardized bags will maximize the investment the City is making using DEEP grant funds to construct a co-collection sorting facility at the transfer station, which the Board of Alders recently approved. By requiring collection in uniform bags, the program will enable food scrap collection, reduce litter and worker injuries, and increase recycling and source reduction. This will result in a cleaner and greener New Haven.