

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS authorizing the Mayor of the City of New Haven to apply for an accept the Sustainable Materials Management Round 2 grant from Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to implement curbside co-collection of food scraps using uniform collection bags, and to enter into associated agreements in order to accept grant funding and carry out the associated grant program activities.

Submitted by: Steven Winter, Executive Director, Office of Climate and Sustainability

REPORT: 1671-07

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

This resolution to the Board of Alders is requesting authorization for the Mayor to apply for and accept funding from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Materials Management Infrastructure Grant Program. Grant funds in the requested amount of \$2,989,257 will be used to implement curbside co-collection of food scraps for all households serviced by City refuse and recycling collection and launch a multi-year implementation and education campaign to shift residential trash collection to uniform collection 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.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to address Connecticut's waste disposal crisis. With the closure of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority in Hartford, Connecticut is sending about 860,000 tons (1.7 billion pounds) of trash out of state by truck and train. The majority of trash remains in state and is burned at aging incineration facilities. Aging infrastructure has resulted in increasing tipping fees for municipal solid waste crossing \$120 per ton – a 50% increase over the last 8 years. The public health and environmental impact of incinerating and transporting trash is significant. Food scraps make up 20-25% of the waste stream that is burned. Diverting food scraps from the waste stream can help mitigate the financial risk of rising tipping fees, improve air quality, and provide soil-building nutrients.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This order aligns with the goals of the Vision 2025 Comprehensive Plan from the standpoint of:

- Raising awareness among city residents regarding waste reduction and recycling strategies;
- Improving air quality;
- Encouraging connections between food processing and food production operations and local composting operations (or other waste minimization technologies) to reduce long-distance transport of food waste.

ADVICE

Approval. Authorization of this grant application aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan goals.

ADOPTED: September 17, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

ATTEST: _____
Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department