

# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

*Justin Elicker, Mayor*

## OFFICE OF CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

*165 Church St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

*New Haven, CT 06510*

*Phone: (475) 331-3769*

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers  
President, Board of Alders  
City of New Haven  
165 Church St  
New Haven, CT 06510

**RE: RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR AND 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**

Dear Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers,

The City of New Haven is requesting authorization to apply for and accept funding from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Materials Management Infrastructure Grant Program.

Connecticut is facing a 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. Incineration releases harmful pollutants – particulate matter, heavy metals, and dioxins. These toxins worsen asthma and respiratory illnesses and can increase the risk of cancer, reproductive and developmental issues.

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. One method of providing curbside food scrap collection without new collection routes is to co-collect food scraps in color coded bags along with trash. Residents would continue to put trash out on their current trash day but would separate their food scrap material into food scrap bags and each week place the food scrap bags inside their totes. The food scrap bags are then sorted and made into compost and biogas. The co-collection of food scraps with household trash avoids the financial and environmental impact of running additional dedicated food scrap collection routes.

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. 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.


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.

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.

We respectfully request your honorable Board's favorable action on the attached Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept funding through the Sustainable Materials Management Round 2 Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (475) 331-3769.

Respectfully submitted,

**DocuSigned by:**  
  
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Steven Winter

Executive Director