

# 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*

January 10<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 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FROM CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO CONSTRUCT A FOOD SCRAP DIVERSION SORTING FACILITY, 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 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 tipping fees for municipal solid waste crossing \$100 per ton.

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 worsens asthma and respiratory illnesses and can increase 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 New Haven Office of Climate and Sustainability is seeking authorization to apply for and accept funding to construct a food scrap diversion sorting facility at the New Haven transfer station. This facility would provide the physical infrastructure needed for the City of New Haven to pursue residential co-collection of food scraps and in the future provide capacity to support the co-collection of other material streams (e.g. textiles, hard to recycle electronics). The co-collection of food scraps with household trash and sorting at a central facility avoids the financial and environmental impact of running additional dedicated food scrap collection routes.

We respectfully request your honorable Board's favorable action on the attached Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept funding through the Materials Management Infrastructure 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Winter', written over a horizontal line.

Steven Winter

Executive Director