Food Scrap Drop-Off Bins Project
Virtual Information Session #1
Questions & Answers
May 5, 2025
5:45-6:45 p.m.

1. Do you accept avocado pits?
   A. Yes, avocado pits will be accepted in food scrap drop-off bins. This material will be hauled to the City's compost facility, where ALL food scraps are accepted.

2. Will the system accept CMA (compost manufacturing alliance) verified compostable bags?
   A. The drop-off bins will accept CMA-W (Compost Manufacturing Alliance-Windrow) certified bags only if they are made of fiber/paper. Plastic-like compostable bags, even if CMA-W certified, will not be accepted. Unlined Kraft paper bags will be accepted, and do not need to be CMA-W certified.

3. The first bin shown seems rather tall and may not be accessible to residents who are wheelchair users or short in stature. Have you considered asking the Commission on Disability Issues to provide feedback on accessibility and/or DNWML?
   A. Thank you for raising this important accessibility concern. While the first bin shown (an example from Washington, D.C.) may appear taller, all three examples are rather comparable in height, ranging from 41 to 50 inches. As bins are considered for this program, accessibility will be a key consideration in our decision-making process.

   We have already been in contact with the Disability Network Washtenaw Monroe Livingston (DNWML) and plan to continue engaging them throughout the project. We also plan to consult with the Commission on Disability Issues to ensure that drop-off bin features and placement reflect the needs of all community members.

4. How can you agree again to a location someone else already entered? [on the map activity on the project webpage]
   A. You can "upvote" a location by first clicking on the map pin. When the comment window pops up, look towards the bottom where it says "Do you like this suggestion? Give it a thumbs up", then click the thumbs-up icon to cast your vote.

5. Are special bags needed?
   A. No, special bags are not needed to use drop-off bins. Residents will be encouraged not to use any special bags, and to loosely dump their food scraps from a smaller

container. If a bag or some type of caddy liner is desired, we ask that you use an unlined, brown paper bag or make a liner from newspaper. No plastic-like compostable bags will be accepted.

6. What about holiday decor such as pumpkins, Xmas trees, hay, corn stalks, etc?
   A. We encourage residents to bring holiday decorations (pumpkins, Christmas trees, hay, etc.) to the City's Compost Facility (4170 Platt Rd.) for drop-off to be composted. The drop-off bins included in this project are specifically designed to collect kitchen food scraps, not large or bulky items, which can cause bins to overflow and prevent lids from closing properly.

   For more information, please visit www.a2gov.org/compost. The City also offers seasonal drop-off disposal location for Christmas trees, available for a limited time each year. Locations and dates may change annually, so please check the City's website (www.a2gov.org) in December for the most up-to-date information.

7. Can I put tea bags with staples in these bins?
   A. No, tea bags with staples should not be put in food scrap drop-off bins. The staples should either be removed beforehand, or the tea bag should be thrown in the trash. Please ensure that the tea bag is also free of plastic or other synthetic materials. Only tea bags made entirely of paper or natural fibers can be properly composted.

8. How frequently will bins be emptied?
   A. The bins will be emptied regularly—at least once or twice a week, depending on usage.

Food Scrap Drop-Off Bins Project
Virtual Information Session #2
Questions & Answers
May 9, 2025
6-7p.m.

1. How do you decide how many bins? Is it based on the number of housing units?
   A. The decision to start with 2 drop-off bins at 10 locations was based on several different factors, including the number and location of housing units, expected participation rates, typical household food waste generation, and the overall size and layout of the city. We hope that by strategically placing drop-off bins at 10 different locations, all multi-family residents will be no farther than a couple of miles from a bin.
   After the initial rollout, we will closely monitor the usage of bins and consider adjusting the number or locations to better meet the needs of our community.

2. I live in a small (59-unit condo complex) and we are not near a multi-family complex. Would you consider putting a bin in such a place?
   A. Because the food scrap drop-off bins are intended to be conveniently located for as many residents as possible, we would be more likely to place drop-off bins where there is a high density of multi-family housing, rather than at more isolated complexes. We hope that by strategically placing drop-off bins at 10 different locations, all multi-family residents will be no farther than a couple of miles from a bin.

3. Will you need to get approval from the complex manager for these?
   A. If a drop-off bin is planned to be located within a multi-family complex, approval from the property owner or manager would be required. However, we are aiming to locate bins in more communal, public locations that can better serve residents from several nearby properties, rather than individual complexes.

4. I thought the city already had a program like this. How does this differ from that one?
   A. While the City offers curbside compost collection to all single-family homes, many multi-family properties, especially larger ones, do not currently have curbside compost service. All Ann Arbor residents can drop off material directly at the City's Compost Facility (4170 Platt Rd), but we recognize having a single location for drop-

off offers limited convenience for many. Introducing food scrap drop-off bins across the city will offer all residents a more convenient option to participate in our composting program.

For any additional questions, please contact Mallory Lawson at MLawson@a2gov.org or 734.794.6350 ext. 43338.