



Food Matters Baltimore Financing and Funding Assessment

Proposals due: June 28, 2019 (selected consultant notified by July 5, 2019)

Final deliverables due: September 15, 2019

Budget: ~\$11k

Statement Of Work Phase I

Purpose:

The purpose of this analysis is to support the City of Baltimore and Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) Food Matters team in evaluating opportunities to leverage financing and/or funding strategies to support priority policies to recycle food scraps using small-, mid- and large-scale facilities in the City of Baltimore. The proposed project will provide the tools and research support needed to advance future food scrap recycling infrastructure developments and support food waste related opportunities in the City of Baltimore.

Background:

Often, cities can more nimbly develop policies and programs than state and federal governments. They typically have direct regulatory control over solid waste and many public health issues that dovetail with food waste. By reducing wasted food, cities can stabilize municipal waste management costs and meet climate and sustainability goals. By rescuing surplus foods, cities can address food gaps in local communities. And by recycling food scraps, cities can minimize what ends up in landfills.

NRDC's Food Matters initiative partners with cities to strive toward a 15 percent sector-wide reduction in food waste within five years through a comprehensive set of policies and programs.

In September 2018, Baltimore announced the City's partnership with NRDC and The Rockefeller Foundation ([see press release](#)) in conjunction with the release of [Baltimore's Food Waste and Recovery Strategy](#). The Strategy was produced by the Baltimore Office of Sustainability in coordination with the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. The Baltimore Food Waste & Recovery Strategy sets forth a path for Baltimore City to reduce the amount of food that is lost or discarded by residents and local businesses, boost food donation citywide, and expand community and commercial composting of food scraps. In addition, the City's 2019 Sustainability Plan calls for a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030.

An analysis of potential Food Scrap Recycling Policies / Initiatives that would require new financing or funding sources should include:

Evaluation of funding, financing, ownership and partnership opportunities for mid- and large-scale management of food scrap recycling with a stronger emphasis on mid-sized facilities.

For more information visit: <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/food-matters>

Or email: foodmatters@nrdc.org

Please email all proposals to foodmatters@nrdc.org



Identification of funding and financing of successful and/or innovative best practice programs for on-site, small-scale or community composting; include workforce development aspects

Working closely with the Baltimore Office of Sustainability to gather local data and information including a list of potential mid to large scale sites.

Mid to Large Scale:

Assess the cost of establishing and scaling composting operations on specific sites owned by the City. This should include a guide for the City that outlines the financing process and range of financing options for mid- to large-scale food scrap recycling infrastructure, such as a transfer station, composting facility, or an anaerobic digester.

This guide would address the following questions:

- What are the costs and revenue streams for mid- to large-scale food scrap recycling infrastructure investments based on a list of sites owned by the city?
- What financing and funding mechanisms can support greater city-level investment in food scrap recycling?
- As part of supporting Baltimore's interest in local composting sites, what types of funding streams and partnerships, including P3's, should be considered?
- What examples exist of the types of funders/ financiers in and near Baltimore that could support this investment?
- What barriers have prevented these types of facilities or investment from occurring already?
- What examples exist of cities, counties or other jurisdictions that have done something similar? E.g., how can we learn from how Prince George's County and Montgomery County started and scaled their compost facilities?

Smaller Scale:

Consider efficacy and potential of providing funding and technical assistance for onsite/self-managed, self-sustaining, small-scale or community composting. What would be the scale of funding needed for this?

While composting can occur in a mid- or large-scale, more centralized manner, it also can happen locally onsite at schools and other community locations at a smaller scale. In providing startup costs and/or technical assistance, cities can help individual locations manage their own food scraps (and/or scraps from the nearby community) without the need for larger-scale haulers or processors. In some cases, once on-site, self-managed, or other small-scale organics recycling projects have begun, they can become financially self-sustaining (e.g. King County, WA). [Source: [Food Matters Program and Policy Toolkit](#)]

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Proposal guidance:

This SOW covers an initial phase of assessment. We invite interested parties to submit proposals / letters of interest for either all or a portion of the objectives described in this SOW. We may choose one consultant to conduct the entire set as research tasks or select different consultants for different topic areas.

Proposals must include:

- Project timeline, including deliverables review and final submission
- Project team profiles
- Expertise in food waste or related topics
- Budget
- Deliverables include, but are not limited to, a final report detailing information gathered and recommendations for the City of Baltimore and NRDC
- Local respondents are encouraged to apply

The work will be carried out in partnership and consultation with the Food Matters liaisons, including the Food Matters Technical Advisory at the Baltimore Office of Sustainability.

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