CITY OF MERIDEN
CO-COLLECTION PILOT PROGRAM
For Food Scraps and Household Trash
Local private hauler collects separated food scraps within one trash container for separated disposal

**Goals**

- **Reduce solid waste**
  Food waste comprises over 20% of the waste stream

- **Convert food waste to energy**
  Separating food waste to be turned into energy

- **Promote recycle**
  Encouraging recycling cuts down on overall waste

- **Does a viable market exist?**
  Private hauler use to determine if a profit center exists
Partners

- SCRCOG
- HQ
- DEEP
- WasteZero
- Quantum
Pilot Program

- **Grant Strategy**
  - Use outer-district private hauler
  - 1000 Customers
  - 3 days (Wed / Thurs / Fri)
  - 16 weeks
  - Minimize city exposure

- **Grant amount**
  - $40,000

- **Grant Period**
  - Feb 2022 – June 2022
Program Details - Logistics

• Bags
  • 4-month supply of orange trash bags and green food waste bags
  • 32 Orange bags – 16 gallons each
  • 16 Green bags – 8 gallons each
  • 2 Orange and 1 Green per week

• 32 gallons trash to 8 gallons food waste = 20%
Program Details - Logistics

• **Timeline**
  - January 5-12 – Press release, website, and cart tags
  - January 15-22 – Bag delivery
  - January 5-15 – Additional Personnel hired
  - Feb 2, 2022 – Collection starts
  - March 9, 2022 – Mid-program Media (Record Journal Article, interviews)
  - May 20, 2022 – Collection Program Ends
  - June 15, 2022 – Data Analysis and presentation to DEEP

• **Delivery** - the week of **January 11**
  - Sustainable Meriden interns
    • Deliver bags and program flyer containing contact information
    • Answer questions for residents who are home
Program Details - Public Relations

• Press Release

• Cart Tags
  • Program info will be left on the handle of the HQ cart. City website info

• City Website
  • FAQ's

• Email from HQ Dumpster to customers

• Social Media Videos / TikToks
  Sustainable Meriden interns will make videos/tiktoks to promote participation

• Delivery packets
  Bags will be tied with pamphlet in a ribbon with a bow
Program Details - Operations

• Customers separate their food waste from their other waste
• Both color bags go into the same trash bin
• Bags are separated at HQ’s transfer station tipping floor
  • Two person operation
    Separate / Scan / Weigh / Note
    Data entry at site or off-site
• Shipped as trash or future bio-energy
Program Details - Data Collection

- Each household roll of orange and green bags will have a unique barcode
- Barcode scanning at transfer station tipping floor will show percentage of use by household (households are not identified)
- Bags will be hand counted by type on an hourly basis (green, orange, other)
Issues and Concerns

• Separating waste inside the residence – separate cans may be needed

• Opt-out protocols
  • Contact City and request non-participation in advance
  • Keep the bags for personal use
    • (just don’t use the green until after the pilot ends)
  • City will pick up bags after distribution if residents request

• Issues at the tipping floor
  • Broken bags, cold temperatures, equipment issues

• Contamination

• Additional bags/resources
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MERIDEN</th>
<th>PILOT COSTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-sort / Audits</td>
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<td>Supplies/Equipment – gloves, coveralls</td>
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<td>Flyer / literature / marking / website</td>
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<td>Door to door delivery (one week/teams of 2)</td>
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What’s Next

• DEEP reported 40+ letters of intent for next SMART round
  • Meriden’s Pilot will be scrutinized to see what works
    • (and what doesn’t)

• WasteZero and Sustainable Meriden will monitor data collected

• Final report of the pilot to be presented to DEEP

• Working with other groups to do additional analysis
Roll-out Challenges

- Materials procurement
  - Bags
  - Fliers
  - Safety Vests
  - Scanner

- Public Relations
  - Emails
  - Website
  - Customer Support

- Bag delivery
  - Personnel
  - Timeframe
  - Weather
  - Acceptance rate
First Week

- Implementation
  - Bag quality is good
  - Ink issues with barcoding
- Approx 350 homes per day
  - 700 Orange and
  - 350 Green bags
  - 100% participation
- Goals?
  - Pilot with no enforcement
  - Is 50% a good number?

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Total Green</th>
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<td>4-Feb</td>
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First Week

Day 1

Day 2