

# CITY OF MERIDEN CO-COLLECTION PILOT PROGRAM

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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**

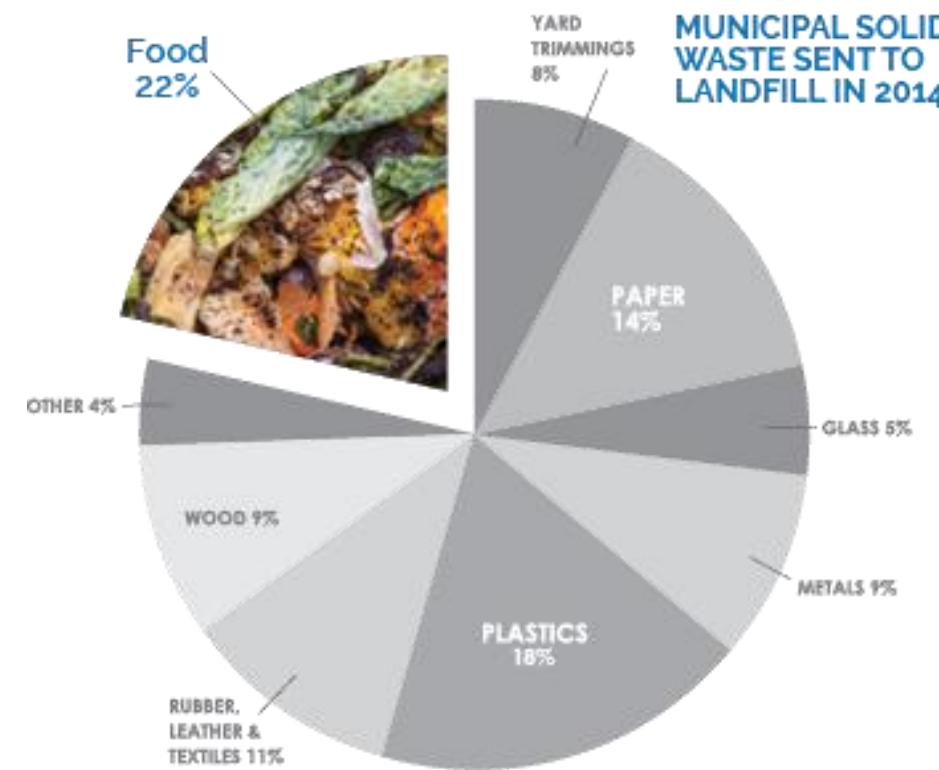
Separating food waste to be turned into energy

- **Promote recycle**

Encouraging recycling cuts down on overall waste

- **Does a viable market exist?**

Private hauler use to determine if a profit center exists



## PLEASE RECYCLE



Cardboard, including pizza boxes—clean and dry



Food & beverage cartons  
Cereal & Other Paperboard Boxes, Paper Bags, Newspaper, Inserts, Office Paper, Junk Mail, Magazines & Catalogs



Newspaper, Inserts, Office Paper, Junk Mail, Magazines & Catalogs



Aluminum, Tin, & Steel Cans, Containers & Foil, Aerosol (food grade only)



Glass Jars & Bottles—all colors



Plastic Bottles, Plastic Tubs, Wide-Mouth Containers, Plastic Cups (no lids or straws) (No #6—Polystyrene)



# Partners

- SCRCOG
- HQ
- DEEP
- WasteZero
- Quantum

# SCRCOG

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



# WasteZero®

Save Money. Reduce Waste.



# 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/tik toks to promote participation
- Delivery packets
  - Bags will be tied with pamphlet in a ribbon with a bow



HQ Dumpster is proud to announce an innovative partnership with the City of Meriden and DEEP on a

## CO-COLLECTION PILOT PROGRAM FOR HOUSEHOLD TRASH

As an **HQ Dumpster** customer, you will be part of this exciting opportunity to address the upcoming trash crisis and keep solid waste collection affordable by turning your food waste into sustainable renewable energy at no cost to you.

Food Waste is over 20% of household trash, so removing it can significantly decrease the trash going into landfills.

Customer's will receive a 4-month supply of **orange trash bags** and **green food** waste bags delivered by Sustainable Meriden students the week of December 27.

**The Co-Collection Pilot Program begins on JANUARY 12, 2022**

For more information

WEB: [www.meridenct.gov](http://www.meridenct.gov)

EMAIL: [publicworks@meridenct.gov](mailto:publicworks@meridenct.gov)

CALL: 203-630-4018



# 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

# Budget

MERIDEN	PILOT COSTS
Pre-sort / Audits	
Supplies/Equipment – gloves, coveralls	\$250
Outreach and Bag Distribution	
Flyer / literature / marking / website	\$1,108
Door to door delivery (one week/teams of 2)	\$3,500
Bags	\$10,880
Pilot	
Supplies/Equipment – gloves, coveralls	\$600
Hand scanners	\$2,000
Sort labor / bar code capture	\$11,648
Extra bags/delivery costs 30% extra	\$3264
Pilot Co-ordination/Management/Reporting	
Pilot Management	\$1,500
Final Analysis	\$5,000
Fees	
Application Fee	\$250
Total	\$40,000

## 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

1 set of bags per house only!  
Commitment 0 refused, 1 unsure, 2 maybe, 3 enthusiastic  
Notes: bucket requested, needs more bags, etc.

	BAG DELIVERY		BUCKET	COMMITMENT	NOTES
	Spoke with	left on doorstep	refused	Delivered	0-3
IST		X			
T		X			
ST		X			
ST		X			
ST		X			
ST		X			
ST		X			
ST		X			
ST	X			3	
ST		X			

# First Week

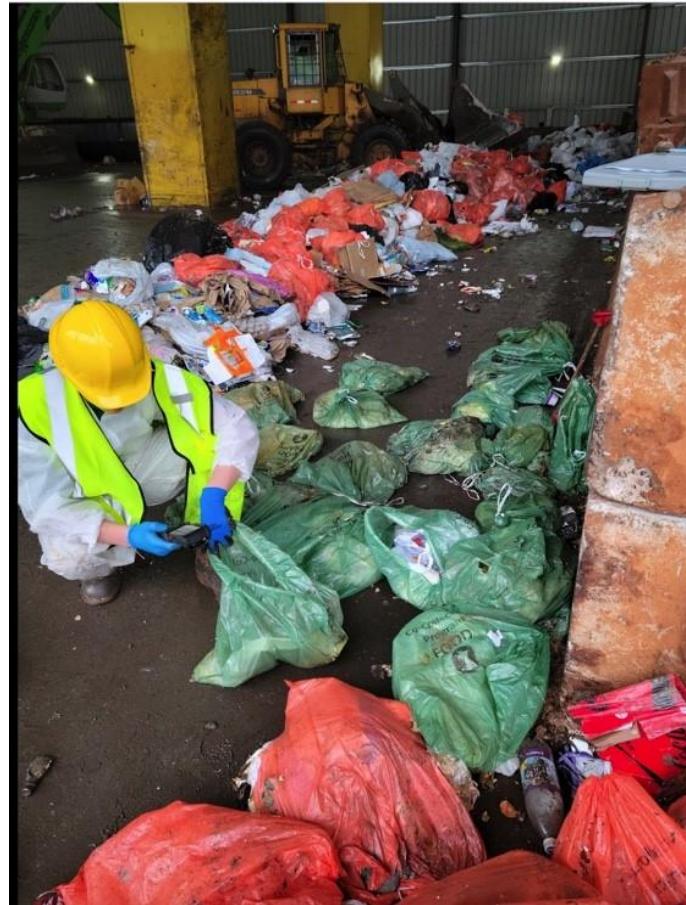
- Implementation
  - Bag quality is good
  - Ink issues with barcoding
- Approx 350 homes per day
  - 700 Orange and
  - 350 Green bags
  - 100% participation
- Goals?
  - Pilot with no enforcement
  - Is 50% a good number?

Date	Total Orange	Total Green	TOTAL
2-Feb	34	3	37
3-Feb	82	19	112
4-Feb	255	76	331

# First Week



Day 1



Day 2