

Composting Proposal for _____.

This document outlines a proposed composting pilot program for _____. A pilot project would enable the building to test the logistics behind a larger program and build support among residents and staff, all at minimal cost.

What is composting?

Composting is the conversion of organic matter into soil that can be used as fertilizer. New York households are increasingly composting their food and paper scraps in their apartments, community gardens or at drop-off locations in farmers' markets. In a typical household, about one third of household waste is organic material that can be composted.

Why composting?

Composting, which has been called the "next frontier" in waste reduction after recycling, is increasingly being deployed as a way to reduce the amount of solid waste that goes into landfills (26% of the waste going into landfill today could be composted instead). Aside from the obvious taxpayer benefits related to waste reduction, compost reduces the release of methane into the atmosphere. Methane, which is caused (among other things) by organic matter trapped in landfills, is 20 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere.

Piloting composting at _____.

In order to test whether composting could work at scale in our building, a pilot program could be set up using one bin for use by 1-4 apartments for 3 months.

A bin could be selected that costs less than \$100 and takes up little space in the (courtyard, basement, corner of the garden, roofdeck, etc.). Compost bins are specifically designed to be totally pest-proof and are typically more secure against animal pests than the bins and bags we use for garbage.

Compost bins require very little maintenance, and the pilot project could be initially supervised by _____. The Lower East Side Ecology Center is also willing to set up a building workshop to orient participants and would make sure our test bin setup is optimal.

What are the benefits?

There are several benefits to launching this program at our building:

- The creation of high-quality fertilizer for use in our garden and tree-wells.
- The reduction of smells in the trash area; a properly working compost bin emits a pleasant, "woody" odor, which is far nicer than rotting garbage.
- The reduction of trash needing removal from the building, eventually saving the building staff time.
- It is a step toward further "greening" our building and gives us the opportunity to be responsive to residents concerned about their impact on the environment.