

East Goshen Township
Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Council Meeting
May 27, 2026
East Goshen Township Building
6:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Liaison Report
3. Approve minutes
 - a. None
4. Treasurer Report
5. Old Business (5 min each topic)
 - a. Solar Discussion Bob
 - b. Mayor Monarch Amory/Mary
 - c. Native Garden status
 - d. Composting Pilot to BOS June 2 Mary/Kim B(attached)
6. New Business (10 min each topic)
 - a. Bio Blitz Mary/Peg
 - b.. Schedule for investigation of plastic bag initiative- Larry/Mary
 - c. September EG newsletter article topic(due June 30)
 - d.. Mosquito education ideas
7. Recognize Nada and Matias

8. Public Comments
9. Adjourn Meeting: Motion by _____ and Seconded by _____ (7:55PM)

Draft Proposal: Pilot Composting Program for Food Scrap Diversion

Submitted to: East Goshen Board of Supervisors

Prepared by: ESAC

Date: TBD

Executive Summary

This proposal requests funding and approval to implement a six-month pilot composting program designed to divert residential food scraps from the municipal waste stream. The pilot will evaluate resident participation, waste diversion impact, and long-term feasibility of a township-supported composting initiative.

Organic waste represents a significant portion of residential trash and contributes to landfill volume and greenhouse gas emissions. A structured pilot program will allow East Goshen to assess whether a broader composting initiative is environmentally beneficial, financially viable, and supported by residents.

Background & Rationale

Approximately 30% of residential waste consists of compostable materials such as food scraps and yard waste. When sent to landfills, these materials decompose anaerobically, producing methane—a potent greenhouse gas.

Composting provides multiple benefits:

- **Waste Reduction:** Diverts organic material from landfills
- **Environmental Impact:** Reduces methane emissions
- **Soil Health:** Produces nutrient-rich compost for landscaping and gardening
- **Water Conservation:** Improves soil moisture retention
- **Cost Savings:** Reduces landfill tipping fees and wastewater treatment burden

A recent community survey (70+ responses) indicates strong interest in composting options, with many residents currently relying on trash disposal or in-sink garbage disposals.

Current Waste Management Practices

Survey responses indicate the following disposal habits:

- Trash disposal: 60%
- Garbage disposal units: 44%

- Composting (informal): 43%
- Private haulers: 4%

These findings highlight both opportunity and interest in a more structured composting solution.

NOTE: Adds to more than 100 because you could select multiple choices

Proposed Pilot Program

Program Overview

- **Duration:** 5 months (Aug–December)
- **Participants:** 50 households
- **Method:** Curbside collection of food scraps
- **Composting Contractor:** Back to Earth Composting

Program Goals

- Measure volume of food waste diverted
 - Assess impact on household trash volume
 - Evaluate resident participation and consistency
 - Determine feasibility of long-term program expansion
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Pilot Program Details

- Each participating household will receive:
 - One 5-gallon lidded collection bucket
 - Instructions on acceptable compost materials
 - Collection logistics:
 - Proposed Contractor currently picks up in East Goshen. Provided the best price for service.
 - Buckets placed curbside on designated days
 - Compost collected twice per month by a contracted composter
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Cost Analysis

Pilot Program Costs

- **Township Contribution:**
50 households × \$10/month × 5 months = **\$2,500 total**
- **Resident Contribution:**

$\$10/\text{month} \times 5 \text{ months} = \50 per household

Estimated Cost Avoidance

- $50 \text{ households} \times 30 \text{ lbs/month} \times 5 \text{ months} = 7,500 \text{ lbs (3.75 tons) diverted}$
 - Landfill savings: ~\$337 (based on \$90/ton)
 - Additional savings expected in wastewater treatment due to reduced garbage disposal use
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Long-Term Considerations

While curbside composting is effective for pilot evaluation, it may not be cost-efficient at scale. A more sustainable long-term model may include:

Drop-Off Composting Site

- Centralized, secure compost collection location
- Capacity for ~100 households initially
- Scalable infrastructure

Estimated Costs (Year 1)

- Setup: ~\$1,350 (shed, licensing, initial infrastructure)
- Monthly operations: ~\$608
- Total Year 1 Estimate: ~\$8,500

This model reduces per-household costs while maintaining diversion benefits.

Implementation Timeline

- **Introduction to BOS** Jun 2
 - **Township Approval:** July 21 meeting
 - **Program Development & Communication (ready to go):** Jul21
 - **Participant Registration Opens:** Jul 22
 - **Bucket Distribution and Education:** late Jul- early Aug
 - **Program Launch (First Pickup):** Mid August
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Case Study Insights

Comparable municipalities have demonstrated:

- Diversion rates ranging from 6–30 lbs per household per month
- Participation rates from 1% to 23%

- Successful pilot programs leading to long-term adoption

These benchmarks suggest that pilot programs are an effective method to test and refine composting initiatives.

Next Steps

- Finalize pilot program structure and funding approval
 - Establish billing and service agreements with composting provider
 - Launch participant registration and outreach campaign
 - Monitor and evaluate program performance
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Funding Request

Approval is requested for:

- **\$3,000** in Township funding to support the six-month pilot program
 - Authorization to proceed with implementation and vendor coordination
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Conclusion

This pilot program represents a low-risk, data-driven opportunity to reduce waste, lower environmental impact, and respond to growing resident interest in sustainable practices. The results will inform future decisions on expanding composting services within the Township.

We respectfully request the Board of Supervisors approve funding and implementation of this pilot initiative.
