

GRANT APPLICATION

Grant USDA Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Projects 21-23

Department: WATER & SEWER

Grantor: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Pass-Through Grantor

Total \$66,000.00

Metro Cash \$16,500.00

Department Contact Sharon Smith
862-8715

Status NEW

Program Description:

Funding to pilot food waste collection in Metro office buildings and expand community drop-off locations.

Plan for continuation of services upon
N/A

APPROVED AS TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

DocuSigned by:

Kevin Crumbo/mjw 7/14/2021

669774228742469
Director of Finance ^{DS} **Date**
TE

DocuSigned by:

Meki Eke 7/14/2021

Metropolitan Attorney **Date**

APPROVED AS TO RISK AND INSURANCE:

DocuSigned by:

Balogun Cobb 7/14/2021

669774228742469
Director of Risk **Date**
Management Systems

DocuSigned by:

John Cooper 7/14/2021

669774228742469
Metropolitan Mayor ^{DS} **Date**
LCW

(This application is contingent upon approval of the application by the Metropolitan Council.)

BA Initials

^{DS}
RW

Grants Tracking Form

Part One

Pre-Application <input type="radio"/>		Application <input checked="" type="radio"/>		Award Acceptance <input type="radio"/>		Contract Amendment <input type="radio"/>	
Department	Dept. No.	Contact		Phone	Fax		
WATER & SEWER	065	Sharon Smith		862-8715			
Grant Name:		USDA Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Projects 21-23					
Grantor:		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				Other:	
Grant Period From:	10/01/21	<small>(applications only)</small> Anticipated Application Date:		07/12/21			
Grant Period To:	09/30/23	<small>(applications only)</small> Application Deadline:		07/16/21			
Funding Type:	FED DIRECT	Multi-Department Grant		<input type="checkbox"/>			If yes, list below.
Pass-Thru:		Outside Consultant Project:		<input type="checkbox"/>			
Award Type:	COMPETITIVE	Total Award:		\$66,000.00			
Status:	NEW	Metro Cash Match:		\$16,500.00			
Metro Category:	New Initiative	Metro In-Kind Match:					
CFDA #	10.935	Is Council approval required?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Project Description:		Applic. Submitted Electronically? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Funding to pilot food waste collection in Metro office buildings and expand community drop-off locations.							
Plan for continuation of service after expiration of grant/Budgetary Impact:							
n/a							
How is Match Determined?							
Fixed Amount of \$		or		25.0%		% of Grant	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
Explanation for "Other" means of determining match:							
For this Metro FY, how much of the required local Metro cash match:							
Is already in department budget?				Yes		Fund 30501 Business Unit 65801300	
Is not budgeted?				Proposed Source of Match:			
(Indicate Match Amount & Source for Remaining Grant Years in Budget Below)							
Other:							
Number of FTEs the grant will fund:		0.10		Actual number of positions added:		0.00	
Departmental Indirect Cost Rate		11.37%		Indirect Cost of Grant to Metro:		\$9,380.25	
*Indirect Costs allowed? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		% Allow. 10.00%		Ind. Cost Requested from Grantor:		\$6,000.00 in budget	
*(If "No", please attach documentation from the grantor that indirect costs are not allowable. See Instructions)							
Draw down allowable? <input type="checkbox"/>							
Metro or Community-based Partners:							
Urban Green Lab/Nashville Food Waste Initiative, The Compost Company, General Services Division of Sustainability, Natural Resources Defence Council							

Part Two

Grant Budget

Budget Year	Metro Fiscal Year	Federal Grantor	State Grantor	Other Grantor	Local Match Cash	Match Source (Fund, BU)	Local Match In-Kind	Total Grant Each Year	Indirect Cost to Metro	Ind. Cost Neg. from Grantor
Yr 1	FY22	\$27,000.00			\$8,250.00	30501, 65801300		\$35,250.00	\$4,007.93	\$2,500.00
Yr 2	FY23	\$39,000.00			\$8,250.00	30501, 65801300		\$47,250.00	\$5,372.33	\$3,500.00
Yr 3	FY__									
Yr 4	FY__									
Yr 5	FY__									
Total		\$66,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,500.00		\$0.00	\$82,500.00	\$9,380.25	\$6,000.00
Date Awarded:					Tot. Awarded:		Contract#:			
(or) Date Denied:					Reason:					
(or) Date Withdrawn:					Reason:					

Contact: trinity.weathersby@nashville.gov
vaughn.wilson@nashville.gov

GCP Rec'd
07/13/21

GCP Approved
07/13/21

VW

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- Preapplication
 Application
 Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- New
 Continuation
 Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: Metropolitan Government of Nashville/Davidson Co.

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

620694743

* c. UEI:

078217668

d. Address:

* Street1:

1600 2nd Ave N

Street2:

* City:

Nashville

County/Parish:

* State:

Tennessee

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

37208

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Jenn

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Harman

Suffix:

Title: Waste Reduction Program Manager

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number: (615) 880-2419

Fax Number:

* Email: jenn.harman@nashville.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

Other - Metropolitan Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

10.935

CFDA Title:

Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

USDA-NRCS-NHQ-CCFWR-21-NOFO0001112

* Title:

Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) Pilot Project

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Nashville Community Food Scrap Drop-Off Pilot

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant **TN-005*** b. Program/Project **TN-005**

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: **Oct 1, 2021*** b. End Date: **Sep 30, 2023****18. Estimated Funding (\$):*** a. Federal **\$66,000.00*** b. Applicant **\$16,500.00*** c. State **\$0.00*** d. Local **\$0.00*** e. Other **\$0.00*** f. Program Income **0.00*** g. TOTAL **\$82,500.00***** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?** a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on . b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review. c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)** Yes No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

 **** I AGREE**

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:Prefix: * First Name: **Scott**Middle Name: * Last Name: **Potter**Suffix: * Title: **Director, water and sewerage service*** Telephone Number: **615-862-4505**Fax Number: * Email: **scott.potter@nashville.gov**

DocuSigned by:

* Signature of Authorized Representative: **Scott Potter*** Date Signed: **7/12/2021**

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Project Summary

The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County's Solid Waste Division (SWD) has a comprehensive plan to reduce food waste going to landfill over the next 30 years as part of the city's Zero Waste Master Plan (ZWMP). However, there are limited resources currently available for residents to reduce food waste and the main strategies in the ZWMP to incorporate curbside food scrap collection and mandate food waste diversion will take several years to accomplish, require political support, and ultimately may not serve all residents. Additionally, Metro Government does not require food scrap collection at its facilities and voluntary participation to collect food scraps is not a priority for other department's budgets.

However, we can increase food waste diversion in the immediate future for Metro Nashville residents, and prove a working model to incorporate food scrap collection across Metro Government departments long-term, by piloting a community food scrap drop-off collection program at public facing Metro facilities. This pilot would expand the current compost drop-off program, currently used as an educational tool rather than a county-wide service, and create a program that provides convenient and equitable access to all Metro residents as well as Metro Government staff. It will also build upon the work the city and its partners are doing to reduce residential food waste and increase food waste diversion from landfill through backyard composting and neighborhood-led community composting programs.

The pilot will target 3-5 Metro Government facilities of different types and departments to pilot both a building collection program and community food scrap drop-off program. By combining the two efforts in an individual facility, this pilot aims to demonstrate how Metro departments can manage their food waste in a way that works towards the city's waste and sustainability goals while providing an important service to the community and Metro staff with minimal impact to departmental budgets and operations. Working models can then be replicated across multiple facility types and Metro departments, expanding the program county-wide.

In addition to reducing residential food waste, this project also aims to create a sustainable supply chain for high-quality compost. The project supports the development of our local compost market by creating increased need for food scrap collection and processing services through the growing collection program and creating a need for the final compost by enacting policy that requires compost use at Metro facilities. These combined efforts support Metro's goals to not only reduce food waste going to landfill, but also improve soil quality and soil absorption to reduce flooding and reduce use of fertilizers to reduce stormwater pollution.

Finally, the project also aims to support Nashville's local agriculture. The pilot includes a compost donation program available to local farms and teaching gardens providing free access to a portion of the compost generated directly from the collection program. This donation program will encourage both the use of compost in local food production as well as provide opportunities to educate Nashvillians about food waste, soil health, and our local food systems.

Project Narrative

I. Introduction

The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Metro) is a combined county and city government centered in Nashville, Tennessee and includes the majority of Davidson County, Tennessee. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Metro Nashville has an estimated population of 670,820 people with 11.7% of the population over 65, 67.3% between 18 and 65, and 21% under the age of 18. A little over 50% of the population identifies as female. Regarding race, 55.4% of the population identifies as white alone, not Hispanic or Latino, 27.6% black or African American, 10.5% Hispanic or Latino, and 3.7% Asian. Nashville is also known to be the home to the largest population of Kurdish people in the U.S. The median household income is \$59,828.

Metro offers curbside trash and recycling collection to over 140,000 households in the city's Urban Services Tax District (USD). The city provides 10 unstaffed recycling drop-off locations across the county for traditional recycling. Metro also has four staffed convenience center locations for residents to recycle and dispose of excess residential trash or other waste items not accepted in our curbside trash and recycling program including household hazardous waste, e-waste, mattresses, tires, and scrap metal. The four convenience centers also offer food scrap drop-off collection. The recycling drop-off locations and the convenience centers are open to all residents in Metro and provides access to recycling for residents in the General Services Tax District (GSD) that do not receive Metro's curbside services.

In 2015, the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) selected Nashville as a pilot city to develop and implement policies and programs to address the issue of food waste. Metro Nashville has partnered on this with the NRDC and their development of the Nashville Food Waste Initiative (NFWI), which has worked to bring prevention and rescue programs for food waste to Nashville. The NFWI, housed now at a local non-profit called Urban Green Lab, has focused primarily on the commercial sector. They have led the Mayor's Food Saver Challenge that encourages restaurants and the hospitality industry to prevent, rescue, and recycle food waste. The NFWI's Food Waste Measurement Project researched the amounts and types of food going to waste in Nashville. They have worked with local universities to implement food waste prevention programs and waste tracking. They have worked extensively to expand food rescue through matching potential food donations with hunger relief non-profits. They have also worked to educate Nashvillians about food waste through promoting the Save the Food Campaign and co-hosting several events and panel discussions in collaboration with Metro Nashville and the solid waste staff.

In August 2017, Metro Nashville Waste Services Division (MNWS) piloted its first ever community compost drop-off program to educate residents about food waste through providing an option for residents to drop-off food scraps and other compostable material for composting at two of the convenience center locations, one just north of downtown and one just south of downtown. This program also included food waste collection at the Metro Public Works Department Administration building to educate Metro staff and pilot an employee collection program. The community education and collection program expanded to all four convenience centers locations in December 2018 and we have expanded capacity at multiple locations over

the past year. As a result of our food scrap collection initiative for MNWS employees, the Metropolitan Department of General Services Office of Sustainability has also added food scrap collection for their staff.

Table 1: Annual Compost Collection from MNWS Program

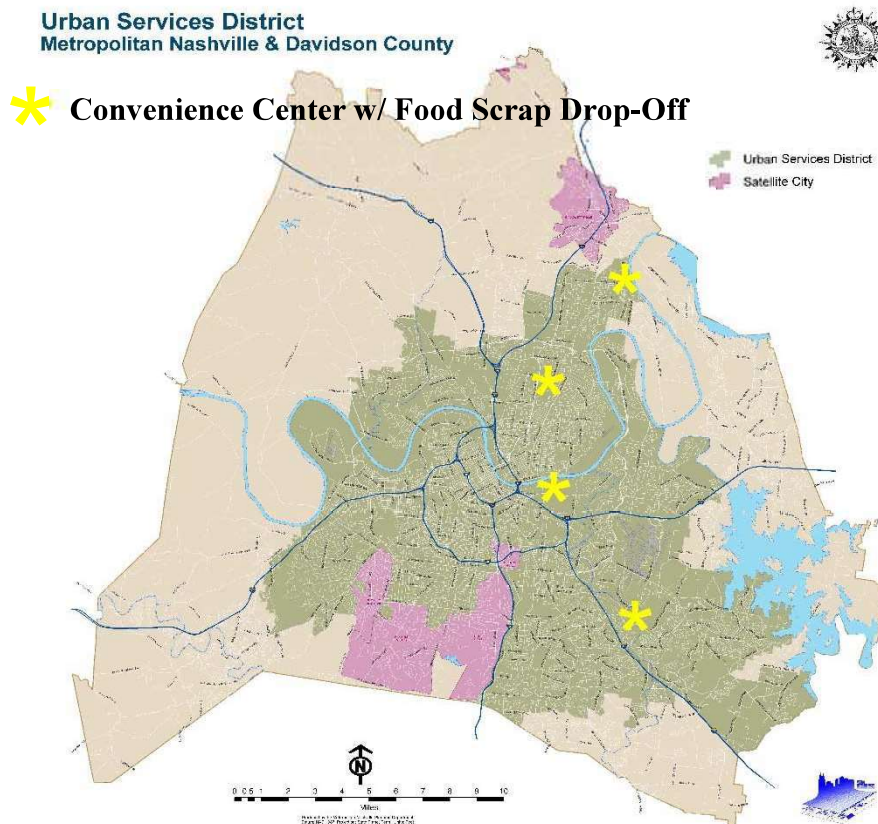
Year	Weight (Pounds)
2018	22,801.5
2019	45,525
2020	59,115

Additionally, the MNWS has offered educational workshops, sold low-cost compost bins for residents, and given away hundreds of free compost bins for several years to expand backyard composting. This program and workshop participation continues to grow for those that have the capacity and ability to compost at home. Our virtual workshop to learn how to compost at home which began in 2020 has hosted over 600 participants in the last year and a half.

Residents and businesses can also pay for curbside collection of food scraps through a few private companies that offer curbside or commercial collection services for a fee.

In 2019, Metro Nashville's Solid Waste Region Board adopted a long-term Zero Waste Master Plan (ZWMP) aimed at reducing all waste sent to landfill by 90% over 30 years. The plan was developed by evaluating the deficiencies and successes of our existing waste management

Figure 1: Map of Davidson County Convenience Centers and Tax



system, analyzing the financial, environmental, and social impacts of existing and proposed strategies, developing diversion goals that meet or exceed state diversion goals, recommending strategies that have been proven to be effective in existing zero waste communities, and providing a framework for measuring progress. Part of this process included completing a waste characterization study that showed that 18.5% of commercial MSW going to landfill was food and yard waste and that 31.9% of residential MSW was food and yard waste. To reduce food waste going to landfill, the ZWMP's top recommendations include enacting legislation that would ban food waste from residential and commercial trash containers as well as require waste haulers to provide food scrap collection services. Since Metro Nashville provides waste collection to those households in the USD, the plan also recommends implementing a Save-As-You-Throw fee system to incorporate curbside food scrap collection for our customers.

More recently and in support of the ZWMP's initiatives, Metro and the NFWI have both been engaged in developing a network of community composting sites. These sites are volunteer-led and are either demonstration sites to teach and encourage backyard composting or small-scale neighborhood composting sites for neighbors to bring food scraps and some yard waste. Metro Nashville has donated backyard compost bins for community compost sites, offers scales to weigh and track food waste collected, as well as provided educational signage for sites.

While Metro and its partners have engaged in high-impact food waste diversion programs and initiatives, especially for commercial food waste, and have identified long-range strategies to reduce food waste across all sectors, improving residential food waste diversion programs remains a challenge due to funding, different service areas, competing political priorities between the state and Metro, and accessibility.

Currently, curbside collection is funded through taxpayer dollars that go into the city's general fund; therefore, funding for expanded services such as food scrap collection for Metro customers must compete with police, fire, schools, and other essential city services. Additionally, Metro's curbside service does not and would not reach residents in large multifamily units or residents in the General Services Tax District (GSD). Since the drop-off collection program has primarily been used as an education program, funding is currently incorporated into the MNWS's education budget, which cannot fund added expansion of the program. An expansion of the current program for either residents or Metro employees requires operational funding and commitment.

An added challenge is the possibility of State legislation overriding Metro legislation or the ability to require diversion. The ZWMP recommends legislation requiring county-wide residential and commercial food scrap collection and banning food waste from all waste containers.

Also, accessibility remains a significant barrier to increasing residential food waste diversion in Nashville. Our current food scrap drop-off program is isolated to one part of the county and we have struggled to find new convenience center locations to expand this and other programs in other areas of the county. Community-led composting is beginning to gain roots but is still in a pilot phase with sites that are limited in location, scope, and amount of material they can accept. We continue to provide materials and education for backyard composting, but this option is inherently limited by availability of yard space, physical ability, and level of interest by residents. Lastly, paid curbside collection provides a more convenient option for those that don't want to compost themselves, but is limited due to cost.

To address these challenges and increase community composting and food waste reduction efforts, Metro Nashville Waste Services Division, under the Metro Nashville Department of Water and Sewerage Services (MWS), seeks to use the available funding through USDA in collaboration with other Metro Departments and local partners to pilot an expansion of the community food scrap drop-off program into a larger network of Metro Government-owned locations. The expanded program would work to transform the current education-focused program and incorporate food scrap collection services into the operations functions of Metro Nashville's various departments to increase accessibility of food scrap collection to both Metro Nashville residents and Metro Nashville Government staff simultaneously. Using our existing contract, the food scraps would be collected by a commercial composter to be recycled into compost for use by local farmers, gardeners, landscapers, etc. Some of this compost would also come back to each facility for use in landscaping and grounds work. The collected food scraps would reduce municipal food waste and divert food waste from landfill while generating compost that will go back into local soils.

This new community compost drop-off program will target Metro buildings and properties in residential areas and diverse communities not readily served by our current drop-off locations, especially in areas on the west side of the county. We aim to target public facing facilities such as community centers, schools, libraries, customer service facilities, etc. to increase convenience of the drop-off services. Some of the targeted facilities also offer opportunities to incorporate additional diversion strategies that can be explored or set up in tandem with food scrap recycling. For example, if working with a school, we would provide information on opportunities for food recovery programs including share tables and connect staff with food donation programs.

Working with Urban Green Lab and the Nashville Food Waste Initiative, we will also provide training for each pilot facility so that staff are both familiar and excited about using the program, and can serve as ambassadors of the initiative to members of the public that enter the facility or use the site. Urban Green Lab's expertise in developing sustainability focused programs for both Metro Nashville Public Schools and private sector businesses will be a valuable partnership in this program to build facility staff support and design the operational piece of the program in a way that makes sense for each site.

Additionally, this pilot will work in tandem with the current efforts to expand community compost sites by building a larger network of options for residents to drop-off food scraps for composting. To support this synergy, we will be working with the NRDC and their partners as part of our participation in the Food Matters Regional Initiative to provide community composting trainings and pull from their consulting resources to support a cohesive program that reduces municipal food waste and diverts it from landfill through composting.

This model allows us to create a more equitable drop-off program across the county that increases capacity for food scrap diversion for residents from landfill and does not require legislation. We also believe the program will demonstrate that incorporating food waste collection services will decrease the need for the current level of trash collection services at Metro Nashville facilities and, even with added community collection, the service can be readily incorporated into current operations budgets with no or minimal added funding. The initial pilot will aim to target 3-5 new drop-off locations at varying types of facilities and multiple Metro Government Departments. As locations prove successful, the model will be duplicated to further expand the program with the goal of working towards all Metro Government facilities

incorporating food scrap collection into their disposal services and expanding food scrap collection access to more areas of the county.

II. Objectives and Procedures

The first project objective is for MNWS staff, including Waste Reduction Program Manager Jenn Harrman and Assistant Director Sharon Smith, to identify several locations to pilot the program and accept food scraps from both building staff and neighborhood residents. Staff would first connect with known facilities at Metro departments in our targeted areas that have current leaders in sustainability to determine interest. This will include working with staff from Metro's Department of General Services Office of Sustainability that have committed to assisting us in identifying facilities they currently manage that could potentially be used. Confirming these locations will require identifying facilities that also have the capacity to support the program and manage the collection activity on site. Once a location is identified and confirmed, MNWS staff would work with the individual facility's staff to determine how the program would be set up to address any limitations or restrictions, such as needing specified hours for community drop-off. This would also include identifying needs such as in-door bins or staff participation to collect food scraps in break rooms or other common areas. We would additionally work with our commercial compost contractor to determine the number, size, and location of outdoor containers (dumpster vs. rolling carts) needed for collection and frequency of pick up to be hauled to their facility for composting. The program will also require some level of training for facility and janitorial staff to be provided by solid waste staff in partnership with Metro Government Department leaders and support from Urban Green Lab. MNWS staff would anticipate identifying and setting up program logistics for the first two locations in the first quarter of the 2-year pilot by December 31st, 2021. Staff would aim to identify a remaining 1-3 additional locations by the end of the second quarter, March 30th, 2022.

The second project objective is to increase the accessibility of the program by providing home compost collection containers to residents that would utilize the community drop-off sites. This will require MNWS staff to identify a source for containers either for purchase or donation and develop a distribution program in collaboration with the drop-off facility. Containers will also need to be labeled with information on acceptable materials, location of food scrap drop-offs, days and hours for drop off, and program contact information. Labels will be developed by the MNWS staff in collaboration with MWS Public Information Officer, Sonia Allman. The second objective is anticipated to be completed by April 30th, 2022 for all participating Metro Nashville sites.

The third project objective is to develop an outreach and education plan for each location to launch each pilot site program. This will include developing and installing wayfinding and instructional signage for the community drop off bins, developing instructional posters for collection locations inside the building, and identifying outreach strategies to advertise the program to both building staff and neighborhood residents. These outreach and education efforts will also include developing and disseminating educational materials on the impact of food waste on the environment in our community, information on what can and cannot be composted in the program, and additional resources to compost at home. Print materials will also be developed in

at least four languages (English, Spanish, Arabic, and Kurdish). All materials and campaign activities will be developed by the MNWS and MWS Public Information Office. This team will work with a contractor that specializes in identified languages to develop translated materials. Signage for the individual sites should be completed and installed by March 30th for the first two locations and by May 1st, 2022 for an additional 1-3 locations. Drop-off site advertising materials and campaigns will be developed and launched by March 30th, 2022 and additional educational materials will be disseminated on an ongoing basis throughout the 2-year pilot program. The project would aim to launch the first two site(s) in the first quarter of 2022 with 3-5 sites total launched by May 1st, 2022.

The fourth project objective will be to collect and analyze program data. The MNWS staff will work with our contractor to gather data on how much food waste is being collected at each location. We will also work with Metro departmental operations staff to gather data on how much and how often trash and recycling is being collected to identify opportunities to increase efficiencies. We will also conduct participation surveys with facility staff and neighborhood residents to identify usage trends and areas for improvement. Solid waste staff will pull all the information together to inform the future needs and direction of the program. Data Collection will begin as soon as each site is launched and will continue through the duration of the 2-year pilot program.

The final objective will be to replicate at least one of the pilot sites across additional facilities within that Metro Department and incorporate budget and associated support activities into the operations program for that department. Using the data gathered throughout the pilot, MNWS staff will identify the top drop-off sites with the strongest program success to then work with department staff to identify additional facilities that can incorporate the model. This may include reviewing and updating current waste management and janitorial contracts, developing and/or printing additional signage, developing new policies, and developing SOPs. These activities will be guided by the MNWS staff but will be led by the individual department's staff. MNWS staff will begin this process in May 2023 with the goal to incorporate a long-term program into at least one Metro Department's operations by the end of the 2-year pilot.

In addition to these main project objectives, Metro Nashville Waste Services staff would also look for opportunities to incorporate food recovery programs and donation programs at appropriate facilities. For Metro Government facilities that generate good food that can be recovered, we will provide information and resources on food recovery and connect that facility with area non-profits that collect food donations. For facilities that could provide an opportunity to feed our community in need, we would connect that facility with area non-profits that provide donated food. These efforts would be coordinated in partnership with leaders from the Nashville Food Waste Initiative.

For the collected food scraps, we will be working and collaborating with our contractor, The Compost Company to collect, haul and process the compostable material at their industrial composting facility. The final compost they produce includes a variety of high-quality products including compost and custom soil blends for gardens, farms, bioretention, rain gardens, and erosion control. Upwards of 97% of all compost produced by the Compost Company goes back

into the ground within 75 miles of the local facility, including Nashville and Davidson County. End users include farmers, home gardeners, landscapers, and contractors across Middle Tennessee. The Compost Company also has a generous donation program and currently gift back a regular portion of their products to local farms and teaching gardens. Our pilot will be incorporated into this donation program, in which 25% of the material we collect (by tonnage) will be designated for donation to local farms and teaching gardens in Nashville and Davidson County. This program will be advertised starting at the beginning of the 2nd year of the pilot once we have begun collection and material will be distributed as we receive interested applicants. We will set up an online application form to request the compost to be shared on our website, social media, and other education and marketing efforts as well as provided directly to our local agricultural partners including the Nashville Farmer's Market, Tennessee State University College of Agriculture, University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Agency, Ellington Agricultural Center, Master Gardeners of Davidson County, Metro Nashville Public Schools teaching gardens, Metro Parks teaching gardens, and other local community gardens.

Metro Nashville Waste Services is also working with the Environmental Law Institute and the Nashville Food Waste Initiative to develop policy language that will require the use of compost on Metro Nashville landscaping and soil projects. This new policy is anticipated to be reviewed by the Mayor's administration in the first half of the 2022 Fiscal Year. This new policy will ensure that a portion of the food scraps and organics collected through our pilot program come back to Metro facilities to support a variety of priorities for both our pilot program and the city of Nashville, including food waste reduction, improving soils and soil absorption as part of flood mitigation efforts, and reducing fertilizer use to improve water quality from stormwater runoff. With this policy in place, our program will also support a sustainable market for final compost.

III. Collaborators

Below is a list of committed program partners. We and our partners looked at our current food waste reduction programs and determined that the next step to increase availability and access to food scrap collection and composting would be to expand the current community food scrap drop-off program adding new locations in currently underserved areas. The MNWS staff and its partners recognize that not everyone has the want or ability to compost in their back yard or pay for private curbside compost collection, but many may be willing to collect food scraps for composting if more convenient drop-off locations were available across the county.

This program will work in tandem with the MNWS's work and the Nashville food Waste Initiative's work to expand community composting sites, to overall create a more robust system for residential composting. Ultimately, each of our partners is dedicated to creating a more sustainable city and helping Nashville better manage food waste to feed hungry people, improve the health of our soil, and minimize our reliance on and the environmental impact of our landfills.

Each of our collaborators and partners teamed up on this pilot project and helped frame the concept, because it was an opportunity to increase residential food scrap collection and reduce food waste in the immediate future as we work to move towards our long-term food waste reduction goals. The Compost Company specifically supports our local agricultural system and

worked with us to incorporate the donation program into the pilot to support local farms and gardens in service of their mission to reduce waste to landfill and improve our soils in middle Tennessee. Urban Green Lab's mission is to teach communities how to live sustainably through classrooms, households, and workplaces and through this work they also lead the Nashville Food Waste Initiative. The activities of this pilot project directly support their mission and work and provide an opportunity to expand their workplace and classroom training in areas of sustainability. Metro General Services Division of Sustainability has long been a partner in working to increase sustainability efforts for waste reduction in Metro Government and expanding food scrap collection across Metro Government facilities supports their mission to integrate sustainable practices throughout their department while also educating Metro employees and the Nashville community about sustainability. The Natural Resources Defense Council has supported and funded the Nashville Food Waste Initiative and made Nashville the lead for the Food Matters Regional Initiative in the southeast. Through these initiatives, the NRDC provides support to this new pilot project that help meet their mission to develop initiatives to reduce food waste and promote sustainability from farm to fork. Additionally, the NRDC is particularly involved in supporting the city's efforts to expand community composting and will be able to support this pilot project through training and consulting opportunities.

Our collaborators are leaders in food waste recovery and disposal in Nashville and this pilot project will support the ongoing efforts of each along with other businesses and organizations focused on reducing food waste in Nashville. Our pilot will create a long-term opportunity for both the Compost Company as well as other private food waste collection services to grow with increased demand for collection and compost material through Metro Government. By working with the Nashville Food Waste Initiative, we also ensure that our pilot project compliments and adds to their work by continuing to support community composting efforts while adding an additional resource to collect material for compost. We also see this pilot as an opportunity to support the Nashville Food Waste Initiative's work in food recovery by encouraging facilities that could donate good food or benefit from food donations to work with local food recovery organizations to divert food waste from landfill and help feed Nashvillians in need.

The Compost Company, LLC

Contact: Clay Ezell, clay@compostcompany.com, 615.380.1090
Office: 509 Third Ave. South, Unit #1, Nashville, TN 37210
Facility: 3643 Hwy 12 N, Ashland City, TN 37015

Urban Green Lab and the Nashville Food Waste Initiative

Contact: Todd Lawrence, todd@urbangreenlab.org, 615.442.7072
1310 Clinton St., Suite 205, Nashville, TN 37203

Metro Nashville Department of General Services, Division of Sustainability

Contact: Laurel Creech, laurel.creech@nashville.gov, 615.862.5037
700 2nd Ave S., Nashville, TN, 37210

Natural Resources Defense Council

Contact: Darby Hoover, dhoover@nrdc.org, 415.875.6157
San Francisco Office: 111 Sutter St., 21st Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104

I.V. Evaluation

The pilot program will be evaluated for its value to the community, value to facility staff, long-term operational feasibility, and food waste diversion.

To evaluate the value to the community, we will look at accessibility, participation level, and user understanding of the program. Accessibility evaluators include how many locations we were able to add across the county; where those locations are in relation to other drop-offs, residential areas, or common commercial destinations; if residents had regular access to the drop-off; if residents had access to home collection containers; and the frequency of use of the facility in general by the public. Participation level will be evaluated through poundage of collected food scraps as well as qualitative and quantitative surveys disseminated to neighbors to include if residents are aware of the program, how often residents use the program and when, if residents compost at home or pay for curbside collection, if users want the program to continue, etc. User understanding of the program will be evaluated through visual observations conducted by facility partners for contamination and contamination reports provided by our commercial compost contractor as well as through qualitative and quantitative surveys to include what types of food scraps users take to the site, how often users put non-compostable plastic bags and other common contaminants in the drop-off, etc.

We will also evaluate the value to the facility staff through evaluating participation level and understanding of the program. Evaluators for this will include poundage of food scraps collected and similar qualitative and quantitative surveys as above.

For the long-term operational feasibility of the program, we will look at program costs, program management requirements, and participation level. Program costs will be evaluated by looking at both the costs to manage and haul collected food scraps and the costs to manage and haul recyclables and regular waste. We will look at the amounts of waste in each program and the most efficient collection frequencies for each stream, considering that adding food waste collection could decrease the need for as frequent waste collection. We will also look at any additional costs to maintain the program, such as replacing on-site collection containers. Program management will be evaluated by the number of staff members required to manage the program, how much of their time is required, what would need to be required and included in contract agreements for waste management and janitorial services, and long-term education and outreach needs by facility partners as well as MNWS staff. Participation for both the community and staff as previously described would also be looked at in evaluating long-term feasibility to determine if the program would be used and how much the program could grow at that location based on ability to increase collection capacity and projected participation trends.

To evaluate the food waste diversion and impact on the city's Zero Waste goals, we will closely track the amount of food waste collected at each site in pounds and compare that with current and past trends at our other food scrap-drop off sites to determine if we are improving our overall efforts to increase participation and increase food waste diversion.

Through this pilot program we hope to demonstrate how public sector facilities that already provide essential services to the community can manage waste already generated by the facility

in a way that can incorporate community food scrap collection for a greater benefit to the community. The goal is to demonstrate a set of program models for different types of facilities that can be replicated here in Metro Nashville as well as other cities in our region or beyond. There is potential to replicate this model both in the greater Nashville region as well as in the southeast region through the Greater Nashville Regional Council and the NRDC's Food Matters Regional Initiative. The Greater Nashville Regional Council supports regional leaders with solid waste planning, including Metro Nashville and its surrounding municipal and county governments, and works to develop regional solutions and strategies to address waste issues such as food waste. Nashville is also the hub city for the NRDC's Food Matters Regional Initiative in the southeast, which brings regional cities together to collaborate on how to reduce municipal food waste. Through both networks, Nashville's pilot program can provide data, lessons learned, and best practices to replicate this program within county and municipal governments across the Southeast region.

Table 2: Project Timeline		
Date	Project Milestone	Verifiable Indicators
Oct 1, 2021	Pilot Begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNWS identifies potential Site Partners - MNWS drafts language for MOU
Dec 31, 2021	2 Partners Confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Site for each drop-off approved by MNWS and Site Partners -MOU signed by MNWS and Site Partners
Dec 31, 2021	Site Data Requirements Confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Data collection requirements and reporting form developed and reviewed by MNWS -Required reporting by Site Partners incorporated into MOU -Required reporting agreed to by MNWS and confirmed Site Partners through MOU
Mar 30, 2022	1-3 Additional Partners Confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Site for each drop-off approved by MNWS and Site Partners -MOU signed by MNWS and Site Partners
Mar 30, 2022	First Sites Launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wayfinding and info signage installed at two partner sites -Staff collection bins and informational posters installed at two partner sites -Social media, press release, and additional advertising has gone out -Site begins collecting food scraps
Apr 30, 2022	Resident Collection Containers Secured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Containers acquired through purchase or donation and are on Partner sites or MNWS site for storage, or disseminated to residents for use
May 1, 2022	Additional Sites Launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wayfinding and info signage installed at two partner sites -Staff collection bins and informational posters installed at two partner sites

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Social media, press release, and additional advertising has gone out -Site begins collecting food scraps
May 1, 2022	Survey Data Requirements Confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Online survey form for Site Partner staff developed and reviewed by MNWS -Online survey form for residential users developed and reviewed by MNWS
Jul 15, 2022 through end of pilot	First Sites Quarterly Data Reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Site Partners provide MNWS with quarterly data reports due mid-month following the end of the quarter including contamination reports, waste and recycling collection reports, and program monitoring reports -Adjustments to Partner Site program will be made as evaluated by quarterly reporting
Aug 15, 2022 through end of pilot	Additional Sites Quarterly Data Reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Site Partners provide MNWS with quarterly data reports due mid-month following the end of the quarter including contamination reports, waste and recycling collection reports, and program monitoring reports -Adjustments to Partner Site program will be made as evaluated by quarterly reporting
Oct 1, 2022	Donation Program Launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNWS develops online application and makes it live - MNWS advertises donation program through social media, website, and direct marketing
Oct 15, 2022 (and Jul 15, 2023)	First Sites Survey Data Gathered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Surveys are disseminated to and completed by each Site Partner's staff due mid-month following the end of each 6-month period -Adjustments to Partner Site program will be made as evaluated by survey data
Nov 15, 2022 (and Aug 15, 2023)	Additional Sites Survey Data Gathered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Surveys are disseminated to and completed by each Site Partner's staff due mid-month following the end of each 6-month period -Adjustments to Partner Site program will be made as evaluated by survey data
Aug 30, 2023	Long-term Program Evaluation Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All data including quarterly reports, survey data, and compost weight log reports are reviewed for each Partner Site -Final report developed and presented to each Site Partner
Sep 30, 2023	Partner Site Agreement to Expand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNWS identifies at least one site that has strong success to expand -Partner Site agrees to continue funding current program - MNWS works with Partner Site to build operations program plan

V. Self-Sustainability

The pilot program is designed to develop several models for community food scrap drop-off sites that can ultimately be replicated across the county. The goal is for at least one, if not all, of the piloted drop-off sites to remain in operation beyond the end of the project period as well as use the successful model(s) to duplicate the program at additional Metro Government facilities.

The one-time infusion of Federal funds will help us to demonstrate through data how incorporating a food scrap collection program for each individual site can offset some of the costs for traditional waste collection without significantly impacting the facility's overall budget. Additionally, the survey data and data on food waste diversion will provide a case for Metro to consider increasing the surcharge allowed by Tennessee State Law. Tennessee Code allows the county or counties to charge a "surcharge" on landfilled municipal solid waste. The funds collected through the surcharge can only be used for waste reduction programs that serve all Metro Nashville residents. This additional funding source could help offset the added community food-scrap collection piece of each site's program if offered to all Metro residents. The Metro Nashville Waste Services Division would also have the capacity to provide some funding support for new signage and educational materials for any continuing or new community food scrap drop-off program and would assist indefinitely in promoting the program.

Having Metro General Services, Division of Sustainability in collaboration on this pilot ensures that we have a partner that is also committed to implementing a long-term program at the Metro Government facilities that manage. They have already incorporated food scrap collection at one Metro Department facility location and this funding opportunity will provide the initial support, logistics needs, and marketing efforts to set up a collection program that they can then manage and have shown a commitment to managing long-term beyond the funding period.

Budget Narrative

Federal Funds – \$66,000

Supplies

In-door collection containers 10 x \$100 =	\$1,000
Compostable trash bags 13 boxes x \$25 =	\$325
Print materials (posters, stickers, flyers, etc.) \$208/mo. =	\$5,000
Wayfinding Signage 10 x \$100 =	\$1,000
Household collection buckets 500 x \$5.35 =	\$2,675
	<hr/>
	\$10,000

We have estimated \$10,000 for supplies. This includes costs for in-door collection containers and compostable trash bags for staff, household collection buckets for residents to collect their food scraps, informational and educational print and sign materials such as flyers, posters, bucket stickers, and wayfinding signage at each drop off location.

The collection containers and compostable bags provide convenient collection for pilot site staff and costs were determined by estimating the needs for each facility being 1-2 in-door containers and enough bags for those containers to be changed out weekly for the duration of the pilot. This was estimated at \$1,325.

The buckets for residents will be both an advertising tool for the program as well as create convenient food scrap collection at home for residents. We estimated we would need about 100 buckets per each of the five anticipated pilot sites and determined the costs for the buckets, approximately \$2,675, based on the cost for a small bucket with a lid through a current Metro Government vendor.

Print materials including posters, flyers, sign decals, etc. will be needed to advertise the program to site staff as well as residents, to encourage participation and educate users on how to find and use the site, what compostable materials can be dropped-off, and why we need to reduce food waste. We estimated approximately \$6,000 for print materials and signage based on recently quoted printed materials of similar type and quantities.

Contractual

The Compost Company to provide Collection, Hauling, and Composting Services

1 3-yard collection container x 1 site x 1/week x \$220 =	\$18,000
9 64-gal collection containers x 1/week x \$45 =	\$32,000
	<hr/>
	\$50,000

We have estimated approximately \$50,000 in contractual costs to provide the collection, hauling, and composting of food scraps as well as delivery of finished compost for donation to teaching gardens and local farmers. The city does not own an industrial composting facility but does have

a long-standing contract that will be used to provide these services. The estimated costs are based on the current contractual rates and rounded up to account for CPI to accommodate weekly food scrap collection for at least five pilot facilities.

Indirect Costs

	Budget	Indirect Eligible Amounts
Supplies	\$10,000	\$10,000
<u>Contract Services</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
		\$60,000 x 10% de minimis = \$6,000

Indirect costs were calculated using the 10% de minimis rate applied to the eligible amounts budgeted for supplies and contract services.

Non-Federal Matching Funds – \$16,500

Personnel

Jenn Harrman - Waste Reduction Program Manager. Accountable for assuring that all project activities are carried out in a timely, cost-efficient, and responsible manner. She will provide oversight of all project activities and lead and direct the project toward accomplishment of the pilot objectives. This includes identifying pilot sites, coordinating program implementation at each site, developing and overseeing the development of program marketing and materials, collecting program data, and providing reports to collaborators and partners. She is also responsible for the submission of the required reports.

Salary	% Effort	Project Duration	Funds Required
\$76,600.96	9%	24 months	\$13,600

Sharon Smith – Assistant Director. Responsible for coordinating effort and communicating with Metro Government Department heads and representatives from the administration to facilitate pilot implementation and long-term budget implementation.

Salary	% Effort	Project Duration	Funds Required
\$122,090	1%	24 months	\$1,250

Metro Nashville Waste Services (MNWS) will allocate a minimum of \$14,850 in costs for personnel time to be spent on this pilot program as part of our cash match contribution. Any additional personnel time that may be required for the project by the MNWS team or other Metro personnel will also be provided as a cash contribution by Metro Government.

Travel

Local travel for program manager is calculated at .16 per mile throughout primary service area x 40 miles/month x 24 months = \$150

Local travel will be required for program manager to complete site visits to each pilot site to oversee program implementation including signage installation, data collection, staff training,

and public education. Additionally, local travel will be required to investigate potential pilot sites including wayfinding needs, accessibility, and neighborhood location. Travel costs will be provided by MNSW as part of our cash match contribution.

Indirect Costs

	Budget	Indirect Eligible Amounts
Personnel	\$14,850	\$14,850
<u>Travel</u>	<u>\$150</u>	<u>\$150</u>
		\$15,000 x 10% de minimis = \$1,500

Indirect costs were calculated using the 10% de minimis rate applied to the eligible amounts budgeted for personnel and travel. These costs will be part of our cash match contribution.

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production	10.935	\$	\$	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 82,500.00
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 82,500.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production				
a. Personnel	\$ 14,850.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 14,850.00
b. Fringe Benefits	0.00				0.00
c. Travel	150.00				150.00
d. Equipment	0.00				0.00
e. Supplies	10,000.00				10,000.00
f. Contractual	50,000.00				50,000.00
g. Construction	0.00				0.00
h. Other	0.00				0.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	75,000.00				\$ 75,000.00
j. Indirect Charges	7,500.00				\$ 7,500.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 82,500.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 82,500.00
7. Program Income	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 0.00

Authorized for Local Reproduction

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

(a) Grant Program		(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS
8.	Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 16,500.00
9.					
10.					
11.					
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)		\$ 16,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 16,500.00

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 14,750.00	\$ 9,750.00
14. Non-Federal	\$ 8,250.00	2,062.50	2,062.50	2,062.50	2,062.50
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 35,250.00	\$ 2,812.50	\$ 3,812.50	\$ 16,812.50	\$ 11,812.50

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)			
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16. Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production	\$ 39,000.00			
17.				
18.				
19.				
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$ 39,000.00			

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

21. Direct Charges:		22. Indirect Charges:	
23. Remarks:			

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

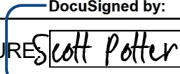
(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

* APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION Metropolitan Government of Nashville/Davidson Co.	
* PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
Prefix: <input type="text"/>	* First Name: <input type="text" value="Scott"/> Middle Name: <input type="text"/>
* Last Name: <input type="text" value="Potter"/>	Suffix: <input type="text"/>
* Title: <input type="text" value="Director, Water and Sewerage Services"/>	
DocuSigned by:	
* SIGNATURE 	* DATE: <input type="text" value="7/12/2021"/>
<small>994E7D9AE02B458...</small>	

Metropolitan Government
of Nashville and Davidson County

John Cooper, Mayor
Velvet Hunter, Interim Director



Department of General Services

Richard H. Fulton Campus
730 2nd Avenue South
P.O. Box 196300
Nashville, TN 37219-6300
615-862-5050, 615-862-5035 (Fax)

June 28, 2021

Dear USDA Grant Review Committee:

Metro Nashville's Department of General Services Division of Sustainability is excited to offer support to Metro Nashville Waste Services, under the Metro Nashville Department of Water and Sewerage Services (MWS), for USDA's Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Projects. Our department is committed to infusing sustainable best practices into city facilities, including the reduction of waste, so this initiative aligns with our department's goals.

As manager of over 84 facilities across Davidson County comprising more than 3.5 million square feet, General Services educates and nudges building occupants and visitors to sustainable placement of waste throughout the facilities which currently includes separate waste and recycling containers in office spaces and common areas. The Division is piloting weekly compost collection and pick-up in two office spaces and has been successful in large part due to our education and outreach program *Socket, Nashville's Sustainability Outlet*. Socket is an environmental, outreach program for Metro General Services and features an interactive website socket.nashville.gov, a monthly newsletter *theConnection*, active social media presence across Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, *MetroConnect* tours of innovative and sustainable city projects led by and for Metro employees, interactive kiosks in city buildings, and "Lunch 'n Learn" sustainability workshops for employees, and other sustainability interactive events.

In support of this grant we specifically offer to collaborate in identifying potential pilot sites for both community food scrap drop-off sites for Nashville residents that is easily accessible, in high-traffic areas, and ideal for this type of service. In addition, we will also identify Metro owned properties that are best suitable for Metro employees (and community members) to drop-off food scraps. Through *Socket, Nashville's Sustainability Outlet* we can educate community members and Metro employees on how and why composting is important via workshops, social media, website videos, and signage.

We look forward to working together towards reducing food waste throughout Metro facilities and our Nashville community. Please let me know if there is anything information you may need.

Sincerely,

Laurel Creech

Laurel Creech, Assistant Director Division of Sustainability



URBAN GREEN LAB™

June 25, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Urban Green Lab (UGL) is proud to serve as the educational partner to Metro Nashville Waste Services (MNWS) and others in our joint application to the USDA's 2021 Community Compost & Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) cooperative agreement opportunity.

Founded in 2009, UGL teaches communities how to live sustainably. We envision a world where sustainability learning is a part of life. Winner of the Governor's Environmental Stewardship and Frist Innovation in Action awards, we organize teams in classrooms and workplaces, train them how to teach others and their families, and connect them to educational resources that make a meaningful difference.

Among other year-round educational programs, UGL leads the Nashville Food Waste Initiative (NFWI), in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Law Institute. The NFWI is designed to encourage local policies and strategies that reduce wasted food through rescuing surplus food for those in need, recycling food scraps for healthy soils, and preventing wasted food in the first place. In 2020, the NFWI launched a new citywide effort to grow community composting pilot sites with training support from the Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR).

MNWS and UGL have collaborated for years on reducing food waste as members of the NFWI Steering Committee, the solid waste subcommittee of the Mayor's Sustainability Advisory Committee (which UGL co-leads), the Nashville Sustainability Roundtable (which UGL hosts), and creation of Nashville's first long-term solid waste master plan titled "Achieving Zero Waste" which calls for zero waste to landfill by the year 2050. Additionally, MNWS and UGL co-host a bi-weekly webinar series for Nashvillians called *Sustainable in the City* which invites local experts on a variety of sustainability and waste related topics to educate about issues and best practices.

For this project, UGL will work with MNWS to integrate food waste reduction and community compost learning more deeply into our existing educational programming citywide, including in K-12 schools, nonprofits, and businesses, with a focus on 1) promoting use of Metro Nashville's community compost pilot dropoff locations, 2) helping share data collected at those sites with stakeholders, and 3) teaching Metro staff and the general public about the sites and how to use them effectively.

We're confident this approach can be successful, not only for Nashville, Davidson County, and our southern peer cities, but as a model nationwide.

Please let me know if you need anything else and thanks for the consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Lawrence". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Todd Lawrence
Executive Director
PO Box 68348
Nashville, TN, 37206
todd@urbangreenlab.org
(615) 442-7072



June 30th, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing in support of Metro Nashville's grant application for the USDA Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Project. This grant would prove invaluable to the ongoing efforts of Metro Nashville Waste Services, a division of Metro Nashville Department of Water and Sewerage Services (MWS), to provide both community engagement and education about the importance of organics diversion in our rapidly growing city.

Since 2018, The Compost Company has worked with Metro Nashville to provide diversion opportunities to city residents and Metro Employees. We have made promising inroads, but due to funding, the scope has been limited to a handful of offices and drop off locations at area Convenience Centers. Additional funding through the USDA would allow us to greatly expand our reach in both public awareness and accessibility. By siting and servicing drop-off locations at additional Metro locations, including area schools and other public facing facilities, we not only touch additional city employees, but also the students, staff, and the families represented at each school and facility. With USDA funding, we can create a lasting impact by reaching a new generation of concerned citizens.

As part of this pilot project and in addition to providing collection and composting services, the Compost Company will work with MNWS to implement a donation program that provides compost generated by the collected food scraps to local farmers and teaching gardens. This program will help support improving local soils while expanding community awareness of the benefits and importance of reducing food waste and composting.

Please let me know if you have any questions and know we fully support Metro Nashville's proposal. We will do everything in our power to ensure a successful program that thoughtfully utilizes these funds. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clay Ezell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Clay" being more prominent than the last name "Ezell".

Clay Ezell
President, The Compost Company

June 30, 2021

Dear USDA Grant Manager,

We were pleased to hear that Nashville is applying for a Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) Pilot Project grant, and to issue this letter of support for their application. Nashville is a participant in NRDC's (Natural Resources Defense Council) Food Matters program, which partners with cities on a regional basis to adopt and expand policies and programs to prevent food from going to waste, rescue surplus food, and recycle food scraps. All of the cities in our regional initiative have committed to working on a defined set of strategies to reduce food waste, as well as to measuring the impacts of their initiatives and prioritizing racial equity in their work. Nashville in particular is a key leader in this initiative, given NRDC's longer-standing partnership with the city and the Nashville Food Waste Initiative on forward-thinking food waste initiatives. Nashville's proposal to expand their successful community food scrap recycling drop-off program (which NRDC profiled here, <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/nashville-residential-food-scrap-recycling-cs.pdf>) builds on their great work and is a meaningful next step in expanding access to food scrap recycling throughout the city.

NRDC has witnessed Nashville's commitment to food waste reduction firsthand – our cities participate in regular technical advisory check-ins with the NRDC team, as well as joining monthly cohort meetings to share advice and questions on strategy implementation, successes, and challenges with their fellow cohort cities and the NRDC team. Our partner cities are deeply committed to doing the work and continuing their progress beyond the scope of engagement with NRDC. They are well-positioned to be successful in their new undertakings, as well as to share the learnings and results from their activities with other cities, to help the work grow even beyond the scope of the grant.

Thank you for considering Nashville's application, and please let us know if we can answer any further questions.

Best,

Yvette

YVETTE CABRERA

Director, Food Waste

Healthy People & Thriving Communities Program

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

40 W. 20TH ST

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**APPLICATION SIGNATURE PAGE
FOR
APPLICATION FOR USDA Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction
Pilot Projects Grant
(USDA-NRCS-NHQ-CCFWR-21-NOFO0001112)**

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

DocuSigned by:

Scott Potter

7/12/2021

Scott Potter, Director
Department Water and Sewerage Services

Date