



**PROPOSED
COMMUNITY COMPOSTING
DRAFT BYLAW CHANGE**

Presented by the Sustainability Committee

TIMELINE

June 2019

- Sustainability Committee formally established by BOS

July 2019

- First Meeting, Community Composting identified as a priority.
- Begin working with Town Planner to research and gather feedback from other communities with municipal compost sites and draft proposed bylaw language.

August 2019

- Compost Poll published and shared with residents. (ongoing)

September 2019

- Sustainability Committee, Town Planner and Health Agent attend MassDEP regional composting seminar.

November 2019

- Sustainability Committee attends MassDEP Compost Facility Tour.

February 2020

- Present committee update and Community Composting project to the BOS

Date TBD

- Town Meeting vote on proposed language change
- Apply for MassDEP Organics Capacity Grant (\$250,000) to develop the site.



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

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- Tyngsborough generates 2251+ pounds of trash per household every year
- MassDEP estimates that 31% of household discards could be diverted for composting.
- Yard debris and grass clippings were often found blocking catch basins and culverts during storm water mapping for MS4 permitting process.
- Residents often frustrated by the limited dates for yard waste collection.
- Based on our compost poll, approx. 75% of respondents interested in exploring options for yard waste and/or food waste composting opportunities.
- 171 municipal compost sites and 49 sites accepting diverted food waste in MA

Photo: Black Earth Compost truck at Manchester municipal compost site.

ENCOURAGE ORGANICS DIVERSION

- Proposal would clearly define what composting should look like at all scales
 - Backyard, School/Community Gardens and Small-scale commercial facilities (very large operations are excluded)
 - Organics diversion is eco-friendly and could reduce trash tipping fees by \$80,000+ per year.
- Establish a Town Community Compost Site
 - Create a new town service for the benefit of Tyngsborough residents.
 - Apply for MassDEP Organics Capacity Grant to develop the site (up to \$250,000)
 - Public-Private partnership to manage day-to-day operations of the site.

FIFTY YEARS OF EARTH DAY

10 REASONS TO COMPOST

- 1) Improves plant growth
- 2) Reduces soil erosion
- 3) Allows soil to retain more water
- 4) Enhances soil fertility
- 5) Reduces waste landfilled & burned
- 6) Benefits soil structure
- 7) Allows soil to retain more nutrients
- 8) Stores carbon in soil to protect the climate
- 9) Builds community resilience & power
- 10) Is something everyone can do!



IILSR INSTITUTE FOR
Local Self-Reliance

Learn how: ilsr.org/composting





BENEFITS

- Backyard Composting
 - On-site diversion of organic materials.
 - Immediate reduction in tipping fees.
- Town Community Composting
 - Increased access to yard waste disposal (including drop off).
 - Finished Compost and other high value organic materials made available to residents.
 - Reduction of \$80K+ per year in trash tipping fees.
 - Up to \$250,000 in Organics Capacity grants available through MassDEP to develop the site, as well as up to \$4200 in additional yearly RDP funding for new waste reduction projects.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Adding and defining Community Composting to the Zoning Bylaws

Amend Section 2.11.30 by adding the following new provision to the Table of Uses:

	Residential Districts			Business Districts				Industrial
Governmental, Institutional and Public Service Uses								
	R-1	R-2	R-3	B-1	B-2	B-3	B-4	I-1
Community Composting Facility	SS-R	SS-R	SS-R	SS-R	SS-R	SS-R	SS-R	SS-R

Amend Section 2.11.43 (Governmental, Institutional and Public Service Use) by modifying and adding the following definitions:

Solid Waste Disposal - Sanitary landfill, refuse transfer station, refuse incinerator with grate area in excess of ten (10) square feet, ~~composting plant~~, solid waste recycling operation, and any other works or use for processing, handling, treating, and disposing of solid waste materials, including garbage, rubbish, junk discarded bulk items, and sludge but not raw sewage, **compostable materials** and similar waste items.

Composting - Composting is the controlled decomposition of organic material to form compost, the biologically stable humus-like material derived from composting, and other higher value products or the aerobic, thermophilic decomposition of organic matter, which is used as a soil amendment.

PROPOSED CHANGE, CONT.

Community Composting Facility - shall include and be defined as follows:

- a. A facility to control the decomposition of organic material such as yard waste, food scraps, and other compostable materials into compost.**
- b. Shall have a minimum lot size of four (4) acres.**
- c. Shall be located at least 1/8 mile (660 feet) away from any existing primary structures.**
- d. A facility that:**
 - 1. receives no more than 78.75 tons per week and no more than 22.5 tons per day of Group 2 organic materials, listed in 310 CMR 16.04(3)(b): Table 1. Examples of Organic Materials, or other organic materials with a carbon to nitrogen ratio of 30:1 or less.**
 - 2. contains less than 5,000 cubic yards of organic material per acre; and**
 - 3. has less than 37,500 cubic yards of organic materials on site at any one time.**
- e. Shall be located at least 100 ft away from a wetland resource area.**
- f. Any facility operating as a Composting facility, as that term is defined in 310 CMR 16.00 et seq., shall be subject to any applicable requirements of 310 CMR 16.00 et seq., including all requirements for implementing an odor and vector control plan, and nothing herein is intended to, nor shall be interpreted to, alter any applicable requirements of State law.**

PROPOSED CHANGE, CONT.

Amend Section 2.11.50 by adding the following accessory use definitions:

Residential backyard compost piles shall be an accessory use to all residential dwellings when said pile is 266 square feet per acre up to a maximum of 400 square feet (approximately 20ft x 20ft) in total area and shall not exceed four (4) feet in height. The organic material used shall be primarily sourced from the parcel on which such a use occurs and any material gathered off-site for commercial purposes is specifically prohibited for this purpose. Such use shall require a setback of of thirty (30) feet from front lot line and not less than five (5) feet from side and rear lot lines as well as thirty (30) ft from a wetland resource area and shall also comply with 2.14.30 of this bylaw.

Small Composting Operations Not at a Residence shall be an accessory use when said pile is 266 square feet per acre up to a maximum of 400 square feet (approximately 20ft x 20ft) in total area and shall not exceed four (4) feet in height. The organic material used shall be primarily sourced from the parcel on which such a use occurs and any material gathered off-site for commercial purposes is specifically prohibited for this purpose. Such use shall require a setback of of thirty (30) feet from front lot line and not less than five (5) feet from side and rear lot lines as well as thirty (30) ft from a wetland resource area and shall also comply with 2.14.30 of this bylaw.