



sustainable FREDERICK

Sustainability Committee

Minutes

February 1, 2021, 6pm

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

In attendance:

Committee Members: Phil LeBlanc, Alyssa Seibert, Greg Sember, Will Cotton, Katey Grogan, James Baker, David Berliner

Alderman:

Guests: Barb Trader

1. January minutes approved
2. Zach Fleagle, Superintendent of Sanitation, spoke about waste, recycling, and composting in the City of Frederick. First, he spoke about glass recycling and how important it is to keep the glass out of the trash because of the weight and the cost of municipal solid waste versus the cost of recycling. Municipal solid waste costs \$69 per ton and recycling costs \$25 per ton. The City typically budgets \$1.5-1.6 million per year for tipping fees, including municipal solid waste and recycling.

Glass recycling is becoming more narrow in what is acceptable. Some can be used in roads and some is used as landfill cover. The City/County is driven by the state when it comes to recycling glass.

Cost for waste and recycling is included in taxes and comes from the general fund. City waste comes from City taxes and recycling comes from County taxes. There is no breakdown of percent or dollar amount associated with service. The City is looking at other municipalities that

are set up as an enterprise fund. If the City shifted to an enterprise fund, the taxpayers would likely lead to a monthly cost to City taxpayers.

The City provides the trash pickup for all City residents and businesses and takes it to the County's transfer station. The County provides recycling pickup through a contractor for most City residents and businesses (except downtown businesses). Using contractors will change the service levels.

The City did a small-scale pilot project for exploring organics to feed the City's wastewater treatment plant. It required pre-sorting the material before it went to the digesters because the digesters can only accept certain things. One of the biggest issues was training the people in the kitchens.

3. Discussion of Climate Action Plan

- a. Discussion for next month is energy. Jenny will provide some background on audits completed for City facilities. The Committee will discuss the next energy video in the video series in March and other ideas for public outreach. The Committee will work on options for alternatives to out-of-state RECs or other energy ideas for City government buildings.
- b. Greg mentioned that we might work on a video for more efficient recycling.

4. Other Administrative Topics

- a. No other topics.

5. Public Comment:

- a. Barb Trader asked in reflection on the discussion of composting tonight, if the social cost of carbon associated with landfilling organics should be included? Currently, the cost is \$25-40 per ton. So when the City is estimating costs associated with a new program, the social cost should be included in comparison with current business practices.

6. Next meeting March 1, 2021.