

Dear Mayor & Trustees,

Over a year ago, at the urging, or more accurately shaming, of my two children, age 12 & 17, I joined the food scraps program. You see, since all of our 7 schools have food compost bins installed in the school cafetiers, it is natural for my kids to ask me the following question: If you know the benefits of composting food scraps, HOW COME WE ARE NOT DOING IT AT HOME?

Based on my family's experience having participated in the food scraps program, I am happy to report that for a family of 4, our weekly real trash has drastically reduced by over 75%. We use to fill our garbage cans with at least 4 bags trash per week, now, it is barely one bag. But this comes at a price: In the past 12 months, along with hundreds of others, my family has been making weekly trips to the Recycling Center to empty our food scraps. It's 52 trips to the Center from my family alone, multiply by the hundreds of families making the same weekly drives to the Center, I believe everyone here can do the math! Over the past few days, I called about a dozen friends - most are families with both parents working - asking them if they would join the food scraps program if our village begins weekly pickup, the answers are a resounding YES. So I do support CAC's recent Sanitary Study recommendations!

In recent weeks, I have been following the local news regarding the CAC's recommendations. I am deeply touched by comments from some of our senior citizens expressing their dismay and genuine concerns about the hardship they could face if they need to move recycle bins to the curb side. I hope CAC and the Trustees could work out some alternatives and remedies to address seniors with genuine needs.

Just like the efforts to begin paper & plastic recyclings decades ago, food scraps recycling takes time, efforts, and continued education by grassroot organizations such as CAC and our elected officials like all of you.

I hope you will lead us. I hope you won't give up!

*~ Julie Zhu*