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Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 1:53 PM

To: Mayor; John Mark; Bill Stern; Deb Pekarek; Carl Finger; Matthew Callaghan; Marc Samwick; Marc Samwick; Jane Veron

Subject: Food Scrap Composting Pilot Program update and next steps

Hello Mayor Mark and Village Board of Trustees,

This email is to bring everyone up to date with what has occurred recently with respect to the proposed food scrap composting pilot program for Scarsdale residents and how we can best move forward.

Last week Ron, myself, Rob, Benny and Deb met with Stuart Matthey (Assistant Superintendent for Business) and Jim Lancaster (Assistant Director of Facilities) from the Scarsdale School District. Our meeting with them was to discuss ways in which we could partner with them to collect the food scraps for both entities and have them composted.

To give you all some background on what is currently happening at the schools, all 5 elementary schools are collecting their lunchroom food scraps and compostable serveware (e.g., paper plates) and are having them carted to a commercial compost facility in CT. That facility then turns it all into compost and sells it to garden centers (the District does not get any of the compost back nor does it receive any proceeds from the sale of the compost). The cost of the program for each school is ~\$4,000/year which is mainly for the cost of carting of the food scraps to the CT composting facility.

In light of the carting cost and the fact that the District does not get the compost back, the District is considering the installation of an in-vessel composting system called the Rocket. The Rocket is an enclosed system (basically a large tank) that in short takes in the food waste on one end and 3 weeks later generates compost that comes out of the other end. The Rocket would be installed at the middle or high school and all of the other schools would have their food scraps transported to it.

The pros for the Rocket are that it has a small footprint, it is a clean system with no odors, it uses very little energy, the school would get usable compost from it, the schools could use it for student education, and the big pro is that it would eliminate the carting of food waste to CT along with the associated cost. The main con for the Rocket (for the schools) is that since it is built primarily to handle food scraps, the compostable serveware used at the schools needs to be chopped up before putting it in the Rocket. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE FOR THE VILLAGE PROGRAM AS RESIDENTS WILL NOT BE PUTTING COMPOSTABLE SERVEWARE INTO THEIR COMPOST BINS. The other cons about the Rocket are its cost (The price range of a Rocket is from \$35-\$65K depending on the size Rocket purchased. Please note that the cost of the Rocket however is 50% reimbursable by NYS, and this reimbursement applies to both public school districts and to municipalities), and the fact that after the compost comes out of the Rocket it needs to sit in a pile for 3 weeks (to stabilize) prior to being used.

The school district is currently considering various options, including the Rocket, with respect to their food waste.

Given the above background, our question to the schools was as follows: would they consider partnering with the Village where our DPW would bring the food scraps from the 5 Scarsdale elementary schools to the Rocket site, in exchange for the District taking the food scraps from our residential food scrap pilot program? The way it would work would be, for example, that on the day that the DPW

collects the Quaker Ridge area's curbside food scraps from the pilot program homes, the DPW would also pick up the Quaker Ridge Elementary School food scraps and would bring it all to the Rocket location where the school facilities person running the Rocket would then take it all from us and load it in. The school was open to this idea.

The way we left it with them was that they would keep us up to date on what they are planning on doing with their food scrap program and if they do install the Rocket we would explore further this sharing opportunity with them.

Separate from the conversation with the school district, we (Bill, Ron, myself, Steve, Rob, Benny and Tyler) also had a meeting in Village Hall with Lou Vitrone and Marianne Petronella from the Westchester County DEF. We spoke with them regarding what the County has done in the past with respect to food scrap recycling and about our ideas for having a food scrap collection pilot program here in Scarsdale. After that meeting we had a follow up meeting at Westchester County's H-MRF recycling facility in Valhalla to observe and learn more about the County-owned Rocket which is at that site.

During both meetings with the County what was raised was the possibility of the County loaning Scarsdale the Rocket that they own and moving it from the H-MRF in Valhalla to Scarsdale. Thus we would receive it free of charge. If we received the loan of the Rocket from the County, the ideal situation would be for it to be installed at our Secor Road facility. We would then be able to have both a location to both bring our food scraps to which have been picked up curbside as well as use it as a drop-off site for all residents' food scraps. Lou stated at the meeting that if we wanted to pursue this, the County would need a letter from the Village with this request and that he would take from there.

During last week's meeting Benny also raised the alternate possibility of Scarsdale partnering with the County to bring the food waste from our municipal pilot program to the H-MRF. If the County is open to this arrangement, we should setup a meeting with the County to explore this and discuss the details.

In terms of next steps it is our request that the Board of Trustees ask Village management to speak with the County as soon as possible about both (1) doing a joint program where the Rocket stays at the H-MRF and we bring our residential food scraps there and (2) obtaining a loan of the Rocket for installation in Scarsdale. Once we have a sense from the County's of whether they are interested in partnering with us for these actions, the Board of Trustees Sustainability Committee should schedule a meeting to discuss these 2 options and determine how best to move forward.

We appreciate your attention to and support of this initiative.

Best,

Michelle and Ron