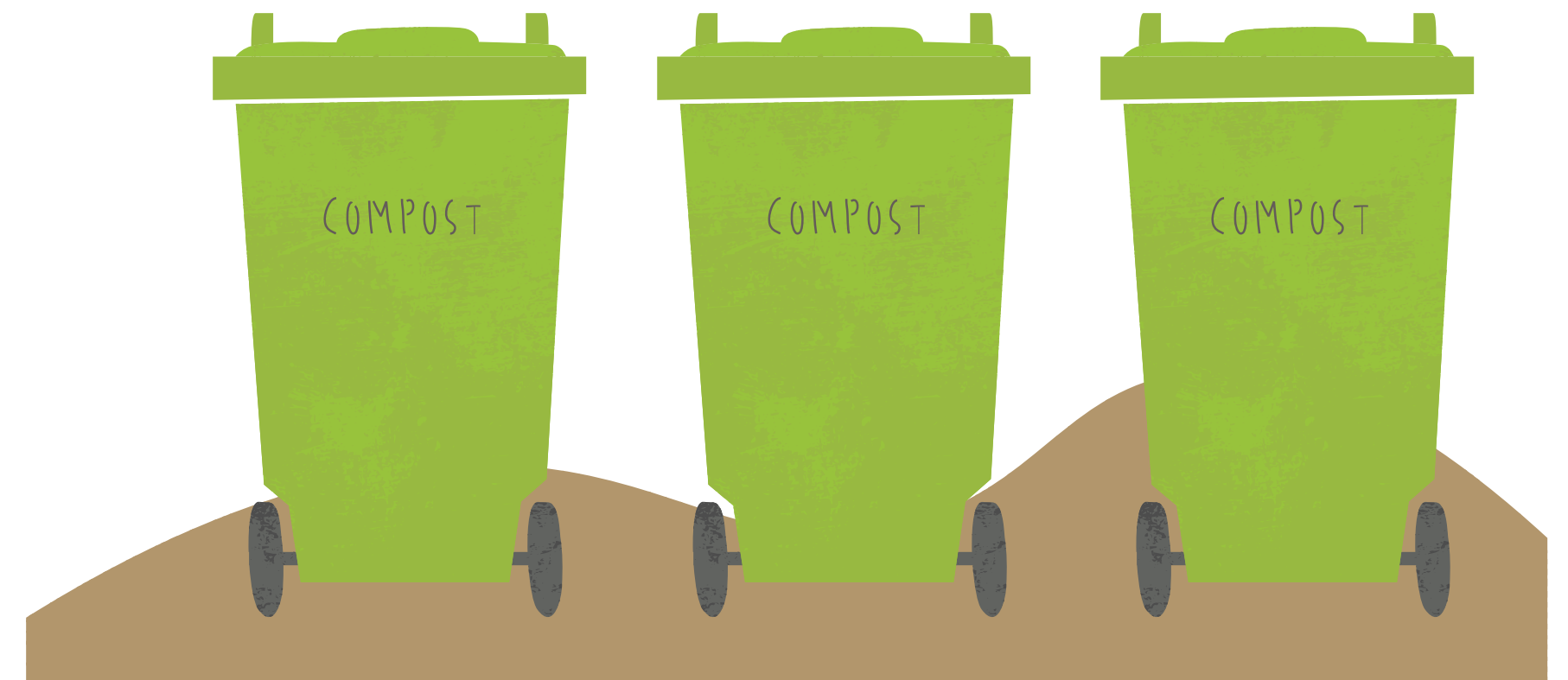


# COMPOST PILOT PROGRAM: 6- MONTH PROGRAM UPDATE

City Council April 23, 2022  
Claire Dion, Zero Waste Program Coordinator



# THE PROBLEM

- 38% of material disposed of in MI is compostable
  - 3 million tons annually
- Of organic waste going to landfill, 46% is food waste
  - yard waste is only 9%
- In 2019, 1.64 Million Food Waste Tons were generated in MI
  - 660k Tons were from Residential-largest category at 40.1%



**95% of the food we dispose of ends up in the landfill, where it emits methane and contributes to climate change**

Michigan Gap Analysis: RRS (Resource Recycling Systems)

# OUR SOLUTION

## Compost Drop-off Program

- One year pilot: Nov '21- Nov '22
- 5 Locations, 14 Carts
  - 896 gallon weekly capacity, 179 full 5 gallon buckets per week
- Dawn to dusk drop-off access- flexibility
- Weekly Cart Pick-Up
- All food waste accepted
  - "if it grows, it goes"
- Participant resources (food waste collection bucket, program print materials)



# OUR PARTNERS



**GRANT FUNDING AND  
SUPPORT**



**LOCAL HAULER**

# PARTICIPATION

Engaged, Knowledgeable, Excited

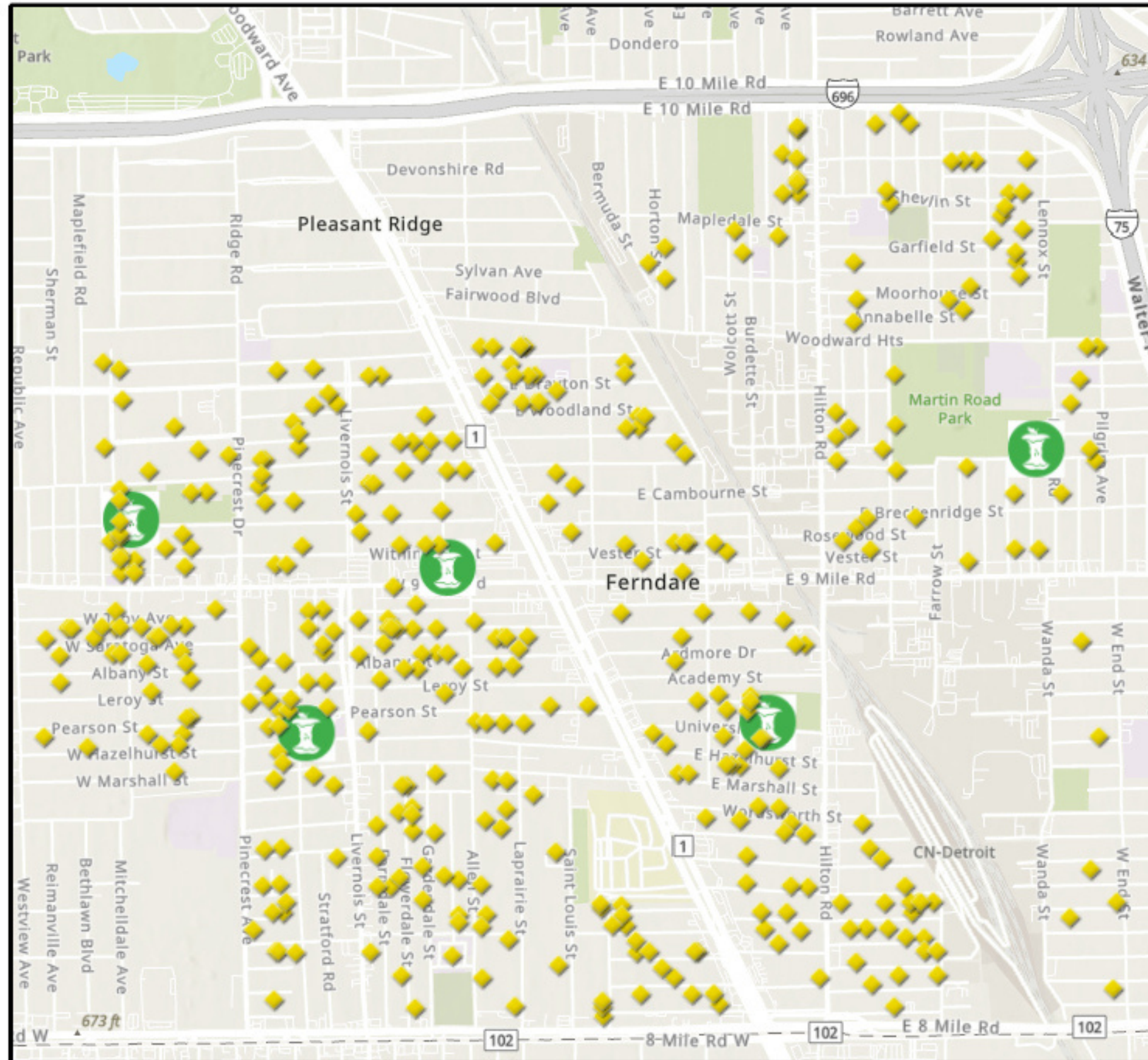
- 400 participants registered
- 376 buckets were distributed
- 400 follow-up surveys were sent,
  - 252 returned (so far)
- 51 residents have expressed interest in joining a future program
- 90 participants practiced composting prior to the program
  - Backyard, pick-up service, vermicompost



# Residential Compost Users Pilot



FERNDALE



**Legend**

- ◆ Compost users
- 🗑️ Residential Compost Drop Off Locations



0 0.17 0.35 0.7 Miles



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

After 23 weeks of residential pickup



## TONNAGE

26,925 pounds  
13.46 tons

**63.62 TONS OF CO2**  
That's 14 vehicles driven  
for one year



**2.67 MILLION  
GALLONS OF WATER**

That's 4 olympic  
swimming pools





"I really enjoy composting and have noticed a vast reduction in the amount of trash we have each week. I would LOVE to have a curbside compost so that it is easier, picked up weekly with regular trash, and is more accessible to everyone. "

**FERNDALE RESIDENT**

## **FERNDALE RESIDENT**

"I freaking love it. I have a home compost, but that's a dud in winter and having to formulate the mixture of greens and browns can be a bit of a pain. Since starting this pilot my household trash volume has gone way down. I used to make about a kitchen bag of trash every week, but now we'll go 2 or 3 weeks before having to take it out because we can throw so much in our bucket and smell isn't a concern."

# FEEDBACK

Of the 252 who responded:

- 36% visit a drop-off site weekly or more
- 55% visit a drop-off site every other week- once a month
- 52% keep their compost container inside
- 48% keep their compost container outside
- 11% line with paper bags, 32% line with bpi bags, 55% do not line their container
- 64% drop off their container 100% full

Compost Drop-Off Location	% of Participation
Martin Road Park	14%
Kulick Center	29%
Geary Park	25%
Wilson Park	20%
Downtown Withington Lot	5%
Multiple Locations	7%



# FEEDBACK

- The drop-off locations are clean and functional. 4.52 / 5
- It is important to me that the Ferndale businesses I visit participate in composting their food waste. 4.47/ 5
- It is important to me to compost to reduce the environmental impact of garbage. 4.78 / 5
- Those I live with think composting is a good idea. 4.61 / 5



# SUGGESTIONS

- Better drop-off infrastructure
- Increased education for beginners
  - 10% want increased communication
- Larger signage
- Water spigot at drop-off to clean buckets
- More locations