

DISCHARGE



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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 2, 2021

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Authorization to Submit an Application for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Funding to Develop Municipal Organics Management Plans and Food Waste Drop-off Programs

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) to authorize the filing of a grant application for funding from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to develop Municipal Organics Management Plans and Food Waste Drop-off Programs for a number of interested towns within Erie County.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner Bonnie Lawrence. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "P".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mw
Enclosure

cc: Bonnie Lawrence, Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Planning

DISCHARGE

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Authorization to Submit an Application for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Funding to Develop Municipal Organics Management Plans and Food Waste Drop-off Programs
Date: July 2, 2021

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) to authorize the submittal of an application for state funds to establish Municipal Organics Management Plans and Food Waste Drop-off Programs. This resolution is requirement of this grant application.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications to applying for the grant. The required match will be supplied through in-kind resources in the event of a grant award.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

In 2014 the Erie County Legislature resolved to “Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community” (COMM 12E-5). In 2018 the Erie County Legislature authorized acceptance of an award from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to support certification of Erie County as a Climate Smart Community (COMM 7E-38). Under the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification Program, municipalities have the ability to receive points for implementing organics related actions. In 2019 Erie County built and established a compost and food waste collection program at the Alden Correctional Facility with CSC Grant Program funding. This resolution seeks authorization for a new grant application for funding to support development of organic waste management plans and to promote and develop food waste collection programs for Erie County municipalities. The food waste collections program will utilize the Alden compost site and will further DEP’s program to guide those local municipalities through more compressive individual Organics Management Plans.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The application will not be submitted, and the County will lose an opportunity for resources to reduce climate impacts and improve recycling in the County.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

A grant application will be submitted to NYSDEC.

DISCHARGE

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Authorization to Submit an Application for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities Grant Program Funding to Develop Municipal Organics Management Plans and Food Waste Drop-off Programs

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature resolved to become a Climate Smart Community (Comm. 12E-5 (2014)); and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature authorized a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) grant to conduct Climate Smart Community certification activities (COMM 7E-38 (2018)); and

WHEREAS, organic waste, which accounts for an estimated 30% of our waste stream, is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Conservation has issued a Request for Applications for New York State Climate Smart Communities Grant Program pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law Article 54 Title 15 that can support implementing organics-related actions that will include Organics Management Plans, promotion of food waste recycling and establishing food waste drop-off programs; and

WHEREAS, Erie County has identified the required \$650,000 of matching funds that can be allocated to this project from in-kind staff support, pursuant to the requirements of Environmental Conservation Law Article 54 Title 15.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Erie County authorizes Andrew Goldstein, Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist, an employee, to act on its behalf in submittal of an application through the Consolidated Funding Application not to exceed six-hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$650,000), to be used to establish Municipal Organics Management Plans and Food Waste Drop-off Programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event of a grant award, Erie County will make resources available to the project to meet or exceed the six-hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$650,000) matching funds requirement through in-kind services, or otherwise, through County funds, if allocated in the County budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be provided for the County Executive; the County Attorney; and Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Planning Bonnie Lawrence.