

June 13, 2023

Lisa Thomas, Coventry Town Council Chair
1712 Main Street
Coventry, CT 06238

Re: Town of Coventry – Composting & Food Reduction Grant

Dear Ms. Thomas,

I am writing to express the support of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) for the Town of Coventry's application to the Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) program. This grant funding would enable the Town to partner with the waste collection company Agri-Cycle to create a sustainable food waste disposal program.

Under this proposed project, the Town would purchase tipper barrels and pay for the cost of weekly collection at 31 locations throughout the community, including public schools, high-density housing complexes, several restaurants, and the Coventry Transfer Station. In addition, the Town would purchase ~600 countertop food waste barrels along with biodegradable bags. The Town would provide these items at a reduced cost to residents to use to deliver separated food waste at one of the designated pick-up locations.

The collected food waste would be transported to the Hytone Ag-Grid Anaerobic Digester where it would be processed in an environmentally sustainable way while also providing energy for the surrounding region and supporting the viability of local agriculture. To increase community awareness and participation in the program, the Town would use educational and marketing materials in the form of informational pamphlets, social media posts, and fliers.

The establishment of this innovative food waste disposal program in the Town of Coventry would be consistent with the goals articulated under CRCOG's Regional Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). The Town has been working diligently to create a more sustainable waste management system for its community and has become a leader for our region. An award from the CFWR program would be key to launching this exciting food waste disposal initiative. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: CRCOG Policy Board
Caitlin Palmer, CRCOG Director of Regional Planning & Development
John Elsesser, Town of Coventry Town Manager