

Midcoast Community Council

MCC

an elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar

# FOOD COMPOST IN THE MIDCOAST

**Midcoast Community Council**  
**September 11, 2019**

# WHAT IS FOOD COMPOSTING AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Food composting is the process of converting food waste into a nutrient, carbon rich soil additive
- By reducing food waste, food composting supports efforts to minimize climate change and other environmental impacts
- Ox Mountain Landfill is near capacity – reducing residential waste via food composting will extend its longevity



# WHERE IS FOOD COMPOSTING AVAILABLE

- Recology of the Coast provides food composting services in Pacifica
- Republic Services provides food composting services in Half moon bay
- The Midcoast currently does not participate in food composting

# IS THERE SUPPORT TO BRING FOOD COMPOSTING TO THE MIDCOAST?

**C/CAG** – City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County – strongly supports the effort to bring food composting to the Midcoast

**Office of Sustainability** – strongly supports the effort to bring food composting to the Midcoast

**Community support** – survey to be posted on NextDoor – continue share your thought

- **Current survey results** - ~54% in favor of composting, 46% against; ~195 respondents so far

# IS THERE COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO BRING FOOD COMPOSTING TO THE MIDCOAST?

## Why in favor?

- Reduce individual residential waste
- Clear benefit to environment
- Weekly green bin pickup (instead of bi-monthly)
- Free compost giveaways twice a year
- Potential for smaller waste bin = lower fees

## ■ Why against?

- Previous negative experience with Recology services
- Do not want increased fees
- Residents already composting

# SHOULD WE BRING FOOD COMPOSTING TO THE MIDCOAST?

Food Composting is in line with current, local environmental efforts such as:

- Disposable food wares ordinance
  - Requires businesses that serve prepared food to provide compostable, non-plastic materials for food storage
  - If residents cannot compost these food storage materials, the desired outcome of reducing waste will not be achieved, as they will end up in the regular garbage



# MORE REASONS TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD COMPOSTING

- The City and County of San Francisco has had great success with food composting, other areas followed
- California requires businesses to recycle organic waste
- Minimizing food waste is part of California's effort to address climate change by reducing green house gas emissions
- Backyard composting may not be feasible for all
  - Expensive, time consuming
  - Increases pests
  - Not convenient for all

# MORE REASONS TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD COMPOSTING

- Residential food composting is in line with state's goal of landfill diversion
- California Legislative information search – returns 26 bills that reference composting
- **”Composting** is recognized by the State Air Resources Board as an important tool to sequester massive amounts of carbon in California's soils to help immediately reverse global warming by drawing down excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere”; (senate concurrent resolution 43, chapter 109



# MORE REASONS TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD COMPOSTING

- Ox Mountain Landfill will reach capacity in ~18-19 years
- Our county contributes twice as much garbage to the landfill compared to the national average
- It will take ~15-20 years to identify, permit and license a new landfill location...so...
- Now is the time to conserve and act!
  
- Composting is the right thing to do for future generations and our planet!

# HOW CAN WE BRING FOOD COMPOSTING TO THE MIDCOAST?

## Next steps:

- MCC draft a letter to MWSD and GCSD requesting consideration of adding food composting at the next Recology and Republic contract renewals
- Work with MWSD and GCSD to review option to add food composting to next Recology contract update
- Office of Sustainability to discuss food composting process in more detail – Gordon Tong from the Office of Sustainability