



Residential Composting Options

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July 10, 2017

Presentation Overview

- Reasons for composting
- Other city's Services
- Options, with Pros & Cons

Does City Council wish to pursue any of these options further?



Why Compost?

All residential green waste collected by Waste Management and through the green waste events is brought to a landfill

By composting, the City could:

- Reduce the amount of material sent to landfills
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

<https://kisstheground.com/thecompoststory/>





COMPOST THESE ITEMS



FOOD SCRAPS

BAKED GOODS
CEREALS/PASTA
COFFEE GROUNDS/FILTERS
DAIRY
MEAT
PRODUCE
VEGETABLES



YARD DEBRIS

BRANCHES
BRUSH
FLOWERS
GRASS CLIPPINGS
LEAVES
WEEDS



Items compostable in the green compost carts

NON-RECYCLABLE PAPER

NAPKINS
PAPER CUPS
PAPER PLATES
PAPER TOWELS
GREASY PIZZA BOXES
TISSUES
WAXED PAPER



MISCELLANEOUS

PET HAIR
TEA BAGS
WOODEN CHOP STICKS
WOODEN POPSICLE STICKS



BPI. Look for BPI certified compostable paper products

Other City's Composting Services

Curbside Collection:

Municipality	Pick Up Frequency	Program	Annual Cost	Participation Rate
Longmont	Bi-Weekly	Voluntary	\$79.20	Unknown
Loveland*	Weekly	Voluntary	\$80.00	45%
Golden**	Bi-Weekly	Voluntary	\$113.40	12%
Denver*	Weekly	Voluntary	\$117.00	13%
Louisville*	Bi-Weekly	Non-voluntary	\$287.88	90%

*Communities using A1 Organics for composting

**Golden contributes \$0.85/month per participating household



Other City's Composting Services

Collection Site:

Municipality	Program	Operation Details	Direct Cost?
Northglenn	Yard waste mulching center	Every Friday & Saturday (April thru Nov)	No
		Every Friday & first Saturday of each month (Dec thru March)	
Westminster	Tree limb & leaf collection	Tree limbs accepted year round one Saturday per month	No
		Leaves accepted in the fall only	

Options Summary

- Bi-Yearly Green Waste Events
- On-Site Drop Off Facility
- Curbside Collection System
- Local Drop Off Site/Voucher System



Commerce City Green Waste Events

- Green Yard Waste Events are offered to all Commerce City residents at no direct charge
- Two events per year (one spring & one fall)
- Event hours: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
- No limit & no load size limits

Pros:

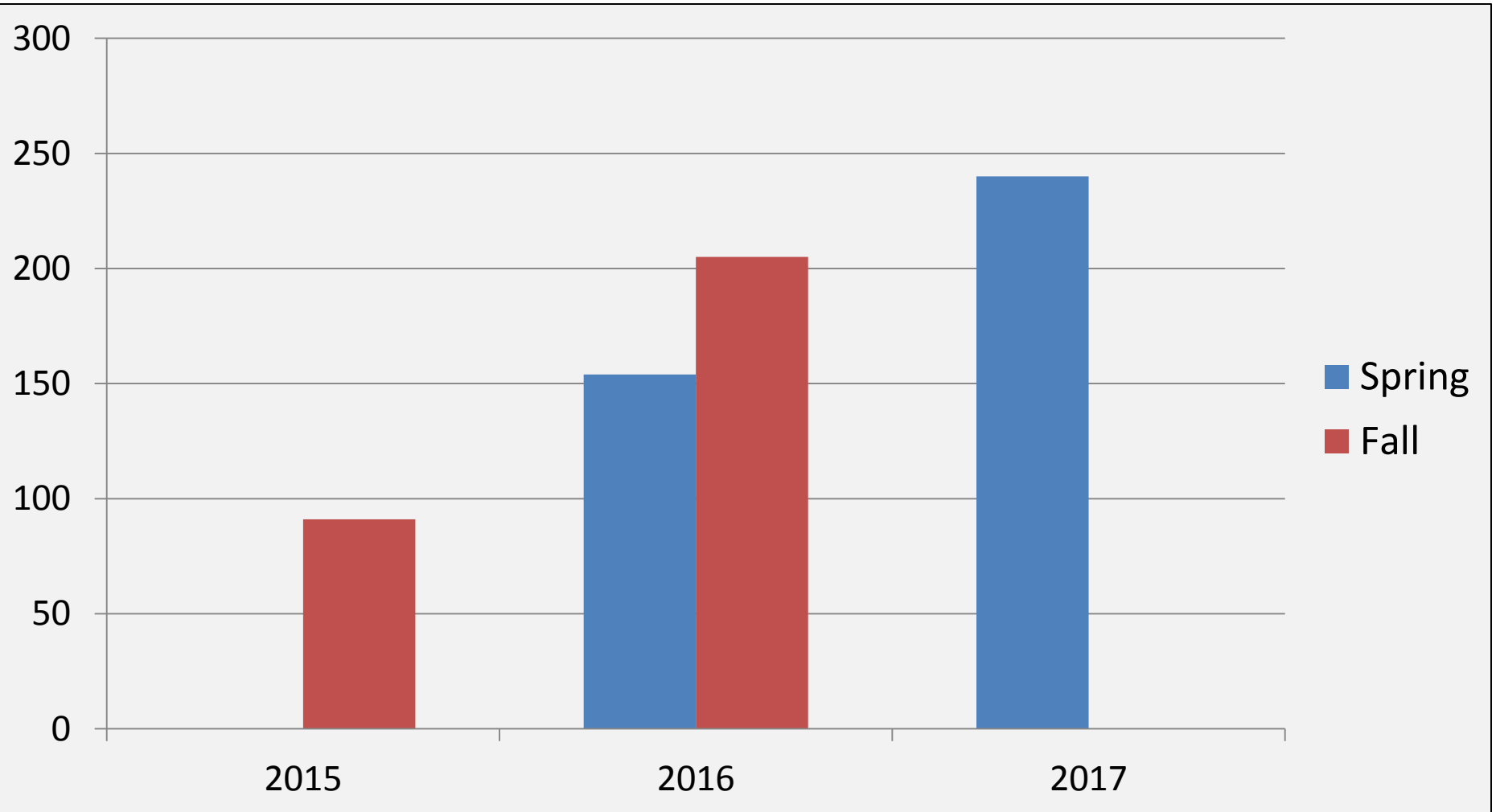
- Low Cost

Cons:

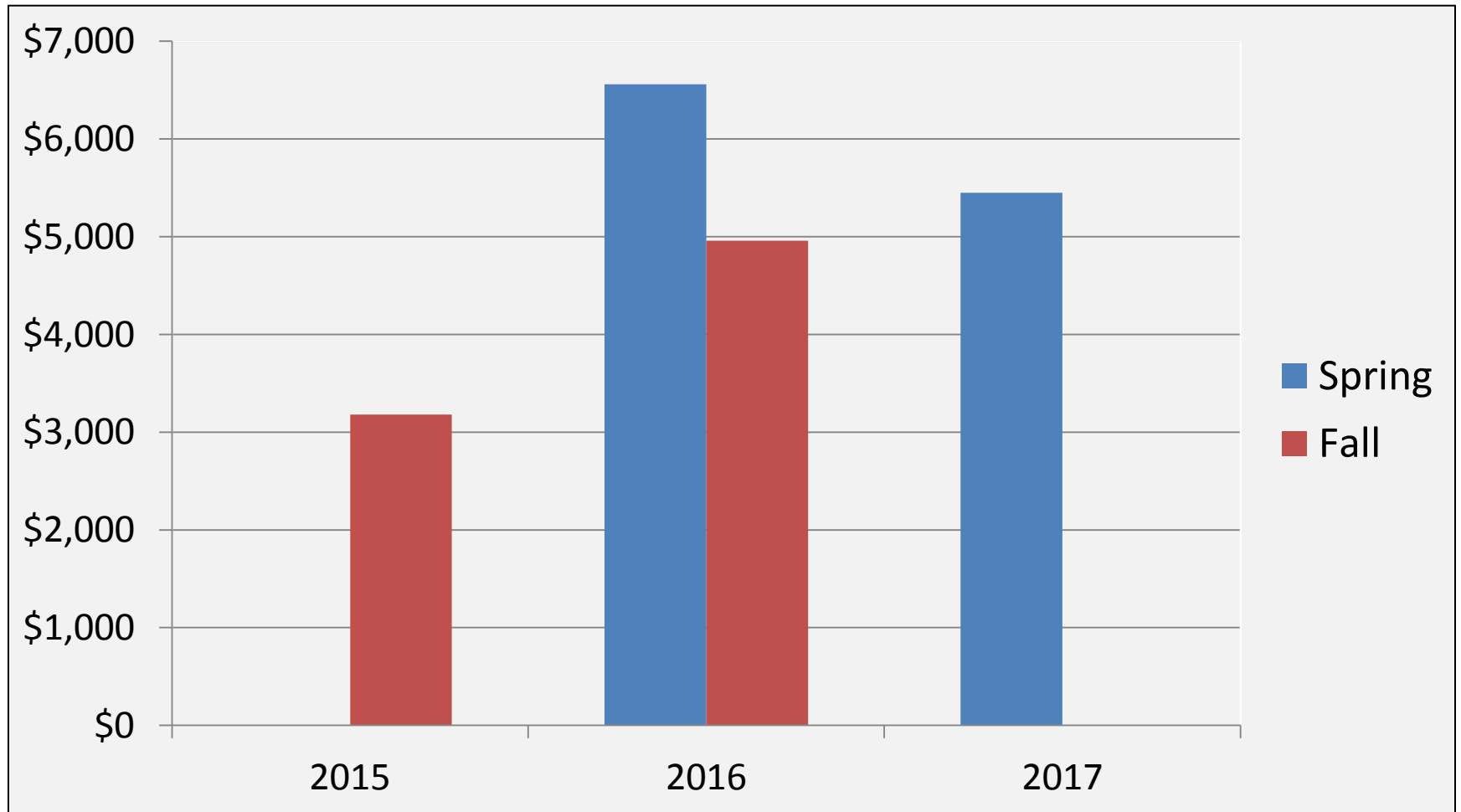
- Collected materials disposed at landfill
- Limited availability
- Residents need to bring items to site
- Don't limit to residential customers only



Green Waste Event Participation



Green Waste Event Costs



On Site Drop Off Facility

Set up a drop off facility at the MSC

Assumptions:

- One Saturday per month from May thru November (7 months), open for seven (7) hours
- 2 employees on site
- Dispose of materials in dumpsters
- Set limits on participation & volume

Estimated Cost:

- Initial set up costs (fencing, security cameras, etc.) = \$35,000
- Staff costs/year = \$7,450 + Disposal fees = \$1,500/event or \$10,500 annually
- Annual costs = approximately \$18,000



On Site Drop Off Facility

Pros:

- Relatively low cost, once initial investment is made
- Convenient location
- More availability than Green Waste events

Cons:

- Collected materials disposed at landfill
- Residents need to bring items to site



Curbside Collection Program

Provide curbside service through Waste Management or another provider

Assumptions:

- Bi-Weekly service (opposite of recycling)
- Voluntary
- Hauler provides initial can at no charge to City or participant
- 5% participation rate = 775 households

Estimated Cost:

- $775 \text{ HH} \times \$13.50/\text{month} \text{ or } \$162.00/\text{year} = \text{approx. } \$208,000$



Curbside Collection Program

Pros:

- No initial costs
- Convenient pickup; might lead to more use
- Collected materials composted

Cons:

- Cost
- No disincentive to use if City pays; might lead to contamination if residents use container for trash
- If residents are required to pay, no mechanism in place for billing but could require hauler to do this



Local Drop Off Site/Voucher Program

Utilize pilot program for green waste recycling at Tower Landfill; provide a voucher for residents to drop off green waste & compostables

Assumptions:

- Up to two vouchers provided per household per year
- 5% participation rate = 775 households per year
- 3 cubic yard limit
- 15% discount from A1 Organics
- Costs are fixed

Estimated Cost:

- $775 \text{ HH} \times \$34.85 = \$27,000$ annually
- Republic Services has offered free drop off for residents for remainder of 2017
- Could consider having residents share in the cost; pay at landfill



Local Drop Off Site/Voucher Program

Pros:

- No initial costs
- Collected materials composted
- Year-round access
- Utilization of local businesses

Cons:

- City staff required to administer vouchers
- Citizens need to haul materials to site



Options Cost Summary

Option	Estimated Annual Cost
Green Waste Events (2/year)	\$10,000 - \$12,000
Green Waste Events (4/year)	\$20,000 - \$24,000
On Site Drop Off Facility	\$18,000 + set up
Curbside Collection Program	\$208,000
Tower Landfill/Voucher System (City pays 100%)	\$27,000
Tower Landfill/Voucher System (Citizen pays \$10; City pays \$24.85)	\$19,300



Questions

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