

Items from the Audience

From: Karen Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 6:48 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityoftracy.org>
Subject: Organic waste

I can say that the vote on food waste left me disappointed.

1. The law was passed in September 2016, we enter into our first 20 year contract with waste company. (Watching the council meeting video online on December 2, 2016 Concilwoman, now Mayor Young stated she was glad that we had a long term contract.)
2. Then not enough was done to get ready for the January 2022 date.
3. It appears our city or waste provider did not go after grants as other cities did. If this is incorrect show the citizens any documentation that they in fact did go after food waste grants from 2016 to 2021.
4. We were told our city filed for an extension (and by the way it is a two year (I mean Google it other cities got two years), again show us the extension request. At this point it's hard to believe it happened so what is the rush.
5. Where is the leadership holding down the cost as everything is going sky high. You did it for the city but failed the citizens fee increases.

So watching videos of other cities council meeting on organic waste is interesting. Manteca started in 2016 creating a biofuel plant to turn their food waste into fuel for their collection vehicles. Stockton went after grants to enlarge its waste processing facility.

Here is the grant website that other cities used.

<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/grantsloans/organics/>

Look at them by year the cities got millions to do whatever was needed to prepare for the organic waste. We heard we can't go into full organic waste (including paper contaminated with food), until they ?? Not sure but certainly they could and can get the grant and get us into a full organic waste like other cities have done.

Then watching the Board of Mountain House video they were presented a great PowerPoint that calrecycle created to gain community buy-in, I advise you to watch it (in October 2021). Watching that video another big part of the legislation begins in 2024 and my guess is we will not be prepared again.

This is one of many reasons I believe our city would benefit from a Sustainability Action Plan Committee. They could work on the Targets and Measures laid out by the city in our Sustainability Action Plan, as well as any new environmental regulations that is enacted. The plan was published in 2011 and had food waste as a Target to reduce landfill waste, it reads:

“ SW-2: Increased Recycling and Waste Diversion

Increase recycling and waste diversion in Tracy by expanding marketing efforts to increase participation by residents and businesses. As part of this program, conduct public education and outreach about reuse and recycling, including the City and PG&E's programs for appliance disposal, yard debris collection and composting, waste to energy, and zero waste programs. Work with the local waste hauler to permit collection and **composting of residential food waste.**”

Is the issue that we need a full time grant writer? We deserve the dollars available just as other cities have obtained. Here's a grant that would have paid for whatever is need to go full organic, but we needed to apply Feb. 2022.

<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/owrlocalassistancegrant/fy20212>

It had \$57,000,000 available for fiscal year (FY) 2021–22

Listening to Manteca's video on organic waste the grant we heard about at the last meeting is granted to cities for simply writing the ordinance. But more money is available. Please go to the link of awarded grants, I gave above, and look at what other cities got money for and many cities applied multiple years. The legislation came with funding. I want my Council to do one thing.

Require a investigation as to exactly what Tracy citizens didn't get the funding that was and is available. We have missed multiple years let's not continue that record.

ONE ARTICLE ABOUT A CITY GOING FOR THE TWO YEAR EXTENSION:

https://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/napa-city-council-set-to-ask-for-extension-for-complying-with-new-california-composting-law/article_b07a1456-a79f-5ea9-b4e3-6dfa11703f63.html

And right behind this legislation is more changes we need someone to keep up and work on education as well as implementing changes like a Sustainability Action Committee.

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/10/05/governor-newsom-signs-legislation-to-tackle-plastic-pollution-promote-a-more-sustainable-renewable-economy-and-protect-californians-from-toxic-chemicals/>

During my research I must say Lathrop's RFP on organic waste (including creating the educational part), is a great blueprint for Tracy.

https://www.ci.lathrop.ca.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_works/page/10641/rfp_sb1383_signed.pdf

Manteca's educational waste brochure is worth us considering this formate for Tracy.

<https://www.ci.manteca.ca.us/PublicWorks/SolidWaste/Documents/Current%20Recycle%20Guide.pdf#search=organic%20waste>