



City of Kansas City, Missouri

Docket Memo

Ordinance/Resolution #: 260440

Submitted Department/Preparer: Neighborhoods

Revised 01/30/25

Docket memos are required on all ordinances initiated by a Department Director. More information can be found in [Administrative Regulation \(AR\) 4-1](#).

Executive Summary

Accepting and approving a \$5,000,000.00 award from the US Environmental Protection Agency, through a cooperative agreement, to significantly expand the City's capacity for food rescue, composting, and organic waste diversion by investing in infrastructure, equipment, and partnerships with local nonprofits and businesses; estimating and appropriating \$5,000,000.00; designating requisitioning authority, and recognizing this ordinance as having an accelerated effective date.

Discussion

The City of Kansas City, Missouri has been awarded federal funding through the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program to implement the Kansas City Organic Waste Improvement Project. This project aims to significantly expand the City's capacity for food rescue, composting, and organic waste diversion by investing in infrastructure, equipment, and partnerships with local nonprofits and businesses.

The project takes a systems-based approach that prioritizes rescuing edible food for redistribution to food-insecure residents before diverting remaining organic waste to composting, rather than landfills. Kansas City currently faces both high rates of food insecurity and significant levels of food waste, and this initiative seeks to address both issues simultaneously. Key partner organizations will scale up operations to collect, process, and distribute surplus food, as well as expand composting and waste diversion services across the city.

Most of the funding will be distributed as subawards to local organizations specializing in food recovery and organic waste processing, while the City will retain a portion to support staffing, public infrastructure, and program coordination. The project also includes investments in event-based waste diversion (including major events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup), expansion of compost drop-off programs, and a citywide education and outreach campaign.

Overall, the project aims to reduce the amount of food waste sent to landfills by approximately 15% (over 10,000 tons annually), increase the number of meals recovered for residents, and strengthen Kansas City's circular economy for organic materials. In addition to environmental benefits such as reduced pollution and improved soil health, the project is expected to deliver economic and social benefits, including cost savings, job creation, and improved food access for urban populations.

Fiscal Impact

1. Is this legislation included in the adopted budget? Yes No
2. What is the funding source?
General Grants Fund - Cooperative agreement from the EPA. All funds coming from the EPA.
3. How does the legislation affect the current fiscal year?
N/A
4. Does the legislation have a fiscal impact in future fiscal years? Please notate the difference between one-time and recurring costs.
The cooperative agreement is a three year term, so it will roll over to future fiscal years.
5. Does the legislation generate revenue, leverage outside funding, or deliver a return on investment?
Leverages outside funding.

Office of Management and Budget Review

(OMB Staff will complete this section.)

1. This legislation is supported by the general fund. Yes No
2. This fund has a structural imbalance. Yes No
3. Account string has been verified/confirmed. Yes No

Additional Discussion (if needed)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Citywide Business Plan (CWBP) Impact

1. View the [Adopted 2025-2029 Citywide Business Plan](#)

2. Which CWBP goal is most impacted by this legislation?
Infrastructure and Accessibility (Press tab after selecting.)
3. Which objectives are impacted by this legislation (select all that apply):
 - Engage in thoughtful planning and redesign of existing road networks to ensure safety, access, and mobility of users of all ages and abilities.
 - Develop a multimodal regional transportation system for all users.
 - Develop environmentally sustainable strategies that improve quality of life and foster economic growth.
 - Ensure adequate resources are provided for continued maintenance of existing infrastructure.
 - Focus on delivery of safe connections to schools.
 -

Prior Legislation

N/A

Service Level Impacts

The Kansas City Organic Waste Improvement Project will enhance service levels for residents by expanding access to food recovery programs, composting services, and waste diversion opportunities. Members of the public, particularly those in food-insecure communities, will benefit from increased availability of rescued, nutritious food distributed through local partner organizations. The project is expected to increase the number of meals provided annually while improving the consistency and reach of food access services.

Residents will also see expanded composting infrastructure, including additional drop-off locations and new organic waste collection options, making it easier to participate in sustainable waste practices. Improvements to waste diversion at public venues and City-sponsored events will create more convenient and visible recycling and composting opportunities for attendees, while also improving cleanliness and reducing landfill-bound waste.

The project includes a public education and outreach campaign, which will increase awareness of food waste reduction and proper waste sorting. This will help residents better understand and utilize available services, leading to higher participation rates and more effective waste diversion.

Additionally, investments in infrastructure and coordination will improve the efficiency and reliability of existing services, including faster and more consistent food recovery, expanded event waste management, and enhanced data tracking to inform future service improvements. Overall, the project will provide more accessible, equitable, and user-friendly waste and food recovery services for Kansas City residents.

Staff Recommendation

Click or tap here to enter department.

Select One: Sponsored
 Directive: Res/Ord # [Click to enter Res/Ord. No.](#)

Select One: Recommend
 Do Not Recommend
 Not Applicable

Click or tap here to provide reasoning.

Other Impacts

1. What will be the potential health impacts to any affected groups?
The project is expected to generate positive health impacts for affected groups by improving access to nutritious food, reducing exposure to landfill-related pollutants, and promoting healthier environmental conditions. Expanded food rescue efforts will increase availability of fresh and prepared foods for food-insecure residents, supporting better nutrition and reducing risks associated with food insecurity. At the same time, diverting organic waste from landfills will help decrease air and water pollution that can contribute to respiratory and cardiovascular issues, particularly in communities located near waste facilities. Increased composting and soil health improvements may also enhance local environmental quality, while public education efforts will encourage behaviors that support overall community health.
2. How have those groups been engaged and involved in the development of this ordinance?
The proposed program builds upon prior stakeholder engagement conducted through the City's organics planning efforts, which included local nonprofit partners, food recovery organizations, and waste diversion service providers with established relationships in these communities. These partners will play a key role in implementation and ongoing engagement. Additionally, the project

includes a public outreach and education component, which will create future opportunities to engage affected groups, gather input, and ensure services are responsive to community needs as the program is rolled out.

3. How does this legislation contribute to a sustainable Kansas City?

This project contributes to a more sustainable Kansas City by advancing a circular economy for organic materials, where food is first recovered for human use and remaining waste is composted rather than landfilled. By significantly reducing the volume of organic waste sent to landfills, the initiative will lower greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollution while improving soil health through the production of compost. At the same time, it strengthens local food systems by increasing access to nutritious food for residents experiencing food insecurity. The project also supports long-term sustainability through infrastructure investment, workforce development, and public education, helping to embed waste reduction and resource conservation practices into daily life across the community.

4. Does this legislation create or preserve new housing units?

No (Press tab after selecting)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

5. Department staff certifies the submission of any application Affirmative Action Plans or Certificates of Compliance, Contractor Utilization Plans (CUPs), and Letters of Intent to Subcontract (LOIs) to CREO prior to, or simultaneously with, the legislation entry request in Legistar.

No - CREO's review is not applicable (Press tab after selecting)

Please provide reasoning why not:

All partners were named in the grant application as subawardees.

6. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from an Invitation for Bid?

No(Press tab after selecting)

Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from a Request for Proposal/Qualification (RFP/Q)?

No(Press tab after selecting)

