

To the Council,

My name is Tony Whitter, CEO of Compost Collective KC, and I have lived in the Kansas City metro for more than 35 years. I have spent over two decades in nonprofit and social enterprise leadership, including 14 years as Executive Director of Blessings Abound, a social enterprise thrift and donation center that distributed more than \$16 million in profits to human service nonprofits throughout the metro area. During that time, I witnessed firsthand the power of collaboration, generosity, and mission-driven partnerships. That same spirit is now fueling collaboration among organizations such as Missouri Organic Recycling, KC Can Compost, and others benefiting from this EPA funding initiative.

Compost Collective KC (CCKC) provides residential curbside service, bin-swap programs, and commercial food waste collection for more than 3,000 customers across KC. CCKC processes compost on local farms and currently donates 100% of the finished compost back into local growing efforts via nonprofits and community gardens. This work strengthens farm viability, supports regenerative agriculture, and advances meaningful food waste diversion. Food waste collection is unique in that all collected material is transformed into nutrient-rich compost that benefits the soil and local food systems. The benefits of compost can be applied to management of storm water runoff, erosion control, and Carbon sequestration.

CCKC also offers free compost give-back events each spring and fall, along with CSA (i.e. farm share) delivery opportunities for curbside customers. These efforts “complete the circle” of closed-loop processing – what we call “farm-to-table, table-to-farm.” We actively participate in farmers markets, community events, and educational initiatives throughout the city, helping increase awareness around composting, sustainability, and zero-waste practices. Over time, our routing and logistics technology will also support expanded nonprofit partnerships across the region.

We see strong momentum building around regenerative farming and composting infrastructure, and we believe the future will include food waste collection as a normal part of community life. Our scalable model is designed to create partnerships with local farmers while supporting regional sustainability goals and strengthening local agriculture. At its core, this work reflects a deep sense of stewardship for the earth we have been entrusted to care for.

CCKC is extremely grateful to be part of this EPA-funded initiative, and we especially appreciate the leadership of Jensen Adams and his staff. Their forward-thinking vision

helped make this funding possible and will continue to advance the success of a thriving circular economy throughout the Kansas City metro.