

# **Climate Smart Community PE5 Action Plan for Organics Management**

## **Village of Wilson**

### **Introduction**

The Village of Wilson is committed to sustainable organics management as part of its Climate Smart Community initiative. This PE5 Action Plan plans programs to increase the collection, processing, and reuse of organic materials, including yard waste and food scraps, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing landfill waste, and promoting community resilience. The plan builds on current infrastructure—weekly curbside brush collection, a public brush pile, seasonal Christmas tree pickup, and Department of Public Works (DPW) operations—while introducing innovative strategies for food recovery, neighborhood food drop-offs, and potential funding through partnerships with Farmer Pirates and compost bin grants.

### **Objectives**

1. Divert 100% of collected brush, yard waste, Christmas trees, and food scraps from landfills through composting and chipping.
2. Reduce carbon footprint by repurposing organic materials for local use (e.g., compost distribution, erosion control).
3. Achieve a goal of 45 residents subscribing to compost drop-off within the first year.
4. Encourage resident participation through accessible tools, including DPW-supported dump truck borrowing and food recovery programs.
5. Promote climate resilience by stabilizing wet areas and improving soil health with processed organics.
6. Foster community education and partnerships to expand organics management.

### **Existing Programs and Practices**

The Village of Wilson already implements the following climate-smart practices:

#### **1. Types of Materials Collected**

- Brush and yard waste.
- Seasonal Christmas trees.

#### **2. Collection Schedule and Methods**

- **Curbside Brush and Yard Waste Pickup:** Weekly from April 15th to November 14th, every Thursday. Residents must place loose brush and leaves in brown compostable bags, and brush must be bundled or meet size guidelines.
- **Brush Pile Access:** Open to residents for drop-off on weekdays during business hours (weather permitting).
- **Christmas Tree Pickup:** Conducted throughout January, with trees placed curbside for collection by DPW crews.
- **Large Brush Hauling Support:** DPW provides a dump truck for residents with significant brush volumes, enhancing accessibility.

### 3. **Material Processing and Reuse**

- Collected brush and yard waste are transported to the village brush pile.
- The DPW cultivates and turns the pile to produce compost, which is offered free to residents.
- Sticks and trees are chipped every few years and used to layer wet areas, aiding ground stabilization and erosion control.
- Christmas trees are integrated into the brush pile for composting or chipping.

### 4. **Resident Requirements**

- Place brush and yard waste curbside by the designated Thursday collection day.
- Ensure brush is properly bundled or bagged per guidelines.
- Place Christmas trees curbside in January for pickup.

### 5. **Seasonal and Safety Guidelines**

- Curbside brush and yard waste pickup pauses from November 15th to April 15th due to winter conditions, with no parking on streets during this period to accommodate snow plows.
- Pickup resumes April 18th, with the brush pile reopening weather permitting.

## **Enhanced Actions for Climate Smart Certification**

Building on these practices, the Village will implement the following enhancements:

### 1. **Educate Residents about Resident Dump Truck Borrowing Program**

- Residents with large-scale cleanups (e.g., storm damage or property clearing) can borrow the Village DPW dump truck. The village will work to make this program more well known. DPW staff will deliver the truck to the resident's location and pick it up after use, ensuring safe and efficient operation. Reservations can be scheduled by contacting the DPW (subject to availability). This service reduces private hauling emissions.

## **2. Compost Subscription Goal**

- Aim to enroll 45 residents in a food compost drop-off subscription program within the first year. Subscribers will receive access to neighborhood food scrap drop off, managed by a third party, and cheap much from that company, incentivizing participation.

## **3. Strategy to Educate the Community on Food Recovery**

- Partner with the local food pantry and friends of the library to develop educational workshops and outreach campaigns on food recovery and waste reduction. Topics will include proper food scrap separation, the benefits of diverting food waste from landfills (e.g., reducing methane emissions), and how to participate in village programs.
- Host spring and fall community events with the food pantry, featuring demonstrations on composting and food recovery techniques, targeting at least 50 attendees per event.
- Distribute informational flyers with collection schedules and pantry contact details. Place information on village sign, website and social media.

## **4. Strategy to Develop a Neighborhood Food Drop-Off with Farmer Pirates**

- Collaborate with Farmer Pirates to establish neighborhood food scrap drop-off points, starting with one pilot location in a central village area (Village DPW).
- Farmer Pirates will collect and process the scraps, potentially integrating them into their farming practices or returning compost to the village for resident use.

## **5. Strategy to Use Farmer Pirates for Funding a Curbside Pilot Pickup with a Compost Bin Grant**

- Partner with Farmer Pirates to apply for a compost bin grant (e.g., through state or regional sustainability programs) to fund a pilot curbside food scrap pickup program. The goal is to equip 20 households with compost bins and initiate weekly pickup alongside yard waste collection.

- Farmer Pirates will assist in grant writing and outreach, leveraging their expertise to secure funding. If successful, the pilot will run for six months, with DPW and Farmer Pirates coordinating collection.
- If the grant application fails, the Village DPW can step in to collect food scraps curbside, transporting them to the brush pile for composting with yard waste, ensuring no interruption in service.

## **6. Expanded Education and Outreach**

- Distribute annual reminders (e.g., via mailers or the village website) about collection schedules, the compost subscription program, dump truck service, food recovery workshops, and neighborhood drop-off points.
- Include a link to the brush pile policy (<https://vilagewilson.digitaltowpath.org:10199/.../153.pdf>) for detailed guidelines.

## **7. Monitoring and Reporting**

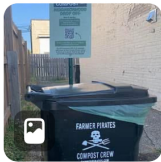
- Track the volume of organics (yard waste, food scraps, Christmas trees) diverted from landfills annually, the number of compost subscribers (target: 45), and participation in food recovery events and drop-offs.
- Evaluate the food scrap pilot after the first year.

## **Implementation Timeline**

- **Months 1-12:**
  - Start food recovery education with the local food pantry (quarterly events).
  - Establish the first neighborhood food drop-off with Farmer Pirates by April 15th.
- **Months 12-24:**
  - Apply for a compost bin grant with Farmer Pirates for the curbside pilot; begin pilot if funded, or switch to DPW collection if unsuccessful.
  - Update outreach materials and establish baseline data on organics diversion.
- **Ongoing:** Maintain weekly yard waste and brush pickup (April 15th–November 14th), January Christmas tree pickup, and brush pile operations.
- **As needed:** Schedule chipping of sticks and trees for erosion control.



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