***Convince Your Building to Hire a Private Organics Waste Removal Service***

***During the DSNY Suspension***

*Due to budget cuts resulting from COVID-19, DSNY has suspended Curbside Organics Collection until June 30, 2021. Community Garden and Greenmarket drop-offs are likewise suspended until further notice. Use the below tips to convince your building management to engage a private company to collect organic waste from your building. Do your part to help NYC fight climate change!*

**The Importance of Organics Recycling in NYC**

* Organic waste such as food scraps, food-soaked paper products, and yard waste represents roughly one third of NYC’s total garbage.
* The average New York City household generates 650 pounds of this organic waste each year, discarding $1,600 worth of product.
* According to the EPA, a ton of organic material sent to landfills releases methane and up to 1,080 pounds of CO2 – greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change.
* To combat the harmful effects of discarded Organics, DSNY launched their original Organics pilot recycling program on Staten Island in 2013, subsequently expanding the initiative to other boroughs and multi-family apartment buildings in the intervening years.
* Organic recycling has been touted as a key component of Mayor de Blasio’s Zero Waste legislative agenda, a stance which Speaker Corey Johnson and other elected / agency officials also support.
* Unfortunately, the city decided to temporarily suspend the program due to budgetary pressures resulting from COVID-19.
* To ensure service continues uninterrupted, however, multi-family buildings can engage private companies to pick-up and recycle Organics waste.

**Tips for Selecting and Hiring a Private Carter**

* **Outreach** 
  + Contact your Board members, management, and Superintendent and let them know that you are in favor of creating / continuing an Organics program during this suspension. Ask your neighbors to similarly research the issue and lend their support.
  + Remind your board, management or Superintendent that any costs will be temporary, as the DSNY Organics program is scheduled to resume July 1, 2021.
* **Research**
  + Find out or estimate the number of bins your building generates each week.
  + Reach out to a private company with experience handling organics from commercial sources, e.g., restaurants, food markets. The MSWAB has compiled this [list](https://www.manhattanswab.org/s/residentalcompostsolutions2020-wyns.xlsx) of resources.
  + Call the company and ask about their ability to accept yard waste, food scraps, food-soaked paper, and bioplastics. Inquire where they will cart your organics and what happens to the material when it arrives at the destination.
* **Solicitation**
  + Solicit quotes from multiple providers. Understand that price can vary based on contamination levels: the more contamination, the higher the price.
  + Based on volume and frequency of pickups, it is possible to coordinate with multiple buildings on your block and negotiate for a better rate.
* **Evaluation**
  + For maximum impact, choose a company that: (1) already does pickups in your area; (2) deposits Organics at a local composter or farm, and; (3) ideally, transforms the product to beneficial uses like potting soil or supplies nutrient-rich topsoil to local parks or gardens.

**Benefits to Building Management and Residents**

* **Fewer Pests**
  + As a result of Organics pickup, fewer black plastic garbage bags will be set outside on the street awaiting garbage day. As rodents frequently open and rummage through the curbside bags in search of food waste, more frequent pickup of separately-binned Organics will deprive rats of a ready feast. Lacking accessible food, the vermin will go elsewhere or die of starvation.
* **Fewer Trash Chute Cleanings**
  + Scattered organic material represents the primary motivation for cleaning trash chutes, as the food scraps attract pests. Participation in Organics pickup reduces the amount of organic material in chutes and thus reduces the need for cleanings, translating to both a cleaner building and cost savings.
* **Building Reputation**
  + By continuing or initiating your Organics collections and carting, you will demonstrate your sustainability leadership and homeowners will gravitate toward your building. People are willing to pay more for buildings that embody their values and provide extra amenities and conveniences — demand which translates into higher property values.
* **Conditioning**
  + Organics recycling could become mandatory in the near future. By proactively implementing a program, you will help condition residents to adopt the mindset of separation and proper disposal.
* **Comfort and Ease**
  + There are people in your building who believe in composting and actively participate in Organics disposal programs. These residents will appreciate the comfort and ease involved in having a central and convenient location to deposit their separated Organics, rather than navigating the COVID-19 world to find an external solution.