



Proposed Organics Program Survey - Final Results

Q1	Are you a Davis resident, Davis business or other interest party?
	341 Total Respondents 335-Davis Residents 1-Davis Business 5-Other Interest Party
Q2	When organics decompose in a landfill they produce methane, a greenhouse gas that is 72x more potent than carbon dioxide. Composting organics instead of sending it to the landfill reduces the gas emissions. Are you currently composting at home?
49%	Yes
51%	No
Q3	Yard waste can pollute our stormwater. As yard waste decomposes in water, it lowers oxygen levels and adds a significant amount of nitrogen-Nitrogen is toxic to fish and other aquatic life. How do you currently dispose of yard waste?
54%	I put my yard waste in piles on the street for pickup 54%
1%	I place in the garbage can
4%	I compost my yard waste
23%	I compost and use on-street piles
2%	A professional landscaper takes my yard waste with them
4%	I do not have any yard waste
13%	Other (see attached report)
Q4	The City will be providing 95-gallon organics carts to customers. Yard waste piles will still be part of the organics collection program. Please view the "Cart Contents" graphic in Topic Details. Do you have questions about how to discard a certain item?
	261-No
	If Yes, please list the Item (see attached report)
Q5	On-street yard waste pile pickups will continue to be once a month & weekly during the leaf drop season (mid-October through mid-December). After learning what can go into the organics cart, do you think you will use the on-street pile pick up?
73%	Yes
27%	No
Q6	Residential customers will have organics carts picked up once a week. On-street yard waste piles will be picked up the first full week of every month & every week during leaf-drop season. Will this level of service meet your needs?
58%	Yes
42%	If No, what would meet your needs? (see attached report)
Q7	Thank you for taking time to learn about the Organics Program and sharing your thoughts. Your input will help shape the program to meet the needs of the City and community. Do you think collecting and composting organics will benefit Davis?
82%	Yes
18%	No
Q8	Are there additional thoughts/concerns on this topic you would like to share?
	Yes (see attached report)
	No (2)

Question 3

Yard waste can pollute our stormwater. As yard waste decomposes in water, it lowers oxygen levels and adds a significant amount of nitrogen-Nitrogen is toxic to fish and other aquatic life. How do you currently dispose of yard waste?

6600 sq ft lot w/ mature landscape. grass clippings mulched. Woody materials street piled. Fall leaf drop street piled. In season biomass drop primarily left in place as mulch.

A few times a year, for example when we prune a tree, we put piles of branches out for pick up. Otherwise, we don't need street pickup of compostable waste, containerized or not. If we had to, we would chip and compost the branches, too.

Combination of gardener, compost, and street piles.

compost grass clippings and some leaves. The other tree waste and weeds go on the street for pickup.

Explain how you think yard waste, in my case mostly large branches, somehow manages to make it into Putah Creek. The city loses credibility when it raises the specter of yard waste affecting fish and aquatic life. You have other motivations for this proposal.

I would very much like to have a green container for yard waste and not pollute the stormwater and block the bike lanes

I am 100% satisfied with the current service. I think it extremely unlikely that the proposed new service will meet my needs. I do not want to store another large plastic bin in my yard AND lose the most convenient curb-side pick-up I have ever experienced.

I both compost yard waste and put some on the street for removal. Most of the street removal waste is made up of large branches from tree and woody perennial pruning. I have quite a few mature trees in my yard so the pruning is quite a regular chore.

I compost all my yard waste in my back yard except in fall when I put leaves from the city tree in the street. You need to "Compost" this (proposed or new?) program completely or at least "REFINE" it to reduce \$ charged to composters that don't want the 95 gallon organics cart....reward us don't punish us by forcing us to pay for another huge can we don't want or need!!

I compost all organics and even tissues and paper napkins and only use on-street piles for material inappropriate for composting (e.g., tree branches).

I compost some leaves, grass and garden clippings, but I can not fit all the leaves in my compost so some go on the street for pick-up

I eat from my garden, buy little or no can goods, etc., put garbage and recycling bins curbside once a month, I do not need another container that I really won't use but would pay for as I do with current cans.

I have almost 100 fruit trees in my yard resulting in lots of cuttings. I need to put this material somewhere year around.

I have done street yard waste and composting for more than 20 years, but I retired and moved to an apartment on 9th St near b. No composting. The yard waste goes in the street.

I have had a drought-tolerant landscape for over 25 years--I prune once, maybe twice per year. That's it....the prunings, pretty much sticks and branches, go into the street.

I live in an apartment complex that puts our yard waste in piles on the street for pickup.

I live in an apartment complex. I believe the gardeners use street piles.

I live in Village Homes, so we have natural drainage with no storm drains. I compost as much as I can.

I live on a working farm just outside the cit limits. Yard waste and orchard prunings are heaped in a burn pile. Not an optimal solution, but I am not the property owner. Kitchen waste is composted.

I never put grass on the street. And I only put other waste on the street because there is no other pickup option.

I put heavy yard waste (branches) in piles for pickup AND I compost my yard waste (grass, leaves)

I put it in the compost but there is often more than will fit there.

I put most yard waste in piles on the street; occasional very small weekly amounts go into the garbage can; in fall, I reverse a leaf blower, vacuum and mulch the leaves, and put them on my vegetable bed for mulch and to prevent weed growth in spring. I dig a deep hole to bury our organic, non-meat, food scraps for composting.

I put the yard waste in a pile on the street for pickup AND I compost some of it. ps. You have a spelling mistake in the options listed above: compso t .
I source separate compost food scraps at home
I would be happy to have City compost service and get rid of street piles -- they are as bad idea and very troublesome to bikes and cars.
I would compost as much as possible (but not meat/fat) but I got a rat invasion in my compost container
It depends on the quantity of waste and trash I have in a given week. I compost, use the piles, and use my bin.
Larger items I put out for street yard waste pickup
live in a condo complex where gardener puts piles in street. have no control over this.
My chickens eat a lot of my yard and kitchen compost waste
My gardener will charge me \$15 for each yard waste pile they must take. I am concerned about where to place a 95 gallon receptacle and how I will move it when filled.
Our gardner takes away our lawn clippings. We place our pruning harvest on the street for City collection. I love to see that little Tonka Truck at work!
This is not a survey question, it is preaching dogma.
this should be multiple choice or you'll get bad data
Usually compost the herbaceous vegetation but the woody debris goes on the street
We cannot compost because we are in a rental house with a yard that is not easy to manipulate
We have a lot of yard waste because we have lots of leaves, trees, plants etc.
We have very little yard waste as we have a flagstone backyard
We need street pickup ALL YEAR LONG to accommodate winter pruning of large, dormant trees

Question 4

The City will be providing 95-gallon organics carts to customers. Yard waste piles will still be part of the organics collection program. Please view the "Cart Contents" graphic in Topic Details. Do you have questions about how to discard a certain item?

styrofoam (2)

The 95 gallon cart. I would prefer, not to have to house a 95 gallon cart.

The massive amounts of branches and other biowaste in later winter-early spring, summer, and early fall that come from pruning and are likely to increase if we remove the rest of our lawn.

They are going to be pretty nasty, especially in summertime. Will they be raccoon proof? Stuff that won't fit in the carts, branches, etc., are prevalent on the street until March or later.

Utensils which claim to be recyclable. I understand that many facilities can't handle them.

we have to keep our bins in our garages, not allowed to keep outside - how can we bag so the organics (raw chicken, fish, etc won't reek?

What about branches?

What about parchment paper used in cooking? Dog poop in "degradable" bags? If not accepting dog poop, how will that be enforced?

What do I do with yard waste that is either too big or exceeds the capacity of the container?

What happens with the ubiquitous plastic garbage bags that people will undoubtedly collect their food waste in, that will then wind up in the Organic Waste bin?

What if cart capacity is insufficient to hold all clippings in spring in summer. I like the present system!

Where would residents store this new cart in addition to the two other carts already being used?

Will decomposition in the carts produce methane gas at my house instead of the landfill where centralized strategies can be applied? How does the City plan to combat the smell during the hot summer months? Will there be any part of the program which reduces food which is ground up in "garbage" disposals and flushed into the sewer system? (since it rarely rains in Davis, this seems the likely source of water pollution referenced in the previous question)

With food waste - especially meat - these containers are going to be very smelly, especially in hot weather. Any options for using garbage bags to contain the smell and mess?

Yard clippings - does that include pruned bushes, tree limbs that crash during a storm, etc.?

YES. How do I discard this stupid 95-gallon organics cart...that I don't want or need and don't have room for but surely will have to pay for with higher garbage rates. We already compost all our organic waste except fall leaves so street pickup of piles of leaves in fall is all we need. PLEASE allow those who already compost and don't want the organics cart to opt out and reward us by reducing the already high garbage rate. This new plan will penalize us composters!

You ask that we use a huge cart which will contain many or most of the items that now go through a garbage disposal. Most weeks, this cart will be nearly empty and we believe it is likely to smell as are all the rest of them. Especially during our long hot summers!

"compostable" plastics like spudware, etc?

Another cart seems costly, and since many people already compost or won't want to sort their trash, you may be overestimating the benefits of this proposal. Even though the cart is large, it still isn't big enough to replace piles associated with yard work in mature neighborhoods with lots of trees.

Are larger pieces of wood OK? Branches, if they fit?

Are residents required to source separate food scraps ?

As a resident of the Verona at Mace Ranch development, we do not have yard waste pick up within our development, it must be taken out to 5th St. Will this continue as this organic program expands to kitchen waste? Will there be options for smaller carts? 95 gallons will be much greater than needed by many homes.

At this point I cannot list any specific questions but they will undoubtedly arise as the program is more fully explained.

Branches, leaves, grass clippings. Seems to be some discrepancy about types of organics and the naming of them, and the listings between the cart and the street piles.
bread isn't explicitly on the list but I'm assuming any starchy stuff that would overwhelm a home pile is ok?
Can cooked food go in the container? How about bread?
Can I dispose of yard waste on the city maintained property across the street?
Can one opt out of the 95-gallon organics cart? My family is vegetarian, so we do not even have meat waste that cannot be composted.
Can the cart accept compostable flatware (I think they are constarch based) or compostable cups (the clear ones sometimes seen at Green events)? What about dog poop and kitty litter? If yes, what kind of bag is acceptable for this? What about the occasional dead rat or bird?
can we put kitchen food scraps into compostable bags and then into the bin? Also, can we have a smaller bin?
Can't find the graphic in mobile version.
Clarification on the paper products. Does this include food packaging, i.e. paper chicken broth containers, etc., or just the paper products we eat off of?
coated cardboard, such as for drink boxes or liquids purchased in boxes
Compostable disposable cups and silverware (the corn- based "plastic" kind)
Dog feces? Can organics be placed in a plastic bag for deposit in the new container? Keeps down smells and keeps kitchen container clean. Keeps the new Cart clean to avoid odors and insect breeding.
Dog poop
Doormats made of natural fibers, burlap sacks
Everything
Generally the graphic seems clear, but I noticed it doesn't specifically call out whether you can you put compostable "plastic" cups in the bins. I assume you can, but they are not specifically called out.
How about milk cartons and other plastic coated paper?
How can I opt out?
How do senior citizens and or physically challenged people move a fully laden 95 gallon cart?
how does paper recycling that currently exist overlap with organics? Can we add newspaper to organics?
How many gallons is the current large garbage can?
i am not able to view the aforementioned graphic anywhere in the contents or links of this page. :(
I am not clear on whether, under "paper products," you would include paper such as used paper towels.
I am not interested in composting organics. I don't eat meat and rarely eat and rarely eat at home. I do NOT want to pay \$15. It's bad enough that living in Davis costs a lot of money and this added bureaucracy is a waste.
I can't easily find the "Cart Contents"
I currently compost and am concerned about increased costs for the program and to my city bill
I have a very small yard and I do not want another cart. I already compost.
I haven't read the Cart Contents because it was not a prerequisite of completing this survey and this survey does not provide a link to that document.
I manage all my organic waste
I prefer not to place smelly or wet or partially cooked/eaten foodstuffs in an organic container unless the material is enclosed in a bag. The bag should be one that is compostable.
I think 95 gallons is way too much for each residence!! How will you support in home collection? (Berkeley gives people little buckets) How will the containers be cleaned
I think that most of my garbage right now is pet waste. What about that?
I think that this is yet another bin that I have to maintain, and is frustrating that the city will spend funds on these.
I think this is a bone headed idea.
I will look forward to reading all the details about things like pizza boxes & other miscellaneous.

I will not put food waste in these carts. It will smell and be unpleasant to clean. We have a big yard so the bin will fill itself easily with yard waste each week.
Is the city going to clean them or are the maggots going to take over
is there going to be an added cost?
Is this cart in addition to the two I already use for garbage and recycling? If so, where am I suppose to find room for all this?
It would be helpful to have a 'what not to put in' category as well for anything that may be like organic matter but not compostable (i.e. dog poop)
large branches, awkward pieces
meat?
milk cartons, take out food containers, if pizza boxes are allowed..how about other cardboard?
package meats,bones?dog and cat waste?
PLA bioplastics or other "degradable" plastics like Spudware or dog poop bags (or the dog poop itself!). Also paper-based packages like frozen pea boxes.
Providing as in free? What would you have people do with diseased or pesticide/herbicide sprayed materials? How would you be certain the "organics" are ?
Rotten fruit

Question 6

Residential customers will have organics carts picked up once a week. On-street yard waste piles will be picked up the first full week of every month & every week during leaf-drop season. Will this level of service meet your needs?

A larger quantity of yard waste also occurs in the early Spring months. I would like to see the weekly service for a period of time in March and April. Also, the street pickup of yard waste is a great service and having to stuff yard waste into a 95 gallon can is not easy for the elderly and those with physical limitations. I have friends in Elk Grove who struggle with the yard-waste-in-a-can program. Are you thinking about how to address this issue for those who are elderly or handicapped?

An I don't know option would have been helpful. We have a lot of possible yard organics. I appreciate the monthly and weekly on street pile pick up and this might work for us. I would want to have an opportunity to evaluate the change once it has been in effect for several months.

At least weekly during pruning season. We are at the end of a cul-de-sac with very limited curb area for children and car parking. On-street yard waste piles sitting on streets for a month would be hazardous to the many kids in our neighborhood who skate, ride bikes and play sports. It would also essentially eliminate on-street parking in our area. The piles are also an eyesore which I would not like to see up and down the streets for weeks on end.

Can the piles sit on the street until the pickup week arrives?

continue existing yard waste program.

Continuing with status quo of weekly year round. The proposal for elimination of street pickup is weak and lacks adequate evidence.

Curbside yard waste piles for apartment buildings (especially) take up valuable parking space in commercial and impacted residential areas. Pickup here needs to be more frequent than it currently is, or yard piles should be prohibited in commercial areas. In denser residential areas, impacted street parking causes yard waste piles to NOT get picked up, resulting in messy streets and blocked storm drains. Make curb pick up a special request like bulk pickup, to diminish reliance on this service.

don't want the bins at all. ESPECIALLY don't want to have to pay MORE for this!

during peak season (spring and fall) with pruning and leaf pick up, the organics waste container wont be able to contain all materials and monthly pick up is too infrequent.

During the warmer seasons yard waste will rot in the street and contribute to the storm drain pollution you refer to in a previous question. Contrary to previous statement, yard waste does not contribute substantially to stormwater pollution when properly piled.

every two weeks

For the many Davis residents with mulberry trees, our leaf drop season continues into January. Please extend.

Having grass, sticks, limbs, thorns etc in the street for a month is not acceptable. You are assuming people will cut up all yard waste to a size that all will fit in the cart.

Having to prune on the City's schedule is not acceptable, and before you reply that it wouldn't be on the City's schedule, remember the "no waste in the street more than 5 days before pickup" rule.

I am concerned about the monthly yard waste pickup. In my experience you can not fit much yard waste in a 95 gallon cart. This will leave piles of yard waste in street for up to a month which are difficult for bicycles to contend with and also take up street parking. Please consider at least twice monthly yard waste pickup, or an option to be able to call for pickup X times per year.

I am concerned about WHERE this cart will go due to lack of space. It cannot be out on the street at the same time as recycling and trash - there is simply NOT enough curb space on our street as it is.

I am not happy with having to adjust my garden work to this arbitrary schedule. There are times in spring as well where I will need to dispose of more garden material, and I don't have space to put another cart.

I am one person who recycles, composts, gardens, and do not need these services and would prefer to not pay for them.

I am worried about what to do with plant debris that would not fit into the 95-gallon can during months other than the leaf-drop season months.

I believe that people will continue to pile up yard waste regardless of pick-up times, leaving it out there for the full 4 weeks.
I believe waste should be completely containerized.
I can handle the fall leaves by composting them. What I can't handle is the pruning of full sized fruit trees which is usually Dec. and Jan. It will be hard to fit 4 trees of prunings into the bin.
I can't believe the City would do this in a half way manner. I see absolutely no reason for on street DUMPING to continue. Is it so hard to believe the educated people of Davis can't figure out that change has to happen in order for quality of life to remain. Either implement organic containers or don't PLEASE don't do it half way, people won't change unless they are given no other option.
I do not need a cart, I use leaves as mulch and compost all other. I have two to three bins in my back yard.
I do not need another 95 gallon bin which will not fit on my tiny lot. I do need on street pickup through at least the end of January to accommodate all the branches from pruning you dozen fruit trees and 20 rose bushes. I never am able to get the pruning down before the end of January and certainly not by the end of December. I already compost all other vegetative matter and do not have any lawn clippings
I do not want an organics cart. I compost almost everything. I have no space to store or any need for an organics cart. I thought that the city already composted yard waste. I see no need for the organic cart program. I am completely opposed to it.
I do not want yard wastes to be picked up once a month. Reaching 75% of your goal is too high and Davis residents already do a good job in composting. By adding an additional \$15 is unfair and bureaucratic. Too many rules in this town and more than 80% of city workers do not live in Davis and all these rules are made up. The city council believes they are governing on behalf of the people but only serving their own self interests.
I don't always get the opportunity to garden on a set day so I am guessing it won't always meet that need.
I don't know
I don't know. A neighbor's tree fell into our yard two weeks ago, and removal filled the equivalent of four parking spaces worth of on-street piles.
I don't know. I have my doubts that the city is doing the job recycling what we put at the curb.
I dont want carts NO change is best
I have no place to easily store a large yard waste container without it looking unsightly in front of my house (at one time the motivation for an "organics program" was our unsightly streets). Will the City enforce requirements to remove all carts from streets and sidewalks during the times when pickup isn't imminent? Will the City provide a compensation program for sprains and strains resulting from residents moving these heavy carts?
I have room for only two bins behind my gate. If an "organics cart" becomes a requirement, I will have to eliminate my recyclables bin.
I just don't have yard waste
I like the weekly pick up. Neighbors leaves blow into my yard as it is. Will people be fined for making street piles too early?
I live in a townhouse and do not have the space for another cart
I live in Rancho Yolo, and we have private pick up
I often have branches and brush that would overfill a 95 gallon bin; would like yard waste pickup to continue weekly or at least every other week
I prefer the current weekly level of service for yard waste. Tree branches, and other pruning exceeds a 95 gallon can often. How much more will this cost? What will happen to the organic material generated?
I think the City should keep the claw weekly. Going to monthly claw service and sweeping will result in the city's streets being worse. Major winds this week in Feb. with droppings and they could be on the street for nearly a month. Especially for people with palm trees-what a mess its going to be. The cans are too hard to use, used them in other cities. People will just put their lawn waste in the street for weeks. This is a bad idea.
I think this schedule may result in piles sitting in the street for long periods. Suggest designated on-street locations for leaf piles to reduce long-term clutter.

I understand that on-street pickup will have to be less frequent but suspect that piles will be present most of the time as people continue to create more waste than can fit in their bin, and not necessarily just in that first full week. The ability to schedule an occasional pickup would be great
I will not use the organics cart - it will have to sit unused in my back yard. I live in a small duplex with a single car garage. To add one more cart I would have to leave my car on the street which I am not willing to do. There is no way to get the cart from my backyard to the street without picking it up and carrying it which I would be unable to do. Therefore it will become a "decorative" yard sculpture at my house.
I worry about the spring once a month large item pickup not being enough because I seem to do a lot of yard clean up after the winter.
I would prefer to contain and dispose of food items in bags that are decomposable and would not draw flies and other insects/rodents..
I would prefer to have the street pickup expanded into early Spring when there is a lot of pruning to do.
I'm not sure. Will we be able to use them even if we live in a complex where a city street does not run through? We are not currently allowed to put curb side clippings because of this which is why landscapers take clippings with them. We do have curbside garbage & recycling though. I'm not sure where a third bin will fit. Our space is limited both in the garage and at the curbside.
in January we have prunings. We do not want to have 3 large bins that we have to store somewhere. If we use green bins, I assume, we could have a smaller garbage can?
it is already too difficult for me to move both the trash container and the recycle container to the front and back again and too difficult to store them. how will i manage THREE containers??
It is now February, and for the past several weeks I have been pruning in my yard and have observed that throughout Davis there has been quite a bit of pruning. For many people the month of December is a wild rush of activities and we return to our gardens in January and February and dive into pruning at that time. The proposed schedule does not reflect the garden chore cycle many homeowners are likely to be on.
It is tree pruning season that I need pickup. That is after leaf-drop season.
It just remains to be seen. I compost most of my yard waste, but I still get significantly sized piles from pruning.
It seems the once monthly schedule for green waste pile pick up and street sweeping will be inadequate and will result in a dirtier city. Especially downtown and in areas surrounding retail hubs, weekly street sweeping seems vital. As more gardens replace lawns, piles from spring pruning will likely increase in size and number, and it is doubtful the placement of these piles in our streets will coincide with a once a month pick-up schedule.
It sounds like that's a decrease in yard waste pickup from 1x/week to 1x/month. Our neighborhood generates a lot of yard waste and the piles would get pretty big.
It's really hard to say what I'll need. I would of course try to do clipping during that first full week, but depending on my yard situation that schedule might be really problematic.
Jan/Feb is when we prune trees, vines, etc. Winds may drop branches from our palm tree, etc. Otherwise, the schedule is OK.
Just deeply uninterested in keeping yard waste for a month, or in shoving it in a bin.
Little to no room to store woody materials for up to 1 month. Difficult to store a 3rd container. We are on a cul-de-sac. What is the penalty for having a pile on the street more than 5 days?
Maintaining the current service
Maybe every 2 weeks Jan.-Mar. (concerned about too many branches accumulated from tree pruning).
Monthly on street is insufficient to manage the need.Keeping a month's worth of yard waste on the street restricts parking and impacts cyclists.
Most of the time it would be adequate; every other week claw pickup would be better during non-leaf-drop season.
Need more organics (green waste) carts than one. Some communities allow up to 5 free carts per account; it encourages more recycling.

No one should have yard waste piles at all because they are dangerous for bicyclists and take up limited parking spaces. If we are going to allow yard waste piles at all, they must be picked up weekly year round, otherwise they will be in the street for the entire month during the off-season.
No on-street pickup is desired.
no waste piles in street
no, my preference is to not have another can to store. I do not get why yard waste deposited on the street can't be recycled by the city or composted by the city. This plan does not seem necessary.
Not having tried it yet, I do not know. But right now the piles of yard waste at the side of the road are a hazard and look bad.
Not sure
Not sure, but likely will need picking up the massive amounts of branches and other biowaste once a month from September or October through February.
Not sure. Some trees lose their leaves throughout the year, and kitchen waste happens all year.
Not sure. This seems excessive. I suppose this option is being offered for all the folks resistant to change. I think people will find that their Fall leaves fit just fine into the organics cart. I don't think weekly pickup in Fall will be necessary. I think street pickup will be most useful for spring fruit tree pruning (or whenever folks tend to prune) and for trees after Christmas).
On street waste every week
Once a month is enough and you should consider "teaming" with neighbors who have small pruning or leaf waste. A pick-up on corners would save time and money.
Once a month pick up of on-street waste will make the problem of waste blocking bike lanes even worse as people (especially professional gardeners) will leave their waste at any time during the month and it could sit there for as long as a month. Better to provide additional bags for those who cannot fit their waste into a bin.
Organize can rot quickly and need at least 3x week to not smell and grow molds.
Other times of the year would far exceed the capacity of a container (such as spring clean-up). This could result in yard waste piles on the curb in some neighborhoods for several weeks before pickup.
Our family will have no use for the organics cart, and I compost all of our leaves. However, I would prefer more frequent waste pile pick-up than once a month for tree branches, grape vines, etc.
Our landscaper comes once a week and won't have access to our green waste bin. Thus, grass clippings will sit on the street for 3 weeks before they get picked up.
Our main need for the on street yard waste pile pick up will be the twice per year major cleanup times and any big tree pruning or bush removal times.
Our needs would be met, but what happens to the waste generated by those who employ professional landscapers?
People will still pile it up in the street
Perhaps the pile pickup should be twice a month before/after the leaf drop season.
Probably, but with some uncertainty
Pruning of trees and shrubs takes place all year long, mainly in the spring. Many times it can not be done in the designated one week per month. Weather and residents' work schedules must be considered. Branches do not fit easily into waste bins and will occupy too much space in them. Waste piles must be picked up every two weeks at a minimum. Otherwise the piles will be bigger than they are now and cause greater problems for cyclists and cars parked on the street.
See above
See comment below regarding the size of the organics container.
Simple hedge trimming will require more than one can order we store the extra until the can is empty, on the street?
Sometimes there is more yard waste than will fit in a can and I really don't want to have to store a 3rd. can in the side yard. I prefer the claw pick up that we've used for a long time.

The "level of service" is in fact too high. I don't wish to pay for the few residents who "require" loose street pickup. The carts are enough. If somebody with a large yard can't stuff the green waste into the bin, they'll need to make their own arrangements for hauling. The same was as if I do a construction project and have to pay for a waste container.

The City should explore the many options available to increase sustainability and reduce environmental impacts.

The current service of weekly on-street pick-up fits my needs exactly. I'm angry that this has been changed without extensive consultation with the public. The new proposed service DOES NOT fit my needs. I will be voting for new council members at the next election.

The current system is working fine.

The current system works just fine. Don't mess with it. Those of us who don't have the luxury of hiring gardeners must do our pruning/raking/etc when WE have time. Not on some artificial monthly schedule. Keep on-street yard waste pickup as is, and *add* a *small* organics pickup just for kitchen compost.

The current weekly "claw" pickup

The issue becomes what happens when, for instance, you do a big pruning job and it won't all fit in the carts. You have to use street, and no one wants it sitting there for weeks.

The on-street piles should be eliminated completely. If they remain gardeners will opt not to chop up their yard waste to fit in the bins but just throw it on the street for the monthly pickup. The hazards for cyclists will remain (see also comment below) and the streets will be a mess by the time the piles are picked up.

The plan for street pickup is fine and I'm happy you will have weekly pickup during leaf season BUT we don't need and sure as heck don't want to pay for (with higher rates that I KNOW will be coming) the 95 gallon organics cart. Good god do you think we all have huge tree filled lots with lush green lawns because water is so cheap that we have to mow them at least weekly and need to dispose of 95 gallons of grass and leaves??!!

There are many times throughout the year when I have large piles of limbs and other wood waste that wouldn't fit in a 95 gallon container, and that don't occur simply during leaf-drop season. In fact, some of my largest on-street piles occur in spring, when pruning is done.

There should be no on-street yard waste

There will be a few weeks when organic carts will not hold all the waste--after major pruning. The remainder will linger in the street for one month creating an insightly site and road blockage.

This may work for leaf season, but will end up meaning piles on the street for up to 4 weeks other times of the year, as tree branches will not fit in a cart.

This will meet my needs, however, in our condo complex hardly anybody recycles as it is, and there is no accountability for the people who are not recycling because everyone shares a dumpster. There is no way to tell who is throwing recyclables or compost in the trash can. I am sure this is a problem with the large number of apartments in Davis.

Unknown-- I might end up having woody material on the street for 3 weeks then depending on when I am able to cut/trim and put stuff out there.

We are seniors with a large yard. We need weekly yard waste pick up for pruning, weeding, mowing, etc. We do not compost, but someone else can use our yard clippings if they wish.

We compost most garden waste in our own yard.

We do not want (and have no need for) an organics cart. We compost everything but a few piles per year of thick branches, and we don't have room for a third waste can.

We don't need an organic cart. All of our household organic waste is composted in the backyard. I don't think once-per-week pick up of yard waste is sufficient.

We have 3.2 acres of land shared among 26 households. We collectively maintain the grounds and trees and have substantial amount of yard waste on a weekly basis year-round. The proposed plan sounds like our piles of yard waste would have to lie around for up to 4 weeks before they were removed.

We have lots of trees and bushes which need pruning throughout the year so we would like to have on-street pile pick up at least every other week.

We live in a multi-family condo complex. We get large amounts of common space landscaping clippings weekly to the street, and we have tiny garages that cannot hold current trash and recycling cans - let alone a third can! This is not going to be a viable option for such communities. Please consider an alternate plan for high density condos, etc.!! Neither a third can or a reduced street sweep/pick up plan is viable for us!

We need more on street service. What do you expect will happen to the materials that do not fit in the bins?

We often have a lg amt of yard waste. What happens to yard waste in excess of the cans before/after leaf drop season? Will we now have to leave branches, leaves in our driveways? Not everyone has a place for 95 gal cans. If kept in driveways - attractive to vandals, raccoons. Odors and bugs will be big problem. Has anyone considered a person's size and health where the 95-gal cans are concerned? I'm short with back problems. Very difficult to reach up to put stuff in tall cans.

weekly on-street yard waste pick up

Weekly pickup

weekly pickup like now occurs

weekly so does not smell and attract flies and snts

Weekly street pickup

Weekly yard waste pick-up I have now.

Weekly yard waste pickup.

weekly, bi-weekly pickup

Weekly, like now. I am a small, single, older woman. A 95-gallon container is much too large for me to handle, and it will be difficult for me to put yard waste into such a container. What accommodations are you making for seniors and people who cannot physical deal with the new carts? Please keep to claw.

Weekly. I do yard work every week and so does my husband. There is maybe 2-3 weeks a year (January) where we don't have a pile in front of our house. Our pile is not placed in a spot that it goes down the storm drain. WE NEED WEEKLY SERVICE PLEASE!

What about after Christmas season, when people are discarding Christmas trees? I do not want to have to cut my Christmas tree into small pieces, to fit it into an organics cart.

What about pruning piles of trees, roses, etc, branches that break during windy weather? Once a month does not seem enough. Also means that you have to do yard work only near the beginning of the month which may not be enough time or convenient.

What about regular garbage pickup? And, it is clear to my you people have never experienced this type of recycling. Just ask anyone in San Mateo county how wonderfully awful the smell is [especially in summer] and how disgusting it is to have to clean out the "crap" after just a month's time. And this doesn't address the chemicals needed for the cleaning process.

what about tree pruning in Jan/Feb?

Where is the flexibility in putting out my garbage every other week, or once a month, at a lower rate?

Winter and spring pruning generates a lot of branches which I am expecting to be hard to compress into a can. Leave, on the other hand, are easy and most of my leaves can go into the can. Some additional street pick-up dates in the spring would be desired. You can take them from the fall leaf season.

Question 8

Are there additional thoughts/concerns on this topic you would like to share?

OF course collecting organics in general will be beneficial. You just need to decouple that proposal from the yard-waste pickup.

Organic food waste in the carts will create a mess and unsanitary conditions, especially when carts are out in the summer months. Monthly pile pickups will result in piles being on the street for 3 weeks before pickup unless there is rigid enforcement. Overall, I've seen little evidence that current street collection weekly has adverse effects on bikers or anyone else. Possible exception of a few streets in Central Davis. I think the carts are wrong-headed solution for most streets.

Our city residential waste collection rates should be structured to encourage residents to retain "green waste" in yards. This would reduce Davis Waste Removal collection trips, thereby decreasing GHGs, increasing the moisture retention and microbiological health of Davis soil (counteracting drought) and improving plant health. DWR could then apply the savings from reduced green waste collection trips to providing neighborhoods with a mobile green waste chipping/shredding service.

Overall, a good idea and I think it will be beneficial. Something needs to be done about professional landscapers leaving yard waste on the street on a weekly basis .

Perhaps providing compost bins and/or providing a kitchen bucket for green waste would help people transition.

Please make smaller containers available! 95 gal is overkill & cumbersome. Require all 3 city waste containers to be stored out of sight. Too many residents leave their waste and recycle containers out for everyone to see, creating visual blight.

Providing composting bins to interested homes would be more effective than providing "carts" for those same materials.

Question 5 needs an additional possible response of occasionally. Once a year tree trimming will wind up in a street pile, but never anything else.

Recycling cooking oil

Remember some people in Davis have fixed incomes and cannot afford yet another new tax or fee from this City. It has to end.

San Francisco has had a similar program for many years. They gave each household a counter top compost collector (plastic with breathing vent) that can use biodegradable bags, or no bags) to collect kitchen scraps, and then those get dumped into "green cart". This really encourages folks to compost everything from the kitchen.

see above.

Seems wasteful to hand out new garbage bins if people downsize... what will you do with the big ones? I just put my huge garbage bin out once a month (yes that costs more, but I'm a renter and don't get a say in garbage services). You might want to look into how other municipalities charge for garbage.

Should have done this long ago. Also, I wish there was an option for regular garbage pickup once every two weeks instead of weekly, and the rate would be lower for every two weeks. When you recycle and compost, there is little that ends up in the regular garbage.

Some people use garbage disposals; is this being discouraged? Because I have not heard anything about that. I know IT sends lots extra nitrogen waste to the waste management system

Something to keep in mind - I've several folks mention that they'll start putting yard waste in the regular trash cans if the 95-gal is full.

Storage of the 90 gallon waste container will definitely be a problem. We currently store the recycling container in the garage and our medium sized garbage can next to the house, but I'm concerned about the organics bin. The other issue will be odor from rotting meat, etc. in the organics bins.

Thank you for joining the cities that collect compost!!!

Thank you for scheduling the organics pick up. It will save us many hours of transporting compost materials.

the city needs to look into 4-wheeled containers for elderly and disabled residents. can I leave my containers in my drive as long as they are not in the street

The compost and yard waste should be placed into a container like the ones we use for garbage and recycle for paper and plastic metal and glass. Lids should be secure to prevent flies and other insects from collecting.

The ideal situation is that we do more composting at home and use that in our own gardens and landscapes instead of shipping it "away", even to be composted. However, that is not realistic for many people so I think this is a good way to go. I'm happy to hear that you will have a monthly street pickup and weekly during leaf drop; it sounds like a good compromise. As ardent a composter as I am, I am still not able to deal with all my prunings at times. Education will be key! Thank you!

The plan for street pickup is fine and I'm happy that weekly street pickup during leaf season will continue BUT we don't need and sure as heck don't want to pay for (with higher rates that I KNOW will be coming) the 95 gallon organics cart. We don't all have huge tree filled lots with lush green lawns and DON'T need to dispose of 95 gallons of organics weekly!! This program punishes composters with higher garbage rates, adds blight, \$ and energy costs of the 3rd garbage can!

The purpose and cost structure of the organics waste program is not clear. It is to reduce methane gas? Has anyone considered capturing methane (as other solid waste facilities do)? "Zero percent" waste seems completely unrealistic.

How much household waste is "organic"? Our household already composts all of our organic waste, and we have the smallest trash bin available. Will we be required to pay extra for a new bin? Is the cost of other bins be reduced? [need more space for addl comments]

The small uptick in kitchen scrap composting will be negligible when compared to the expense and ill will generated by the mandatory introduction of 95 gallon bins. A 95 gallon container is large enough to be quite awkward and cumbersome. I don't think it will be a good fit for branches I typically haul to the road.

I ride my bike, my kids ride their bikes to school everyday. Of course there are some piles in the street sometimes. Still, the bins sound like an unnecessary expense and nuisance.

The stated claim that home composting creates methane and that delivering the same materials to the landfill does not create methane is factually incorrect. Perhaps the landfill recovers some percentage of that methane and burns it to create electricity, but that's not what your description of home composting says. This should be clarified.

The yard waste bins and organics program both sound just fine to our household. Thank you!

There is no place to store another bin. It will be left out on the street permanently which is just as much an obstacle to bicycles as the occasional pile of branches from pruning

They have a similar organics recycle program in Santa Monica where my family lives and they love it! I did it for months while helping a family member and think it's terrific. Yay for Davis for getting on board!

This is a great idea!

This is a great idea. I would like to see the City pass an ordinance to help address the homeless. We have had folks breaking into the back of our office and camping out then being aggressive when asked to leave. I have also seen folks sleeping between the Palm Court and shopping area with Peets & Skin Renewal Center. They were doing drugs and I felt very unsafe with my child.

This is a nice step but it sounds like there will still be a lot of yard waste in the street for many months of the year, especially if people forget that it is only picked up the first week of the month (except for the fall).

This is going to make us *less* likely to properly dispose of yard waste, not more likely. Horrible stupid idea. We bike daily (to work, to school, on errands) and we've never had a problem with blocked bike lanes except on B Street which is icky to bike on anyway.

This plan doesn't consider renters. Also concerned about mold mildew bins located though city

This proposal of cart pickup will cost more money so let us be upfront and honest about that.

Trash pick is either too often or too inefficient. I put out my trash not more than once a month. ALSO, the trucks are too noisy.

Very glad city is implementing organics collection! Not all of us are able or interested in composting & benefits the entire community to utilize this resource, divert waste.

We are SO happy to hear about this new program as we have recently moved here from a community with an excellent organics collection program. It upsets us to trash our organics, but don't have the time/desire to manage our own compost system, nor do we feel comfortable dumping our kitchen organics in a street pile. THANK YOU!!

We are very pro composting, however, we have some concerns that the organic cans may attract rodents/ insects. Is this topic addressed anywhere?

We compost virtually everything from our kitchen in a "Green Cone" and would appreciate knowing if it is a worthwhile alternative to the proposed organics program. Here is a link: http://www.amazon.com/Green-Cone-Solar-Digester-Composter/dp/B000BWJPTO/ref=cm_cr_pr_product_top

We currently have a city structural financial deficit, and I don't see the city staff or city council concerned about our current path to bankruptcy.

We do not have a compost bin in back yard due to rat problem in downtown Davis. We had one for years but had damage to house appliances as rats came along power lines into house. Were told unless we got rid of compost bin, we would never defeat them. If organics will enable us to re-start composting - great but be container will be rat resistant!

We have a pine tree near the sidewalk outside our house that drops a LOT of needles year round. I was concerned that without waste pile pickup, we would not have a way to dispose of these needles. So I am pleased that yard waste pickup will continue.

We love the idea for single homes but do not feel multi-family complexes have been considered and this will be an unsustainable path for us!

We moved here from Oakland about 3 years ago. I was shocked to find that Davis did not do curb-side pick-up of organic waste like we had been doing in Alameda County. We are renting and so have not invested in home composting. It saddens me every time I throw something in the trash that I know should be composted. I am so happy that Davis is finally getting on board with this program- it's about time! I can't wait to be able to save my food waste again.

We use the 35-gallon container for trash, which we usually fill about half. Is the City considering adding a smaller container when the organics program is implemented?

We will be declining the organic waste bin. We only have our other two bins collected every two weeks as it is.

What do we do when we have street piles outside of that time period? For example, I just removed some large cacti from my yard and needed 3 weeks of street piles in a row. Is there an option for when we have large jobs? Thanks!

What is the baseline number for the claim of 65% diversion? I don't believe this claim.

The methane produced in the landfill ultimately is fuel for the landfill co generation. This plan would seem to us to increase the emissions of methane.

Is our existing stormwater quality not in compliance?

This plan assumes that waste piles are a significant hazard to cyclists. I don't believe that this has been demonstrated. The program implies that the huge containers present a lessor hazard.

What will happen with the compost? Will it be available for residents to use in their gardens?

What will we do with the biomass when it doesn't fit in the container? Will the finished compost be available to residents for free and, if so, where and how will we be able access it? Can it be dropped back into the containers at curbside for those who request it in late spring or early summer?

Where will the collected materials go and will the material be reused by the city for fertilizer?

Where will the organics go for processing, and what systems will be used (all composting? Anaerobic Digestion? Other?)

While I like the thought of composting additional materials and getting more stuff out of the garbage stream, I very much prefer the on-street pickup. I don't see how we can manage the new carts without them getting smelly and nasty, and quite frankly I don't have a good place to put yet another cart, two is already plenty. This feels like breaking something that has been working well for me...

why are we bothering with a regular garbage can, it sound like everything is being diverted to recycling or organic pick up? We barely fill our tiny 35 gallon can half way now.

Why was this survey not commissioned before a council decision??? In my view, having lived her 15 years, the present system works excellently, It is the seasons when I have to prune that concern me. The organic cart will not meet hold all my brush and clippings. In addition, it will me an added chore cutting up items into sizes that will fit into the cart. Frequently during the pruning season (not so much the leaf season) one sees huge piles outside homes that cannot be accomodate by cart.

will garbage rates increase w/ new program?

Will the cans be rodent proof? That's my primary concern. A secondary concern will be cost as our utilities bill is already costly.

Will the compost created from the project be available to the public for use in their gardens?

Will this option be available to town house associations and apartment complexes who use shared recycling and garbage disposal containers?

Also, where will the waste be taken and is there a way to bring it back to the community as fully composted materials? This is a great step! Thank you!

Will you have an example of 95 gal. organic cart at the City Hall at the Park this Saturday, Mar.14th? The 95 gal cart might be too high for me to easily put debris in cart. Will it fit through a normal fence gate so I can keep it in back yard? I look forward to the yard waste cart as it will make it easier to put leaf /brush out for pickup the night before p/u day. Since we'll only have 1 street sweeping per month, what if a car parks in front of house that day? Info signs on street might help

wish you could educate people to not put dog poo in the yard waste piles. hope you've thought of how to control the increase in rat populations.

With back, neck and hip issues I will find it harder to get contents from wheelbarrow into the organics cart. Much easier to dump on street. Though I understand the problems this will be much harder for me. Also I am assuming food waste can't be in plastic bags. This will all stink to high heaven. Not crazy about that. Ideas? Thank you.

With putrescible material being separated from other 'black bin' trash there may be opportunity to reduce black bin cart pick up frequency. Can we please look into reducing number of weekly DWR truck visits to all Davis residences by possibly doing bi-weekly black bin (and blue bin) pick up after implementation of food waste source separation? What is extra service fee for green/org container pickup? Can we opt out? Note: 72 GWP for CH4 is 20yr horizon, convention is the 100yr - 25 GWP

Would high-bike traffic roads such as B Street potentially have even further reduced ability to place piles of yard waste in street to better preserve the bike lane for safety of the community?

yard waste bins are long overdue. The city looks messy and people put all the wrong things in the piles especially dog poop bags (where are these educated Davis people???)

Also many put the piles out to sit a whole week and get blown around.

yes, I live in an apartment complex and would like to know if the organics cart program will be available to me? I would definitely use it. I think much waste comes from the apartment complexes in this town, as some of them don't have recycling bins. I would like to see more availability for less waste in apartment/townhouse complexes. Thanks!

Yes, this survey format is problematic - it required answers on questions I had no answer to. One of my answers is incorrect (both options were incorrect).

Yes. It's not clear whether there is a fee added to our City Services bill for the first organics cart. I know it states there is for an additional cart.

You have a system that works perfectly and as politicians do you want to change things for no justifiable reason. Humans produce waste products and putting them in a can will not make them disappear. PS we used to have a place where davisites could pick up compost at no charge where did that go?

Your proposal is excellent and well conceived. I didn't know a waste collection company could properly dispose of food waste and have heard of them struggling to find answers. I am interested as to what DWR can/will do to dispose of food waste. I support the proposed plan for organics carts and periodic street pile pick up enthusiastically.

(1) The 5-day limit on piles in the street means I have to schedule my major pruning/clean-up on a specific weekend once per month. This is a drag since my schedule is not always this flexible. (2) Will the new bins be as tall as the current garbage bins? I can see this being a serious lifting problem, especially for older residents. To toss a bag of trash into a 5-ft high bin is one thing; to do the same with piles that are on the ground is quite another.

1) I expect this service won't be offered outside the city limits. 2) I just moved to Davis from Napa. For the past 10 years, Napa has provided curbside bin-collected green waste service. It's great! It boggles my mind that the city of Davis and its residents can't see the benefit of BIN-COLLECTED green waste. This habit of collecting green waste in street piles is crazy. Gardening is SO much easier when one can throw the prunings/clippings into a wheeled cart to haul to the curb.

1) Plant detritus ends up in the street naturally, not just when residents place it there. Street sweeping should still be done weekly, otherwise City Goal #5, cleaner streets, will not be met. I don't believe many residents will sweep in front of their houses to keep streets clean.

2) I suspect there will be additional fees placed on the residents for this program, unless costs are offset by reduced hauling and sweeping services. Nothing has been said about this.

1. I think yard waste and compostable organics should be considered as separate issues.

2. Physically, those of over 70 cannot put yard waste in containers. Those homes with landscapers are not in a position to understand the majority of Davis citizens who can't afford or don't want to use a service.

1. Please change the color of the cart (green?) so it is clearly identifiable from the other carts;

2. Monthly street pile pickup schedule - try to make it easy to remember like the first pickup day of the month (not first full week. - what's a full week?);

3. Extend leaf-drop season 1 month to January 15, to allow for heavy pruning of landscapes at that time.;

4. What is cost for additional carts (per cart, up to 2 more)?;

5. Branches should be allowed in the cart if cut to size to fit..

2 things. 1) I could see the yard waste building up with only once a month pickup and spilling into the bike lane- I have woody shrubs and tree limbs. 2) I compost most of what you are referring to, but I foresee other people having a smelly compost container and lots of flies, especially in summer. I suggest a tight-fitting lid. But I do think it's a great idea.

95 gallons? Three cans to store? I have need for 10 gallons 9 months and 65 gallons leaf/pruning season. I don't want to store another large can. Also, I want organic waste p/up on same day as other cans. Won't cans attract flies & washing cans will waste water.

A benefit to the community is a reduction in garbage production and garbage collection rates; provision of soil amendments for the garden; converting garbage to electricity or to biofuels; etc. A diversion program is not a goal, it is merely a means for achieving a goal. What are the goals for this program? How will your program meet the goals I have identified?

Actual data of the mass of weekly claw pickup over the past few years show that the mass of collected yard waste is constant every week of the year except for the last week of December, possibly due to Xmas tree disposal.

Again - just in case you did not read the above...

I will not use the organics cart - it will have to sit unused in my back yard. I live in a small duplex with a single car garage. To add one more cart I would have to leave my car on the street which I am not willing to do. There is no way to get the cart from my backyard to the street without picking it up and carrying it which I would be unable to do. Therefore it will become a "decorative" yard sculpture at my house.

Again, I love the idea of City composting organics and yard waste. Please make it work.
Although I am an avid cyclist both recreationally and as a commuter, I don't share the concerns of many over safety arising from the presence of yard waste piles along the curbs. I highly value the curbside pickup of yard waste that Davis provides and believe that safety concerns can be mitigated though better communication with homeowners regarding the appropriate placement of these piles (and enforcement if necessary).
Another \$15 is unnecessary especially since our household doesn't drink coffee, eat meat or rarely eat at home. Does that mean we have to pay \$15 whether we use the service or not? My guess is I have to pay no matter what. We already pay almost \$300 monthly for the City of Davis services and this added \$15 will cost me almost \$200 a year.
Are there concerns with rodents and other animals causing issues with the organics carts. Our property backs up to a large field and we've had concerns about food compost attracting more rodents.
Are there going to be size options or does one size fit all? We are just 2 people with little yard waste. We will never fill a 95 gal. bin each week. How about a 35 gal. bin like we have for the trash. Additionally, we have no place to store such a large cart other than in front of our house (Yuck). Please allow for individual needs.
Can I pickup processed composted material? didnt see that in the docs I accessed.
Capture the methane at the landfill and use for renewable fuel, power and/or heat. Composting also results in air emissions. AB 939 diversion goals have too many loopholes - alternative daily cover requirements. Yard waste and household organics are two distinct waste streams with different management logistics. Don't co-mingle them. Very few streets have the brush pile / bicycle conflict. Try consumer education to reduce household organic waste generation. REDUCE, reuse, recycle.
Collecting household compost is a great idea. I would like it treated separately from the on-street "jaws" pickups. I do not want to have to containerize my yard waste.
Concerns about organic waste like food placed into piles increasing the size of the piles. The piles already adversely affect traffic, especially in areas with heavy bike traffic where bikers will often haphazardly enter the car portion of the street. Plus the smell and unsightliness of organic waste piled on the street (which appears to be an option).
Costco does it and it seems manageable
Could we meet the 75% diversion through composting education, or by providing compost bins to homeowners?
Davis should never allow yard waste piles in the street. They are dangerous to bicycles and unsightly. If people have more yard waste than fits into bins, such as when a tree blows down, they should be able to call the city to pick it up within a day or two. Yard waste piles should be a very narrow exception.
Does not composting yield the same level of methane production? Composting results in decomposition of organic material and will have the same chemical reaction as placing in a landfill. Release of the carbon molecules in the organic material as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide or methane depends on heat, available oxygen and moisture. Since the Yolo land fill pumps water, air and turns their organics, it seems the process is similar to composting
Excellent and about time. I suspect that the amount collected will be treating than anticipated. When we started composting our food waste, the amount put into the trash bin decreased about 75%! But then I like to cook....
EXCELLENT idea, and past due! They have been doing this in Oakland for years and it is great. They also provide a little bin for collection of food scraps in the home; will this also be part of Davis' program? And will you offer a way to recycle or repurpose the home composting equipment that many residents already have. I will preferentially use the city's system, but would hate to just throw away my own composter (it cost \$100!)
excellent program. It might be interesting to offer for sale in home recycling bins to collect waste through the week or even outdoor bins for more active recyclers. Again, all for sale - people will pay they just need inspiration
Except for the used paper items, I already compost everything but yard waste because that usually has weed seeds in it making it a pain to use in the garden.
Getting more organic material out of the waste stream, and creating more compost is a great goal for this program.
Glad to see that the City is looking at organics now.
Great idea!

Having another large bin to store is burdensome. The bins will become dirty, a haven for bugs and will be difficult to clean. As our population ages lifting yard waste into a bin will be problematic. I appreciate the intent, but what other options have been explored?
Having seen how infrequent the college renters on my street put out their garbage and how they fail to follow existing rules, I don't see this proposal being successful and their lack of participation will come to negatively impact the residents that do comply.
How much will this cost Davis Citizens?
I am 100% behind this program if it gets organics out of the trash citywide. I think the current program of monthly claw and weekly bin pickup will meet 99% of residents' needs. I see a lot of blowback from residents who are unwilling to change their ways and are threatening to boycott the use of the green carts, instead threatening to leave piles in the street for the entire month. I hope that the proposal will survive the storm of negative naysayers. I will still need the claw occasionally.
I am a residential customer and we compost all our vegetable kitchen waste (also eggshells, some paper products, coffee grounds etc) and some of our leaves on site. We are enthusiastic users of the street yard waste service and have felt very fortunate that we have this option. My in-laws live in Fresno and just have a large green can. It is unsightly and unwieldy. I would ask the City to consider offering street yard waste services every 2 weeks and an opt out option for the can.
I am concerned about cost. Obviously the cost of the carts will likely be passed through to residents, and since it's an additional pickup, I assume that will cause a rate increase, too. My husband and I already use the smallest trash can, and often times only have one bag of trash in it. There's not much more we can do to conserve, but we don't want to keep paying more, either. We support the City's efforts, but not at our cost.
I am concerned about the cleanliness issues with the composting containers, but I am sure that will work out. I also question the quality of the compost with post consumer food waste.
I am in favor of composting. Isn't the yard waste that is picked up now composted?
I am most worried about people putting their organic waste directly in the street with their yard waste, which would draw more rats raccoons and squirrels to the neighborhood.
I am pleased that I can use on street piles monthly for yard waste. I am disabled so I cannot bend and lift yard debris into a bin. I can rake it though.
I am really excited about this and have been waiting for this to come into effect.
I am so glad we are going to have containers!!! I have lived previously in other cities that have them and it is surprising how much they hold. If only I didn't already have gouges in the street from the previous street pickup equipment, or had a way to fill them in. I am looking forward to no longer having the mess that is left behind after the street pickup. This is going to be great!!! The people who are against it most likely have never lived anywhere that had container service.
I am very excited about this program. We have composted at home off and on over the years, but it is difficult to really divert a lot of kitchen waste to the home compost pile. When we lived in San Francisco we had green bins and used them a lot, so I think we will use the organic carts and it will reduce our household waste. I am glad to see Davis taking this step.
I am very excited for the organics carts. I think in addition to the environmental benefits, it will improve bike safety and general cleanliness of the streets.
I am very happy to see that the city is adopting this program.
I answered "yes" to the on street pile pick up as we do lots of trimming a couple times of year and it would not fit in the 95 gallon cart. We would not use the street pick up every month but only if necessary in the spring and fall when leaf/plant debris is more.
I believe it's worth letting residents know that food is 25% of California's residential waste destined for the landfill, according to State of California research.
I believe these cans will stink and will be a nuisance.

I came from Portland, Oregon. We lived there during the time period when the city implemented curbside compostable pickup. Was well received and user friendly, fantastic. Might consider renaming it, not calling it Organics because that's a little confusing (ie Can we only put organic items in?). Otherwise super excited about it
I can live with monthly yard waste pick-ups, but less frequent pickups would not work. With this change, the city will likely need to invest in enforcement to prevent piles that linger for several weeks. Also, just because you give everyone a third cart, don't be surprised if many people continue to dispose of compostables in their regular trash. People with lots of yard waste or large trees will likely be cramming all the containers with yard waste once pickups become less frequent.
I can't believe the City would do this in a half way manner. I see absolutely no reason for on street DUMPING to continue. Is it so hard to believe the educated people of Davis can't figure out that change has to happen in order for quality of life to remain. Either implement organic containers or don't PLEASE don't do it half way, people won't change unless they are given no other option.
I can't wait until we get our organic cart.
I do compost at home, but use the on-street for twigs, branches, tree trimming, etc that I don't think will compost; also for weeds I don't want in my compost. This sounds like a great program for Davis. I'd love to see it extend to local businesses and restaurants, and also central downtown street corner locations.
I do not know if this program will help Davis. I understand that we pay another city to take our waste. Perhaps we could take care of our own waste, make compost, etc.
I do NOT want a 95-gallon can sitting around. For those of us with little food/yard waste, a 95-gallon can is INSANE. The small cans, like the smallest garbage ones, should be available.
I do not want a third bin. My garbage and recycling bins are taken to the street once a month. I do not wish to pay for another service I will not use.
I don't have a place for a 95 gallon organics cart. This is going to stink, attract rodents, ants and be a real inconvenience. Please consider making the program optional.
I don't see anything about services to multi unit residences. I hope you plan to include them! I would love to be able to compost food waste.
I don't want another big waste can blocking the side of my house. I only occasionally have yard waste to put on the street; when I do, I add it to other neighbors' material when it is already in the street.
I don't want to pay for the extra cost though. These programs are great, but it gets tiresome to constantly be asked or required to pay for them. If the cost is included in regular pick up, then I'm all for it.
I expect that the bins will be insufficient for my needs and challenging - We are elderly and cutting material small enough for bins will be an additional issue.
I expect that with this program our household would only use street pickup during leaf drop season. I think this is a great idea.
I guess I just wonder about the best way to store the organics until pick up. I worry that the bins will become very gross if they sit for a week. Can you share ideas for minimizing issues?
I have been waiting for the opportunity to properly dispose of organics. I use a yellow bin on UCD campus for my lunch waste. Have composted, both in pile and with a worm bin, but neither was adequate to process the amount and type of organic waste we produce. I'm just sorry it means yet another large plastic container.
I have been wanting this program for so long. I want to compost our organic waste but we get rats when we do so had to stop. This would resolve!
I have never understood why a city who prides itself on recycling doesn't offer a program like Roseville which allows everything in one bin that then gets sorted so 100% of recycling is collected and residents have one less cart.
I have no objection to the composting proposal. My objection is to getting rid of the claw and having 9 months a year where yard waste can only be put on the street 5 days a month. I have no idea how I could physically deal with this new requirement. I will not be able physically able to put my yard waste into the huge new container or to maneuver that container.
I have no space to keep yet another large waste container. You need to reconsider this program.

I hope the city will get rid of the piles. They are a hazard to bicyclists and not necessary. Perhaps offering more containers to people that need them would solve the problem of leaves in fall? Piling them up is often not that good of a solution in windy fall anyway, containers would be much better. The only thing I can think of that requires the claw is large tree trimmings.

I hope the new service will not increase the cost, as we are already facing steep cost increases for water

I know yard waste bins are controversial -- many people love "the claw". I hate the claw, and strongly support containerization. I also think Davis is long overdue for home composting. My friends in the Bay Area have had it for years!

I like the hybrid approach which retains the street pickup very much. I also am happy about the organics composting. I am not happy about having 3 unwieldy containers to wheel around and store. I wish we still had the 3 container metal wheely contraption for recycling. I would be very happy if the city would then share the compost they create--many cities provide it free of cost to homeowners.

I like this because my husband and I ride our bikes a lot, but it has an undue impact on older people who can't do the lifting. That may soon be our situation as arthritis gets the better of us.

I look forward to hearing about exactly what will go into the organic compost carts. I would like to know what kind of paper would be included, if any.

I moved from San Francisco 4 years ago. I'm happy Davis is finally going to start a better composting system! This will cut down on the over-all trash and will be way better for the environment! People will get used to it. They will realize their little piles can fit in the bin most of the time and the busy times of the year the pick up will be weekly.

I moved to Davis from San Francisco five years ago and couldn't believe there wasn't food scrap pickup here. San Francisco has had it since at least 2002. In SF, my garbage can hardly needed emptying into the big bin; in Davis, with so much food scrap in the kitchen garbage can, we have to empty it very frequently. I feel terrible not composting it. Not everyone can compost at home--we have so many students, tenants, older people, etc. who can't do it.

I prefer to clean my containers and cans when they become dirty or smelly so that they do not attract rodents and insects. There are children in our neighborhood! I also do not have convenient room to store another large container.

I really don't have room to store another wheeled container, nor do I see the need to scale back on-street pick up in order to implement a compost container program.

I really liked having this when I lived in San Francisco. I'm looking forward to having it in Davis.

I see this composting going on in San Francisco at restaurants and other places. I'm glad to see Davis moving in this direction. Would the composting happen at the YCCL? The restaurants would be the place to make a huge dent in garbage but this is good also. Thanks

I submit my answers as a former resident of Davis. I would have liked to have this program in place from 2006 to 2010. Also, I'd like to request an edit to the name of this topic for the sake of legitimacy. The appropriate name is: "Davis Organics Program". The current "Davis Organic's Program" makes "Organic" possessive when the full name is rather a proper noun. Please change this as soon as possible, thank you!

I think "meet the needs of Davis" needs to be more clearly defined. The organics program may respond to a municipal goal, but as explained will require me to stop recycling bottles and cans. So in that sense, the organics program constitutes a compromise.

I think picking up street piles should be twice/month. Seems like this idea will mean that piles in the street will be there for long periods of time.

I think the hygiene/smell aspect and attracting effect for rodents, cockroaches etc. is a high price to be paid for residents & home owners in a city that already has major rat & roach problems. Also I do not see why we should be paying another new fee for a service that has weak arguments so far. Please check out the many, many comments and posting threads on nextdoor.com. We are already burdened with so many fees and taxes - there has to be a stop somewhere along the lines.

I think the residents should have opportunity to have even smaller garbage (landfill) than is the minimum size now, maybe an option to pick up once every 2-3 weeks for less charges, to motivate people make less waste, recycle and compost

I think this is a great idea! I've wanted to compost for a while now, but I don't have room. I hate throwing away organic items!

I think this program is being pushed by the individuals that are not aware enough of their surroundings to avoid yard waste piles when they are biking.

I think this will be good for all the people who don't already compost their own organics and don't want to. But...I hope those of us who already handle 95% of our own green/food waste through home compost piles will be able to opt out of the organics can (and perhaps pay less for not needing it, similar to the savings for having the teeny garbage can?) We put a pile of branches in the street maybe 3 or 4 times per year, so continuing infrequent street pickup would be nice.

I think this will be more of a hassle than a benefit

I think this will significantly reduce the amount of waste in my regular garbage because we produce a lot of organic waste like vegetable peels, etc. Does the City have plans to make and use compost or do some kind of energy-producing digester?

I think those waste piles on the street are a hazard for cyclists. I ran into one at night (despite having a bike light), went over the handlebar and suffered a laceration to my face and a broken elbow. I paid \$2500 in medical expenses (ER visit) out of pocket. It is impossible to keep the bike lanes completely free with pile pickup.

I think you have underestimated how much people enjoy the current weekly service. Everyone that I have spoken to about this subject is (a) angry that this has been decided without consultation, (b) convinced that the new service is a terrible idea, and (c) determined to push back as much as possible until the current service is resumed.

I tried composting at home but it attracted and sustained too many rats. Thanks for doing this!

I tried composting at home but it attracted mice so I stopped. I would love to be able to compost again!

I understand that bike riders have a concern about on street organic piles. However there is a need to keep one's property in shape and some of us have needs that the bike riders may not. I hope to have our needs receive priority as well.

I used to live in several cities that had this option and I really miss it. As a renter I currently have to take my non-yard waste compost a couple blocks away, and while most of the time it's a nice walk, sometimes it's a detriment to composting. I am also looking forward to not using landfill for meat, etc!

Persevere past all the crank pots, they came out when this transition happened in Berkeley too. Change is hard, I guess. Thanks!

I will like to know if this is going to costs us more. Our city services bill is already high. Are you planning to increase the cost by adding this Organic Program? I also heard that even what we are recycling is currently dumped in the landfill. A friend of mine has seen this. He even went to ask what were they throwing the recycling stuff with the garbage in the landfill. The answer was, "too much to recycle. The left over goes in the landfill."

I would be happy to pay for pick-up when I have tree prunings.

I would hope most Davis residents already compost, and so there wouldn't be a big need for this program. Maybe it could target primarily apartments?

I would like to keep the currant system, since I already compost my food waste.

I would love this. I do not have space for a simple compost system, but love to know my waste is being handled responsibly.

I would not put food waste into an organics cart. When I had a compost bin near my house, it ended up with flies and maggots due to rotting fruit. If people start putting meat and other food waste into their organics cart, then we will probably end up with a big pest control problem in the neighborhood, including a worsening rat problem.

I would recycle A LOT more than I already do if the city recycle bins were larger and not needlessly separated into paper/containers. Most people have more recyclables than they do landfill waste. Larger recycle bins, please!

I would say no based on the information currently available because you are adding a 3rd trash container to Davis residents and also adding in the required collection of such containers. I don't see the benefit of a bit more organic material being a greater benefit to Davis than the cost of implementing it. How does Davis benefit in a measurable way? The costs can be calculated. Additionally, those who are composting now are already benefiting from composting and would not put it in a bin?
I would use the organics cart mostly but still put larger branches on the street.
I'd like to see what the cost benefit is. Will citizens be able to receive free bags of compost? Will the city sell it and where does that \$ go? What does it cost for the cans, pick up and compost creation?
I'd rather see the money spent on infrastructure. Bikers need to learn to pay attention to where they ride.
If a storm rolls through, an additional pick up may be necessary and should be available especially with all the palm fronds and limbs breaking due to the drought.
If claw pickup is only once a month, piles will have as long as 1 month to be accidentally run over by cars and spread into the bike lanes and street, and may also be similarly spread into bike and traffic lanes by strong wind. This will pose a greater risk to bike riders. Street trash will also be more likely to be blown into your, or your neighbor's yard. Every other week claw pickup would be better, reducing the likelihood of these risks.
If I can't do my gardening a few days before the monthly on-street pickup, and I can't fit everything into the new cart, do I have to store the remaining yard waste and parcel it out into the cart every week to get rid of it? Hassle! I don't think it's realistic to think we can all plan our gardening to happen in the five days before the street pickup. Also, what will keep people from dumping their food waste in the street now that we're combining yard and food waste? Ugh...
If there are any stakeholders meetings on this topic, I would like to attend. I have 22+ years in the solid waste industry, am a manager for Sacramento County's Waste Management Department, and am very familiar with similar programs around the area and in parts of the state.
If we put all of our organics in a cart - without plastic garbage bags as we do now for our kitchen trash - will we have more problems with pests such as cockroaches and scavengers trying to get in to them?
I'll use most of my organics for on site composting but there are still some things of longer compost times that I'll put in the carts.
I'm a little worried about the smell of organic wastes stored in an anaerobic bin for days at a time. Cleaning the bins will require water, and that water, which may contain nitrogen and phosphorous from partially decomposed food waste, will go into our storm drains. I would rather continue composting at home, and I think encouraging more home or neighborhood composting would be a better alternative to investing in these bins.
I'm concerned that waste piles may sit in the street for up to a month at a time.
I'm glad you will not eliminate the curb piles during fall. I have an enormous leaf load in the fall that would take until summer to get rid of one can at a time.
I'm in the average day there are many piles of organic rubbish which would not fit into a single can. My concern rubbish will stay in the street longer.
I'm interested to know more about the deliberative process behind the move from green waste pile pick up and street sweeping to green bin pick up. There are obviously substantial investments to be made (or already made?) to make the switch, and I think it would behoove the decision makers to educate the city's citizens on the nature and scope of these investments, and the deliberative process that led to the decision.
I'm so glad we're doing this!!
IMO, Davis administration/government often fails to strike a balance between the needs/wants of it's residents and it's pet projects. It appears that a vocal minority often dictates the path that the city takes to set and achieve it's goals at the expense of the residents who value strong core services and sound infrastructure as a top priority. I have to attribute it to systemic, bureaucratic or political issues as those who step up impress me as intelligent and thoughtful.

In village homes we have a LOT of common area greenery to compost and i am concerned the waste bins alone would be way too small.

Also, leaving food waste for a week may recruit more pests.

Finally, including meat in the waste stream may preclude many uses for the compost.

Instead of this organics program, please consider vastly increased education and publicity about the benefits, both to the home owner and the city, of composting. You should talk with landscaping companies that work in Davis and encourage them to convince their customers to allow them to compost appropriate yard waste in the backyard instead of dumping it on the street many days ahead of the pick-up day, as what happens with many of our neighbors.

Instead, encourage citizens to do composting at home. Provide incentives for composting and for removing lawns.

It is not clear how this program will affect people who live in multi-unit dwellings, both for how we dispose of our organic waste as well as how the landscape maintenance crews feel about curbside pick up. They may have a better idea how often pick ups need to happen.

It is time to stop loose waste piles in the street completely. I'm tired of paying for a service that so few rate payers "need." I'm tired of the ugly piles. I'm tired of blocked bike lanes. Using "carts" helps solve the storm drain and vector control issues. Continuing to allow loose piles in the street is the problem in every one of these issues.

It seems very strange that the davis bicycle community was advocating for yard waste bin collection and now the city would like to start a organics recycling collection. Does every home need another waste can to store? Why is the city more focused on the road repair in town?

It seems we aren't being rewarded for having been conscientious recyclers for all these years and our waste stream has been low to begin with. And then to be told by some government bureaucrat who picks a number out of his rear end that we must do even more. Diminishing returns people.

It sounds like we will be dealing with THREE refuse carts now - one for containers and paper, one for garbage that isn't recyclable or compostable, and one for organics - did I get that right? I don't like the looks of refuse carts in plain sight in front yards and on driveways - makes the neighborhoods look trashy - and now we're going to have to deal with THREE containers. Since most Davis houses are on small lots, where are we going to put our three containers out of sight?

It would be nice to get rid of the piles in the street. Is there a plan to phase out using the claw altogether?

It's about XXXX time we got this! Leaving leaves in the street is insane (everyone who visits from elsewhere thinks so!). You should eliminate waste pile pickup all together.

Its about time. For a town as forward thinking, intelligent and agriculturally oriented, not having a composting service seems a big miss from both the leadership and environmental perspectives. I would love to have this service in place AND would suggest the city encourage home owners such as myself to learn how to self-compost and even provide composting bins/ training for home use. This can only help lower trash, green-ify our town and help with drought-resistant planting... Nice :)

I've lived in Davis for over 30 years and consider the street pickup of yard waste one of the most beneficial and important services we enjoy. Is it possible to continue this service and add a much smaller bin (20-30 gallon) for organic compost waste? I would certainly favor this approach.

Just repeating comments from above: I'm not sure. Will we be able to use them even if we live in a complex where a city street does not run through? We are not currently allowed to put curb side clippings because of this which is why landscapers take clippings with them. We do have curbside garbage & recycling though. I'm not sure where a third bin will fit. Our space is limited both in the garage and at the curbside.

Leaf and grass clipping removal are not the only things that need to be picked up. We have our large trees pruned every winter when they are dormant. Without the claw, we will have no way to get these ENORMOUS branches picked up. You need to rethink this process to include the claw for maintaining healthy trees in our community.

Many - will follow up

My answers are conditioned on low cost and holding apartments accountable for blocking the bike paths.

My concern is the size of this container. Homeowners with small properties and tiny yards already have to struggle with storing the trash and recyclables containers. I have to store mine just a few feet away from my entrance. We have no space for a third container. I support the compostables program but my household's compostable waste would barely fill a 5 gallon bucket per week. PLEASE explore options for drastically smaller containers.

My daughter lived in SF and now lives in San Rafael. I felt like Davis was behind in this matter. Hooray for the addition.

Additional Comments

Putting garbage on the streets is not a good idea, in fact it "stinks" and attracts vermin.

The City of Davis is proposing a program similar to what has evolved in the City of Sacramento, save no food waste in the green waste bin in the City of Sacramento. The City of Sacramento was "in the street" only collection for some time, then went to containerized for some customers. Ultimately, the program grew to 1/2 in the street, 1/2 containerized. This was extremely expensive for the City. Last year they converted to containerized for all customers with 3 months per year (leaf drop season) where "in the street" collection of green waste is also offered. This greatly reduced the City's green waste collection costs while allowing residents to get rid of the excess material due to the fall season. The County of Sacramento has had containerized green waste collection since 1996. They do not offer additional "in the street" green waste in particular, but residents can place it out as part of their "once per year" bulky waste cleanup service. If the City of Davis offers once per month in the street collection on top of weekly during the leaf drop and weekly containerized, that will be a very good program. My only concern may be the cost to offer that extra monthly service.

We have a huge spring clean up of leaves and fallen branches to do. The result fills our front curbside. We don't need it weekly, more like twice per year, but in the spring rather during the winter.

Great idea, I do compost already.

For green waste - maybe ACE hardware could team up with City of Davis to offer something like this at a discounted rate for locals:

Flowtron LE-900 Leaf-Eater Plus Shredder

http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=9SIA00Y0935248&nm_mc=KNC-GoogleMKP-PC&cm_mmc=KNC-GoogleMKP-PC-_pla-_Patio+Furniture-_9SIA00Y0935248&gclid=ClmchIfP-MMCFc9ffgodcQ8Afg&gclsrc=aw.ds

Get the green waste out of the street and in containers or use in your own back yard.



Backyard composting is a fantastic method for landfill diversion, and making your own soil instead of importing "dirt." We need to develop programs that encourage this, as the first and lowest-impact method of waste diversion. And we still need this organics collection system because I'm not going to compost meat and bones and oily pizza boxes on site. With this system, we have a chance of keeping ALL kitchen scraps out of the landfill.

I love the idea of composting organics. I wish more people would bury food scraps or worm compost locally, but this collection can help.

Many answers depend on conditions that do not yet exist. Makes it hard to say yes or no.

Thank you to the City employees and committee volunteers for helping us meet our conservation goals!