



Helena Citizens' Council
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Date: 28 July 2021
To: Helena City Commission
From: Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Subject: Composting Recommendation

The recommendation below was approved by the HCC on July 28, 2021 with 18 members voting to approve and 2 abstentions.

Dear Mayor and Members of the Commission,

The HCC would like to ask the Commission to amend City Code 6-1-17 to allow for private businesses to continue diverting valuable materials from the waste stream.

An exemption to the City Code could be as simple as this:

6-1-18: The exclusivity in City Code 6-1-17 does not apply to individuals, firms, or companies providing residential curbside collection of food scraps and yard debris for composting services.

The City currently does not offer **food** waste composting services in any form, nor does it offer yard waste curbside pickup (for composting). While the City does compost yard waste that has been dropped off at the Transfer Station, most of that material is used as an alternative cover at the landfill, rather than turned into a valuable, marketable product. Thus, the private companies are providing both a very valuable service to City residents not otherwise available AND helping the City move closer to its goal of 50% waste reduction by 2040.

A change to the code is the most timely, efficient response that would allow for the private businesses to be in compliance while providing valuable resource diversion services.

We appreciate your consideration.