



January 11, 2017

Dear Mayor Boley and City Commissioners,

As chair of the Food Policy Council, I write to express our support for the City of Lawrence pilot commercial single-stream recycling project. We find this to be a responsible next step to move our community forward in increasing waste diversion through programs that make financial and logistical sense.

Since your adoption of the Douglas County Food System Plan last summer, we have formed a Food Waste subcommittee, focused on realizing the goal that **"Our community eliminates waste in our local food system."** During 2015-2016, we heard from many in Lawrence and Douglas County that food waste is a key concern, and that there's a desire for our community to do more. As such, the first objective of this plan is to "Foster a community culture of waste reduction."

While much of our work will be focused on the waste of actual food, we have also taken a keen interest in how the packaging materials of food we eat—including take-out containers—contribute to the overall landfill waste in our community. **Policy 5.3.1 of the Food System Plan states "Maintain implementation of the 2012 Solid Waste Task Force report."** This pilot program could be a great next step in realizing that policy and the Task Force report's recommendations.

Our Food Waste subcommittee met with Solid Waste Division Manager Kathy Richardson in December 2017 to learn more about the pilot plan. We were able to ask questions and learn about how the scope, scale, and financial model of the pilot proposal.

Based on that meeting and the community voices that contributed to the creation of the Food System Plan, **we recommend you approve moving forward with the Pilot Commercial Single-Stream Waste Reduction Program for 2018.**

Thank you for your leadership in supporting a community committed to reducing waste.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlin Bates".

Marlin Bates
Chair, Douglas County Food Policy Council



To: Mayor Boley, Commissioners Soden, Larsen, Herbert, and Ananda; and Tom Markus, Lawrence City Manager

From: Sustainability Advisory Board of the City of Lawrence (SAB)

Re: Single stream commercial recycling collection pilot project

We, the members of the City's Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB), are writing to express our strong support for the Solid Waste Division's proposed pilot project for commercial single-stream recycling collection service.

As a City and community, Lawrence prioritizes sustainability and environmental well-being. It is a key part of the City's Strategic and Comprehensive Plans and the City has had some notable accomplishments in this regard, as demonstrated by our impressive four star STAR Communities rating. However, there is much more that the City can and should do; with recycling in particular, Lawrence has been behind the curve. For example, relative to peer cities, Lawrence was over a decade late in establishing a residential curbside recycling program. However, since its implementation in 2014, it has been a tremendous success. The city collected approximately 5,500 tons of single stream recycling in 2017. A next obvious step for the city is to provide curbside collection for commercial customers.

According to the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) 2015 Sustainability Survey, 25.3% of US cities with populations over 2,500 already provide curbside recycling collection for commercial properties. This number is considerably higher for larger cities, i.e. those over 50,000. Given that so many other cities have been able to successfully design and implement commercial curbside recycling, we have full expectation that Lawrence can as well.

The proposed pilot project is an important first step in developing the service for commercial customers city-wide. Although rather small in scale, it will enable the Solid Waste Division to work through the logistics of providing this new service, with the aim of developing a successful approach that will work for all stakeholders.

The members of SAB consider the Solid Waste Division's pilot project proposal to be a responsible and common sense initial effort that has the potential of providing meaningful benefit to the City. We highly encourage its adoption.

Thank you for your consideration and we appreciate the City Commission's commitment to keeping Lawrence a healthy and sustainable place to live!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Ritchie".

Sustainability Advisory Board, City of Lawrence
Adam Ritchie, Chair