



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert Healy, City Manager

Date February 4, 1988

From William Sommers, Commissioner, DPW

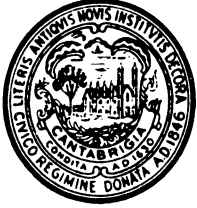
Reference

Subject Council Order #23, Vice Mayor Wolf, January 25, 1988, Compost Program

The Department of Public Works is preparing a proposal to have a complete study done of both our solid waste system as well as the potential for recycling. We can, within that study, look into the feasibility of a composting program.

However, Cambridge starts with a serious space constraint in approaching a composting program. There are essentially three types of composting methods: open (window), closed (mechanical) or a combination of both. Open is the least costly in capital but needs plenty of land; the closed system requires less land but needs an investment in order to build the closed containers. And, depending on the compost product, some systems use a combination of both. The point is, however, that in either system sufficient land area is needed to institute a viable system. Cambridge has a shortage of the kind of land area that is needed, particularly since composting, if done in any size, has associated odors that are the cause for complaints if the composting is done in settled neighborhoods. It may be, however, that if the state does build a recycling plant, they could acquire additional land for an experimental or model composting operation.

WINDROWS



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 22, 1988

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 15, I submit the attached report from the Commissioner of Public Works regarding the feasibility of a composting program for the City of Cambridge.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Agenda Item No. 3 5-164

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 15
regarding the feasibility of a composting
program for the City.

In City Council,

February 22, 1988

2-22-88

Placed on File

C. W. J. Sullivan

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RF