



November 9, 2022

Jessica Tisch
Commissioner
NYC Department of Sanitation
125 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear Commissioner Tisch,

Following DSNY's successful rollout of borough-wide curbside composting in Queens, we write as a delegation of Manhattan elected officials to request that your agency expeditiously begin planning to expand the curbside pickup program to the entire Borough of Manhattan, and we wholeheartedly support Intro 244-2022 and an expedient environmental review to bring curbside organics collection to New Yorkers citywide.

Currently, curbside composting is only offered to Manhattanites living in Community Boards 6 and 7 and requires residents to sign up, leading to low utilization. Transitioning towards an automatic and guaranteed system for all Manhattanites would lead to a significant increase in usage of composting, transitioning us to a greener and more sustainable city by preventing waste from decomposing at landfills, creating methane, and contributing to climate change.

More effectively diverting organic waste from landfill presents an incredible opportunity to help meet our city's sustainability goals. 34% of New York City's waste is suitable for composting, yet in 2017, the City collected only 1.2% of more than 1 million tons of organic waste with brown bins. In 2015, composting accounted for only .2% of waste disposed of by DSNY, with 'waste to energy' accounting for 17.5% and landfill accounting for the remaining 82.3%.

The City's recent commitment to the Queens boroughwide composting program is an exceptionally exciting step in the right direction, and we cannot delay expanding this service. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you in order to ensure Manhattan is cleaner and more sustainable.

Sincerely,



Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President



Chris Marte
Council Member, District 1



Carlina Rivera
Council Member, District 2



Erik Bottcher
Council Member, District 3



Keith Powers
Council Member, District 4



Julie Menin
Council Member, District 5



Gale A. Brewer
Council Member, District 6



Shaun Abreu
Council Member, District 7



Diana Ayala
Council Member, District 8



Carmen De La Rosa
Council Member, District 10