



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

February 7, 2025

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No. <u>250032</u>	
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Committee Assignment	
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To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Authorize Intermunicipal Agreements with Monroe County Public School Districts and Board of Cooperative Education Services for a Food Waste Diversion Grant Pilot Program

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body authorize intermunicipal agreements with Monroe County public school districts and the Board of Cooperative Education Services ("BOCES 1 & 2") for the purpose of issuing matching grants for a Food Waste Diversion Grant Pilot Program ("Pilot Program") in a maximum aggregate value of \$50,000.

Diverting organic waste away from landfills and out of sewers is an important climate action to reduce methane, a potent greenhouse gas. The 18 public school districts and BOCES 1 & 2 within Monroe County can have a role in food waste diversion by:

- Reducing, recovering, and recycling food waste.
- Educating the next generation on environmental stewardship.
- Expanding the circular economy by supporting local composting and food waste diversion businesses.
- Donating excess food to those in need.
- Engaging faculty, staff, and administrations in environmental program implementation.

The Pilot Program will provide the 18 public school districts and BOCES 1 & 2 the opportunity to receive matching funds of up to \$5,000 to implement new initiatives to divert food waste as well as support or expand existing food waste diversion programs. The maximum aggregate value of the funding program is \$50,000. Applicants will be required to submit a proposed food waste diversion plan. Every funding recipient will be solely responsible for the means and methods to implement its approved food waste diversion plan and submit semiannual reports over the duration of funding. Funding will be available to support food waste diversion programs through the 2025-2026 academic year.

The specific legislative action required is to authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to execute intermunicipal agreements, and any amendments thereto, with Monroe County public school districts and the Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES 1 & 2) for the purpose of issuing matching grants for a Food Waste Diversion Grant Pilot Program ("Pilot Program") in a maximum aggregate value of \$50,000.

This action is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(10) ("routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings") and is not subject to further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Funding for these agreements is included in the 2025 operating budget of the Department of Environmental Services, general fund 9001, funds center 8301020000 Climate Initiatives. No additional net County support is required in the current Monroe County budget.

I recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for the favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,



Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

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