



**TO:** Hyun Kim, City Manager  
**FROM:** Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director, Environmental Services  
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**COPY:** Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee  
**PRESENTER:** Lewis T. Griffith, P.E., Solid Waste Management Division Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Mill Food Waste Recycling Informational Briefing  
**DATE:** July 23, 2025

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**PRESENTATION TYPE:**

Please select the type of presentation you will be making to the Council Committee.  
Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

Environmental Services is providing a briefing on the residential food recycling pilot project conducted in partnership with Mill in 2023-2024, including next steps we are working on to explore further opportunities to recycle food waste by supporting the use of connected food recycling appliances.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Tacoma's Solid Waste Management has provided curbside food waste collection service since 2013, however, there are barriers to participation because of potential for odors and mess that come with collecting food waste. Mill offers connected food recycling appliances for use in the home that grind and dehydrate food waste to produce grounds that can be composted or reused as a component of animal feed. The City conducted a pilot project in partnership with Mill to evaluate the effectiveness of Mill connected food recycling appliances, and to gather data on residential food waste generation.

**ISSUE:**

The City's 2030 Climate Action Plan aims to reduce per capita waste generation and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by diverting recyclable waste materials from the landfill. Compostable organic materials, including food waste, account for 40% of single-family residential waste generation, and are a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill. The Mill appliance may increase food waste diversion from the waste stream.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.