

City of Alexandria, Virginia
FY 2023 Proposed Operating Budget & CIP
Budget Questions & Answers

March 23, 2022

Question: What would be the fiscal impact of adding food waste collection at additional farmers markets or other community locations?

Response:

Setting up a food waste drop-off composting program at a farmers' market would vary based on the market size, location and resident interest. For a farmers' market open one day a week, year-round, with fewer than 85 households participating per week, the fiscal impact would be approximately \$25,000 per year. For markets with greater than 85 households participating per week, the fiscal impact would be approximately \$37,500 per year. Both options include costs for set-up, outreach to residents, managing market stations, hauling, and processing food and organic waste. Staff notes that this is a high-level estimate and costs may vary based on whether the farmers' market is seasonal or year-round and days/hours that the markets are in operation.