

Detroit Dirt Foundation

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Testimony for Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Detroit Dirt Brief

Our mission, is to create a zero-waste mindset and drive forward a low-carbon economy. The foundation of our work is in climate change adaption in terms of food waste. This is rooted in specific actions that create movement towards carbon dioxide reductions. We must also address food loss and waste because the U.S. spends \$218 billion a year, growing, processing, and transporting food that is not consumed.

At Detroit Dirt, we transport food waste from clients and process it into high quality compost. This impacts the environment by using food waste to its highest and best use, as a compost product for agriculture. Diverting food waste from landfills also mitigates the generation of carbon dioxide and methane.

The benefits of using compost in agriculture are many, including increased crop yields and healthier plants. Beyond agriculture, incorporating compost into contaminated soils mitigates contaminants such as lead and other pollutants. Compost also helps increase soil's ability to hold storm water runoff, which impacts nearby lakes.

Another important part of our work is in soil erosion on agricultural lands. The rates of soil erosion and depletion exceed new soil production by billions of tons per year. The unprecedented loss of soil health and productivity has been well documented, and in the U.S., there are reported to be less than 60 years of productive harvests. This speaks to the critical need to take organic materials like food waste, capture its embedded energy and bring it back into soils, to increase the organic matter that agricultural soils must maintain.

In terms of environmental stewardship and circular economies, we know that we must take positive steps to make changes through strong partnerships. With these partnerships we must

We drive the low-carbon economy.

establish foundations to support the next generation of people who will inherit a different world. Part of our vision is to prepare them for what is to come through education, so that everyone can understand their own role. Especially as climate change creates an environment where changing seasons will make food production more difficult and where a changing world will take competing interests for natural resources into uncharted territory.

Our vision is to create a thriving, sustainable enterprise where employment opportunities are available to support healthy neighborhoods and sustainable agriculture. Infrastructure for food waste management within an urban setting, means reducing our overall carbon footprint while our high visibility and community outreach will create markets for a variety of products. The new generation of powerful electric trucks manufactured in Michigan, will further support our vision of transporting food waste and generating zero emissions.

The challenges of climate change mean that we must invest in innovation and creativity. While our work is measurable, we know some aspects extend far beyond those matters that are measurable or tangible. Supporting our community is a large part of our vision. We understand the value of citizenship, and the responsibility of service to our community. To this end, I am in support of the legislation Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act of 2022, as well as the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act.

Pashon Murray
Chief Executive Officer
Detroit Dirt & Culture of Carbon

About us: Detroit Dirt Foundation is a minority, woman owned business. I am the CEO with more than fourteen years of experience operating in Detroit. Detroit Dirt Foundation has a non-profit status in the state of Michigan. We are recognized as tax exempt from the U.S. Federal Government's Internal Revenue Service, under the 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

