

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 2621

RE: Authorization to Collaborate with Ulster County to Apply for Grant Funding and Approving Use of Agency Funds for Required Match

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (the "Agency") is engaged in Solid Waste Management and Recycling in Ulster County, including composting of organic materials and food scraps; and

WHEREAS, the Agency previously collaborated with Ulster County (the "County") to apply to the NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Program in 2016 (the "Program") for a grant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from disposal of food waste through expanded composting; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the application was successful and resulted in a funding award of \$261,000 to the County, of which \$237,000 was sub-awarded to the Agency through a Contract for Services for Agency expenditures to increase the diversion of food scraps from the County's waste stream; and

WHEREAS, the Agency committed \$206,768 of its own funds as match to support the 2016 application; and

WHEREAS, the Agency and the County have completed the required tasks and deliverables from the 2016 grant, submitted a final report to the NYS DEC, and closed out the grant in 2021; and

WHEREAS, through Executive Order #1 of 2023, Ulster County Executive Metzger has established a new goal to divert all organic waste from landfills by 2030, and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to apply for additional funding from the Program, as part of the Round XIV NYS Consolidated Funding Application (the "Application"), which is due by 4pm on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, in order to further divert food scraps from the County's waste stream, consistent with Executive Order #1 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Agency's 2020-2029 Solid Waste Management Plan calls for increased effort to divert food scraps and organic materials as a means to reducing the Agency's reliance on landfilling and/or incineration of final waste, and, consistent with that plan, the Agency wishes to participate as a partner in the County's application to secure additional resources to expand food scrap diversion; and

WHEREAS, in order to be eligible for funding under the Program, the Application must include a letter or written agreement substantiating the nature of the collaboration and detailing the responsibilities, roles, and match contributions of each party; and

WHEREAS, if awarded funding, NYS DEC will require formal, finalized agreements, such as Memoranda of Understanding or Contracts, to be executed by all parties prior to proceeding with execution of any grant award agreement or disbursement of grant funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency hereby supports the County's application to the Program and commits to assist the County with the completion of the Application and to undertake such Objectives, Tasks and Activities as may be identified in the Project Work Plan, including but not limited to the expansion of composting operations and facilities at its Town of Ulster location, the expansion of education, outreach, and promotion activities to encourage food scraps diversion, and the enforcement of local food scrap recycling laws, ordinances or policies; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Agency hereby authorizes the County to include in the Application a commitment of in-kind financial support, consisting of Agency operating costs associated with composting operations, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 over five years; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Agency hereby authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate and execute, with any necessary changes and updates to facilitate NYS DEC approval, the Climate Change Mitigation Easement (the "Easement") previously executed for the 2016 grant award; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Absent _____

Date: _____

Financial Impact: None (all match commitments are in-kind, based on existing operating budgets/projections)