

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-7
April 14, 2026
Public Safety Building, CMR
2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant Director for Mobility and Sustainability, Matt Anderson

Public Speaker(s)

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Update regarding city compost program, signage, registration and library location
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

Vice Mayor Anderson: All right next one up next one is F-7 compost program and while you're coming up Matt and you're going to have the signage which we're hoping to have a link on it. I just wanted to highlight just how far we've come as a city, because this is Earth Month, okay. We've done septic to sewer; we've got our basin studied. I have people contacting me wanting to move forward on basin, so we can possibly do that. We're eliminating poop in the trash piles. City Manager we're going to be using our yard waste, and we've also done carbon sequestered cement, we have our first building built with it at Firehouse Four. I mean our city's done a lot of great good prior to me joining this Commission. The prior Commission put in the catch basins for plastics and so forth on certain drains and now we're going where the city has never gone before-- composting.

City Manager Iglesias: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

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City Manager Iglesias: I'd like to add, Vice Mayor, biochar where we're...

Vice Mayor Anderson: That was your segue – biochar, biochar and what can it be used for.

City Manager Iglesias: Concrete, asphalted concrete, asphalt and we're also looking at the University of Miami for some water reclamation, so there's a quite a number of uses for that.

Vice Mayor Anderson: And soil amendment and fertilization.

City Manager Iglesias: Fertilization yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yeah, instead of “Mount Trashmore.” and tipping fees.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: All yours.

Assistant Director for Mobility and Sustainability: Thank you Vice Mayor, Commissioners, Matt Anderson, Assistant Director for Mobility and Sustainability. I have a brief presentation. Some key facts on food waste. In the U.S. 30 to 40 percent of food supply is wasted over 133 billion pounds a year. Food is the single largest category of material placed in municipal landfills. Nearly 25 percent of landfill waste. The average household produces about two to three pounds of edible food wasted per person weekly, 58 percent of landfill emissions are accounted for, for food waste and if this one is staggering, if it were a country U.S. food waste would be the third largest producer of carbon dioxide. So, what are we doing? We are and this is something the community's been asking for, been asking for the city to explore, so it's very exciting for us to be launching this pilot program. We're going to be working with the Coral Gables Library and setting up a drop-off location and we're looking to launch that on Monday, April 20th to kick off Earth Week. We are going to be working with Renewable. They have a big presence here in South Florida. You can see the operations that they work through, including the Food and Wine Festival, Formula 1, Ultra. They have contracts for City of Hollywood, City of Fort Lauderdale, and they've done over 7.7 million pounds of organics uh since 2020. So this is what we will be looking at. Renewable is going to handle all collection. We're going to have this bin with two-45-gallon bins located inside, located at the library, the pickup will be twice a week. There'll be two-45-gallon totes that are going to be located there. You can see the cost for the pilot program is \$6,000 dollars for the year. We've also applied for two grants, so if we can offset that cost. Right now, we've identified city funding to be able to fund that but our team is always working with Finance and the Grants team to identify potential grants that we can apply for. We applied for two, we're waiting to hear on those. Renewable will also provide one cubic yard of compost two times a year to the city so we can use it in our green space and will also help us with educational workshops to teach and correct composting habits. I've already been speaking with the library about doing some potential programming right there. So, this is how the site looked before. If you are familiar with the library

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where the book drop-offs are, it is right adjacent to that. This is what it looks like as of yesterday. We laid pavers down and I want to give all credit to the Green Space Management team. I was out there with them, we were laying pavers, planting native plants. What you see in the picture there is Wild Coffee, Lantana and Fakahatchee Grass so all natives. We already see butterflies coming around and we haven't even put the bin in yet, but it'll be great for the library, and I think a great educational opportunity for anyone that's visiting the library as well. This is just an AI image that we created early on to see how the bin would look there. We're going to be setting that up either tomorrow or Thursday for the launch on Monday April 20th. This is a close-up of the educational signage that will be placed above the bin so anyone that goes up to it will know what to do. You can sign up on the Renewables website, you'll get free access under the City of Coral Gables since the City of Coral Gables is funding the program, they collect their compost at home, they bring it to the bin, they put it in the bin, and again the bin is serviced twice a week. They will be cleaning out the bins. You can see what we will be accepting. I have a list on the next slide, coffee grounds, food, meat and dairy, paper napkins, any compostable products, plant materials. What is not compostable any recyclables, plastic bags, animal waste, glass, the stickers that are on the fruit, we don't want in the composting and any coated paper and Renewable will be responding and so will my team on any, you know questions that we get and they will be helping manage that program and I really want to thank the library for their support in helping us with the location and helping us with the ribbon-cutting as well and the county. So participating is simple. I already covered it. Once they open their account anyone that wants to participate, they open their account, you don't have to put in any credit card information, again it's going to be free access. You will get an access code which is the lock that's going to be on the bin. It'll be the combination to that so people can participate, but we don't want to leave it open just for anybody to come by. We want to make sure that they're participating as part of the program. Again, a list of the different things that we can put into the compost bin. What's not accepted and the invitation that you all should have received from your Aides to the launch on Monday, April 20th to kick off Earth Week.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I'm just going to ask for staff then to share something that we can repost. Some of us are not as much into Instagram and posting stuff as others, so we need a little help there. So, I appreciate all the hard work you've done in a very short period of time to make this come true, because you did all the pricing comparisons, you came up with the best deal, the QR Code for anybody that, you know wonders why we have to do that, so we don't end up with garbage in there. We have to do that and also track usage so we can determine just how much we're using it and if we want to expand it in the future, at least we have some data to work with.

Assistant Director of Mobility and Sustainability: And Renewable will be providing us with all that data on a regular basis and tracking usage and this is definitely a team effort. All departments helping us get the contract finalized which we finalized today. We'll be sending to the vendor, so it is a true team effort to be able to launch this type of program and we look forward to again delivering this type of service to our community and it's one that sets, really sets our city apart and

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another opportunity for our residents to be able to divert material away from the landfill which is always the goal.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, F-7 and F-8 were really this one in the same thing somehow it ended up on the agenda twice.