

Hello Councillors and Members of the Public Works Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Frances Darwin, I am here to represent ZooShare Biogas Co-operative, the developer of North America's 1st Zoo-based biogas plant.

Each year our biogas plant will recycle 3,000 tonnes of manure from the Toronto Zoo and 14,000 tonnes of local grocery store "waste" into renewable power for the Ontario grid. Organic material is called "waste", but in reality, organic material is a valuable resource that *goes to waste* when it's sent to a landfill.

We support the goal of zero waste in the long-term waste strategy, and our supporters do too:

ZooShare has over 600 members, most of whom live in Toronto, and who have invested over \$3 million in our biogas plant. Our organization is called a Community Power project. Funded by the community, this model keeps energy dollars in the local economy. People choose to invest in ZooShare for two main reasons: 1) Because they're excited to be earning an annual return of 5% or more through the purchase of our Community Bonds and 2), more importantly, because recycling organics is the right thing to do for the environment and future generations.

These Torontonians proudly participate in the green bin program every week at home, and they have shown enthusiastic interest in investing in our project because they understand that throwing resources in the garbage doesn't help our environment or our City. We talk to people everyday at various markets and events around the City about ZooShare. We regularly hear from them about how simple and smart our project is, and how it "just makes sense". We also regularly hear from restaurants and food companies about how they want to send their organics to us rather than sending it to a landfill.

That's why Zooshare supports a strategy that looks at organics first - we believe that Toronto businesses and residents are ready and able to divert organic material, and we believe the City should look into new regulations to require all businesses and residents to divert their organics as soon as possible.

The City has historically been a leader when it comes to progressive waste management practices. We feel that this Committee has an amazing opportunity to continue that trend, and follow in the footsteps of other smart cities like

Vancouver, New York and San Francisco, and put a focus on getting organics out of garbage bags first and foremost. This will have a directly positive impact on greenhouse gas emissions, waste diversion targets and the City's bottom line.

When you have thousands of tons of nutrients and energy potential at your disposal, you don't *dispose of them in a landfill*. As the CBC's Torah Kuchar likes to say, "there is no such thing as waste, only waste resources".

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gunn" followed by a long horizontal flourish.