

# Worm composting, appointments on council a

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Corland's Common Council will consider a proposal Tuesday to begin a long-in-development pilot-scale program to use worms to break down organic waste into compost and fertilizer.

The city would work with Larsen Engineers of Roches-

ter to start a pilot-scale vermiculture, or worm composting, project with the city paying up to \$33,500 for project services costs.

Bruce Adams, the chief operator of the city's wastewater treatment plant, said the composting would be done in trenches, where a mixture of sewage sludge from the wastewater plant, food waste from the SUNY Corland

cafeteria, newspapers and wood litter would be broken down by worms. Over the course of four to six months, the worms will create worm castings, which are a fertilizer. The liquid produced in the compost is a marketable fertilizer, too.

The composting project would see less organic waste go to landfills and reduce disposal costs for the wastewa-

ter treatment plant and SUNY Corland.

No location is determined for the project yet, but Adams hopes to have it built at some point in 2018.

"The pilot-scale program is just for wastewater sludge and food waste from SUNY Corland," Adams said, with waste from downtown restaurants potentially added in the future.

The city received a \$152,450 grant from the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council in 2016 to go toward the composting project cost, which was reported to cost up to \$800,000. Those funds will be applied.

In July 2016, the city intended to locate the project on 19 acres it owned on Saunders Road in Cortlandville, which nearby ho-

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