

STAFF REPORT



Date: March 19, 2019

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Solvei Wilmot, Environmental Health Specialist/Recycling Coordinator; Tara Brown, Sustainability Coordinator; and Jeff Brown, Community Health Administrator

Subject: Approve Recommendation for Residential Organics Collection Request for Proposal

Information / Background:

A Hennepin County waste sort, City of Minneapolis Waste Characterization Study and Recycling Analysis, from September 2016 revealed that 25% of trash is made up organic materials. This is the largest category within the trash that could be diverted from landfilling. In an effort to meet Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Hennepin County waste reduction goals, the City of Edina put out a request for proposals for a residential curbside organics collection contract. Four companies responded to the request for proposals: Republic Services, Waste Management, Eureka Recycling and Vierkant Disposal. Proposers were permitted to submit alternate proposals to allow for innovation or creative programs. Staff evaluated the proposals with respect to contract cost, additional City staffing requirements, sustainability, and other factors. The staff recommendation is as follows:

Accept Vierkant Disposal's proposal for weekly residential organics collection, beginning in 2020. This proposal is for a 5 year contract. Monthly collection cost per household for weekly organics collection is proposed at \$5.00 as the rate for all 5 years of the contract. One additional City staff member is necessary for management of the program, including outreach and education to residents to support the positive behavior change needed to meet waste reduction goals. Staffing costs would be added to the per household cost and are estimated to be \$.50 to \$.60 per household per month.

Not only will implementation reduce the amount of material in the trash, current Hennepin County grant funding for recycling is being shifted to organics, which means there will be funding available to offset costs. The funding is based on participation rates. Additionally, startup grants are available for cities who begin programs in the next year, which may reduce program cost.

Other factors considered: Vierkant Disposal's existing organics customer base in the City (approximately 11%), headquarters location in Bloomington, and commitment to customer service.