



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: January 10, 2012

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair, Transportation and Public Works Committee

Referral to: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee

Subject: **Issuance of Request for Proposals for Composting of Yard Wastes, and Street Sweeping Materials**

Recommendation:

That the appropriate City Officials be directed to issue a Request for Proposal for the composting of City-collected yard wastes and brush, and street sweepings.

Previous Directives:

- August, 2008 - Contract with OTI, Inc.
- July 25, 2008: Staff directed to negotiate a contract with RW Farms, LLC and Organic Technologies, Inc.
- September, 2003 – August, 2008, Contract with City of Hutchinson

Prepared by: Michael Kennedy, Division of Transportation Maintenance and Repair 673-3759
Jeff Jenks, Division of Solid Waste and Recycling 673-3534

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Heidi Hamilton, P.E., Deputy Director of Public Works

Financial Impact

No Financial Impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Nothing required at this time

City Goals: Eco-Focused

Comprehensive Plan: Consistent

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

Public Works has the need to procure environmentally friendly and cost-effective disposal services for various organic and inorganic materials collected from the public right-of-way and residents. The department currently collects this material during fall street-leaf collection and street sweeping as well as seasonal yard waste collection for solid waste and recycling customers.

Public Works wishes to proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP) for composting and disposal of these or similar materials. The City of Minneapolis currently contracts, with Organic Technologies, Inc. for the processing and composting of yard wastes and leaves. The city currently disposes of street sweeping debris (inorganic material) at a demolition landfill near Monticello, MN and is interested in evaluating other disposal options.

On July 21, 2011 the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution establishing an organics recovery goal of 6% by 2015. The City goal is 7% by 2015. Based on this policy direction, Public Works will have discussions over the coming year with the City Council about how best to achieve these goals. There are numerous questions about the future of any residential organics collection and disposal program in the city that have yet to be answered. One significant issue that will affect an organics collection program is the current Emerald Ash Borer quarantine, which requires that all yard waste be ground prior to leaving Hennepin or Ramsey Counties. Therefore, proposers will not be asked to submit a proposal for organics disposal. We will, however, request information about the proposer's ability to accommodate organics disposal if the city would want to add this service during the term of the contract.

Staff recommends that a Request for Proposal be issued for composting/disposal of Fall Leaves and for composting/disposal of Yard Wastes and bundled brush.