



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

Date: February 14, 2012

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

Subject: **Restrictions on Plastic Bags for Yard Waste Collection**

Recommendation:

Receive and File Presentation

Previous Directives:

Update on ban on the use of plastic bags for yard waste. January 13, 2012 - RFP for Composting of Yard Wastes and Street Sweeping Materials: Authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the composting of City-collected yard wastes and brush, and street sweepings.

Prepared by: David Herberholz, Director, Solid Waste and Recycling

Approved by:

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

Presenters: David Herberholz, Director, Solid Waste and Recycling

Reviews Not Applicable

Financial Impact

No financial impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification:

City Goals: Eco Focused

Comprehensive Plan:

Zoning Code:

Background/Supporting Information

Beginning in the spring of 2012, the use of traditional plastic bags for yard waste collection in Minneapolis will be banned, consistent with the rest of the state. Effective April 9, 2012 (beginning of the yard waste season), residents will not be allowed to use traditional plastic bags for yard waste. Acceptable bags include either Kraft (paper) bags or compostable plastic bags.

The communication plan for this implementation will consist of the following:

- Hennepin County/Minneapolis SW & R educational flyer “Changes to Yard Waste Collection” to be mailed on or around March 12, 2012.
- On the week of March 19, 2012 City and MRI crews will leave an education tag at the collection point announcing the change to yard waste collection.
- On March 26, 2012 an email announcement of the change will be sent out to customers that have signed up for our recycling reminders.
- Solid Waste & Recycling will add announcement to their website.
- Communications Department will issue a news release, will share on social media, post on the City’s News and Events website and provide article for Council Member newsletters.

A transition plan will be put in place for a 4 week period beginning April 9, 2012 and ending May 4, 2012 whereby:

- Traditional plastic bags containing yard waste will be opened at residential collection point and an educational/instruction tag left during the 4 week transition period.
- Traditional plastic bags containing yard waste found after the 4 week transition period will be left and tagged for resident re-packaging.
- If the resident does not re-package the yard waste, then a notification letter will be sent with a due date to correct the packaging. If not corrected by the due date, than City crews will collect the improperly packaged yard waste and the customer will be billed (following standard “Dirty Collection Point” (DCP) fee structure).