



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

Date: July 12, 2011

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

Subject: **Contract with Gardening Matters and the Compostadores for Micro grant funding of demonstration organics collection, composting and community garden program**

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the appropriate City officials be authorized to contract with Gardening Matters for conducting a Micro-grant demonstration program for collection of organic materials, composting of the materials and beneficial use of the compost in community gardens.

Previous Directives:

2011: Budget included monies for pilot programs, micro-grants and demonstration programs to divert organic materials from the waste stream, develop innovative programs to collect organic materials and enhance local compost and food production through the use of backyard and community gardens.

Prepared by: Susan Young, Director, Solid Waste & Recycling

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters: Heidi Hamilton, Deputy Director, Public Works

Reviews:

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	Approval _____	Not applicable <u> X </u>
Policy review Group (PRG)	Approval _____	Not applicable <u> X </u>

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable

City Goals: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The 2011 budget for the Division of Solid Waste and Recycling Services included funding to be used for innovative programs, micro grants, research and community engagement to reduce the amount of organic materials that end up in the waste stream, develop innovative programs to collect organic materials and enhance local compost and food production through the use of backyard and community gardens. One of the programs to support this directive is a Micro Grant to Gardening Matters as the fiscal agent for the Compostadores to conduct an innovative local soil building and community garden effort.

Highlights of the grant activities include:

1. Development of routes for collection of organic materials from local businesses and residents, to be taken to two community gardens for composting. Bicycle trailers, operated by Step Up Interns under the supervision of the Compostadores, will be used to transport the materials.
2. Acquisition of a Demonstration permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for compost facility in a community garden that will develop compost to be used in the community garden to grow local food. The Step Up interns, supervised by the Compostadores will compost the materials, take measurements required by the PCA demonstration permit, will assist in compost spreading and growing of food in the community gardens.
3. The City of Minneapolis, Department of Public Works, Divisions of Solid Waste and Recycling will hold the Demonstration Permit and oversee all permit and composting activities, and will be able to intervene if problems with the routes, composting or permit are encountered.
4. A report to the City and the PCA will be prepared in September and in March to detail the data obtained in the study, and to make recommendation for future efforts.