



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

Date: April 6, 2010
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation and Public Works Committee
Referral to: Honorable Betsey Hodges, Chair Ways and Means/Budget Committee
Subject: **Pilot Program for an Alternate Method to Collect Recyclables**

Recommendation:

1. Authorize Public Works to apply for grant funding from Hennepin County for the purpose of a pilot program to collect recyclable materials in an alternative manner.

Previous Directives:

None

Prepared by: Susan Young, Solid Waste and Recycling Services, 673-2433

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, PE, City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Susan Young, Solid Waste and Recycling Services

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	Not applicable
Civil Rights	Not applicable
Policy Review Group	Not applicable

Financial Impact

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: NA
City Goals: NA.
Comprehensive Plan: Consistent
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

Minneapolis has long been a leader in solid waste management activities and has piloted innovative programs in anticipation of regulatory mandates and which have resulted in outstanding services to our customers and positive environmental benefits. Minneapolis has, therefore, been able to develop operational methods that are cost-effective and convenient for our customers, and which seamlessly integrate regulatory mandates into our solid wastes management system.

Hennepin County is redesigning their solid waste management programs. One aspect of that redesign is consideration of mandating the manner of recyclables collection that cities provide, instead of only mandating the recyclables that cities collect. Dual stream recyclables collection, in which one bin or cart is filled with aluminum, glass or plastic containers and another bin or cart is filled with fiber (paper and cardboard) recyclables, is one system that Hennepin County strongly favors.

The Seward Neighborhood Association approached the city with a proposal use 700 homes in the Seward Neighborhood in a pilot program to test dual stream recyclables collection in Minneapolis. Public Works supported this concept and a grant proposal was drafted for a Hennepin County Waste Abatement Incentive Fund grant. Before and after tonnage, participation (setout and long-term participation) and contamination rates will be evaluated through route data collection and garbage and recyclables sorts. Efficiency of routing, additional costs of recyclables processing and return of revenue to the City from the marketed recyclables will be tracked and compared to the existing recyclables collection and marketing programs. Hennepin County is very interested in this opportunity to obtain valid data on a change to a stable recycling program that will document operational, customer and end-result comparisons between the existing program and a changed program.

It is requested that the Council authorize appropriate City staff to apply for a Hennepin County grant to support this pilot program. Funds to match the grant and complete the program are estimated at less than \$30,000, and are available in the Solid Waste and Recycling Enterprise fund.

CC: Cam Gordon