



Department Source: City Utilities - Solid Waste

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: December 3, 2018

Re: Report on the request to revise the Waste Hauler ordinances.

Executive Summary

At the request of Councilman Thomas, staff has prepared a response to the Environment and Energy Commission's request to revise the Waste Hauler ordinances which would allow private businesses to haul organics / food waste that is generated in Columbia.

Discussion

At the October 1, 2018 Council Meeting, a report from the Environment and Energy Commission was presented to the Council. This report requested that current City ordinances be revised to allow private business to haul organics / food waste that is generated in Columbia. Staff understands the intent of this proposed ordinance revision is to reduce the volume of organics / food waste that are placed in the landfill because it is believed that composting organics / food waste is more environmentally beneficial than placing this material in the landfill.

It is not certain that composting this material is more environmentally beneficial than placing the material in the city's bioreactor landfill and using the methane from the decomposition process to produce electricity. Other disposal methods such as anaerobic digestion or combustion may be a more beneficial alternative than either landfilling or composting. Each disposal method has advantages and disadvantages.

Staff believes a better understanding of the environmental and economic benefits for the various disposal alternatives for these organics and food wastes is needed prior to revising the current ordinances. Staff has requested Burns & McDonnell to provide a scope of services, cost and timeframe to complete an evaluation of composting, anaerobic digestion, combustion and landfilling of organics / food waste. The scope of work for the evaluation is attached. The goal of this evaluation is to identify the highest and best use for the disposal of organics / food waste that are generated in Columbia. This information will allow staff to evaluate the environmental and economic benefits of each and make recommendation to Council on the most appropriate disposal method for the community.

This evaluation will be completed by Burns & McDonnell as part of their ongoing Landfill Bioreactor Support Services agreement. The evaluation is anticipated to cost approximately \$32,000 and would be paid for with funds included in the operating budget for Bioreactor Support Services. It is anticipated this report will be completed in February 2019. Once complete, the report will be provided to Council along with any recommended ordinance revisions that will support the most appropriate disposal method for the community.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The evaluation is anticipated to cost approximately \$32,000 and will be paid with funds from the operating budget for Bioreator Support Services.

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
10/01/2018	REP85-18 Correspondence from the Environment and Energy Commission regarding waste hauler ordinance.
08/06/2018	REP74-18 Solid Waste Utility Compost Operation and Food Waste Collection Programs

Suggested Council Action

Report is for information purposes.