



Department Source: City Utilities - Solid Waste

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 3, 2022

Re: Authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with RRT Engineering, LLC to provide Recycling and Waste Diversion Program Evaluation

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with RRT Engineering, LLC to provide engineering services for the Recycling and Waste Diversion Program Evaluation. This project will not evaluate or make recommendations on residential or commercial refuse collections, it is focused solely on recycling. The total contract will be a not-to-exceed amount of \$341,074.

Discussion

The Solid Waste Utility implemented a citywide curbside recycling program in 1986, implemented recycling drop-off sites in 1989 and constructed the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in 2002. Most of the sorting equipment in the MRF is past its useful life and needs to be replaced.

Before making substantial capital investments in the existing MRF, it is necessary to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the existing recovery facility and the recycling and waste diversion program in order to determine what changes to the current program would be necessary to achieve the waste diversion goals established in the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

This project will not evaluate or make recommendations on residential or commercial refuse collections, it is focused solely on recycling. Areas of the recycling and waste diversion operation that will be evaluated include: residential and commercial collections, material recovery facility condition and operation, materials currently being recycled, additional materials that could be recycled and methods for marketing recycled materials.

The scope of work for this engineering agreement with RRT Engineering, LLC is to:

- Determine current residential recycling participation levels.
- Evaluate existing collection methods.
- Evaluate dual- vs. single-stream recycling collection.
- Project waste and recycling generation rates for the next 20 years.
- Evaluate the marketability and viability of materials that Columbia currently collects in its recycling stream (#1-#7 plastics, aluminum, tin, glass, cardboard, newspaper, office paper, mixed paper).
- Evaluate modifications to the MRF and the integration of other waste management operations into the MRF including e-wastes, mattresses, textiles, cartons, etc.
- Recommend emerging technology solutions for collections and MRF.



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

- Identify program improvements necessary to achieve the waste diversion goals established in the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.
- Review and evaluate household hazardous waste, which includes residential and small quantity generators, and other problem materials management.
- Identify the greenhouse gas cost-benefit for recommended modifications to the MRF, collections.
- Provide a Public Education Program; stakeholder involvement and engagement activities.

The City followed Section 4 of Ordinance #024847 for solicitation of engineering services which included requests for proposals and formal interviews held in Columbia. Three (3) consulting firms were interviewed and RRT Engineering, LLC was selected based upon their understanding of the requirements of the project and their experience with similar projects. The total engineering agreement not-to-exceed amount of \$341,074 is within the usual and customary guidelines for this type of project. Staff is recommending Council approval of the resolution.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The not-to-exceed amount for this agreement is \$341,074.
 Long-Term Impact: This will be determined based on results of the study and Council direction.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
	None

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the resolution.