



CITY OF
EAST GRAND RAPIDS

9

750 LAKESIDE DRIVE SE • EAST GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506

(616) 940-4817

www.eastgr.org

DOUG LA FAVE
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners
FROM: Doug La Fave, Deputy City Manager
DATE: April 8, 2022

RE: Food Scraps Composting Drop-Off Site Pilot Program

Action Requested: That the City Commission consider authorizing a service contract for food scrap composting services with Organicycle, LLC of Grand Rapids, MI for servicing a food scraps drop off site located at the Department of Public Works Complex at 2310 Reeds Lake Blvd at the base bid amount of \$3,120 per year (prorated monthly for 2022) with optional renewals through December 31, 2025, authorize city staff to negotiate additional capacity not to exceed \$7,000 per year if needed, and authorization to create rules/regulations as needed to operate the site.

Background: The city partners with the cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Kentwood, Walker, and Grandville in partnership with Kent County Public Works to send all refuse and recycling to the Waste to Energy Facility (incinerator facility that creates electricity from refuse) and Recycling and Educational Facility respectively. By local ordinance the City of East Grand Rapids is the only community in Kent County that requires private sector haulers provide refuse and recycling services to have a unified fee for refuse and recycling.

Kent County Public Works estimates that 35% of the West Michigan waste stream is organic waste. Kent County has set goals to reduce landfill waste by 20% by 2020 and 90% by 2030. Though refuse and recycling materials from East Grand Rapids and the other metro area five cities do not go to the Kent County Landfill (as noted materials go to the Waste to Energy Facility and Recycling and Educational Facility), alternative processing for organic food scrap materials was requested to be developed by the East Grand Rapids Department of Public Works as a 2022 goal set by the City Commission. Kent County Public Works is in the process of developing a Sustainable Business Park at the South Kent Landfill site, which will process food scraps and other organic materials in the future. Though this transformative project is underway, it is likely that it will take several years to complete whatever is ultimately approved. To learn more please visit: www.reimaginetrash.org

In advance of the transformative work Kent County Public Works and others in the metro area are doing, the City of East Grand Rapids is interested in expanding composting beyond the city's successful yard waste composting service that collects and processes 16,000 to 25,000 cubic yards of material each year. Authorization of a pilot program seeks to bridge the gap between the construction of the Sustainable Business Park, other metro area efforts and current practices to allow for interested city residents and businesses to sign up and participate in a food scrap compost drop off site at the East Grand Rapids Department of Public Works Complex located at 2310 Reeds Lake Boulevard.

The program will initially allow for the registration of up to 100 households and up to three businesses at no cost to participants. Setting these caps will allow for flow control and evaluation of the program. The initial award is less than the City Commission authorization approval amount of \$5,000, however staff is bringing this program authorization to the City Commission as this was a request from the Commission as well as authorization for staff to modify the program up to \$7,000 annually if service is required multiple times per

week or additional container capacity is needed. Staff will keep the City Commission apprised of the program on a regular basis to report successes and challenges.

The city will also promote curbside food scrap composting service with service providers that operate within the city. Some households and businesses that utilize the free food scraps compost pilot drop off site may transition into customers for curbside composting service providers.

Registration will be available online, phone or in-person at Public Works office locations at the Municipal/Community Center Complex at 750 Lakeside Drive and Public Works Complex at 2310 Reeds Lake Blvd. Participants will be required to adhere to rules and regulations with respect to acceptable materials (that is required to be provided by the vendor) as well as appropriate site conduct, etc. Once registered the city will provide participants with instructions on how to download a smart phone app that will have a unique ID for that household that will allow for 24/7 access to the drop off site. This unique access will allow staff the ability to evaluate participation in the program, protect the site from contamination/dumping. The site includes secured a secured enclosure with surveillance cameras and solar/led lighting.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) was advertised in partnership with Purchasing Division of the Kent County Fiscal Services Department from March 18 through April 8, 2022. The city received three responses which are included with materials. Summary results are noted below:

Organicycle, LLC

2022 \$60 per week, \$3,120 per year
2023 \$60 per week, \$3,120 per year
2024 \$60 per week, \$3,120 per year
2025 \$60 per week, \$3,120 per year
*576 gallons per week

My Green Michigan

2022 \$116.91 per week, \$6,079.32 per year
2023 \$116.91 per week, \$6,079.32 per year
2024 No Bid
2025 No Bid
*576 gallons per week

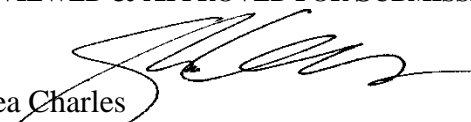
Denali Water Solutions, LLC

2022 \$150 per week, \$7,800 per year
2023 \$150 per week, \$7,800 per year
2024 \$150 per week, \$7,800 per year
2025 \$150 per week, \$7,800 per year
*606 gallons per week
*Plus \$40 per ton charge on top of weekly charge

The vendor that submitted the low bid amount as well as most completed submittal for the service is Organicycle, LLC of Grand Rapids Michigan. References have been checked and are in order.

If approved, it is anticipated that the city will be able to register participants in mid-May or early June.

REVIEWED & APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:


Shea Charles
City Manager