



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	CONSENT
MEETING DATE	APRIL 13, 2026

ITEM:	Approval of Three-Year Contract with Better Futures for Curbside Compost Collection.		
<i>Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager</i>			
DEPARTMENT: Public Works		BY/DATE: Jesse Davies / April 7, 2026	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>			
_Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		x_Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_High Quality Public Spaces		_Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
_Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		_Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

In 2024, council approved an updated Solid Waste Operating Policy (Resolution 2024-16) to continue to offer curbside organic collection. Updates were needed at that time as staff could not find a provider option for continued mixed compost and yard waste.

Better Futures, a Minnesota-based workforce nonprofit, was the only provider able to deliver weekly pail-emptying service without requiring an additional cart. The City entered a two-year contract with Better Futures to pilot year-round consistent curbside organics collection.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

Currently, approximately 500 Columbia Heights households are enrolled for curbside compost collection. Better Futures has delivered curbside organics collection for more than 104 weeks to the participating properties citywide. Service performance has been strong, with only 47 missed pickups in the past year (less than one per week or less than 1% overall) with all issues resolved within 24 hours.

Better Futures will maintain its current rate of \$13.90 per pail per month for the first year of the extension and will increase 3% in years two and three.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend extending the contract with Better Futures for three additional years through March 2029 to continue curbside organics pickup.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):
MOTION: Move to authorize the City Manager to enter into a three year contract with Better Futures for compost collection.

ATTACHMENT(S)

3yr Contract for Organic Services with Better Futures