



BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	BUSINESS ITEMS
MEETING DATE	AUGUST 12 TH , 2026

ITEM:	Waste Reduction Challenge		
Presenting Item: Jesse Davies, Refuse Coordinator			
DEPARTMENT: Refuse & Recycling		BY/DATE: Jesse Davies/August 4 th , 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		☒ _Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
☐ _High Quality Public Spaces		☐ _Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
☐ _Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		☐ _Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

The Waste Reduction Challenge will be an educational/promotional tool to encourage residents to learn more about waste reduction techniques plus maximizing recycling, signup for organics collection, and eventually reduce the amount of trash generated by their household so they can easily use the low volume trash service (30 gallon emptied every-other-week).

All the elements of the program have been included and approved in the SWOP (Solid Waste Operating Policy).

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

The Waste Reduction Challenge was adopted by the Sustainability Commission in February 2025. The program will be one of City's sustainability initiatives.

In the past we used the Anoka County Recycling Ambassadors (a 7-hour course) to complete the educational portion for residents. Unfortunately, the county has not conducted the class for the last two years.

The Communications Dept has scripted out a few videos we could use in lieu of the recycling course, see attached.

It is important to give residents thorough knowledge of waste reduction strategies they can implement in their home beyond proper recycling in the cart.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The main goal of the challenge is to increase organics recycling, but we can also use this tool to inform residents about total waste reduction and outside of the cart recycling.

Organics recycling should be getting a boost next year when the city drops the participant charge, we will discuss more with the SWOP update and review in the coming months.

I recommend we wait for Anoka County Recycling and Resource Solutions Department to restart the Ambassador course next year, plus the organic participant charge will be ended by then as well. We will still use the inhouse produced program as a supplement to the county course.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):

Provide guidance on whether we should move forward with Waste Reduction Challenge now using the City's educational videos or wait for the Anoka County Ambassador Course next year.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Statement from Anoka County about Recycling Ambassador Course (will read at meeting)
Scripts for City educational videos