



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	NEW BUSINESS
MEETING DATE	03/11/2025

ITEM:	Waste Reduction Challenge							
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development	BY/DATE: Andrew Boucher – City Planner/March, 11, 2025						
CORE CITY STRATEGIES:	<table> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Healthy and Safe Community</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Thriving and Vibrant Destination Community</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Equitable, Diverse, Inclusive, and Friendly</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong Infrastructure and Public Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Trusted and Engaged Leadership</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable</td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy and Safe Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Thriving and Vibrant Destination Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Equitable, Diverse, Inclusive, and Friendly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong Infrastructure and Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Trusted and Engaged Leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable
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BACKGROUND:

The City’s Solid Waste Operation Policy (SWOP) was updated and approved by City Council in February 2024 to reflect operational changes for collecting organics separate from the yard waste. In Section 2, Goals and Plans, of the Solid Waste Operating Policy, it specifies the City’s goals for handling residential solid waste in a more sustainable manner. Overall, it is the City’s goal to meet the MN State Legislature target of diverting 75% of solid waste from the trash stream.

The promotions/education bullet point of the Goals and Plans section details that the City will conduct extensive promotions including two citywide flyers and direct outreach/education to multifamily and rental properties including tenant recycling kits. The City will also produce localized publications for spring/fall cleaning and garage sale reuse/recycling information.

An additional tool for promotion, education, and outreach is a proposed Waste Reduction Challenge to encourage residents to learn more about waste reduction techniques, signup for organics collections, and 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). This program will be part of the City’s sustainability initiatives.

Once the Sustainability webpage is updated it will include the procedure for participating in the Waste Reduction Challenge:

1. A resident of the household can register for the challenge on the Sustainability website and watch the online informational videos/lessons.
2. Staff will monitor progress on the lessons and answer any questions that may arise.
3. Curbside organics collection will begin at the residents’ request (if they are not already participating).
4. Resident can request 30-gallon low volume trash service (EOW) when the waste reductions lessons have been completed the waste reduction lessons and have started curbside organics collection.
5. Household will be recognized as a Recycling Champion for increasing recycling and reducing waste.

If a household stops organic collection or has a change in ownership, the trash service will automatically revert to weekly service.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends bringing the Waste Reduction Challenge to a future Council meeting and include some promotional material to households containing a QR code to the sustainability website/refuse materials, a brief survey on households' waste habits, and if the household knows about/interested/using the curbside organics collection.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. 2024 Solid Waste Operating Policy**
- 2. Waste Reduction Challenge**