

# COLUMBIA HEIGHTS WASTE REDUCTION CHALLENGE

1. The City's Solid Waste Operating Policy (SWOP) SECTION 2 GOALS AND PLANS specifies the City Council's goals for handling residential solid waste in a more sustainable manner. Overall, the goal is to meet the MN State Legislators goal of diverting 75% of solid waste from the trash stream. SECTION 8 COLLECTION OF SOURCE SEPARATED ORGANICS, EVERY OTHER WEEK GARBAGE COLLECTION describes our current operating procedures for curbside organics collection, and the low volume trash service (30 gallon emptied every-other-week EOW), plus an educational requirement to give residents information on how to reduce trash and maximize recycling. The latest version of the SWOP was approved by council February 2024.
2. The Waste Reduction Challenge is a promotional tool to encourage residents to learn more about waste reduction techniques, 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. The program will be part of the City's sustainability initiatives.
3. PROCEDURES:
  - 3.1. A resident of a household can register for the challenge on the Sustainability website and watch the online informational videos/lessons.
  - 3.2. Staff will monitor progress on the lessons, plus answer any questions that may arise from the videos.
  - 3.3. Curbside organics collection will begin at the residents' request (if not already participating).
  - 3.4. Resident can request 30-gallon low volume trash service (EOW) when completed the waste reduction lessons and have started curbside organics collection.
  - 3.5. Household will be recognized as a Recycling Champion for increasing recycling and reducing waste.
4. If household stops organic collection or has a change in ownership the trash service will automatically revert to weekly service.
5. Adopted by the Columbia Heights Sustainability Commission on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.