



BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	BUSINESS ITEMS
MEETING DATE	SEPTEMBER 9 TH , 2026

ITEM:	Solid Waste Operating Policy review		
Presenting Item: Jesse Davies, Refuse Coordinator			
DEPARTMENT: Refuse and Recycling		BY/DATE: Jesse Davies/August 28 th , 2026	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an “X” in front of the selected text below)</i>			
x_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		x_Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

The Solid Waste Operating Policy derives its authority from city code Chapter 4: Municipal Services Article VII: Garbage and Recycling Services. The first part section 2 is where the council sets the future goals and plans for handling solid waste and the remaining sections are for current operations. The city manager has authority to change operations within the spending limits and the city council can review and update the SWOP at anytime.

The last review/update approved by council was in February of 2024.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

Below is a list of the changes. Most of these changes are from staff and contractor input, but also ideas and comments from council, commission members, and the public over the last two years. In addition, Anoka County recently adopted a new Solid Waste Ordinance and a review was conducted to ensure our policy will be in compliance.

Section/Paragraph	Description of Change
2.4.1	Included a reminder that contracts should not be longer than a 5 year term per MN rules.
2.4.3	Reminder for the city to attempt to expand items collected for curbside recycling.
2.4.5	Modified to include other county and local org reuse event support.
2.4.6.3	Added paragraph to describe the use of city carts and ensure labels are useful for English as a second language households.
2.4.6.4	Calling the 30 gal EOW service and requirements the "Waste Reduction Challenge" now.
3.4	Added a requirement to follow hauler spacing rules for containers.
3.7	Included the city's new refuse phone line and web form.
3.8	Clarified illegal dumping responsibilities.

4.4	Modified to state property owner's responsibility to determine refuse container needs.
5.3.1	Added bad recycling procedures.
5.3.2	Ensures city does not pay contamination fees for bad recycling but rather requires the hauler to work with the property and city to improve the quality of recycling.
6.1	Added reminder that bulk does not go on a packer truck so it can be reused/recycled.
6.6	Included process to approve city sponsorship of a local organization reuse/recycling event must attain Sustainability Commission approval (not to exceed city manager authorization)
8.2	Noting that State regulation and county ordinance requires curbside organics services, ensures the city provide information and starter supplies, also eliminating the organics participant charge. Requires households signup for the service to receive information and initial supplies to increase the likelihood of actual participation.
9.2	Currently the city does not subsidize scrap metal items for curbside collection as we prefer they bring it to the Recycle Center, likewise we expect households to donate goods on their own. Currently there is no recycling facility for furniture, but if one opens we will determine a subsidy scheme at that time.
9.3	Multifamily bldgs. fall under the purview of the county for recycling assistance programs as they have staff and contractors who specialize with these properties.
9.4	Clarifies yard cart rate is set by council utility rate resolutions, but we will charge for deliveries and removals at cost, to encourage households to hold on to the cart year round.
9.5	Eliminating the organics participant charge, per state regulations and county ordinance.

Changes are highlighted in the SWOP document attached.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Provide input for draft SWOP before council review and approval

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):
Review and make recommendations to the SWOP which will be brought to the City Council work session in October.

ATTACHMENT(S)