



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

AGENDA SECTION	BUSINESS ITEMS
MEETING DATE	12/08/2025

ITEM:	Better Futures organic collection service		
DEPARTMENT: Public Works/Refuse & Recycling	BY/DATE: 5 November 2025		
CORE CITY STRATEGIES:			
_Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		_Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_High Quality Public Spaces		x_Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
_Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		x_Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

The city has been collecting organics using various methods since 2014. The latest process involves using pails to collect the organics on the curbside as there are only about 6 lbs to collect from a typical household in a week. The pail process allows us to bypass the expensive carts, trucks, and CDL drivers required for a more traditional method.

IN 2024 the City offered Better Futures, MN a partial contract to conduct a two-year pilot test to verify they could consistently provide the weekly service. The city’s refuse contracts are normally set for 5 years.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

Better Futures has been providing the service to almost 500 households for over 80 weeks now with very few issues. They currently charge us \$13.90/month/participating household. The city bills the participating households \$4.46/month, and the remainder is subsidized with grants and the city’s general recycling fee. Removing organics from the trash and maximizing recycling has allowed most participants to reduce the size of their trash cart and the cost associated with that.

Better Futures will be an integral part of the city’s upcoming Waste Reduction Challenge.

We want to end this contract in 2029 which is the same year yard waste collection ends as staff will attempt to get the organics comingled in yard waste carts as we had in the past.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

We ask the Sustainability Commission to recommend the City Council approve a full contract with Better Futures, MN for the organics collection contract of three more years.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):

MOTION: Sustainability Commission recommends the City Council approve the organics collection contract with Better Futures for three more years.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Draft contract with Better Futures