



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – Authorizing a Recycling Service Provider to Receive Funding

Preferred Agenda: January 14, 2025

Submitted By: Cecily Hope Pretty, Assistant City Manager Pro Tem

Reviewed By: Jason Ogden, City Manager Pro Tem / Police Chief

Type of Action: Resolution Motion Roll Call Other

Relevant Code/Policy: Oregon SB 528

Towards Council Goal: Be an Effective & Efficient Government

Attachments: N/A

Purpose of this RCA:

To authorize Sweet Home Sanitation to request and utilize funding directly from the State of Oregon to comply with recycling requirements related to Senate Bill 528, the Recycling Modernization Act (RMA).

Background/Context:

In 2021, the Oregon State legislature passed the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) which went into effect on January 1, 2022 with required recycling program changes by July 2025. The intent of the RMA is to make recycling easier for the public to use, expand access to recycling services, upgrade facilities that sort recyclables, and create environmental benefits while reducing social and environmental harms. The regulation's intent is that producers and manufacturers of packaged items, paper products, and food serviceware will pay for many of these improvements through direct payments to a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO). Applicable producers are required to join a PRO by July 1, 2025.

PROs must be non-profits that serve to administer the statewide management of products subject to the RMA. Local governments may choose to receive compensation directly from PROs or authorize local service providers to access funding directly.

The Circular Action Alliance (CAA) has been selected by the State as the PRO and is responsible for entering into funding agreements with local governments or their designated service providers.

The Challenge/Problem:

Under the funding structure authorized by SB 528, the City of Sweet Home can choose to access funds which must ultimately be distributed to Sweet Home Sanitation as the sole recycling service provider, or the City Council may authorize Sweet Home Sanitation to access those funds directly. Sweet Home Sanitation has served as a reliable partner in delivering waste management services and has the expertise to meet the requirements of the RMA. There are currently no City staff with

expertise in the delivery of recycling services, and requiring the City to act as an initial passthrough will deplete existing staff resources and inhibit Sweet Home Sanitation's ability to meet the requirements of the RMA in an efficient manner.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

There are no anticipated financial impacts. Allowing Sweet Home Sanitation to access funds directly will save potential costs in staff time and administration. It is not anticipated that the City of Sweet Home will be responsible for any additional waste management responsibilities. Funding designations must be finalized by March 31, 2025.

Options:

1. Do nothing: The City Council could choose not to authorize Sweet Home Sanitation to access the funds directly, requiring staff to be directly involved in how funds are requested and utilized.
2. Approve a portion of the allowable categories: The City Council could choose to authorize only a portion of allowable categories, which would require City staff oversight of those categories not authorized.
3. Authorize Sweet Home Sanitation to request funding as proposed: Sweet Home Sanitation will be authorized to access State-level funding to continue and enhance their service delivery in compliance with the Recycling Modernization Act.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Option 3: Authorize Sweet Home Sanitation to request funding as proposed.