

# Environmental Commission

**January 27, 2020 – 6:30 pm**  
Council Conference Room  
Golden Valley City Hall  
7800 Golden Valley Road

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of November 25, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes (5 min)
5. Old Business
  - A. Organics Recycling Considerations (10 min)
  - B. Partners in Energy update (5 min)
6. New Business
  - A. Curbside Organics Program Pros-Cons (30 min)
  - B. SCORE Funding (5 min)
  - C. GreenStep Cities - City Hall Organics (5 min)  
*Action Requested*
  - D. 2020 Work Plan Ideas (10 min)
  - E. Program/Project Updates (10 min)
  - F. Council Updates (5 min)
  - G. Other Business
7. Adjournment



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# Environmental Commission

**November 25, 2019 – 6:30 pm**  
Council Conference Room  
Golden Valley City Hall  
7800 Golden Valley Road

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Seys.

### 2. Roll Call

Commissioners present: Tracy Anderson, Tonia Galonska, Dawn Hill, Susan Phelps, Joseph Ramlet, Scott Seys, Jim Stremel and Debra Yahle

Commissioners absent: none

Staff present: Eric Eckman, Development and Assets Supervisor; Drew Chirpich, Environmental Specialist; Emma Pierson, GreenCorp member and Claire Huisman, Administrative Assistant

### 3. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION** by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Stremel to approve the agenda of November 25, 2019 as submitted and the motion carried.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION** by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Galonska to approve the minutes of October 28, 2019 as submitted and the motion carried.

### 5A. Waste Hauling Ordinance Adopted

The Waste Hauling Ordinance was approved by the Council and will go into effect on April 1, 2020. The Council made one change to the draft ordinance that was submitted which was to add Mondays along with Fridays to be the only days allowed for hauling in the City.

### 6A. Curbside Organics Options

Emma Pierson presented to the Commission the different options that the city could take for curbside organic collection. The collection options include:

- Require all haulers to provide curbside organic collection either by offering a separate bin or the method by which a separate bag would be provided and then placed in the solid waste bin.
- Contracting citywide service gives two options: All-in (everyone is charged and given a bin but they do not have to participate) or Opt-in (those who want to participate would pay an additional fee).



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The Commission was asked to rate the various factors below in regard to curbside organic collection options.

- **Participation Rates** – The goal for participation should be 100% and considered high priority. It was suggested that everyone should pay instead of the opt-in option.
- **Contamination Rates** – The commission felt this was a high priority for consideration with cost as well as in determining blue bag option or separate bin option. **Staff will check with other cities on how they handle contamination.**
- **Education/outreach opportunities** – Education is a high priority with the commission and should be offered to all residents to help increase the participation rate. Ideas included: compostable mailings; Hennepin County workshops; possible grants for education; booth at Farmers Market.
- **Number of Bins** – This is a high priority in considering the organics program.
- **Cost** – cost is a very important factor and everyone should pay.
- **Infrastructure Wear and Tear** – High priority item. **Staff will talk with haulers about their infrastructure plan.**
- **Number of Trucks** – High priority item.
- **Staff Time** – Medium priority item. **Staff will check with other cities on how staff time has been affected by their organics program.**
- **Availability of compost to residents** – Medium priority item. Offer compost to the residents that participate in the program. Commissioners felt residents should be able to pick up compost at a local area such as Brookview. **Staff will look to other cities on ideas for offering compost to their residents.**
- **Collection Frequency** – weekly collection is preferable.
- **Density/Efficiency of route** – They should go with the route that is the least expensive for the hauler.
- **Hauler Staff Time**
- **Tonnage Data Collection** – County offers incentives to cities for resident participation in the organics program.
- **Recovery Rate** – Blue bag vs separate bin. Also, what can be collected and how much is lost in transit.
- **End Product** – The commission questioned, “How does contamination affect the end product?”

#### 6B. City Hall Waste Sort

Emma Pierson gave a brief summary of the two recent waste sorts that she conducted in the City Hall break room prior to implementing organic recycling collection within City Hall. The results showed that after removing organic material and recyclables from the garbage only 7% of the 15 gallons of material were actually trash, 86% were organic & 7% were recyclables and the second waste sort resulted in 18% of the 11 gallons of material were trash, 73% were organic material and 9% were recyclables.

#### 6C. 2020 Meeting Dates

**MOTION** by Commissioner Stremel, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve moving the regular scheduled meeting on May 25, 2020 (Memorial Day) to May 18, 2020. Also approved to cancel the December 2020 meeting and the motion carried unanimously.

**6D. Program/Projects Update**

The complete Program/Project Update is on file.

**6E. Council Updates - None**

**6F. Other Business**

Batteries are no longer accepted for disposal at City Hall. Alkaline batteries can be thrown in the trash but rechargeable and lithium batteries are considered hazardous waste and should be disposed of properly. **Commissioners asked staff to look into offering hazardous battery disposal during Mighty Tidy days or work with Tech Dump to offer a collection site for hazardous batteries. Also for Mighty Tidy days, to add a drop off for sharps/needles.**

**7. Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ramlet, seconded by Commissioner Yahle to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm and the motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Claire Huisman, Administrative Assistant

UNAPPROVED



**MEMORANDUM**  
**Physical Development Department**  
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

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**Date:** January 23, 2020  
**To:** Environmental Commission  
**From:** Emma Pierson, MN GreenCorps Member  
**Subject:** Organics Recycling Considerations, Goals, Priorities, and Questions

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Staff will provide a brief update on the organics matrix discussed by the Commission at its November 2019 meeting. Attached to this memo is the matrix and Hennepin County's education requirements referenced in the matrix.

## Organics: Considerations, Goals, Priorities, Questions

Considerations	Priority	Goals/Desires	Questions	Answers/Staff Comment
Participation Rates	High	100%, Everyone pays model instead of opt-in	How will each option affect SCORE Funds?  What could we use those SCORE Funds for?	SCORE funds are affected by number of participants throughout the City. The higher the participation, the more funding you will receive.  SCORE funds can be used for recycling education, events, subsidizing curbside programs, etc.
Education/Outreach Opportunities	High	Education to reduce/reuse over recycle  Compostable Mailings	Could a County Staff Person host workshops to educate residents on organics?  Are there grants for education?  Education/booth at Farmer's Market?	Yes, the county does offer speakers for recycling and organics.  At this moment there are no grants, however the County provides materials like signage and presentations. We are required to use County terminology on all materials for outreach.  We can communicate with Market in the Valley about any booths we would like at the market.  <b>*If opting for a licensing requirement, haulers would have to adhere to the attached Hennepin County Ordinance 13 Education Requirements</b>

## Organics: Considerations, Goals, Priorities, Questions

Number of Bins	High	<p>Concerned w/ Number of Total bins</p> <p>Educate residents about options and implications prior to sending out survey question on # of bins</p>	<p>Bin storage ordinance</p> <p>How will /does collection of organics in a separate bin affect size of trash bin/collection frequency of trash?</p>	<p>City Code Sec. 22-23 States: "Containers shall be stored no more than three feet from the primary or accessory structure and shall at all times be located behind the front of the primary structure."</p> <p>Participating in organics can help you reduce the size of your garbage container by diverting waste to an organics bin.</p>
Cost	High	Everyone Pays, optional to receive bin	<p>What are neighboring cities contamination rates?</p> <p>Ask haulers what pricing would be</p> <p>How will each program be affected by taxes?</p>	<p>Saint Louis Park: Curbside Organized 1.76% Contamination Minneapolis: Curbside Organized 0.47%-1.45% Contamination (changes when outreach is done)</p> <p>Trash containers are taxed by sales price, which is determined by Haulers based on the volume of containers. County taxes 15.5% on trash and the State taxes 9.75% on trash. There are no taxes on recycling or organics recycling. If adding a separate organics</p>

## Organics: Considerations, Goals, Priorities, Questions

				bin to your property, there will be no additional tax to your hauling, and you may be able to reduce the size of your trash bin, in turn reducing taxes. If you are co-collecting in a durable bag system, there is no tax on the price to participate in the organics program, however, the volume of your trash bin will likely stay the same, causing no reduction in taxes, depending on the program.
Number of Trucks	High			No specific comment
Implementation	High		What is the timing on implementing each program?	Timing depends upon what decision City Council makes and when. Must have curbside opportunity available by January 1, 2022.
Contamination Rates	High		Compare contamination of Durable Bag v Separate Bin	There is no specific data showing contamination differences between the programs. While discussing options with haulers, some have mentioned a durable bag program is a risk; others like the program.
Infrastructure Wear & Tear	High		Discuss infrastructure plan with haulers	No specific comment
Staff Time	Medium			An organized system would require more staff time

## Organics: Considerations, Goals, Priorities, Questions

End Product/Availability of Compost	Medium	Coupon to participants, annual/semi-annual pick up site in Golden Valley (Farmer's Market, Mighty Tidy Day) (do not want to drive to SMSC)	Can there be an equitable system w/ more compost going to those participating at higher rates?  Do haulers other than Randy's have the ability to provide coupons?	There are no known methods of accomplishing this.
Density/Efficiency of Route	Low	Least expensive route		No specific comment
Hauler Staff Time	Low		Is Republic doing curbside bins in other communities?  Discuss capability of organics collection with trash haulers → lead to attrition?	Yes, Fridley and soon Richfield.
Tonnage Data/Recovery Rate	Not specified			No specific comment
Collection Frequency	Not specified	Weekly preferred	Would yard waste co-collection be an option? How could we compost in Nov-April if this were the program?	Cities and haulers have been moving from yard waste co-collect to separate bin collection.

Hauler Questions in red

## Hennepin County Education Requirements of Ordinance 13

### Section 2: Subsection 2B

If opting for hauler licensing over citywide organized service:

Cities shall require Haulers to provide the following information annually, to the City:

- A description of how Organic Material will be collected.
- A communications plan that includes the method(s) and frequency of communications that notify residents of the availability of Curbside Collection of Organic Material.
- Instructions on how residents sign up for the Curbside Collection of Organic Material.
- A Curbside Collection schedule or calendar.
- Instructions on how residents should prepare Organic Material for Curbside Collection.
- The number of participants and tonnage collected.
- The Organic Material Management Facility where Organic Material is delivered.
- The contact information of a representative who works for the Hauler who can respond to inquiries related to the requirements of this Ordinance.

### Section 2: Subsection 3: Education requirements

Cities shall:

- Use County terminology on promotional materials when describing Mixed Recyclables and Organic Material guidelines, including the description of materials accepted and not accepted, as well as preparation guidelines.
- Use images approved by the County if using images of Mixed Recyclables and Organic Material.
- Provide information on the City's website, including materials accepted and not accepted, a Curbside Collection calendar, and links to County resources on waste management.
- Provide a guide on Mixed Recyclables and Organic Material to residents each year. The guide shall contain information on Curbside Collection, materials accepted and not accepted, and a Curbside Collection calendar.
- Complete two educational activities each year to promote Curbside Collection. The County will provide a list of activities to city recycling coordinators.



**MEMORANDUM**  
**Physical Development Department**  
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

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**Date:** January 23, 2020  
**To:** Environmental Commission  
**From:** Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor  
**Subject:** Xcel Energy's Partners In Energy community collaboration program

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Staff will provide a brief update on the City's application to participate in the Partners In Energy program.



**MEMORANDUM**  
**Physical Development Department**  
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

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**Date:** January 23, 2020  
**To:** Environmental Commission  
**From:** Emma Pierson, MN GreenCorps Member  
**Subject:** Curbside Organics Options: Draft Pro-Con List

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The attached draft pro-con has been developed with guidance from the goals and priorities established by the City Council in the Resilience and Sustainability section of the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Environmental Commission at the November 2019 commission meeting. Additional guidance for best practices and goals was obtained from Hennepin County's Solid Waste Management Master Plan 2018-2023 (attached) and the MPCA's Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2016-2036 (attached). Pertinent sections of these documents are outlined below:

**City of Golden Valley**

<https://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/comprehensiveplanupdate/pdf/compplanchapters/7-Resilience-and-Sustainability.pdf>

Resilience & Sustainability Chapter of 2040 Comprehensive Plan

**Goal 3: Promote Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Composting**

Improve the efficiencies of solid waste removal

- 1.1 Meet or exceed goals included in the Hennepin County Solid Waste Management Master Plan
- 1.2 Review the frequency of waste and recycling pickups
- 1.3 Explore the potential of implementing organized collection systems, including residential, commercial, and institutional source separated organics collection
- 1.4 Research options for improving the management of yard waste, woody brush, and soil
- 1.5 Take advantage of opportunities to expand the recycling program and recyclable products

Motivate residents, businesses, and institutions to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste

- 2.1 Continue to partner with other public entities to reduce costs and provide improved services

- 2.2 Create goals for solid waste reduction, recycling, composting, and organics recycling for City operations as well as residential and commercial sectors
  - 2.3 Provide education and incentives to residences and businesses to reduce waste and recycle
  - 2.4 Require that City events are zero waste
  - 2.5 Communicate with residents about events that promote waste reduction, such as Fix-it Clinics
  - 2.6 Increase accessibility to composting and organics recycling
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### **Hennepin County**

<https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/your-government/projects-initiatives/documents/solid-waste-mgmt-master-plan-18-23.pdf?la=en&hash=B2BC2A88B5F4A1EA6B5B0E9EB95B022F38471B46>

Solid Waste Management Master Plan 2018-2023

### **Focus on Organics-page 15**

Experience from these programs shows that the best results are achieved when organics recycling is available citywide, the service is structured so that everyone pays by bundling organics service with recycling or trash, and implementation is supported by a comprehensive communications and outreach plan.

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### **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-sw7-21.pdf>

Metropolitan Solid Waste Policy Plan 2016-2036

### **Metropolitan System Plan 2016-2036- page 15**

Table 1a. MSW management system objectives in percentages (2016-2036)					
Management method	Current system (2015)	2020	2025	2030	2036
<i>Floor – The lower range of the percentages below represent the minimum amount of MMSW that must be managed by these methods.</i>					
Source reduction & reuse (cumulative) <sup>1</sup>		1.5%	3%	4%	5%
Recycling <sup>2</sup>	39%	51%	54%	60%	60%
Organics recovery <sup>3</sup>	10%	12%	14%	15%	15%
<i>Restriction on disposal of MMSW – The percentages below represent the amount of resource recovery expected to occur after maximizing reduction, recycling and organics recovery. Restrictions on the land disposal of processible MMSW will be enforced.</i>					
Resource recovery <sup>4</sup>	28%	35%	31%	24%	24%
<i>Ceiling - The percentages below represent the maximum amount of MSW land disposal that will be allowed.</i>					
Max landfill <sup>5</sup>	23%	2%	1%	1%	1%
<p>To avoid double-counting, the source reduction percentages cannot be added with the other MSW management method percentages lower on the hierarchy.</p> <p><sup>2</sup>This does include residue after processing that cannot be recycled and is sent to a landfill.</p> <p><sup>3</sup>Organics may include: food to people, food to animals, and composting of source-separated compostable materials.</p> <p><sup>4</sup>Resource recovery through mixed municipal solid waste processing or waste to energy; Includes residue before and after processing that is sent to a landfill; a byproduct of resource recovery is ash that must be managed at an industrial land disposal facility (the weight of the ash is 15% to 20% of the incoming tons).</p> <p><sup>5</sup>This objective refers to TCMA generated MSW that is disposed at all landfills that serve the TCMA. This does not include ash from resource recovery facilities.</p>					

**Achieving a 75% recycling rate is challenging but possible-** page 19

To achieve the 75% goal, approximately 50% of the material currently going to waste to energy or landfill would need to be diverted from these facilities. Given that 63% of the waste is currently recyclable, nearly all of the available material would need to be recovered (Figure 7).

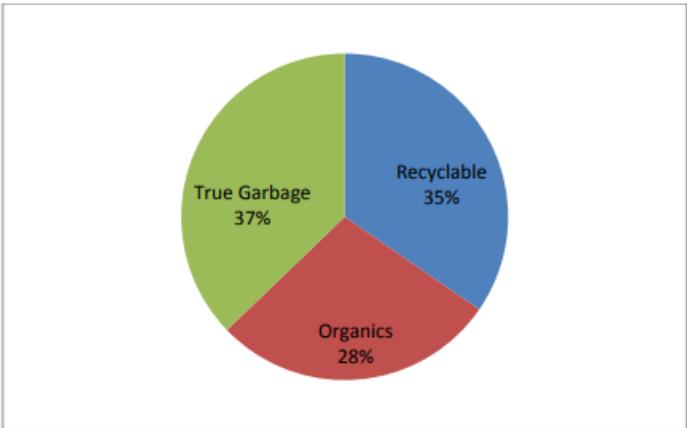


Figure 7. TCMA MMSW composition: average based on Ramsey/Washington and MPCA Composition Analyses in 2013

**Collection Best Practices- page 27**

Pair Bi-weekly trash collection with weekly recycling and organics collection

**Organics Management- page 31**

Providing curbside service to residents – so access is equivalent to curbside recycling or trash collection – will be necessary if the 75% recycling goal is to be achieved.

By 2022, cities of the first and second class (as defined in Minn. Stat. § 410.01) should provide an organized residential organics collection program.

**Evaluate mixed waste processing for organics recovery- page 34**

Meeting a 75% recycling goal in the TCMA will take a broad range of programs and policies to achieve. Asking generators to source-separate their recyclables, including organics, is beneficial in that the material collected is of a higher quality (less contamination), and thus can be used to create more valuable and versatile products. Source separation is also emphasized as a priority over processing by statute (Minn. Stat. 115a.02). Other processing technologies that are designed to process MMSW by removing recyclables, and potentially organics that have not been source separated, also need to be assessed for their effectiveness.

## DRAFT Pros-Cons for Curbside Organics Options

<b>Organized 'All-in, Everyone Pays' Program (Cart)</b>	
<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increases participation</li> <li>• No negotiation required for residents                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lower cost w/ citywide contract</li> <li>○ Everyone pays the same fee</li> <li>○ Lower cost overall → more accessible for lower income individuals to participate</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Higher density collection routes</li> <li>• Option for bin tagging/education</li> <li>• Can use certified compostable bags or paper grocery bags</li> <li>• City can manage education w/ help from Hennepin County</li> <li>• Consistent color bins throughout city</li> <li>• Can reduce trash bin size and save money as we divert waste to organics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional bin on property</li> <li>• Resident provides bags</li> <li>• Additional cost to residents regardless of participation</li> </ul>
<b>Cities that do this</b>	
St Louis Park, Minneapolis, Edina, Richfield (soon)	
<b>Costs</b>	
To be discussed In February	

<b>Organized 'Opt-in' Program (Cart)</b>	
<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional</li> <li>• Option for bin tagging w/ education</li> <li>• Can use certified compostable bags or paper grocery bags</li> <li>• Can allow for smaller trash bin to save money</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower chances for participation to avoid additional cost</li> <li>• Additional bin to property</li> <li>• Resident purchases bags</li> <li>• Higher cost w/ less people participating? (depends upon contract)</li> <li>• No regulation/consistency of costs between haulers</li> <li>• Hauler is responsible for education</li> <li>• Unknown amount of added trucks to each street</li> </ul>
<b>Cities that do this</b>	
Robbinsdale (Spring 2020)	

<b>Costs</b>
To be discussed In February

<b>License Requirement Organics Recycling Collection (Cart)</b>	
<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional</li> <li>• Option for bin tagging w/ education</li> <li>• Can use certified compostable bags or paper grocery bags</li> <li>• Can allow for smaller trash bin to save money</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowers chance of participation</li> <li>• Bin is not organics specific, limited/no opportunity for tagging/education</li> <li>• Hauler is responsible for education</li> <li>• No regulation/consistency of costs between haulers</li> <li>• Additional bin to property</li> <li>• Hauler is responsible for education</li> <li>• Unknown amount of added trucks to each street</li> </ul>
<b>Cities that do this</b>	
<b>Costs</b>	
To be discussed In February	

<b>License Requirement Organics Recycling Collection (Durable Bag Program)</b>	
<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional bin on property</li> <li>• Optional- no payment if choosing not to participate</li> <li>• Durable bags included in program fee (limited amount)</li> <li>• No additional trucks on streets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowers chance of participation</li> <li>• Bin is not organics specific, limited/no opportunity for tagging/education</li> <li>• Restricted bag size</li> <li>• Mandated unorganized durable bag hauling could provide capacity overload for facilities that accept and sort bags</li> <li>• Hauler is responsible for education</li> <li>• No regulation/consistency of costs between haulers</li> <li>• Takes up room in trash bin; would not decrease trash bin size</li> </ul>
<b>Cities that do this</b>	
<b>Costs</b>	
To be discussed In February	



**MEMORANDUM**  
**Physical Development Department**  
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

**Date:** January 23, 2020  
**To:** Environmental Commission  
**From:** Emma Pierson, MN GreenCorps Member  
**Subject:** Hennepin County SCORE Funding

To help Cities with the operational expenses of facilitating a recycling program, Hennepin County distributes funding known as SCORE funds. SCORE funding is calculated based upon the City’s participation in residential recycling programs.

SCORE grants may be used for discounts to new customers, discount to existing customers, referral incentives, City contract costs, education and outreach, compostable bags, kitchen containers, carts, etc.

Here is a link to the Hennepin County SCORE Funding Policy: <https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/your-government/projects-initiatives/documents/residential-recycling-funding-policy.pdf?la=en&hash=C7E0548E8C65B046208745CCEB3BC2598FB9EA5C>

The following formula is used to determine the City’s recycling and organics SCORE grant amounts in 2020:

- Recycling: 50%
- Organics: 50%

**Recycling Grant Calculation**

$$\frac{\text{Number of Households with Curbside Recycling in City}}{\text{Total Number of Households with Curbside Recycling in County}} \times \text{Total SCORE Funds Available for Recycling}$$

**Organics Grant Calculation\***

$$\frac{\text{Number of Households with Curbside Organics in City}}{\text{Total Number of Households with Curbside Organics in County}} \times \text{Total SCORE Funds Available for Organics}$$

\*Organics funding is capped at \$25/household annually

In 2019, there was a total of \$1,407,904 available to disperse to Cities for organics recycling. There were 114 households participating in curbside organics in Golden Valley, and 59,339 households participating in curbside organics in Hennepin County. Based upon those numbers, and the 50% allocation for recycling and 50% allocation for organics recycling in 2020, below is a prediction for SCORE Funds in 2020. These figures assume that participation numbers at the City and County level do not change.

**Organics Grant in 2019**

$$\frac{114}{59,339} \times \$1,407,904 = \$2,705$$

*\$1,407,904 is 40% of total available SCORE funds*

**Projected Organics Grant in 2020\***

$$\frac{114}{59,339} \times \$1,759,880 = \$3,381$$

*\$1,759,880 is 50% of total available SCORE funds*

\*Overall funding and participation can fluctuate, this is an estimate of 2020 SCORE funding using 2019 participation numbers.

**City of Golden Valley SCORE funds**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Percent Allocation for Recycling</b>	<b>Recycling Grant</b>	<b>Percent Allocation for Organics</b>	<b>Organics Grant</b>	<b>Total Recycling and Organics Score Grant</b>
<b>2017</b>	80%	\$56,237	20%	\$569	\$56,806
<b>2018</b>	70%	\$47,900	30%	\$1,622	\$49,522
<b>2019</b>	60%	\$41,375	40%	\$2,705	\$44,080
<b>2020</b>	50%	\$34,619*	50%	\$3,381*	\$38,000*

\*Subject to change based on state funding and the number of households in each city

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**Date:** January 23, 2020  
**To:** Environmental Commission  
**From:** Emma Pierson, MN GreenCorps Member  
**Subject:** Organics Recycling at City Hall, GreenStep Cities Best Practice 22

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Organics recycling in City Hall was implemented in December 2019. City Hall has four waste sort stations throughout: one in the staff break room, two outside each public restroom area, and one inside the Council Conference room. Each waste station has an organics bin, recycling bin, and trash bin, all labeled with Hennepin County materials. Below is a before and after of the staff break room waste station.



In addition to the actions described above, the City has completed additional actions under Best Practice 22 of the GreenStep Cities program. A summary of these actions is below.

After brief discussion, staff requests that the Commission consider making a motion to approve these updates for entry into the GreenStep Cities website.

## **Best Practice 22: Sustainable Consumption and Waste**

**Action 1:** Improve City operations and procurement to prevent and reuse, recycling and compost waste from all public facilities (including libraries, parks, schools, municipal health care facilities), and minimize use of toxics and generation of hazardous waste.

**One Star:** Measure/audit waste generated; adopt goals for reducing the generation of overall solid waste; goals for diverting a percentage of overall solid waste into recycling or compostables collection; goals for specific waste streams such as public works waste, disposable cafeteria ware, waste from parks.

**Two Stars:** Describe actions taken, such as refurbishing office equipment, reusing building materials, increasing e-commerce, getting off junk mail lists, collecting organic material and beverage containers from parks.

**Three Stars:** Report measures that show goals were met by the reduced amount of waste generated, the increased amount of waste diverted into recycling and compostables collection.

### **Existing entry:**

The City recycles at our public buildings and facilities as well as at 5 parks throughout the City. In 2016, additional recycling bins were added to 3 parks to accommodate the amount of plastic bottles and aluminum cans that were being thrown away. The City has also taken steps to make recycling more convenient for visitors of the parks by adding more signage and larger recycling containers for easy dumping of material. Additional recycling carts are available for special events such as the farmers' market, festivals, or other City events.

Woody organic material and yard waste produced by the City is trucked to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Recycling Facility that turns this waste into compost and compost blends for retail and wholesale purchase.

In 2016, Public Works staff collected 447.7 tons of leaves from City properties.

### **Proposed update:**

In 2019, an internal organics recycling program was implemented within City Hall to divert waste from the landfill in all restrooms, public areas, and the staff breakroom; compostable products to replace all disposable service ware have been purchased.

## **Best Practice 22: Sustainable Consumption and Waste**

**Action 2:** Address concerns over consumer products and packaging through encouragement/implementation of one or more of:

- a. Education on needless consumption, waste prevention and alternatives, including product stewardship/producer responsibility.
- b. Reuse options.

- c. Recycling / composting options.
- d. Credits, fees.
- e. Mandates, bans.

**One Star:** Post the CoolClimate household-level consumption-based GHG calculator on a city solid waste/reuse/recycling page; education on reuse, recycling, composting; in-store recycling of thin plastic bags & sale of reusable bags; non-traditional recycling/collection for reuse (e.g., ink cartridges, shoes, batteries, clothes).

**Two Stars:** Public drinking fountains that encourage refilling water bottles; city ordinance on in-store fees on plastic & paper bags; credits for use of reusable bags.

**Three Stars:** City mandated recyclable/compostable egg cartons, to-go packaging; bans on plastic straws; county or city collection of clean Styrofoam from businesses and industry and use of a polystyrene densifier.

**Existing entry:**

City Hall has two public drinking fountains each equipped with water bottle refilling stations. These are each near public restrooms in the highest traffic areas of the building, used by staff and visitors.

**Proposed update:**

The City of Golden Valley website has education regarding the CoolClimate calculator, how to compost at home, upcoming recycling events, and how and where to dispose of hazardous and problem items. Information regarding updates, changes, contamination, etc. are sent in bi-monthly newsletters.

**Best Practice 22: Sustainable Consumption and Waste**

**Action 5:** Arrange for a residential and/or business/institutional source-separated organics collection/management program.

**One Star:** Provide participant numbers and/or tons managed of one or more programs: food-to-people, food-to-animals, compostables collection, and backyard composting. Mention any yard waste collection program (note that it is banned by state law from landfills).

**Two Stars:** Organics collection by one hauler; drop-site collection of organics; facilitate multiple businesses to collect compostables; include a public outreach program to prevent food waste.

**Three Stars:** Facilitate the logistics for more prevention of public/commercial food waste; manage organics via small site composting or anaerobic digestion, and/or set and meet an aggressive program goal, such as % residents/businesses participating or profitability of program; assist with or directly manage yard waste so as to produce and sell a value-added wood chip (esp. from Ash) and/or compost product.

**Proposed entry:**

Organics recycling curbside is available through select residential trash haulers within the City of Golden Valley, there are currently 114 participating households in curbside organics collection. All licensed residential trash haulers are required to offer yard waste pick up. In 2018, haulers reported 267.7 tons of yard waste collected, some haulers did not report.



**MEMORANDUM**  
**Physical Development Department**  
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

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**Date:** January 23, 2020  
**To:** Environmental Commission  
**From:** Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor  
**Subject:** 2020 Work Plan Ideas

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As stated in its bylaws, the Commission is required to develop an annual work plan for review and approval by City Council. The draft work plan for 2020 will be based on the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, GreenStep Cities Program, and the City's potential acceptance into Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Community Collaboration Program.

<http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/comprehensiveplanupdate/>  
<https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>  
[https://www.xcelenergy.com/working\\_with\\_us/municipalities/partners\\_in\\_energy](https://www.xcelenergy.com/working_with_us/municipalities/partners_in_energy)

Attached is the 2019 work plan to get the conversation started. Commission members should come to the meeting prepared to discuss the current work plan and any ideas for future items they wish to have considered. There will be additional discussion and development of the draft work plan at the February and March meetings, ahead of Commission approval in April and Council consideration in May.

## 2019 Work Plan

Proposed work plan priorities for 2019 are based on goals in the Resilience & Sustainability, Water Resources, and Parks & Natural Resources chapters of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and the GreenStep Cities Program.

- Begin work on GreenStep Cities Step 5 metrics to address climate-related impacts, improve the environment, and reduce energy consumption and costs.
  - Prioritize the order in which the 12 Step 5 topic areas are completed.
- If the City is successful in its application for a MN GreenCorps Member for 2019-2020, work with member to complete GreenStep Cities actions related to waste reduction, recycling, and composting/organics management.
  - Assist the City in hosting one zero-waste community event.
- Assist Council with the solid waste collection discussion.
  - Review and comment on the League of Women Voters solid waste collection report.
  - Provide input and feedback on any proposed changes to the City's current system.
- Explore options for citywide curbside organics collection.
- Continue to assist in implementing the Natural Resources Management Plan.
  - Support the restoration of the Bassett Creek Nature Area in 2019-2020.
  - Address the issue of encroachment into City Parks and Nature Areas, beginning with the Bassett Creek Nature Area in 2019.
- Use the Environmental Commission's \$3,500 budget to host an educational workshop on sustainable yards and soils.
- Continue to work with Planning Commission and staff to revise City Code to remove barriers to producing local food (vertical greenhouses, urban warming).
- Complete a ready and resilient guide for the community focusing on weather and climate impacts.
- Implement a comprehensive buckthorn management program.
- Review solar and wind ordinances and update as needed.
- Review City Code with respect to wood burning and update as needed to protect and maintain air quality.
- Research strategies to lower the emissions of City fleet.
- Explore the potential to revise City Code to allow for temporary use of goats for vegetation management on public and private properties.

## PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES – January 2020

### GREENCORPS

**Community outreach** -The MN GreenCorps Member has been meeting with restaurant managers and owners to help with compliance to Hennepin County's food waste requirements. City Staff has been in contact with Brookview to improve their recycling program in public areas.

### RECYCLING / ORGANICS / SOLID WASTE

**Organics** - Staff has been conducting stakeholder meetings with waste haulers to understand the logistics of implementing an organics program and any opportunities and challenges they may face.

### NATURAL RESOURCES

**Pennsylvania Woods DNR Habitat Grant** – The City Council recently approved a resolution authorizing staff to apply for a habitat grant for areas of the Pennsylvania Woods Nature Area that are outside of the DeCola Ponds B and C Flood Mitigation project boundaries. If funded, the project would involve the removal of buckthorn and other invasive species and the planting and establishment of native vegetation.

**Pollinators** - Staff recently met with the Garden Club and People for Pollinators group to share information about the upcoming plans for 2020. Consistent with the MOU executed last fall, the City will be promoting the Garden Club's events and activities in a variety of ways in 2020. The Garden Club website is <https://gvgardenclub.com> and the Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/Peopleforpollinatorsgoldenvalley/>.

**Lawns to Legumes**- The Board of Water and Soil Resources has a program called "Lawns to Legumes" that will reimburse people to convert portions of their lawn to pollinator habitat. The link to the program website is: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l> . The Metro Area is the highest priority for the program, and the application deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Student Essay Competition**- Staff has been working on putting together an annual student essay competition. The competition would be sponsored by the Environmental Commission, and prompts for the competition would center around sustainability and the environment. The time for the release of the competition would be around Earth Day (April 22, 2020).

### WATER RESOURCES

**Annual FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) Program Reporting** – Staff completed its annual reporting to FEMA summarizing the City's activities supporting its higher standards of floodplain management. The City's participation in the program increases the community's resilience to flooding, helps reduce flood risk, and ensures that eligible residents can receive discounts up to 20% on their flood insurance premiums.

**Annual Wetland Reporting** – Staff completed its annual reporting of all activities and administration completed in 2019 under the Wetland Conservation Act. Staff completed notices of decision for projects and developments and landowner contacts (calls, emails, site visits) to discuss wetland boundaries, benefits, and rules.

**MS4 Permit Reissuance** – MPCA is updating its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit that allows cities to operate a storm sewer system and discharge stormwater into public water bodies. The public comment period on the draft permit ended on January 11, 2020. After review and revisions by MPCA, it is anticipated that the permit will be reissued in summer 2020. Following permit reissuance the City will have about 6 months to complete a document

describing how it will become compliant with the new permit regulations, and then about 12 months to revise its current program (including operations, procedures, ordinances, education, etc) to become compliant.

**DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Projects** - The DeCola Ponds B and C project is about 40% complete. The excavation and utility work should finish up in March 2020, with trail construction in June 2020, and the City's native vegetation contractor seeding and planting trees, shrubs, and grasses starting in spring 2020.

The City and Bassett Creek Watershed are also beginning to look at the next project areas for flood mitigation. The Wildwood Park/SEA School area has been identified as having potential for flood storage to benefit properties around DeCola Ponds D, E, and F. A planning level study to understand opportunities and challenges and develop concepts is programmed for this spring and will include engagement with the community and nearby stakeholders. The DNR is supportive and has requested flood damage reduction grant funds in the 2020 state bonding bill for the next flood mitigation project in Golden Valley. Look for more information on this in the coming months.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING AND DEVELOPMENTS**

**Dec 19, 2019**

**I-394 Mixed Use Property Rezoning**—With the 2040 Comprehensive Plan moving towards adoption, the City must bring its zoning into conformance with the approved land use plan. The first step will be rezoning properties designated I-394 Mixed Use to either Mixed Use, Commercial, Office, or High Density Residential. The public hearings for these properties are scheduled for the January 13 meeting.

**800 Boone Ave North**—Conditional Use Permit Amendment to remove a recently approved prohibition on the drop-off and pick-up on Boone Avenue of clients at the adult day care. The applicant is requesting to be allowed to use the east side of Boone Avenue only. The current condition requires all pick-ups and drop-offs to occur on-site. A public hearing was held on December 9 and then the item was tabled to the January 13 meeting.

**Tobacco Sales Restrictions**—A Zoning Text Amendment to restrict the sale of tobacco products based on nearby uses will be discussed at the January 13 meeting. Following recent City Council action to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco, to raise the age of sales to 21, and to cap the number of City tobacco licenses, the Planning Commission will be looking to create additional locational restrictions around schools, parks, and other youth-oriented centers. Scheduled for the January 13 meeting.

**Sweeney Lake Woods PUD No. 120**—A Major PUD Amendment to subdivide properties with the existing PUD and incorporate some portions of adjacent properties. The proposal would create three new single-family residential lots and consolidate two others, resulting in a net increase of one lot. A neighborhood meeting was held on October 16. A public hearing was postponed to January in order to allow for additional stormwater information to be collected.

**Narrow Lots**—At the Council/Manager meeting on October 10, the City Council directed the Planning Commission to investigate a number of issues related to regulations for narrow lots (those under 65 feet in width). Staff has had discussions with the Planning Commission about existing City regulations and invited area relators to discuss the housing market in Golden Valley with the Commission on November 12. Representatives from three design/build firms attended the December 9 meeting. A public forum has been scheduled for January 16 at 7 pm at City Hall. The goal is to send recommendations for code amendments to the Council by March of 2020.

**5410 Wayzata Boulevard (Good Day Café)**—Site Plan Review for a property within the I-394 Mixed Use Zoning District. The Planning Commission is required to review the reconfiguration of a parking lot and evaluate the proposal against the development standards of the district and other City requirements. Tabled at the November 25 meeting to allow for modifications to the site plan.

**MHFA Building Capacity Grant**—The City received a grant of \$22,000 from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to explore new methods of using surplus publicly-owned land, such as excess MnDOT right-of-way, for affordable housing. The City will conduct legal research and hire a community engagement consultant to work with residents living around

selected sites. The work product will include a Public Land Disposition policy. The City Council approved the contract with MHFA at its December 17 meeting.

**Sweeney Lake Woods PUD No. 120**—At its December 17 meeting, the City Council overturned a denial by the Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance from the minimum width of a private road within a PUD. After reviewing the proposal and hearing from staff and the petitioner, the Council believed that the standards for granting a variance had been met. As a condition of approval, any future homes constructed within the PUD will need to include a sprinkler system for fire protection. The City Council approved the variance on a vote of 5-0.

**Downtown Study**—HKGi will provide the Phase II report to the City Council at the January 21 meeting. Phase III, which will look at staging and implementation, including potential financial tools, is scheduled to begin in the first part of 2020.

**Housing Strategic Plan**—The Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) hired Cathy Bennett of Bennett Community Consulting to research and prepare a Housing Strategic Plan for the City. The Plan will identify housing needs and will develop goals and priorities for the HRA over the next 5-10 years. It will include a recommendation of tools and strategies available to the City to fulfill the housing vision. The work is scheduled to be completed prior to the HRA meeting on April 21.