

Require cities to provide residential organics recycling by 2022

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners has initiated the process to revise Ordinance 13 to require cities to provide residents the opportunity to recycle organics by 2022. The county is seeking guidance from city representatives on how to craft this ordinance to best serve residents by delivering the most environmentally-beneficial solutions at the lowest possible cost.

Why this approach to the requirement?

- Putting organics to a better use is our best opportunity to eliminate landfilling.
- Residents expressed very strong support for requiring cities to provide residents the opportunity to recycle organics by 2022. Residents said they consider organics recycling to be important, and 62 percent said they would be very likely to participate.
- Requirements are the best way to send the market signal necessary to accelerate change.
- Action is needed now to build the capacity needed when requirements take effect.
- Participation needs to be high enough to support the route density to make collection cost effective.
- Allows the county and cities the ability to steer the system to maximize benefits for residents and the environment.

What guidance is the county seeking?

- How to provide consistent citywide service
- Preferred collection method
- Who pays – subscription based or everyone
- Education and outreach standards

How would the county assist cities to comply with the requirement?

- Build demand by provide funding assistance for drop offs and promote organics to those who already have the option.
- Help cities explore options and develop pilot projects to address barriers and evaluate environmental benefits and costs.
- Support cities with implementation by facilitating conversations with haulers, providing sample contract language and creating education materials.

What is the ordinance revision process and timeline?

- Stakeholder engagement: January – March 2018
- Draft ordinance revisions: March – May 2018
- Solicit feedback from stakeholders on ordinance language: early summer 2018
- Staff presents recommendations to board: summer 2018
- Board action to set and hold public hearing: fall 2018
- Board adopts ordinance revisions: late fall 2018

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