



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: November 8, 2012

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Rules Governing Siting, Design and Operation of Yard Waste and Solid Waste Compost Facilities (Composting Rules)**

Recommendation:

Approve and submit comments on the MPCA Composting Rules.

Previous Directives: None

Prepared by: David Herberholz, Director, Solid Waste and Recycling

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: David Herberholz, Director, Solid Waste and Recycling

Reviews Not Applicable

Financial Impact

No financial impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification:
City Goals: Eco Focused
Comprehensive Plan:
Zoning Code:

Background/Supporting Information

Subject of Rules

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has requested comments on possible amendments to rules governing siting, design and operation of yard waste and solid waste compost facilities. The MPCA is considering amendments that would authorize and regulate the operation of a compost facility that is dedicated to source-separated food waste, yard waste, and other source-separated bulking agents such as non-recycled paper.

The City submitted comments on Preliminary Draft #1 in February, 2012. Based on comments it received from the City and other interested parties, the MPCA amended the proposed rules and have requested comments on Preliminary Draft #2.

This rulemaking is not intended to address the incorporation of manure or industrial byproducts considered unsuitable for composting with source-separated food waste. Nor will it address amendments that might be necessary to allow other types of composting including:

- Anaerobic digestion; or
- Vermicomposting

Comment Process

The deadline for the City to submit comments or information on these possible rule amendments to the MPCA in writing is 4:30 p.m. on November 16, 2012.

The attached draft comments were prepared based on feedback provided by an ad hoc group comprising:

David Herberholz, Director PW Solid Waste and Recycling
Gayle Prest, Director of Sustainability
Robin Garwood, Aide to Ward 2 Council Member Gordon
Ginny Black, MPCA
Paul Kroening, Hennepin County Environmental Services
Sarah Sponheim, CEAC

Attachments: MPCA Composting Rules Preliminary Draft #2
Proposed Comments on Composting Rules Preliminary Draft #2