

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot

Meeting Date: June 27, 2016
Department: Planning and Development
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: A
Staff Contact: Michael Wisth
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ISSUE STATEMENT

This council work session is an opportunity to learn more about the upcoming Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Program in Eugene.

BACKGROUND

The City of Eugene produces 40 million pounds of food waste every year. About half of this waste comes from commercial businesses, and the other half comes from residences. Each ton of food waste recovered from the landfill prevents approximately one ton of greenhouse gas emissions from being released into the atmosphere. To meet statewide organic waste reduction targets, as well as goals addressed in the City's Climate Recovery Ordinance, it is essential for the City to provide innovative sustainability options to residents. Therefore, the Waste Prevention and Green Building program (WPGB) will build upon the existing commercial food waste collection program Love Food Not Waste (LFNW) in the following ways:

- 1. Residential pilot program: Expand the LFNW program to include residents; increase the amount and quality of food waste recovered in Eugene using a yard debris collection system.*
- 2. Food waste prevention program: Target the community-at-large in an outreach effort to educate Eugene residents about the importance of food waste prevention and reduction.*

As part of statewide initiatives to reduce and prevent organic waste in Oregon's waste stream, WPGB will launch a pilot food waste collection program for residents. Residents in the identified pilot areas will receive every-other-week curbside collection service for food waste mixed with yard debris from single-family homes. Additionally, WPGB will provide a community-wide food waste prevention education campaign that coincides with the proposed curbside collection pilot project. Prevention education is currently underway, and the food waste collection pilot roll-out is expected to begin in fall of 2016.

NEXT STEPS

Based on the success of LFNW and the stated community need, WPGB plans to move forward with necessary steps for a successful residential pilot and food waste prevention education program.

WPGB will spend the coming months finalizing the communication and outreach effort to educate pilot participants, while finalizing a monitoring plan to assess contamination levels throughout the duration of the pilot. Staff will begin communication with the pilot participants in mid- to late-July.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

The City of Eugene regulates licensed garbage and recycling hauling activities within the city limits. These activities are guided by Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) as well as the Eugene City Code. In particular, ORS 459a outlines the “Opportunity to Recycle” for all Oregonians and sets a baseline for counties’ and their affiliated municipalities’ garbage diversion rates. The Lane County goal is to achieve 63 percent diversion on an annual basis by 2020. Outside of this statewide policy, waste reduction and diversion is included as an action item within Eugene’s Climate and Energy Action Plan and the City’s Climate Recovery Ordinance.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

This is an informational work session.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION

None required at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION

None required at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Pilot boundaries
- B. Timeline

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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