



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 10, 2013

TO: Washington County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

FROM: Theresa Koppang, Solid Waste Supervisor

SUBJECT: Commercial food scraps collection pilot program update

Introduction

In March 2013, the Washington County Board of Commissioners directed county staff to investigate a commercial food scraps collection pilot program. Staff is currently in the process of working with external stakeholders, including businesses, certificated solid waste and recycling collection companies, food scraps processors, and the cities of Hillsboro, Sherwood and Tualatin to begin planning such a pilot. Staff is currently planning to include the unincorporated areas of the county in a food scraps collection pilot program. A general outline of progress to date is provided below.

Pilot Program Overview

Staff has convened a large group of stakeholders interested in commercial food scraps collection. Collection service providers represented include Aloha Garbage Co., Garbarino Disposal & Recycling, Pride Disposal Co., Recology Portland, Republic Services, Waste Management and the Washington County Haulers Association. Jurisdictions represented include the cities of Hillsboro, Sherwood and Tualatin. Additionally, businesses represented include DeAngelo's Catering, NW Natural, Pacific Foods and Shari's Restaurants. Staff anticipates a smaller sub-set of the original stakeholder group will help plan a potential pilot program. The pilot program may encompass the aforementioned cities, as well as unincorporated Washington County.

Details of the pilot program will be planned by the stakeholder group; however, staff has identified a variety of potential elements that could be included in the pilot program. These elements include the provision of collection containers and decals for businesses to use internally; the development of educational resources and tools; and the development of a business recruitment plan that would include a list of potential business participants. Additional pilot program elements may include a focus group meeting involving a limited number of business representatives, as well as a quantitative/qualitative study of waste volume and weight metrics, successes and challenges, and business satisfaction.

Pilot Program Details

Staff hopes to establish a small-scale pilot commercial food scraps collection program within unincorporated Washington County to accompany the effort within participating cities. This program would allow stakeholders participating in the pilot to gain experience in outreach and education to food generating businesses, while also gathering quantitative and qualitative data to inform a decision on the long-term development of a permanent food scraps collection program. The project would involve businesses, organizations, and institutions that have expressed interest in receiving such a collection service. Staff has already identified over 100

businesses in the participating cities and unincorporated Washington County as potential participants in a pilot program.

With limited financial data regarding the cost of collecting commercial food scraps, staff has proposed that, throughout the pilot, food scraps collection service is offered to unincorporated Washington County businesses at the current garbage collection rates. Collection rates within the participating cities will be authorized through each city's rate setting process. Offering the collection of food scraps using current garbage rates through the pilot program would:

- Provide businesses that truly desire to divert food scraps the ability to do so.
- Provide haulers a framework for what rates to charge customers that currently desire the service.
- Provide the necessary rate framework for implementation of the pilot program.
- Enable the collection of true cost data.
- Provide participating haulers the ability to form collection routes that would increase efficiency with limited rate impacts.

Upon conclusion of the pilot program, if it is determined a program is feasible; staff would conduct an analysis to establish rates and a regulatory framework that is acceptable to all stakeholders, including Washington County haulers.

Washington County Haulers Association

The Washington County Haulers Association is in support of the approach to the pilot program outlined above.

SWAC Role

Staff would like input from the SWAC, as well as support from the committee in moving forward with commercial food scraps pilot program.