

ITEM #:	12
DATE:	06-09-26
DEPT:	PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2026 IOWA DNR SOLID WASTE ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP) offers competitive financial assistance for a variety of projects, including source reduction, recycling and education.

The program provides financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans, zero interest loans, and 3 percent interest loans. Applications requesting \$25,000 or less are considered for forgivable loans. Applications requesting greater than \$25,000 are considered for zero or 3% interest loans. A 25% minimum cash match is required. Projects are selected through a competitive process. Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability, and ability to replicate.

Applications for this ongoing program are due in January and July of each year. **Staff is seeking authorization to submit multiple applications to the SWAP program for equipment and infrastructure related to the Resource Recovery and Recycling Campus (R3C). The DNR has indicated that it is acceptable to submit multiple applications in the same round of funding. Because the SWAP program evaluates projects individually, staff believes submitting separate applications for eligible project components will maximize the City's competitiveness and potential funding opportunities.**

Staff has identified several components of the R3C project that align well with SWAP program objectives and intends to submit six separate applications for the project elements listed below. Each City of Ames application will request the maximum amount for a forgivable loan, \$25,000, for a total requested funding of \$150,000.

- Shredder
- Drum magnet
- Eddy current separator
- Customer convenience center
- Yard waste area
- Trucks and trailers

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize staff to participate in the DNR's SWAP program as described above and apply for grants.
2. Do not authorize staff to apply for or participate in the DNR's SWAP program.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The proposed applications represent an opportunity to leverage state funding to reduce project costs while advancing the City's goals related to waste diversion. If awarded, grant funding would offset a portion of project costs associated with the R3C development. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.