

# Memorandum

**REPORT TO:** City Commission

**FROM:** Nicholas Ross - Director of Transportation and Engineering

**SUBJECT:** Solid Waste Organics Management Program Update

**MEETING DATE:** March 11, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive update on the city's Solid Waste Organics Management Program.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** 1.1 Outreach: Continue to strengthen and innovate in how we deliver information to the community and our partners.

**BACKGROUND:** The city of Bozeman Solid Waste Division has received direction from City Commission to begin citywide, year-round collection of organics as a service offering to our customers.

The Division met with the Sustainability Board for a work session on the proposed program in August of 2023 and received excellent input. Following the work session, the Division acted upon a Board recommendation to conduct a customer survey and received very good feedback as a result.

The Division's organics collection program will now be offered as an "opt-in" choice similar to how the city's successful recycling program was launched. The Division intends to begin organics collection this spring ahead of when customers typically begin producing yard waste. The next step will be to notify customers and begin accepting signups. The city has partnered with The Nest on an education and outreach campaign with a scope of work for a phased approach over the 2-yr period of EPA SWIFR grant funding received to launch our service. The initial focus will be on existing customers with encouragement to add food scraps to their yard waste service. The education and outreach campaign will evolve as sign-ups progress and eventually target new customers within the city as well. Draft education and outreach material is expected to be available for viewing by the Board during this special presentation.

The Division has completed the hiring process for truck operators, procurement of two collection trucks, and will be completing procurement and acceptance of totes for service over the next month. The Division intends to provide a typical 35 or 100 gallon tote for curbside collection as well as a kitchen-sized receptacle for food scraps.

The Division is also finalizing a contract with Happy Trash Can to continue and expand our partnership with them providing processing of our organics collections into compost.

This special presentation will expand on the background provided in this item and provide outreach and engagement material for review.

**UNRESOLVED ISSUES:** None

**ALTERNATIVES:** As suggested by the commission.

**FISCAL EFFECTS:** Organics service has been included in approved FY25-26 budgets. Collection rate of \$10 per month was approved by City Commission in 2024.

Attachments:

[SW25-011 Organics\\_InfoSheet R1.pdf](#)

[SW25-014 Organics\\_P1\\_1080x1350 R1.pdf](#)

[SW25-014 Organics\\_P1\\_1080x1080 R1.pdf](#)

[SW25-013 Truck\\_DirtyDeeds.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: February 24, 2025