



City of North St. Paul
City Council
Workshop Meeting Agenda

April 5, 2022
5:00 PM

The City Council Meeting will be conducted on **April 5, 2022** at 5:00 p.m. The meeting location is the City Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 2400 Margaret St., North St. Paul.

The City Council will also be meeting by interactive TV under Minn. Stat. 13D.02. Members of the public are permitted to attend the meeting in person. However, it is encouraged to participate in the meeting remotely. Instructions can be found below.

The **April 5, 2022** Zoom meeting can be accessed via:

<https://tinyurl.com/NSPCityCouncil>

(from a PC, Mac, tablet, iPhone or Android device)

or by phone at 1-929-205-6099, meeting ID 821 4097 2224, password 362656.

You can also watch the meeting on our YouTube channel here tinyurl.com/NSPYouTube

The City Council Zoom meeting will be 'open to the public' to listen in but will be muted from contributing at all times with the exception of a Public Hearing and open to the public forum.

Please join the meeting early to test your audio and video settings.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Council Member Thorsen
Council Member Petersen
Council Member Wong
Council Member Cole
Mayor Furlong

III. Adopt Agenda

IV. Topic(s)

- A. Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Food Scraps Pickup Program
- B. Tennis Representative
- C. Spring Clean up Information

V. Other Business

VI. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled City Council Workshop meeting is April 19, 2022



To

Honorable Mayor Furlong and City Council

Date

April 5, 2022

Agenda Placement # IV.A

Topic(s)

Subject

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Food Scraps Pickup Program

Background/Facts

Filsan Ibrahim from Ramsey County will be presenting the Food Scraps Pickup Program

Recommended Action

For informational purposes only. No recommendation.

Attachments

1. 2022-2 Municipality Update

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ritchie, Administrative Assistant



RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY

Washington
County

RAMSEY COUNTY

Food Scraps Pickup Program

Recycling Coordinators Meeting | 3/16/2022

Filsan Ibrahim

Jennifer NguyenMoore

Ramsey and Washington Counties

- Over 820,000 residents and 70,000 businesses
- 14% of state's population
- Ramsey and Washington counties have worked together since the 1980s to manage trash responsibly – today, they work together through Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E)



Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E)

- Organization through which Ramsey and Washington counties collaborate to reduce and manage waste
- Operates under direction of joint powers board that includes commissioners from both counties
- Staff from R&E and both counties work together closely on projects and programs that address the shared priorities for both counties
- Vision: vibrant, healthy communities without waste
- Food scrap pick-up service is being developed by R&E in conjunction with the two counties



**RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY**
CONNECTING VALUE TO WASTE



Why Collect Food Scraps?

- Food scraps comprise over 20% of household trash by weight
- By separating this material, residents can prevent it from becoming waste, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving resources
- Collecting food scraps will help meet state recycling goals
- The counties prioritize food waste prevention through programs and education. The food scraps pick-up program will help manage food waste that can't be prevented.



Food Scraps Pickup Program

- Will be available to all residents in Ramsey and Washington counties, whether they live in apartment, condo or house
- **Rollout to begin in late 2022 into 2023**
- Program will utilize "food scrap bags" that will be co-collected with trash – no additional carts or trucks will be needed



Food Scrap Bag System



1

Put food scraps into "food scrap bags" and then into a trash cart or dumpster for collection.



2

Haulers collect bags along with the trash.



3

Bags are sorted from the trash at the R&E Center.



4

Food scraps are recycled at compost facilities.



More about the Program

- Bags and program participation are free to residents
- Residents order bags online or via phone (multiple languages supported)
- Goal of 40% participation – estimated 30,000+ tons of food scraps collected annually
- Existing food scraps drop-off sites will remain in operation, and some residents may prefer backyard composting



Why Bags Instead of Separate Carts?

- **Environment** – A food scrap bag system will result in a net decrease in greenhouse emissions, while a separate cart system results in a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions, largely due to the need for more collection trucks.
- **Efficiency** – A separate cart system would cost approximately ten times as much as a food scrap bag system. A food scrap bag system efficiently uses existing collection routes, trucks, and containers. (And you won't have extra trucks driving down your street!)
- **Equity** – Not all apartment buildings or condos have space for additional carts. A food scrap bag system would allow more people to participate.



Food Scrap Bags Design

- Bags are specially designed to withstand the trip in garbage truck and then eventually break down with their contents.
- Specifications
 - **Thickness:** 1.4 mil thick (about 3x thicker than a grocery store bag)
 - **ASTM standards:** compostability, tensile strength, slow penetration resistance, and impact resistance
 - **Compostability:** BPI certified
 - **Testing:** bags tested in actual loads of trash
 - **Color:** green with compostable ink
- Sizes – 6-gallon and 13-gallon
- Households will get 60 bags per year for free and will be able to pay for additional bags



Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center)

- All trash from Ramsey and Washington counties is delivered to the R&E Center, where it is processed to recover value
 - Metals recovered for recycling
 - Fuel produced to make electricity
 - Keeps trash out of landfills
- Food scrap bags will be mechanically separated from trash at the R&E Center and at transfer stations
- From there, food scrap bags will be delivered to compost facilities (and potentially anaerobic digestion facilities in the future)



Project Status

- Construction underway at R&E Center for sorting space and equipment
- Vendors approved by R&E board:
 - Food scrap bag manufacturer
 - Warehouse for storing bags
 - Fulfillment and shipping vendor
 - Website developer
 - Customer service call center
- Solicitations in process:
 - End markets to process food scraps and bags (composting and anaerobic digestion facilities)



Funding

This program is supported through three funding sources:

- Grant from MPCA funded by 2020 State of Minnesota bonding bill
- Service charge (County Environmental Charge) on the price of trash collection
- Tipping fees that haulers pay to deliver trash to the R&E Center





RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY

Washington
County



RAMSEY COUNTY

Food Scraps Pickup Program Updates

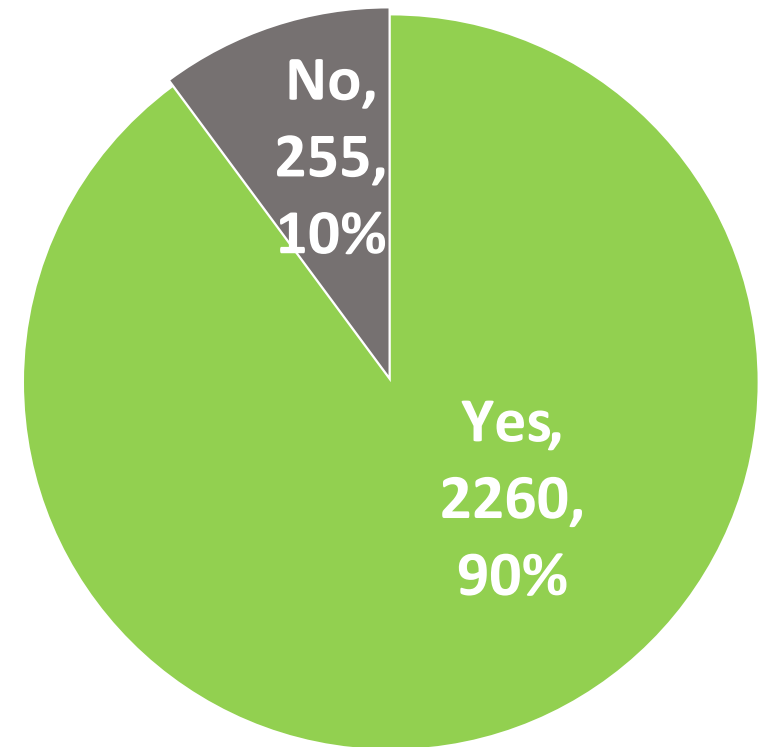
Program Phasing

- Pilot – Mid to late 2022 – Simplified “test” implementation under limited parameters to test overall system and infrastructural components. Will be under specific geographic boundaries and include a limited number of participants.
- Phase 1 launch – End of 2022 into 2023 – Launch of program will occur in phases to scale the program over several months. Will include a select few cities initially.
- Phase 2 launch – 2023 – Full launch of program, available to all residents in both counties.



Completed Community Engagement

- With all engagement work, counties are seeking input from diverse pool of participants (race, age, housing type, geography, etc.)
- General public survey – Q4 2019/Q1 2020
 - Gauged interest
 - Identified barriers/concerns
 - Identified bag size and delivery preferences
- Survey of residents currently sorting food scraps – Q2 2020
 - Learned about how people are currently collecting food scraps
 - Determined number of bags/sizes needed per household



Respondents' interest in
program participation



Upcoming Community Engagement

- Trial focus group – Q1 2022
 - Shaping educational messaging/materials
 - Providing feedback on in-home user experience and barriers to participation
 - The goal is to have a diverse pool of participants, including people from a variety of backgrounds (race, age, housing type, geography, etc.) who do and do not have experience collecting food scraps
- Pilot focus group – Mid to late 2022
 - Part of program pilot
 - Will only include households within the geographic boundaries of the pilot
 - Provide feedback on the end-to-end user experience, including bag ordering website, customer service support and communication materials
- Ongoing
 - Ongoing community engagement education and outreach will continue as program rolls out



Communication Plans

The following communication efforts will occur for each relevant community as the program becomes available there:

- Promotion kit sent to municipalities, district councils, haulers, community-based organizations, community leaders, and other partners, including community-based organizations.
 - Kit will include talking points, social/newsletter graphics/messaging, and promotional/informational video.
- Mass mailing to all households.
- Press release to local media.

Once the program is widely launched, the following communication activities will occur:

- Sharing via county communication channels.
- Large-scale ad campaign.
- Social media.



Communication Notes

- **Please follow counties' lead in messaging.**
- Counties will provide directions on when to share messaging so that we are all sharing accurate, consistent information.
- Please refer resident questions on the program to your county contacts.
- Please let the counties know when you share messaging on this topic. It helps us track community response.
- **Keeping municipalities updated about this program is a top priority for the counties.**



Thank You





To

Honorable Mayor Furlong and City Council

Date

April 5, 2022

Agenda Placement # IV.B

Topic(s)

Subject

Tennis Representative

Background/Facts

Tennis will be here to talk about/ answer questions on their recycling and yard waste programs

Recommended Action

For informational purposes only. No recommendation

Attachments

None

Respectfully submitted,
Kari Erpenbach, Communications



To

Honorable Mayor Furlong and City Council

Date

April 5, 2022

Agenda Placement # IV.B

Topic(s)

Subject

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Background/Facts

Tennis will be here to talk about/ answer questions on their recycling and yard waste programs

Recommended Action

For informational purposes only. No recommendation

Attachments

None

Respectfully submitted,
Kari Erpenbach, Communications



To

Honorable Mayor Furlong and City Council

Date

April 5, 2022

Agenda Placement # IV.C

Topic(s)

Subject

Spring Clean up Information

Background/Facts

Kari Erpenbach will provide an update on our spring clean up event

Recommended Action

For informational purposes only. No recommendation.

Attachments

None

Respectfully submitted,
Kari Erpenbach, Communications