

# Organics Recycling Open House Q&A And Feedback

## Q&A

**Q1.** Could there be an option for people “pay for their neighbor”?

### ANSWER

A “pay for your neighbor” program could be explored for feasibility after the City Council gives direction as to which type of program the City will be implementing. The City would like to make organics recycling accessible and affordable for all residents.

**Q2.** Could we create neighborhood volunteers who could educate their neighbors and create buzz about the program?

### ANSWER

Once the City Council gives direction on a program, the City will explore public education campaigns for residents to learn more about organics recycling. Volunteers could be part of that effort.

**Q3.** How much of what I put in the recycling bin actually gets recycled?

### ANSWER

Recycling Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) are required to recover a minimum of 85 percent of recyclable materials that enter the facility. The State of Minnesota has strict requirements for MRFs and does not allow the landfilling of recyclable materials.

**Q4.** Why is the resident responsible to pay for disposal of organics?

### ANSWER

The State of Minnesota places responsibility for waste disposal on waste generators and producers. The resident would be considered a waste generator and therefore responsible for the cost associated with managing that waste. To incentivize waste reduction, recycling, and organics recycling over landfilling, the State and County tax landfilling services but not recycling and organics recycling services. Waste reduction is the best practice but is not always feasible for every scenario. The City’s Environmental Commission has considered exploring limitations on certain types of packaging and may evaluate this issue in the coming year.

## Comments

**C1.** I believe it should be required of all Golden Valley residents to recycle their organics. I do worry about another fee for those on fixed or low incomes. Could there be an option for people to “pay for their neighbor?” This allows neighborhoods to add an additional fee to their account and that money goes into a pot to allow for those on a fixed or low income to waive the fee. People could request this fee waiver.

Put time and energy into education. Could we create neighborhood volunteers who could educate their neighbors and create buzz about the program?

**C2.** Yes! Let’s get this going in GV! We’d prefer the all pay in model like recycling where everyone has a cart that gets picked up regularly. Our family composts in our backyard but only in the summer. This pick-up would provide more options for what can be composted and year-round service the coming year.

- C3.** I currently compost and take my compostables into Minneapolis to compost. I would LOVE to have a City-managed mandated program with all residents paying the same amount. I live in a condo association and would like to have the program mandated for all multi-family units as well.
- C4.** I have been composting on my own for years. Though to make it available city wide would be helpful to be able to encompass even more of the materials I do not place in my own compost bin, such as meat by products, bones etc. Do whatever necessary to get this program launched!
- C5.** Hello. My comment is: I live alone and I already have the smallest cart for a regular trash. On top of that the trash bags are not even completely full for a weekly pick up. During the winter I don't even bother to take the cart out every week since the trash freezes anyway and do it bi-weekly instead. With recycling similar story - I put the cart out every 4-6 weeks. So you see, I don't make that much trash already and just basically paying for air. So probably does my single old granny neighbor. My point is that I don't want to pay more \$ for organics recycling since I already pay for hauling away the trash I don't actually produce. See, you are saying that recycling is beneficial - less landfill space, more jobs, etc. BUT! How much of what I put into recycling bin actually gets recycled? REDUCE was on the top of that pyramid in your video. So where is the city ban on plastic bags? Or where is the city ban on carry out containers and single use plastics? Now organics - why is the resident getting charged for recycling programs rather than getting paid by the composting companies? They are making money by selling compost. To summarize: I'm against mandated organics recycling. I'm for organic recycling only if it free to the residents or on opt in basis. Thank you Andrey Alferov
- C6.** Hello- I am in favor of organics recycling for GV residents and thank you all for exploring. Sara Garry