

Memo

Date: January 14th, 2014

To: Tulsa Authority for the Recovery of Energy (“TARE”)

From: Trash Operations Task Force (Also referred to as the “Green Waste Task Force”)

Re: Recommendations related to Tulsa’s green waste system

SUMMARY

The Trash Operations Task Force (hereinafter referred to as the “Task Force”) recommends the following:

1. The Task Force recommends that Tulsa continues to have a green waste collection system separate from the solid waste collection system. Specifically, the Task Force recommends that a user fee green waste collection system be implemented in Tulsa.
2. The Task Force recommends that TARE should determine the collection frequency based on cost-savings and citizen input.
3. Users provide their own rigid containers (specifics outlined below).
4. Make a real commitment to education.

HISTORY

In November 2013, the Tulsa City Council formed a task force to involve citizens, receive input and to give direction towards solutions to the green waste issues facing the TARE Board. The Green Waste Task Force is comprised of a city councilor (or designee), a second person from their district and members of the TARE Board, as well as Councilor David Patrick and the Mayor’s representative, Jim Twombly, who also serve on TARE Board.

The first meeting held on November 26, 2013 had discussions regarding organization of the trash operations and council and presentation by Eric Lee regarding former and current trash collection systems in the city of Tulsa. In addition, goals and objectives of the task force were discussed. After this initial meeting, meetings were decided to be held every Tuesday.

The second meeting consists of a presentation data gathered from green waste pick up and a discussion from Roy Teeters covering transition from chipping to composting and related costs. The group discussed operations from other municipalities including similar sized and regional

cities. The meeting ended with healthy discussion with committee ideas on draft recommendations. Michael Patton also distributed educational materials on home composting.

The third meeting included the presentation from city staff and discussions with the TARE Board consultant, Scott Pasternak from Liedos. The discussion involved the dual use of carts and we discussed the process and timeline relating to trash ordinances. There was brief discussion about other solid waste solutions unrelated to green waste. The committee decided that those discussions were interesting but beyond the scope of our task force. We encourage the TARE board to entertain these proposals at a later date. The committee had lengthy discussions about drafts of recommendations for the pick-up service to relating communications to citizens.

The fourth meeting was held on December 17, 2013 and included a presentation by Roy Teeters regarding green waste but not limited to pick up data and service options. Discussion regarding green waste collections system including but not limited to a separate system but combined system. Continued items forming recommendations to green waste with citizens but not limited to public education.

The fifth meeting was held on January 7, 2014. The Task Force reviewed draft recommendations. The Task Force approved to recommend a user fee service. The Task Force also voted to recommend that the residents must provide the green waste containers (and removed the mention of paper bags).

The sixth (and final) meeting was held on January 14, 2014. The Task Force approved the recommendations as outlined in this document.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Continue to have a green waste collection system separate from the solid waste collection system: The Task Force recommends a user fee green waste collection system.

The Tulsa World's survey of citizen showed that 62.6% of residents wanted their green waste to be handled separately from trash and willing to pay a little more for that service. Only 21.6% of the customers surveyed indicated they approve of burning green waste. Further policy discussions need discussed as for whether small amounts of green waste are allowed in the grey carts or to be kept 100% separate.

The Task Force recommends a user fee green waste collection system. This recommendation allows residents to have the option of participating in a system where their green waste is processed, rather than disposed of with their solid waste.

By recommending a user fee collection system, residents can continue to dispose of their green waste in their solid waste cart. If residents dispose of their green waste in their solid waste cart, the lid must close.

Residents will still be able to dispose of their green waste by dropping it off at the City of Tulsa's green waste collection sites.

Users provide their own cart and must not bag their green waste (see Recommendation #3).

(2) The Task Force recommends that TARE should determine the collection frequency based on cost-savings and citizen input.

In Tulsa, the green waste collections cost is 2.5 million dollars per year. If the collection switched to every other week, the potential savings are over a million dollars. This idea should be surveyed with the citizens to see if this is acceptable. This frequency could be also changed during certain periods or after natural disasters for limb removal. We also think it could be possible to completely skip a couple months a year and allow those crews to work on other projects such as snow removal and pothole repair.

We recommend that TARE should decide collection frequency based on cost-savings and citizen input.

(3) Users provide their own rigid containers.

If a resident chooses to participate in the green waste collection system, the resident provides their own container. The container must be a rigid container no larger than 33 gallons (smaller containers are acceptable) and should weigh no more than 40 pounds when full.

The containers must be clearly marked to indicate that it is a green waste container. The Task Force recommends that TARE provide stickers that can be placed on these containers.

On collection days, users may place up to three (3) containers out for collection.

The Task Force encourages TARE to investigate the possibility of a composting facility. If a composting system is started, we encourage TARE to investigate the use of compostable paper bags (as a supplement to rigid containers).

(4) Make a real commitment to education

These changes will need clear explanation to citizens and we believe there is a need for continued commitment for green waste education and options including how citizens can take items directly to the green waste site. In addition, citizens should also know how they can best

handle the green waste themselves. We feel strongly that education efforts should include collaborating with TGOV, Tulsa Master Gardener's, The M.e.t., Tulsa Garden Center and Tulsa County Extension office, etc. While it is necessary to have education year-round, seasonal education should be stepped up in the fall when leaves are falling.

CONCLUSION

These four recommendations by the Green Waste Task Force are a result of citizen task force work and represent what we believe should be the long-term solution for green waste operations in Tulsa. We believe they can be implemented quickly, within few months' time, and using existing crews and resources. The collections, operations and education could also be contracted out to private companies if necessary.

We feel strongly that the green waste program is important to the citizens and achievable in Tulsa. We urge TARE to continue the wood chipping site and seriously study options for handling other green waste, including adding other sites around the city for green waste disposal.

In TARE's RFP process, we encourage that following these recommendations be a priority in bid selection. Proposals that closely follow these recommendations should be weighted to reflect our desire to give the citizens a quality and desired green waste program that keeps the material separate from the trash stream as much as possible.

Work should begin quickly to finalize the expired ordinance language to accompany these recommendations. It is important that there be ordinances in place for trash, recycling and green waste as soon as possible.

We also urge the TARE Board to continue to receive citizen input outside their regular TARE Board meetings and to make regular presentations of progress to the city council. We believe the TARE goals of a unified and affordable system that encourages waste reduction and recycling through volume based options for the citizens can be best achieved by following these recommendations.

Submitted by:

Karen Gilbert

City Council Chair

Trash Operations Task Force Chair (On behalf of the Trash Operations Task Force)

Attachment: Composting Capital and Annual O&M Cost.

Composting Capital and Annual O&M Cost

Initial Capital Cost

Capital Cost Estimate for Composting Facility

Item	Capital Cost	Useful Life (Years)	Annual Cost
Site Acquisition	\$450,000	20	\$37,000
Site Improvements			
Site Work	\$344,000	20	\$28,000
Site Infrastructure	\$108,000	20	\$9,000
Site Improvements Subtotal	\$452,000		\$37,000
Design/Engineering			
Design/Engineering (6%)	\$27,000	20	\$2,000
Permitting (2%)	\$9,000	20	\$7,000
Surveying and Soils Report	\$5,000	20	\$400
Construction Contingency (20%)	\$90,000	20	\$7,000
Design/Engineering Subtotal	\$131,000		\$10,400
Mobile Equipments	\$890,000	7	\$127,100
Total Capital Cost	\$1,923,000		\$211,500

Annual O&M Cost

Annual O&M Cost Estimate for Composting Technology

Item	O&M Cost
Labor	\$440,000
Building and Site Maintenance	\$8,000
Equipment Costs	\$83,000
Utilities – Building and Site	\$1,000
Rolling Stock Fuel Costs	\$179,300
STA Testing	\$1,000
Subtotal	\$712,300
Accounting, Supplies, Miscellaneous (5% of Subtotal)	\$35,600
Total Annual O&M Cost	\$747,900