
Sponsor: Public Health

Meeting Date: 11/19/2024

Title: Joint Powers Agreements for Recycling Funding

File Number: 2024-532

Background and Rationale:

The *Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Plan* requires municipalities to have long-term funding mechanisms in place for residential recycling. Cities have responded by using different mechanisms. Since 1991, the county has offered communities the option of using the county's solid waste service charge authority to collect recycling fees from their residents, using a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to implement this. The opportunity to enter a JPA has been offered to all municipalities within Ramsey County. The following five cities: Arden Hills, Lauderdale, North Oaks, Saint Paul, and Shoreview are seeking to use this option.

Under Minnesota Statutes 400.08, counties can establish and "collect just and reasonable rates and charges for solid waste management services provided by the county or by others under contract with the county." Cities do not have this authority and must contract with a county to use this tool. The property tax statements for properties in the participating cities reflect this charge as a separate line item labeled "Recycling."

JPA's for recycling funding have been renewed several times, including the current JPA's that terminate on December 31, 2024. There are no program changes proposed in the 2025 - 2029 JPA's. The JPA agreements continue to require that each city's waste disposal contracts comply with the "Public Entities" language Minnesota Statute 115A.46, subdivision 5, 115A.471. This means that public entities cannot act contrary to the waste management preference in the Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Plan for processing of trash (into energy or by composting) versus landfilling.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the Joint Powers Agreements with the cities of Arden Hills, Lauderdale, North Oaks, Saint Paul, and Shoreview for recycling funding for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2029.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Joint Powers Agreements.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Frethem, seconded by Commissioner McGuire.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Frethem, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: _____



Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County
Board