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**Sponsor:** Public Health

**Meeting Date:** 11/19/2024

**Title:** Yard Waste and Food Scraps Reciprocal Use Agreement

**File Number:** 2024-527

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**Background and Rationale:**

Ramsey County operates seven-yard waste sites, four located in Saint Paul and three located in northern suburbs. All sites accept leaves, grass clippings, and other soft plant material, four of the seven sites also accept tree and shrub waste. In addition, all sites accept food scraps which includes food scraps and compostable paper products. Washington County continues to develop collection sites where services are needed.

This Reciprocal Use Agreement allows residents in Ramsey and Washington counties use of yard waste facilities in both counties. The agreement includes four of the Ramsey County sites: Arden Hills, Battle Creek, Frank & Sims, and White Bear Township sites due to geographic proximity to Washington County. The other three sites are not part of the agreement due to location and seasonal constraints on site use capacities. The agreement would include food scraps at the yard waste sites but would not include use of finished compost at Ramsey County facilities as demand by Ramsey County residents alone typically exceeds current supply.

Each county would calculate annual operating costs and annually invoice the other county for use of its facilities. The term of the Reciprocal Use Agreement would commence upon execution of the Agreement and shall terminate on December 31, 2029.

Public Health has designed this agreement to assure that service to Ramsey County residents is not compromised. Specifically, either county can remove a site from availability should service be negatively affected, and promotion of site availability is initially limited and is always reviewed by both counties.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the Reciprocal Use Agreement with Washington County for the period upon execution through December 31, 2029.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.

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