
Sponsor: Public Health

Meeting Date: 9/21/2021

Title: Single Source Agreement with EcoConsilium for Technical Assistance for the School Waste Reduction and Recycling Program

File Number: 2021-491

Background and Rationale:

The Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Master Plan (“Master Plan”) guides public and private activities related to waste management for the period of 2018-2038 and outlines county actions over the current six-year period, 2018-2024.

The Master Plan contains several strategies related to waste reduction and recycling in schools including a strategy that all public K-12 schools have robust and stable recycling and organics programs. In addition, schools are required by state statute to have recycling programs. To support this, the Master Plan provides for the continuation of technical assistance and grant funding to schools.

School recycling programs educate future generations about the importance of waste reduction, recycling, and overall environmental stewardship. Recycling helps schools save on disposal costs and taxes associated with solid waste disposal. Ramsey County has long supported opportunities for waste reduction, recycling and organics management in schools.

EcoConsilium offers a full spectrum of waste diversion consulting services and has provided waste reduction, recycling and organics diversion technical assistance to Ramsey and Washington Counties since 2003. EcoConsilium currently holds a contract with Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (“R&E”) to provide technical assistance for private and small charter schools in Ramsey and Washington Counties. R&E is governed by the joint powers Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board, which is comprised of commissioners from the two counties. Through R&E, the counties strive to best protect health and the environment to meet the state’s 75% recycling goal.

Public Health is seeking a single source contract with EcoConsilium to provide the same waste reduction, recycling, and organics diversion technical assistance for the remaining schools in the county that are not serviced under the R&E contract, which includes the public-school districts and the larger charter schools. From 2012 to 2020, EcoConsilium provided technical assistance to schools through the Ramsey County Public Entity Innovation grant (PEIG) program. For the period May 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, EcoConsilium provided technical assistance to schools through a sole source agreement. As there is a need to extend the project timelines, an additional single source contract with EcoConsilium is necessary to provide for the continuity in the school waste reduction and recycling programing in the schools across the county, and as a cost and time saving measure for the county.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the single source agreement with EcoConsilium, Inc., 8457 Meadow Lake Road North, New Hope, Minnesota, 55428, for technical assistance services for the School Waste Reduction and Recycling Program for the period of October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023, with the option to renew for one additional two-year period, in a not-to-exceed amount of \$400,000.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to the agreement in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of available funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Frethem, seconded by Commissioner MatasCastillo.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

Absent: - 1: Carter

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board