Work Session

Agenda Item #	4
Meeting Date	October 21, 2013
Prepared By	Daryl Braithwaite Public Works Director
Approved By	Brian T. Kenner, City Manager

Discussion Item	Compost Collection Program and Proposed Expansion
Background	In February, the City started two pilot collection programs for food waste. One program of 300 households is collected by City crews. Registration, education and collection containers for that program were provided by the Compost Crew. The second program includes 65 households and receives all services (except containers, which were provided by the City) from a contractor, growingSOUL Both programs were well received by participants. 70% of the registrants set out food waste containers each week and the average weight collected per set out was over 12 pounds. The City received survey responses from about 30% of the participants and the satisfaction with the program was rated high. 95% of the respondents reported a reduction in their weekly trash due to the program and 90% wanted to continue with the program after the pilot. The City has continued the program beyond the original pilot which ended in July, with only a few participants dropping out, most reporting they did not generate enough food waste themselves to make it worthwhile. At the Council meeting, staff will provide a Power Point that will include more details of the pilot programs, participation rates, costs, and participant responses to a survey. This presentation will also be made available on the City's website. Due to the success of the first pilot program and the interest by others in the community to participate, the City has been evaluating how to expand the pilot to additional homes. An RFP was advertised and two responses were received. The low bidder offered a price of $45,065.31, or $2.65 per home per week, for collection of 500 additional homes. The fee includes promotion, registration, collection containers, compostable liners, and weekly collection for 34 weeks. The higher bidder offered a price of $6.25 per home per week, not including collection containers. The Department recommends award of a contract to The Compost Crew for collection of the additional 500 homes. The City will continue the existing 300 household program currently collected by City crews. Together these two programs will provide the service to 800 homes. The percentage of households that agree to participate has averaged 30%. In order to reach a participation rate of 800 homes, we anticipate offering the program to 2,810 homes. The City currently provides waste collection to 3,300 homes. Through these two programs, the service will be offered to almost all single family homes in the City.
Policy	The Council seeks to ensure that Takoma Park is a sustainable community.
Fiscal Impact	The cost of 34 weeks of the 500 household collection contract will be $45,063.51

Attachments	Presentation
Recommendation	Receive presentation
Special Consideration	