



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. Curbside Compost Co-op Presentation
 - B. ElectroFUN Faribault with ReCharge America
4. Announcements and Updates
 - A. Tree Preservation Engagement Update
 - B. Ground Mounted Solar RFP
 - C. Community Solar Garden Subscription Expansion
5. Adjournment



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: July 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Curbside Compost Co-op Presentation

Background:

Curbside Compost Cooperative is a Rice County-based compost collection service. They have been operating in Northfield for over 5 years, and recently started working on expanding to Faribault, MN. There was a recent article in the Faribault Daily about their services and efforts to expand. In addition to compost collection services, they also engage in advocacy and education on the benefits of composting.

Tonight, they are giving a presentation. Attached is a presentation from 2022 delivered at their 5th anniversary celebration.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator recommends a discussion about solid waste, and different ways the City could support composting, including, but not limited to, curbside compost collection.

Attachments:

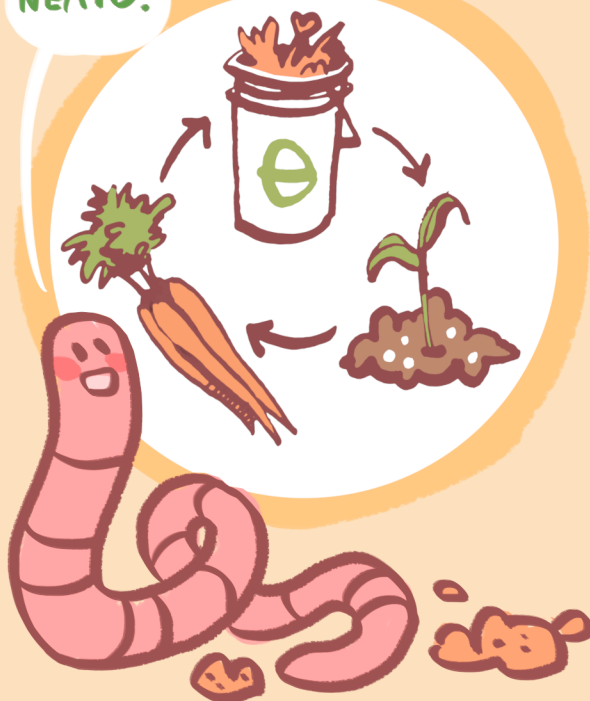
1. Compost Co-op Trifold English
2. Environmental Commission Presentation

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is an accelerated version of nature's process of recycling decomposed organic materials into a rich soil. Anything that was once living will decompose.

By composting your organic waste, you are returning nutrients back into the soil in order for the cycle of life to continue. The finished product will be a healthy, hearty soil!

NEATO!



SUBSCRIBE TO WEEKLY CURBSIDE COLLECTION!



HOW MUCH IS IT?
\$10 PER MONTH
(OR LESS IF YOU NEED IT TO BE)

WHEN DOES THE SERVICE START?
THE WEEK AFTER YOU SIGN UP!

CAN I HAVE MORE THAN ONE BUCKET?
YES, EACH ADDITIONAL BUCKET COSTS \$ 3.00 PER MONTH

MORE QUESTIONS?

Website:

www.curbsidecompostmn.coop

Email:

info@curbsidecompostmn.coop

Phone:

507-301-6861 (call or text)



A LOCAL COOPERATIVE BUSINESS DEDICATED TO SERVING PEOPLE AND PLANET THROUGH ORGANICS RECYCLING

COMPOST!



WHY COMPOST?

- 1 The Rice County landfill is filling up! Between 40%-80% of garbage can usually be composted. We want to preserve the life of this landfill so that we don't have to build another.
- 2 Compost is super valuable to farmers and gardeners! Right now, this incredible soil building material is going to waste when it is thrown away.
- 3 When we throw organic matter (like food scraps) into the landfill, it is not able to decompose properly. This results in methane emissions, which is a significant contributor to climate change. According to the EPA, landfills are the 3rd largest source of human caused methane emissions in the U.S.



OTHER WAYS TO COMPOST

- 1 Bring your compost to a city drop site, located at the city maintenance facility (1710 Riverview Drive, open year round) or the city yard waste site (1081 Armstrong Road, open mid April through mid November)
- 2
- 3 Set up a backyard compost pile or vermicompost system! For more info on these, send us an email!

For yard waste, you can bring it to the city yard waste site or sign up for a curbside collection service through your city's website.



mn MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Curbside Compost is Coming to Faribault!

6 years
of collection

800
households

**3 million pounds
of organic waste**

**That's 352,941
emptied
buckets!**



Why does that matter?

When organic waste is dumped in a landfill, it decomposes without oxygen, which leads to methane emissions. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 25x more powerful than CO₂.

Landfills are the 3rd largest source of human-caused methane emissions in the US!

On top of that, the Rice County Landfill is expected to last us until 2038 given current and projected rates of input. As the landfill fills up, we are faced with the decision of either expanding the landfill onto more land, or **committing ourselves and our community to alternatives.**



How we can meet this challenge:

*Get more people
to compost their
waste*

- Talk to residents of Northfield, Dundas, and Faribault about composting
- Make our service accessible

Talk to Faribault residents about composting

- We have multiple ways that we get the word out about composting
- The past year, we've had lots of opportunities to reach people who wouldn't normally hear about our service!

Educational materials

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT COMPOST

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR Waste

Compost

Northfield Curbside Compost
Accepts organic waste, but not yard waste. You can sign up by visiting <https://NorthfieldCompost.com> or contacting N.C.C. at 507-301-6861 or NorthfieldComposting@gmail.com.

City of Nfld. Compost Drop-Off Sites

MAINTENANCE FACILITY (1710 Riverview Dr)
Dumpster located on the east side of the Northfield Street & Park office building. Organic waste accepted, yard waste not accepted at this site.

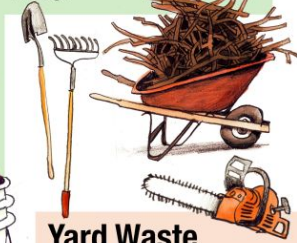
NORTHFIELD COMPOST SITE (1081 Armstrong Rd)
Organic waste and yard waste are accepted here. Check webpage for hours & updates: <https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/336/Organics-Recycling/Composting>

Open 4/13 - 11/14
(closed on holidays)

M closed
T-F 2-7pm (or sunset)
S 8-5pm (or sunset)
Su 12-5pm (or sunset)

What is compostable through NCC and the city drop-off sites?

- Foods (no grease or oil)
- Soiled paper
- Egg cartons
- Pizza boxes
- Certified compostable plastics
- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Plant trimmings
- Popsicle sticks or toothpicks



Yard Waste

Curbside yard waste
Pickup is available starting in mid-April and runs into the fall. Residents should contact the city of Northfield at 507-645-8833 (ext 2) to sign up for the service.

For more information on yard waste services, visit <https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/1301/Yard-Waste>

of building the practice community by having friends, neighbors, and why this matters and do it in Northfield.

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urbside compost
hfieldcompost.com

to a drop site at the city (1710 Riverview, ailaable year round) or facility (1081 Northfield, open from d-Novemeber)

mpost pile or a 1 (email @gmail.com to ation on this)

compost will be mphlet soon that will ethods of composting I like a copy of that say, email @gmail.com

A few reasons why composting matters to us

-When organic waste breaks down in the landfill, it is not able to compost properly. This results in pollution in the form of methane gas emissions into the air and leachate into the groundwater.

-Less bulk going to the landfill means fewer landfills have to be constructed and maintained. Composting our organic waste is one key way to reduce the amount of materials going to the landfill.

-Organic waste, when composted properly, is a valuable resource for creating nutrient rich soil for gardeners, farmers, landscapers, construction projects, and other soil related endeavors.

Why does composting matter to you?

It's important for you to reflect on this so that it can be central in your conversations. Engage the other person in why this might matter to them.



BACKYARD COMPOST

WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED?

- Fruit
- Vegetable scraps
- Uncooked or steamed vegetables
- Corn cobs & husks
- Egg shells
- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds and filters



WHAT SHOULD BE LEFT OUT?

- Meat
- Bones
- Sauces
- Gravy
- Dairy
- Fat
- Oil
- Cat & dog feces
- Treated lumber or sawdust
- Large amounts of wood ash

FITS & USES

USES:

- Top dress gardens, lawns, and trees
- Surface mulch
- Potting mixture
- Mixing into garden soil
- Compost tea

More information at
NorthfieldCompost.com



CURING THE COMPOST

- Let the compost sit for 2-3 months
- Water periodically

TURNING IT

- Mix material as you make the pile
- Turn after 6 weeks or 1-2 times per month
- Turn a few days after a temperature drop within the pile

CARBON NITROGEN

- Brown material
- Dried leaves, sticks
- Decays slowly
- 1/2-3/4 of the pile by volume
- Green material
- Food waste, fresh grass
- Decays rapidly
- 1/4-3/4 of the pile by volume

WATER

- The compost pile should be as damp as a wrung out sponge



Attending events

So far we've been to:

- Maple Syrup Fun Run at River Bend Nature Center
- GROWTH Garden Club
- Shattuck St. Mary's

And we are headed to:

- Faribault Rotary Club
- Electric Vehicle Ride-n-Drive



Door-knocking!



- This summer we've been hitting the streets talking to residents about our service and composting in general
- A face-to-face conversation is the best way to talk to someone about composting
- We've knocked on 791 doors in Faribault so far!

We need a service that people can afford

- Which is why we have a sliding scale!
- You can choose what to pay depending on what makes sense for you, which lets us offer lower prices and some free subscriptions like the Faribault food shelf



Cannon the Compost Cat says: "A sliding scale makes composting accessible to everyone!"

Our payment tiers:

★ Tier 1 (yearly): \$120/year

★ Tier 2 (yearly): \$180/year

★ Tier 3 (yearly): \$240/year

★ Tier 4 (yearly): \$300/year

★ Tier 5 (yearly): \$60/year

★ Tier 1 (monthly): \$10/month

★ Tier 2 (monthly): \$15/month

★ Tier 3 (monthly): \$20/month

★ Tier 4 (monthly): \$25/month

★ Tier 5 (monthly): \$5/month

Another way we can meet this challenge:

Build a local composting site

- Keep the cycle local
- Make finished compost available to people in Northfield, Dundas, & Faribault
- Grant from the MPCA to work toward this

We've managed so far without a site

- Currently the waste we collect is brought to a composting site in Shakopee run by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC).
- Rice county changed an ordinance that previously prevented CCC from running our own site



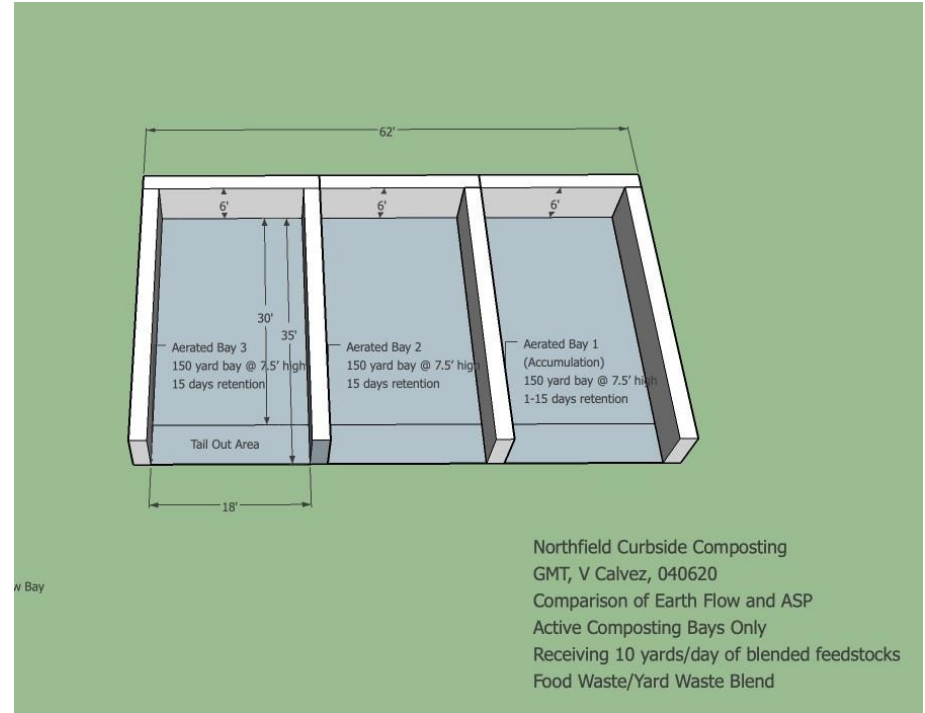
But we need to keep the cycle local



- A local composting site will:
 - Make the finished compost available to community members
 - Create local green jobs
 - Cut transportation costs and emissions
- We are in talks with locals about a symbiotic collaboration between our businesses

This is a big project!

- It will be another couple years until we have a site up and running
- We're working on obtaining equipment, financing, plans, permits, workers, and a whole lot more
- In 2020 we were awarded a \$100,000 grant from the MN Pollution Control Agency
- This is a big help, but there's still a ways to go







What can you do to increase the number of people composting and to help us build a local composting site?

Help us get started in Faribault!

- We have 50 people pre-registered in Faribault... but we need **100-150!**
- Faribault is the biggest town in Rice county, composting here would be huge, you can:
 - Talk to neighbors, friends, small business owners, or coworkers about composting
 - Mention us online (thanks Mathias!)
 - Encourage the City to participate
 - Sign up yourself!

Pre-register on our website

Go to

www.curbsidecompostmn.coop

And click on the Faribault Collection tab

**Thank you so much for working alongside us to
bring composting to the people**



**We couldn't do this without our
supporters and subscribers!**



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Coordinator
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: July 24, 2023
SUBJECT: ElectroFUN Faribault with ReCharge America

Background:

The City has teamed up with Recharge America, Faribault Chamber of Commerce, Xcel Energy, Trystar, Harry Brown's, and others to host an electrification fair and electric vehicle Ride-n-Drive event. The event will be held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on September 23rd at Trystar - 15765 Acorn Trail, Faribault. The event will feature a selection of electric vehicles for the public to explore, ride, and test drive, with people on hand to discuss their experience of owning and/or operating electric vehicles. There will also be a selection of electric equipment on display, including electric mowers, snowblowers, and more.

Trystar will offer tours of their facility, and showcase some of the equipment they manufacture related to electrification. There will be food trucks and activities for children as well.

Additionally, Recharge America has \$2,500 in matching funds available for a non-profit that has not been selected yet. These funds can be accessed through sponsorship of the event.

[The organizing committee is seeking exhibitors, volunteers, and sponsors to participate in the event.](https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/o0CCUn) Volunteers can sign up at: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/o0CCUn>

EV owners interested in participating can sign up at: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/tmCCrT> Exhibitors can sign up at: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/qECctt>

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator requests that the Environmental Commission discuss and make a recommendation regarding the following items:

1. Should the Environmental Commission spend some of its annual budget on helping sponsor this event?

2. Does the Environmental Commission want to participate as an exhibitor at the event? If so, what would they like to promote?
3. Does the Environmental Commission have any suggestions for non-profits that would be appropriate recipients of associated fund-raising?
4. If the Environmental Commission has suggestions for other potential exhibitors, please connect them with the Community Development Coordinator.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: July 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Tree Preservation Engagement Update

Background:

The Community Development Coordinator will provide an update on efforts to engage with stakeholders and community members regarding the draft Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance.

Recommendation:

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: July 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Ground Mounted Solar RFP

Background:

The City Council has approved the release of a Request for Proposals for a consultant to design and install a ground-mounted solar array on two acres of vacant land at the Public Works facility located at 1200 Belview Trl. The recent state and federal incentives that have been released to assist with projects like this have changed the financial realities of renewable energy projects and the City is interested in exploring different financial models in light of these changes. The RFP includes a provision indicating that the installation should be complemented by pollinator-friendly prairie-style planting.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator has no request or recommendation at this time.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: July 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Community Solar Garden Subscription Expansion

Background:

The City currently subscribes to community solar gardens to meet between 20% and 30% of its electrical energy needs. Last year, the City saved approximately \$37,000 through its community solar garden subscriptions. In a recent conversation between the Community Development Coordinator and CleanChoice Energy - the company that manages our subscriptions - it was revealed that one of the solar gardens we subscribe to has additional capacity. The City Council has approved increasing the amount of energy we receive through solar garden subscriptions. The Community Development Coordinator will be working with CleanChoice Energy and others to identify available capacity at qualifying solar gardens.

Recommendation:

With recent federal and state incentives reducing the cost for on-site solar installations, it is expected that entities previously subscribed to community solar may want to pursue installing their own arrays. As this occurs, they will be looking to off-load their community solar garden subscriptions, which could create an opportunity for the City to increase its subscribed capacity at reduced rates. The Community Development Coordinator requests if the Environmental Commission is aware of other organizations who wish to reduce or eliminate their community solar garden subscriptions, to let him know or connect him to those organizations.

Attachments: