Background

In order to divert materials from the landfill and to meet State Mandates, the City has established a green waste program whereby grass, tree trimmings, tree removal, and other such vegetation or wood products are separated from the waste stream, chopped, and composted.

Policy

The purpose of this policy is to define what the City will do with the compost and, in some cases, green waste that is chopped, chipped, or shredded but not composted. In addition, the purpose of the policy is to generate revenue from the sale of these materials that can be used to offset capital improvements or operating costs of the City’s solid waste collection system, the transfer facility, and green waste program.

Procedure

The sale of compost or chopped wood products will occur in one of the following ways:

1. Bulk sale by the cubic yard to private individuals or businesses that want to purchase the materials.
2. Bulk sale to any cogeneration plant that wishes to purchase the material for fuel.
3. Sale by the bag to individuals or to stores for resale, provided all permits are obtained and weights and measure standards are met.

Pricing

Each winter the Solid Waste Department shall establish a price list for the sale of Options 1 and 3 above to be used during the remainder of the year. Sales by Option 2 will be done by public contract to be approved by the City Council if the price is less than the off-the-street price. The goals of the pricing are to raise as much money as possible, to not have to carry any compost for more than a year, and to offset the costs of mandatory waste stream diversion.

Hauling Costs

The hauling of any purchased compost will be the responsibility of the buyer, unless the City establishes a delivered price that is built into the sale price and paid by the buyer.

Sale to Public Agencies

The sale of compost to public agencies or other City departments should be based on 70 percent of the posted price schedule provided the materials are used for landscape or beautification projects within the city.
Sale to Energy Plants

The sale of compost to energy plants shall be based on:

- turning over inventory
- not exceeding the capacity of the compost area
- generating revenues
- not storing large amounts of compost

To this end, the Solid Waste Department shall estimate each year how much compost can be sold as bulk or bag sales and how much compost can be sold for fuel. This determination will then be used to solicit offers to purchase excess tonnage by energy producers.

Revenues

Revenues from the sale of compost will be used to offset costs of operation or capital improvements for the City’s solid waste collection system, the transfer facility, and green waste program.