

Item

Exploration of a Public/Private Partnership for Recycling in Douglas



Responsible Staff Contact

JD Cox, John Harbarger, Alan Gorrell



Recommendations

Approve Lease Agreement

Executive Summary

This lease agreement would be a first step to studying the feasibility of a public/partnership to provide recycling services in Douglas. A public/private partnership could be a “win/win.” It would be a win for the City as it currently is not feasible to provide recycling services without raising costs to residents; and would be a win for the lessee who then can collect, bale, and ship the recyclables for sale.

Temporary Lease Agreement - Exploratory Efforts

After an initial analysis and review by both 307 Disposal as well as City staff, and consulting with the City Attorney, it was agreed that a proper exploration of a public/private partnership for recycling could be best be accomplished by entering into a temporary (6 month) agreement for the lease of an area within the shop premises located at the City’s landfill building. The lease agreement also provides the framework by which the City will resume picking up of cardboard-only at the recycling bins throughout the community and instead of delivering them to the landfill will instead deliver them to the leased area of the shop premises, where 307 can then bale and transport to market for sale as the company deems appropriate. The agreement is written purposefully to allow 307 Disposal the ability to explore other recycling opportunities beyond cardboard, when it is ready to do so.



Long-term Lease & Recycling Agreement

Following the completion of the Scope and Feasibility phase, and if it is determined that it is indeed feasible, then the City would issue an RFQ for the establishing a long-term partner and long-term lease of facilities for recycling purposes.

Background

2016

Douglas began recycling in 2016. There were two dedicated employees hired for the recycle program. We accepted aluminum, cardboard, three different types of plastic, steel cans, magazines, and newspapers. There were locations in some of the trailers for accepting glass, however there was no market for it, and was disposed of in the landfill.

2019 - Recycling was discontinued, except for aluminum cans

According to Landfill Supervisor Allen Gorrell, a number of conditions had changed that brought about changes to Douglas' recycling program, including the following:

1. WYCO (the company who accepted our recycling) was purchased by Waste Management.
2. This new company started charging more for the semi-trailer that would haul our recycled items and began to charge an additional fee for pickup.
3. The market for recyclable materials dried up (previously shipped to China).
4. This resulted in an upside down cost structure where materials that we could previously sell by the ton now cost by the ton.
5. Additionally, it was difficult to keep employees in the recycle positions.
6. Without a distribution center to take recycling (while remaining cost positive) and without the ability to fill the recycling positions, all recycling except for aluminum cans, was discontinued in 2019.

Following the discontinuance of recycling, the City maintained recycling dumpsters and the public continued to use them. Unfortunately, this keeps the appearance that our recycle program is continuing, when in fact, all recyclables in a dumpster are just being delivered to the landfill with regular trash, save aluminum cans.

Spring/Summer 2022

In Spring of 2022, some public pressure began to mount that soon revived the conversation regarding recycling. After exploration of different options, the City Council approved Resolution 2022-15 at a June 29, 2022, Special Call meeting that established a Recycling Task Force that would explore the feasibility of recycling in Douglas. Subsequently, the City engaged in a media blitz to offer the opportunity to the community apply to serve on the task force. The media campaign, which ran for about a month and included radio and newspaper advertising as well as website and Facebook, netted only one applicant. Thus, the Recycling Task Force did not materialize.

Fall/Winter 2022

In August 2022, Don Blackburn of 307 Disposal reached out to discuss recycling ideas. This first phone call, then led to another discussion, which in turn led to several more between 307 Disposal and the City. At the August 22 worksession, the City Administrator reported to the Council that discussions had occurred and were continuing, which eventually led to this proposal being submitted.

Planned Steps in the Exploration of a Public/Private Partnership for Recycling

Phase 1 - "Scope & Feasibility " (Understanding the revenue stream)



1. Lease Agreement for City Facilities & Equipment
2. City/307 partner for full-scale public relations campaign to encourage placing cardboard in recycling bins
3. City deliver cardboard to City facilities
4. Company provides personnel to operate City equipment on City facilities
5. Company may bale cardboard collected and remove it for sale
6. Lessor conduct test run
 - a. Do a test run
 - b. Use existing balers
 - c. Provide manpower

Phase 2 - Analysis & Assessment

1. Company & City analyze and assess
2. Identify grants/funding opportunities
 - a. City has already identified an EPA, with deadline in
3. Scope developed
4. Negotiate a fair rate with the City
5. Submit for a grant -
 - a. Get baler;
 - b. Land Agreement
 - c. Separate Facility at Landfill (200x200x20' (H))

Phase 3 - RFQ & Contracts

1. City issue RFQ
2. City select company based upon qualifications
3. City/Selected company sign contracts

Phase 4 - Implementation

Tests to be Conducted:

1. Cardboard
2. Paper - future
3. Plastic - future
4. Aluminum - future
5. Other?

Alignment to Strategic Goals and/or Other Plans

Strategic Plan : Although Recycling does not currently appear as a part of the City of Douglas Strategic Goals per se, the City of Douglas has had a long-standing history of recycling.

Budget/Fiscal Impact

Fund/Department Landfill/34
Project/Line Item(s) Recycling/Salaries & Wages/Benefits



CITY OF **DOUGLAS** WYOMING
HOME OF THE JACKALOPE.

Agenda Item Report City Council - November 28, 2022

Budgeted Amount <<Alan sending information for 2 runs/week>>
Anticipated Amount

Action Requested/ Recommended Motion

Move to approve the 6-month lease agreement with 307 Disposal for the exploration of a public/private partnership in recycling for the community.

Reviewed/Approved

- Community Development
- Law Enforcement
- City Administrator
- City Clerk

- Public Works
- Legal
- Finance