THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: May 9, 2023

Subject: Interlocal Agreement with Buncombe County to Manage and Fund Food Scraps Drop-Off Program

Staff Resource(s): Kiera Bulan, Sustainability Program Manager
Bridget Herring, Sustainability Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County for Food Scraps Drop-Off program co-management.

Background:

- The City and County's joint Food Scraps Drop-Off program is a strategy for the City to make progress on municipal waste reduction highlighted in activity 17 in the Municipal Climate Action Plan and Food Policy Action Plan.
- Food Scraps Drop-Off pilot program was launched in September 2021 at 1 site and has expanded, in collaboration with Buncombe County, to include 6 sites located within the City of Asheville and 2 sites in Buncombe County.
- To date, 160 tons of food scraps have been diverted from the landfill.
- 2,300 households have registered for program participation.
- The City and County have both received grants to launch and expand the pilot program for the past two years and are now seeking to operationalize the program management through more formal collaboration.
- Joint program management will reduce staff work required for program administration due to Buncombe County holding one contract with the vendor.
- The interlocal agreement with Buncombe County is the proposed instrument that enables the City and County to co-manage and equally co-fund hauling services to support Food Scraps Drop-Off program operations.
- The interlocal agreement will allow the City and County to evenly split the cost to collect and haul food scraps at drop-off sites within city limits.
- The duration of this agreement will be up to 5 years provided conditions of agreement remain the same.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Vendor outreach will be conducted by Buncombe County as the lead contract administrator. City staff will provide a list of registered MWBE vendors to Buncombe County and to the current hauling vendor for subcontracting opportunities

Council Goal(s):

- A Clean and Healthy Environment
- Improve/Expand Core Services

Committee(s):

- Environment and Safety Council Committee, April 25, 2023, voted 3-0 to recommend to the full City Council adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Buncombe County for City of Asheville Food Scraps drop-Off program co-management.

Pro(s):

- Diverts organic matter away from landfill avoiding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Contributes to City's waste reduction goal, climate emergency declaration and food policy action plan
- Supports implementation of the City's Municipal Climate Action Plan
- Expands access to composting for residents in multifamily housing and those who experience challenges with bear activity

Con(s):

- Driving food scraps to drop-off locations generates vehicle carbon emissions

Fiscal Impact:

- For the first year of the agreement, the City will contribute 50% of hauling fees for food scraps drop-off sites located within Asheville City limits not to exceed $15,000 in FY24
- The Sustainability adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year includes $15,000 to manage and implement the Food Scraps Drop-Off program.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County for Food scraps Drop-Off program co-management

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BUNCOMBE COUNTY FOR FOOD SCRAPS DROP-OFF PROGRAM CO-MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-461, units of local government may enter into agreements with each other in order to jointly exercise any power or function of local government; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution No. 14-27, the City adopted a resolution establishing a 50% municipal solid waste reduction goal; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution No. 17-257, the City adopted a Food Policy Action Plan including a resource stewardship focus area; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution No 23-70, the City adopted a resolution adopting the municipal climate action plan for municipal sustainability goals and initiatives which includes strategies to make progress on municipal waste reduction; and

WHEREAS, the Food Scraps Drop-Off pilot program was launched in September 2021 at 1 site and has expanded, in collaboration with Buncombe County, to include 6 sites located within the City of Asheville and 2 sites in Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, City and County desire to enter into an interlocal agreement for a period not to exceed 5 years, in order to co-manage and equally co-fund hauling and collection services to support Food Scraps Drop-Off program operations; and

WHEREAS, for the first year of the agreement, the City will contribute 50% of hauling fees for food scraps drop-off sites located within Asheville City limits not to exceed $15,000 in FY24;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County for City of Asheville Food Scraps Drop-Off program co-management.

Read, approved and adopted this the 9th day of May, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney