

City Council Agenda Item Memo

From: Charlie Kuhn, Solid Waste Manager

Council Meeting: September 23, 2025

Subject: Food Waste Composting Pilot Program

Presenter: Charlie Kuhn, Solid Waste Manager

Summary and Recommended Action:

The SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources has asked the City's Solid Waste Division to participate in a Food Waste Composting program within the City of Brookings. This pilot program will run from mid-October 2025 through October 2026.

Item Details:

The Solid Waste Division will place 3 - 4 collection bins at various locations throughout the City. These bins will be accessible to the public 24 hours a day for the disposal of food scraps. Solid Waste staff will collect the food waste from the bins on a weekly basis, or more frequently if needed, and transport it to the landfill.

To support participation, the Solid Waste Division will provide compostable bags for residents to use when collecting and disposing of their food scraps. These bags will be available at the collection sites, allowing residents to take a new bag when dropping off their scraps.

Once the food waste is delivered to the landfill, staff will weigh it and deposit it in a designated area within the Citizens Campus. Keeping the food waste separate from yard waste will enable staff to effectively monitor, mix, turn, and sample the compost throughout the process.

At the conclusion of the pilot project, the City will evaluate the overall success of the program and determine whether to proceed with making it a permanent service for the community.

Legal Consideration:

None.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

Sustainability – The City of Brookings will meet environmental, community and economic desires and needs without compromising future generations' quality of life by strategically planning, implementing and maintaining infrastructure and facilities.

Financial Consideration:

The cost to start this pilot program will be paid for by the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, with lab testing being provided by the SDDANR.

Approximate start up cost:

State Permits (waived by the State)	\$ 0
Testing costs (State Grant funded)	\$ 0
Signage / Marketing	\$ 500
Compost Bags	\$ 250
Compost Bag Holders	\$ 500
Compost Bag Stands	\$1,000
Field Test Kit	<u>\$ 250</u>
TOTAL COSTS	\$2,500

Supporting Documentation:

Handout

Presentation