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www.eurekarecycling.org

Reduce waste today through innovative resource management.
Reach a waste-free tomorrow by demonstrating that waste is preventable not inevitable.

URGENT: ACTION NEEDED

Contact your council member today!

Dedicated to the Sustainability of Recycling Recycling in Minneapolis

The City of Minneapolis is making an important decision about how recycling will be handled in Minneapolis. The city put out a request for proposals in November and will be entering into a new three year contract for the processing of collected recyclables. After reviewing the submitted proposals, the Minneapolis Public Works staff recommended Recycle America Alliance (a subsidiary of Waste Management Inc.-WMI) as the city’s recycling processor. The Transportation and Public Works Committee in charge of making the decision felt that the staff might have overlooked important issues in their recommendation so they requested a more in-depth analysis of the proposals. They are expected to make their decision February 3rd.

#1: Eureka Recycling is offering the City of Minneapolis a better deal.

WMI’s proposal offers the city a “fixed” revenue for their recyclables. This deprives the city of money that will be made selling their materials in good or even average markets like those we experienced in 2002 and 2003. The revenue from selling materials helps offset the cost of collecting the material. The more revenue the city receives, the more sustainable recycling becomes. Eureka Recycling is dedicated to the sustainability of recycling. We believe that every community must receive their fair share of the revenues for their recyclables because those revenues allow cities to keep recycling services intact and offer additional services to reduce waste.

Eureka Recycling would give 100% of those revenues to the city while WMI would keep all of the revenue above their “fixed rate.” If you look at 2002 and 2003, the difference in WMI and Eureka Recycling proposals may be close but the forecast is that the city would leave more and more money with WMI. This is a result of the recycling markets becoming more mature and the demand for recycled paper increasing, especially from China.

RISI, a recognized source for independent economic analysis, provides the following historical pricing and forecasts for newspaper and cardboard, the majority of the materials collected.

PAPER GRADE	2002	2003	2004	2005
ONP #8 (newspapers)	\$58	\$63	\$101	\$85
OCC #11 (corrugated cardboard)	\$65	\$65	\$107	\$88

At the 2002 and 2003 pricing in the table above, Eureka Recycling was already offering more revenues than WMI. Both Eureka Recycling and WMI provided the city with floor pricing that protects the city in catastrophic market conditions. All indications are that markets have been strengthening since 2001 and will continue to rise.

~over~

Good News – It worked!

Eureka Recycling started its own recycling operations in Saint Paul (a collection fleet and a recycling center) because it did not receive competitive prices for Saint Paul's contract when it looked for a new contract in 1999. At the time, WMI offered renewal prices at 30-35% higher rates. They did not offer Saint Paul the price or revenues that they now offer Minneapolis. One of the reasons that Eureka Recycling started offering these services was to inspire WMI and other companies to offer competitive prices—and it worked.

#2: Eureka Recycling will ensure that materials get recycled.

Every recycling program must throw away some of the materials that residents put out to recycle. The city of Minneapolis currently recycles over 99% of what is collected from residents. Less than 1% must be tossed! These materials must be handled properly at the recycling center to make sure they end up as new products. Eureka Recycling makes sure that materials are kept separate and sold to markets for their highest and best use. Only when absolutely necessary will Eureka Recycling use secondary markets. This means that Eureka Recycling will strive to make sure that the glass bottle you recycle will be shipped off to become another glass bottle, not be used for landfill cover.

#3: Eureka Recycling is a community-based, nonprofit organization that shares the community's interests.

The City of Minneapolis uses a number of criteria to determine who to contract with. Eureka Recycling meets all of those requirements and offers a 17-year history of community-based environmental programs.

- **Living Wage:** Eureka Recycling is committed to paying its employees a living wage. We do not use temporary labor arrangements to avoid paying a living wage (defined as \$18,859 for a family of 4). All of our employees, permanent and temporary, receive a paycheck that meets or exceeds living wage standards.
- **Domestic Partnership Benefits:** The City of Minneapolis has an ordinance, which went into effect January 1, 2004, that requires all contractors to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees. At the time the proposals were submitted, Eureka Recycling was the only proposer to meet this requirement.
- **Community Connections:** For over 17 years, Eureka Recycling has answered a recycling hotline and fields nearly 50,000 calls annually from community members about recycling, reuse and waste reduction.
- **Waste Reduction as Our Mission:** In addition to providing cost-effective recycling services, Eureka Recycling offers environmental programs like the Free Market to help people reduce their trash through reuse opportunities. We share and promote the community's vision to reduce waste and protect the environment. Any and all proceeds from our recycling services are reinvested into the community through profit sharing or new environmental program and education.

Please email or call your city council member TODAY.

To determine your ward, go to

http://apps.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pi.app/Ward_Selection/Address.asp

You can also access council members' email addresses via the city's website:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/>

Ward	Councilmember	Phone	Email
1	Paul Ostrow	673-2201	paul.ostrow@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
2	Paul Zerby	673-2202	paul.zerby@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
3	Don Samuels	673-2203	don.samuels@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
4	Barbara Johnson	673-2204	barbara.johnson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
5	Natalie Johnson Lee	673-2205	natalie.johnsonlee@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
6	Dean Zimmermann*	673-2206	dean.zimmermann@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
7	Lisa Goodman	673-2207	http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-goodman.asp
8	Robert Lilligren*	673-2208	robert.lilligren@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
9	Gary Schiff*	673-2209	gary.schiff@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
10	Dan Niziolek	673-2210	dan.niziolek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
11	Scott Benson*	673-2211	scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
12	Sandy Colvin Roy*	673-2212	http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-roy.asp
13	Barret Lane*	673-2213	http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-lane.asp

*Members of the Transportation and Public Works Committee