

ITEM #: 9  
DATE: 03-12-24  
DEPT: PW

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**                   **RESOURCE RECOVERY SYSTEM 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

**BACKGROUND:**

This previous year, 2023, brought a number of challenges along with new opportunities for the Resource Recovery System (RRS). Substantial increases in the price of natural gas will create some limits on the amount of gas that can be burned at the Power Plant beginning in 2024. These limits will mainly occur in the winter months of November – March, which will in turn decrease the amount of refuse derived fuel (RDF) that can be used by the Power Plant. That then presents the challenge of finding ways to reduce solid waste being processed at the Resource Recovery Plant (RRP) while trying to limit the amount of waste being sent to the landfill.

In response to this challenge, one new service that has been implemented is providing a “one-stop shop” recycling drop-off at RRP. This allows residents to bring in cardboard, mixed paper, plastic bottles with twist off lids, metals, clothes/shoes, and organics at no charge. New cardboard containers are being implemented at satellite locations in Ames and a traveling recycling container is being considered for member communities.

Another challenge being addressed is finding a new location(s) for disposal of construction and demolition waste (C&D). Large amounts of C&D from Story County is a challenge for operators at Boone County Landfill (BCL) and quickly taking up space. Staff have been working together to find new locations for disposal of C&D from Story County, starting in July 2024.

Additionally, the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan between BCL, RRS, and the respective member agencies will expire in June 2025. Staff has been evaluating options for best management of solid waste for 2025 and beyond. This includes evaluation of implementing new landfill partnerships, expanding recycling services, managing C&D, and analyzing a potential transfer station. Any of these changes could have an effect of increasing tipping fees and the per capita rate.

**2023 STATISTICS:**

The partner communities and agencies generated 52,377 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) during 2023 with approximately 43,847 tons received at the plant and processed to create 28,622 tons of refuse derived fuel (RDF). An estimated 1,414 tons of metal and 261 tons of glass were recovered for recycling. Additional items diverted from the landfill included 16.5 tons of Household Hazardous Materials, 38 tons of organics, 696 appliances, and 1,404 tires. Rummage RAMPage was held once again in 2023, finding new uses and homes for approximately 77 tons of household items that would have otherwise been destined for the landfill.

**RATES AND FEES FOR FY 2024-25:**

**The per capita rate charged to member agencies will remain at \$10.50 and will be billed according to the results of the 2020 census. Based on projected financial needs to meet future operating, maintenance and capital needs, the tipping fee will be raised to \$75.00/ton beginning July 1, 2024.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Accept the Resource Recovery System 2023 Annual Report
2. Request further information from staff

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

While there were a number of challenges during 2023 and still remaining ahead, the Resource Recovery System continues to be a responsible, sustainable, local solid waste solution for our partner agencies. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[RRP Annual Report\\_2023 cc.pdf](#)