

Staff Report

FY 2016-17 Mid-Year Sustainability Report

December 13, 2016

This report provides a mid-year update of the FY2016-17 activities and accomplishments related to the Sustainability Advisory Services contract between the City of Ames and Iowa State University.

BACKGROUND:

On July 1, 2010, the City entered into a contract with Iowa State University to utilize the services of its full-time Director of Sustainability. The contract covers a maximum of 480 hours annually (or no more than 25 percent of the Director of Sustainability's time). The Initial Scope of Services focused on the reduction of electric consumption. As additional opportunities and needs have been identified related to sustainability, the Scope of Services has expanded and diversified. During FY 2016-17, in keeping with the Council's direction, the Scope of Services targets priority areas related to energy consumption reduction, as well as adding waste reduction and diversion:

- 1) Work with Public Works Department and Water and Pollution Control Department on reuse and diversion programs related to the waste stream, including – but not limited to – the exploration of a composting and food waste program.
- 2) Continue to support and strengthen the Smart Business Challenge through outreach and recruitment of participants, oversight of Challenge interns, and marketing of outcomes and accomplishments of Challenge participants.
- 3) Continue to represent the City at events that educate residents about ongoing City sustainability efforts, rebates, and waste reduction opportunities including – but not limited to - the Eco Fair and WelcomeFest.
- 4) Coordinate the new Rummage RAMPage at the Ames Intermodal Facility in partnership with the Resource Recovery Plant, Public Relations, CyRide, and Iowa State University, to address concerns that usable housewares and furniture are being needlessly discarded and hard-to-process materials are being sent to the Resource Recovery Plant.

PROGRESS ON SCOPE OF SERVICES:

- 1. Work with Public Works Department and Water and Pollution Control Department on reuse and diversion programs related to the waste stream, including – but not limited to – the exploration of a composting and food waste program.***

Mid-year FY2017 accomplishments include the following for Priority Area #1:

- Completed milestones related to the \$20,000 forgivable loan from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources exploring beneficial opportunities and options to improve the Resource Recovery Plant's (RRP) process and improve the quality of refuse derived fuel (RDF):
 - Included survey questions in the 2016 Resident Satisfaction Survey regarding attitudes on composting as a form of organic waste reduction. Followed up with a similar Story County-wide survey.
 - Released a Request for Proposal for the development of a Waste Diversion Enhancement & Recommendation Report through contracted services. "The Consultant is to develop and implement a two part study leading to enhanced waste diversion, increased efficiency of the Resource Recovery Plant (RRP) and increased awareness and understanding of citizen value and interest in additional waste management related services, including organic waste programs." Proposals due December 14.

Collaboration partners: Public Works – Bill Schmitt, Mark Peebler and Lorrie Hanson; Purchasing – Karen Server and Public Relations Officer – Susan Gwiasda.

- 2. Continue to support and strengthen the Smart Business Challenge through outreach and recruitment of participants, oversight of Challenge interns, and marketing of outcomes and accomplishments of Challenge participants.***

Mid-year FY2017 accomplishments include the following for Priority Area #2:

- Continued recruitment of additional businesses for a total of twenty-three Smart Business Challenge participants, including five platinum certified businesses.
- Continued featuring Smart Business Challenge participants in City Side with photos and working to produce video on each business' energy savings story.

Collaboration partners: Electric Services – Steve Wilson; The Energy Group, and Public Relations Officer – Susan Gwiasda

3. *Continue to represent the City at events that educate residents about ongoing City sustainability efforts, rebates, and waste reduction opportunities including – but not limited to – the Eco Fair and WelcomeFest.*

- Participated in the Ames 4th of July Parade.
- Participated in WelcomeFest in August as part of the City of Ames efforts in explaining Ames sustainability initiatives.
- Continue a monthly radio program on KHOI focused on community sustainability accomplishments, initiatives and opportunities.
- Continue to share the City of Ames sustainability efforts as part of speaking engagements.

4. *Coordinate the new Rummage RAMPage at the Ames Intermodal Facility in partnership with the Resource Recovery Plant, Public Relations, CyRide, and Iowa State University, to address concerns that usable housewares and furniture are being needlessly discarded and hard-to-process materials are being sent to the Resource Recovery Plant.*

- First ever Rummage RAMPage was held July 29 to Aug 2, 2016. The event was an overwhelming success and diverted 22 tons of furniture and housewares out of the landfill and raised more than \$5,000 for local non-profit agencies. The event included tremendous support from ISU Parking, several City departments, the Volunteer Center of Story County, and more than 50 volunteers representing dozens of non-profit organizations.
- First planning meeting for the 2017 Rummage RAMPage is scheduled for January 11.

Collaboration partners: Iowa State University Parking Services, Volunteer Center of Story County, Resource Recovery Plant, Ames Electric Services, Public Relation Office and various Ames volunteers.