

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

02-503

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

SUBJECT:

REQUEST TO ISSUE
RFP FOR
RECYCLABLES
PROCESSING

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM STOWE
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

SYNOPSIS —

Recyclables collected in Des Moines are processed by Weyerhaeuser under agreement with the Metro Waste Authority (MWA). The terms of that agreement, which govern the disposition of all recyclables from the MWA's 17 member agencies, have yet to produce revenue. An exclusive agreement for Des Moines may produce revenue, as our recyclables represent the majority of the materials being processed and are nearly contaminate-free due to careful separation at the curb. To explore the possibility of a separate agreement for Des Moines, the Public Works Department is requesting permission to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a recycler interested in receiving, processing, and marketing Des Moines' recyclables in such a manner to produce revenue for the City.

FISCAL IMPACT —

If approved, the potential revenue will be determined after RFPs have been collected. Revenues from the sale of recyclables would help stabilize the solid waste user fees.

RECOMMENDATION —

Authorize the Public Works Director to issue an RFP for a recyclables processing contract exclusive to Des Moines.

BACKGROUND —

With the onset of curbside recycling, the MWA selected a recycler to receive, process, and market the recyclables collected by the its 17-member communities. The terms of the MWA's recycling agreement, which require that the processor be capable of meeting the individual needs of all members, have yet to produce revenue.

An exclusive agreement for Des Moines requiring accommodation for only one community could potentially produce revenue for the City. Des Moines' recyclables are carefully separated at the curb to minimize contaminates and represent sufficient quantity to provide for economy-of-scale benefits in both processing and marketing. A one-on-one relationship with a recycler would allow for adjustments



in waste streams, quantities and collection, delivery schedules, and reporting requirements.