

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

**DEPARTMENT:** El Paso Zoo

**AGENDA DATE:** May 13, 2014

**CONTACT PERSON/PHONE:** Steve Marshall, Zoo Director, (915) 521-1850

**DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:** All

**SUBJECT:**

That the City Manager be authorized to enter into a Pilot Program Agreement by and between the City of El Paso and NG Organics, LLC ("New Green Organics") for Waste Reuse Pilot Program from May 14, 2014 to November 13, 2014, with an option to extend the term of the Pilot Program for a period not to exceed an additional six (6) months.

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

The Zoo Department, Sustainability Office (Division of General Services), Environmental Services Department, and the Department of Transportation are proposing a pilot program to redirect compostable waste (herbivore waste, tree clippings, bedding, and leftover food waste) from the Zoo and Environmental Services (and out of the City's landfill) to a local composter whose intended purpose is creating high-quality compost.

The purpose of the pilot program is to establish a baseline on which to build a long term program in the future. Pilot program goals are to 1) Determine a baseline value for compostable material. 2) Analyze the cost/benefit of compostable material diversion. 3) Test material ratios and the quality of end product. 4) Reduce the City's waste stream/extend the life of the landfill. 5) Promote partnerships that support the City's sustainability goals.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one? No

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

N/A

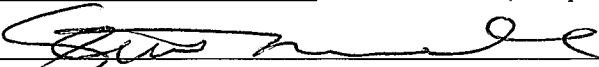
**BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:**

N/A

\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

**LEGAL:** (if required) \_\_\_\_\_ **FINANCE:** (if required) \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** \_\_\_\_\_

  
(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)  
*Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager*

**APPROVED FOR AGENDA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY MANAGER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Dedicated to Outstanding Customer Service for a Better Community*

**SERVICE SOLUTIONS SUCCESS**

## MEMORANDUM



DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 01, 2014  
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: STEVE MARSHALL  
SUBJECT: WASTE REUSE PILOT PROGRAM PROPOSAL

The Zoo Department, Sustainability Office (Division of General Services), Environmental Services Department, and the Department of Transportation have been working together to develop a pilot program that will be beneficial to both the City of El Paso and a private, local composting company. To analyze the feasibility of a partnership to reuse waste, we would like to start a six-month pilot program to divert approximately sixteen tons of compostable waste (herbivore waste, tree clippings, bedding, and leftover food waste) over a six-month period from the Greater El Paso Landfill to a local composter who has found a beneficial use for compostable waste.

The purpose of this pilot program is to reduce the amount of waste that is accumulating in the Greater El Paso Landfill and to promote the recycling of reusable waste. Animal waste is full of nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, and there can be a greater use for it given certain circumstances. We are interested in partnering with NG Organics, LLC to repurpose this waste into a product that benefits our community and the environment. We would like to divert the City departments' animal and green waste to New Green Organics' composting facility with the intended purpose of creating high-quality compost, while reducing the volume of reusable waste going to the City's landfill. Compost improves soil health through improved water-holding capacity, which reduces run-off and helps filter and increase the amount of water feeding into the groundwater supply. Compost also improves soil health through enhanced biological activity and improved nutrient cycling, which allows for greater uptake of nutrients by plants and leads to overall higher quality soils. Through this pilot program partnership, we hope to reduce landfill waste, promote environmentally-conscious decisions, and increase collaboration between public and private entities for mutually-beneficial purposes.

**Mayor**  
Oscar Leeser

### **City Council**

*District 1*  
Ann Morgan Lilly

*District 2*  
Larry Romero

*District 3*  
Emma Acosta

*District 4*  
Carl L. Robinson

*District 5*  
Dr. Michiel R. Noe

*District 6*  
Eddie Holguin Jr.

*District 7*  
Lily Limón

*District 8*  
Cortney C. Niland

**City Manager**  
Joyce A. Wilson

El Paso Zoo

4001 E. Paisano Dr. | El Paso, Texas 79905 | (915) 521-1850

*Dedicated to Outstanding Customer Service for a Better Community*

**S E R V I C E      S O L U T I O N S      S U C C E S S**



**Pilot Program Objectives and Criteria**

- Minimize waste delivered to and filling up the Greater El Paso Landfill, which will extend the life of the City landfill and provide cost savings in the future.
- Create a mutually-beneficial partnership with a local recycling company to provide a nutrient-rich product that will enrich our soil and environment.
- Monitor and track input and output data of the compostable waste for a six-month period to analyze the cost-effectiveness and benefits of diverting the compostable waste from the landfill to a private composting facility
- Encourage the recycling and reuse of waste and resources through the promotion of partnerships that support environmentally-conscious decisions.

Thank you for reviewing this memorandum about the Waste Reuse Pilot Program. Please contact Steve Marshall at 521-1850 should you have any questions.

**Mayor**  
Oscar Leeser

**City Council**

*District 1*  
Ann Morgan Lilly

*District 2*  
Larry Romero

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Cortney C. Niland

**City Manager**  
Joyce A. Wilson

El Paso Zoo

4001 E. Paisano Dr. | El Paso, Texas 79905 | (915) 521-1850

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso (the "City") strives to attain reasonable waste diversion rates and realizes that organic material constitutes a significant portion of solid waste filling up the Greater El Paso Landfill; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso Zoo produces approximately 800-1000 pounds of organic waste (herbivore manure, animal bedding and other vegetative waste) per day; which is currently being disposed of in the City's landfill and serves no purpose other than to take up landfill space; and

WHEREAS, the organic waste being produced at the Zoo could be reused as a nutrient-rich contribution to a composting program; and

WHEREAS, the City's Environmental Services Department ("ESD") collects and grinds citizen yard waste and offers it as a screened mulch to City residents for free; and

WHEREAS, the City has a large amount of this screened mulch being stored at Greater El Paso Landfill and distributed to the City's Citizen Collection Stations (CCSs); and

WHEREAS, the City's Zoo Department, Environmental Services Department and Sustainability Office desire to reduce the amount of compostable waste that is accumulating in the City's landfill and to promote composting through a pilot program with NG Organics, LLC ("New Green Organics"), a local permitted composter, to reuse the City's organic waste to produce a high-quality compost product; and

WHEREAS, the City and New Green Organics desire to enter into a six-month Pilot Program Agreement through which some of the City's compostable waste will be diverted to New Green Organics' composting facility in Vinton, Texas, instead of to the City's landfill, for the aforementioned municipal and environmental purposes, and during which time the parties will perform a systematic evaluation of the impact of the program on the City's waste stream and the feasibility of continuing the environmentally-conscious program; and

WHEREAS, the City's Department of Transportation desires to facilitate the separation and transportation of the compostable waste by providing a roll-off container for the pilot program and helping to transport the compostable Zoo waste to the composting facility; and

WHEREAS, the parties have presented and justified the municipal and environmental purposes to be served through the implementation of this Pilot Program, and the City has found the goals of the Pilot Program serve an important public purpose.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

That the City Manager be authorized to sign the Pilot Program Agreement between the City of El Paso and NG Organics, LLC ("New Green Organics"), a local composting operator permitted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, for the implementation of a

Waste Reuse Pilot Program, which will begin on May 14, 2014 and continue through November 13, 2014. During this six-month Pilot Program, the City will separate and divert the Zoo's organic waste and Environmental Service's mulch, made from collected yard waste, to New Green Organics recycling and composting facility in Vinton, Texas. The mulch and the Zoo's compostable waste will be recycled into potentially high-quality compost, instead of being stored or disposed of at the Greater El Paso Landfill. In exchange for the City's compostable waste, New Green Organics will provide one roll-off of cured compost to the City of El Paso to provide back to the public and use for City purposes. Upon completion of the Pilot Program, the public benefits, cost-effectiveness and viability of the program will be evaluated and analyzed in order to determine if the program should be presented to the City for formal implementation.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2014.

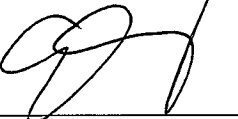
THE CITY OF EL PASO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Oscar Leaser, Mayor

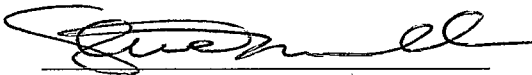
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richarda Duffy Momsen,  
City Clerk

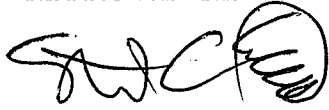
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth M. Ruhmann  
Assistant City Attorney

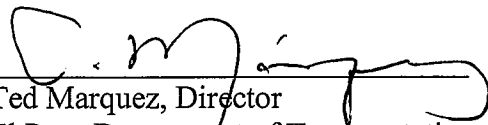
APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Marshall, Director  
El Paso Zoo

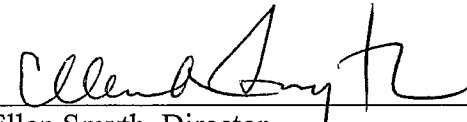
APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stuart Ed, Director  
General Services Department/  
Sustainability Office

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

  
Ted Marquez, Director  
El Paso Department of Transportation

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

  
Ellen Smyth, Director  
Environmental Services Department

## **WASTE REUSE PILOT PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

THIS PILOT PROGRAM AGREEMENT is entered into as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2014, by and between the City of El Paso, a Texas Municipal Corporation (the "City"), and NG Organics, LLC, a Texas Limited Liability Company ("New Green Organics").

### **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso (the "City") strives to attain reasonable waste diversion rates and realizes that organic material constitutes a significant portion of solid waste filling up the Greater El Paso Landfill; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso Zoo produces approximately 800-1000 pounds of organic waste (herbivore manure, animal bedding and other vegetative waste) per day, which is currently being disposed of in the City's landfill and serves no purpose other than to take up landfill space; and

WHEREAS, the organic waste being produced at the Zoo could be reused as a nutrient-rich contribution to a composting program; and

WHEREAS, the City's Environmental Services Department ("ESD") collects and grinds citizen yard waste and offers it as a screened mulch to City residents for free; and

WHEREAS, the City has a large amount of this screened mulch being stored at the Greater El Paso Landfill and distributed to the City's Citizen Collection Stations (CCSs); and

WHEREAS, the City's Zoo Department, Environmental Services Department and Sustainability Office desire to reduce the amount of compostable waste that is accumulating in the City's landfill and to promote composting through a pilot program with NG Organics, LLC ("New Green Organics"), a local permitted composter, to reuse the City's organic waste to produce a potentially high-quality compost product; and

WHEREAS, the City and New Green Organics desire to enter into a six-month Pilot Program Agreement through which some of the City's compostable waste will be diverted to New Green Organics' composting facility in Vinton, Texas, instead of to the City's landfill, for the aforementioned municipal and environmental purposes, and during which time the parties will perform a systematic evaluation of the impact of the program on the City's waste stream and the feasibility of continuing the environmentally-conscious program; and

WHEREAS, the City's Department of Transportation desires to facilitate the separation and transportation of the compostable waste by providing a roll-off container for the pilot program and helping to transport the compostable Zoo waste to the composting facility; and

WHEREAS, the parties have presented and justified the municipal and environmental purposes to be served through the implementation of this Pilot Program, and the City has found the goals of the Pilot Program serve an important public purpose.

## AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, the City and New Green Organics desire to enter into this Agreement to memorialize their respective responsibilities for implementing, conducting and monitoring the Pilot Program, and as such, hereby agree as follows:

1. PILOT PROGRAM SCOPE AND ELEMENTS. The City and New Green Organics hereby agree to perform the responsibilities set forth in the *City of El Paso and NG Organics, LLC Waste Reuse Pilot Program Proposal* ("Pilot Program Proposal"), attached hereto as Exhibit "A," and incorporated herein for all purposes.

2. PILOT PERIOD. The Pilot Program shall be conducted for a six-month period (the "Pilot Period"), commencing on May 14, 2014 and ending on November 13, 2014, unless otherwise terminated sooner as permitted by this Agreement. The City Manager may extend the term of the Pilot Program, for a period not to exceed an additional six (6) months, by giving New Green Organics written notice prior to the expiration of the original six-month Pilot Period.

3. PILOT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT. The City of El Paso Zoo Department will have primary responsibility for the management of this Pilot Program, with assistance from the City's Sustainability Office.

3. CONSIDERATION AND FUNDING. The City and New Green Organics agree to comply with the provisions set forth in the Pilot Program Proposal attached as Exhibit "A." There will not be an exchange of money between the parties during the Pilot Program. Each party concedes that the services and obligations incidental to the Pilot Program are adequate consideration.

4. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP. Nothing herein will be construed as creating a relationship of employer and employee between the parties hereto. The City will not be subject to any obligations or liabilities of New Green Organics incurred in the performance of this Agreement unless otherwise authorized herein.

5. INDEMNIFICATION OF THE CITY. New Green Organics hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City for any and all liabilities and obligations incurred due to any breach of contract or negligent acts or omissions or other failures on the part of New Green Organics.

6. CITY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. New Green Organics will keep all confidential information in confidence except as may otherwise be required by law or court order and will not disclose any item of confidential information to any person other than its employees and agents. New Green Organics will protect and maintain the confidentiality of all confidential information with the same degree of care as it employs to protect its own confidential information.

7. NEW GREEN ORGANICS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. The parties acknowledge that the City is a public governmental agency subject to applicable public



information requirements, including but not limited to the Texas Public Information Act. The City hereby agrees to use reasonable efforts to promptly notify New Green Organics of the City's receipt of any request for information which appears to be the subject of representation(s) by New Green Organics, that is or may be or contain confidential information. The City also agrees to seek an attorney general opinion prior to disclosing such information, in order to allow New Green Organics to present its arguments to the attorney general regarding the confidentiality of the requested information or to take other action(s) New Green Organics deems appropriate. New Green Organics agrees to promptly identify all requested items it deems confidential information and to provide supporting documentation to the City or other entity as may be permitted or required under applicable law.

8. LAW GOVERNING AGREEMENT/VENUE. For purposes of determining the place of the Agreement and the law governing the same, it is agreed that the Agreement is entered into in the City and County of El Paso, State of Texas, and will be governed by the laws of the State of Texas. Venue will be in the courts of El Paso County, Texas.

9. TERMINATION. Either party may terminate this Agreement without cause after fourteen (14) days written notice to the other party of the intention to terminate this Agreement, or at any time by mutual agreement of the parties. Should the City have cause to terminate this Agreement or if New Green Organics is in breach of this Agreement, the Agreement may be terminated immediately upon written notification to New Green Organics of the cause for termination.

10. PUBLICITY. Neither party shall use the name or logo of the other party in any marketing, advertising or other public announcement about the subject matter of the Pilot Program without the other party's written consent. A party desiring to make a public disclosure shall submit a draft thereto for prior approval by the other party, which will be deemed to have been given if comments thereon are not provided within 72 hours.

11. PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP. As applicable, New Green Organics agrees to comply with the Immigration Reform and Control Act. New Green Organics agrees to complete all necessary forms or documents including Form W-9 within three days of the execution of this Agreement.

12. NOTICE. Any notices required under this Agreement will be sufficient if sent by Certified Mail postage prepaid, to the City or New Green Organics at the following addresses:

CITY: City of El Paso  
Attn: City Manager  
P.O. Box 1890  
El Paso, Texas 79950-1890

w/copy to: Steve Marshall, Director  
El Paso Zoo  
4001 E. Paisano Drive  
El Paso, Texas 79905

NEW GREEN  
ORGANICS:

Carlos R. Huerta  
NG Organics, LLC  
7700 Kiely Road  
Vinton, Texas 79821

13. ENTIRE AGREEMENT; MUTUAL DRAFTING; HEADINGS. This Agreement and its exhibits constitute the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement and supersede any and all prior agreements and understandings, both oral and written, between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. Each party has participated jointly in the drafting of this Agreement and the ancillary exhibits, which each party acknowledges is the result of discussions between the parties, and the language used in this Agreement, will be deemed to be the language chosen by the parties to express their mutual intent. If an ambiguity or question of intent or interpretation arises, then this Agreement will accordingly be construed as drafted jointly by the parties, and no presumption or burden of proof will arise favoring or disfavoring any party to this Agreement by virtue of the authorship of any of the provisions of this Agreement. The captions, headings and table of contents contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and will not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement or its exhibits.

14. SEVERABILITY. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provisions of this Agreement will not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement, which will remain in full force and effect.

15. AMENDMENT. This Agreement shall not be amended or modified except by a written instrument signed by both parties.

16. ASSIGNABILITY. This Agreement and a party's rights and obligations hereunder may not be assigned for any reason without the written consent of the other party.

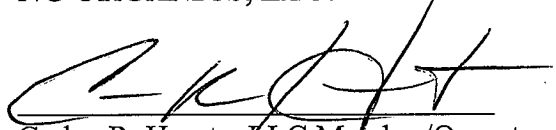
17. REPRESENTATION ON AUTHORITY OF PARTIES/SIGNATORIES. Each person signing this Agreement represents and warrants that he or she is duly authorized and has legal capacity to execute and deliver this Agreement. Each party represents and warrants to the other that the execution and delivery of the Agreement and the performance of such party's obligations hereunder have been duly authorized and that the Agreement is a valid and legal agreement binding on such party and enforceable in accordance with its terms.

*(Signatures follow on the next page)*

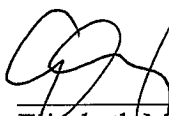
**CITY OF EL PASO:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce Wilson, City Manager

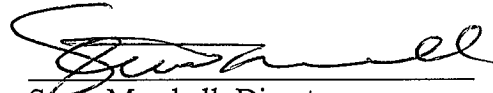
**NG ORGANICS, LLC:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carlos R. Huerta, LLC Member/Operator  
New Green Organics

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth M. Ruhmann  
Assistant City Attorney


**APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Marshall, Director  
El Paso Zoo


**APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stuart Ed, Director  
General Services Department/  
Sustainability Office

**APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Marquez, Director  
El Paso Department of Transportation

**APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ellen Smyth, Director  
Environmental Services Department

# **EXHIBIT “A”**

**(Follows on the next page)**

# **City of El Paso and NG Organics, LLC**

## **Waste Reuse Pilot Program Proposal**

**May 2014**



## **Purpose**

The purpose of this pilot program is to reduce the amount of waste that is accumulating in the Greater El Paso Landfill and to promote the recycling of reusable waste. Animal waste is full of nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, and there can be a greater use for it given certain circumstances. The City of El Paso is interested in partnering with NG Organics, LLC (hereinafter referred to as “New Green Organics”) to repurpose this waste into a product that benefits our community and the environment. The City of El Paso, through its Zoo Department and Environmental Services Department, would like to divert its animal and green waste to New Green Organics’ composting facility with the intended purpose of creating high-quality compost, while reducing the volume of reusable waste going to the City’s landfill. Compost improves soil health through improved water-holding capacity, enhanced biological activity, and improved nutrient cycling. Through this pilot program partnership, the City of El Paso hopes to reduce its landfill waste, promote environmentally-conscious decisions, and increase collaboration between public and private entities for mutually-beneficial purposes.

## **Pilot Program Objectives and Criteria**

- Minimize waste delivered to and filling up the Greater El Paso Landfill, which will extend the life of the City landfill and provide cost savings in the future.
- Create a mutually-beneficial partnership with a local recycling company to provide a nutrient-rich product that will enrich our soil and environment.
- Monitor and track input and output data of the compostable waste for a six-month period to analyze the cost-effectiveness and benefits of diverting the compostable waste from the landfill to a private composting facility
- Encourage the recycling and reuse of waste and resources through the promotion of partnerships that support environmentally-conscious decisions.

## **Background Information**

The El Paso Zoo currently collects their animal waste, yard waste, and other non-compostable waste in a single roll-off container onsite. The City’s Department of Transportation transports the comingled waste 22.1 miles to the Greater El Paso Landfill located at 2300 Darrington Road, El Paso, Texas 79928. This waste is disposed of at the City landfill and serves no greater purpose.

The Environmental Services Department collects and accepts yard waste, which includes tree branches, Christmas trees, etc., at the Citizen Collection Stations (CCS). Residents can bring their water bill and an Identification (ID) Card to a CCS and drop off their yard waste for free. The City then transports this yard waste to the landfill where it is loaded into a grinder and screened. This ground-up yard waste creates mulch that is stored at the Greater El Paso Landfill and then distributed to all CCSs across the City and offered to residents at no cost. While the

mulch is a useful product, it can be converted to compost through aerobic decomposition, thus providing an enhanced product that is rich in nitrogen.

New Green Organics is a local composting and recycling company, permitted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which supports sustainability initiatives and encourages environmentally-conscious decisions. New Green Organics accepts green waste (leaves, tree branches, grass, logs, etc.) from local landscapers and repurposes and/or composts the material to create a higher-quality product, including mulch, compost and firewood. New Green Organics desires to improve upon its products and is looking for high-nutrient products to enrich their current compost production. Herbivore animal waste is such a product, as is yard waste. New Green Organics has made a large investment in equipment, land, knowledge and labor to begin its improved process of composting, and is seeking the City's participation through its supplying of Zoo and Environmental Services compostable waste.

New Green Organics complies with all Texas Commission of Environmental Quality's requirements for a compost facility.

### **Proposed Pilot Program Partnership**

The City of El Paso, through its Zoo Department and Environmental Services Department, would like to partner with New Green Organics for a six-month pilot program starting on May 14, 2014 and extending until November 13, 2014. The details of this pilot partnership are as follows:

- The compostable materials produced by the El Paso Zoo will be separated from non-organic waste and placed into a separate roll-off container provided by the City's Department of Transportation.
  - Compostable materials that New Green Organics can use for their compost production include bedding (straw, wood chips, etc.), herbivore manure, leftover food waste, and yard waste.
- The City's Department of Transportation will pick-up the roll-off container on a weekly to bi-weekly schedule and transport the compostable waste to New Green Organics' compost facility located at 7700 Kiely Road (22.5 miles from the El Paso Zoo).
  - During the pilot period, the Department of Transportation will continue its weekly pickup of the Zoo's waste, with the only change in the process being that the container with the compostable material will be picked up and taken to New Green Organics' compost facility on alternating weeks with the container of non-compostable waste that is disposed of at the City's landfill. Both of the end-point depositories are essentially the same distance from the Zoo.
- New Green Organics will accept all the compostable waste from the Zoo, and can request (within reason) that certain items be separated.

- The Department of Transportation will not transport the compostable Zoo waste to any other location except the permitted compost facility.
- The Environmental Services Department will transport a maximum of one roll-off container (25 cubic yards) full of mulch (ground-up yard waste) from the Greater El Paso Landfill (located at 2300 Darrington Road, El Paso, Texas 79928) once every three weeks to help provide the optimum balance of nitrogen and carbon in the compost mixture (2/3 carbon to 1/3 nitrogen). The City's mulch will be no more than one-half of the carbon required for the compost mixture, while the second half will be provided by New Green Organics. The quantity of mulch provided by the City is dependent on the available supply at the City landfill.
  - The distance between these two locations is 43 miles.
  - It is anticipated that the added costs to the Environmental Services Department's operation budget created by the additional miles driven and the associated labor will be offset by the value added to the product that is offered back to the public at the CCSs.
- New Green Organics will provide one roll-off container of cured compost to the City of El Paso to offer to the public and use for City purposes.
- New Green Organics will monitor and maintain the compost produced from compostable City waste, to comply with the requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's specifications for compost production.
- New Green Organics may market the finished product as a product made with Zoo waste and City mulch, but may not use the City of El Paso logo or seal.
  - All marketing materials for compost made from the Zoo waste must be reviewed and approved by the Zoo Director or Zoo Marketing Director.
- At any point during the pilot, New Green Organics or the City of El Paso may decide to terminate the pilot if it no longer seems cost-effective, beneficial, or viable to continue the pilot program partnership.
- Once the six-month pilot period has ended, an analysis of the success and viability of the program will be completed.
  - If the City determines that the pilot period needs to be extended in order to be able to properly assess the viability of the program, the City Manager or her designee may authorize the extension by providing written notice to New Green Organics prior to the expiration of the six-month pilot period. In no event will the pilot period be extended beyond an additional six-month period.

#### **Responsibilities of the City of El Paso**

- The City of El Paso through its Zoo Department will separate the zoo's non-compostable and compostable waste into two different containers for the purpose of this pilot.
- The City of El Paso through its Zoo Department will provide compostable waste to New Green Organics.



- Compostable waste, for the purpose of this document, is defined as bedding (straw, wood chips, etc.), herbivore manure, leftover food waste, and yard waste, from the City Zoo.
- The City of El Paso through its Department of Transportation will transport the City container containing the Zoo's compostable waste to New Green Organics' compost facility in Vinton, Texas.
- The City of El Paso through its Environmental Services Department will transport a maximum of one roll-off container of mulch every three weeks to New Green Organics, and no more than one-half of the carbon required for the compost recipe.
- The City of El Paso will be responsible for picking up the one roll-off container of the finished product (cured compost) from New Green Organics and transporting it to a City facility.
- The City of El Paso through its Zoo Department and Sustainability Office will analyze the success of the pilot at the end of the pilot period.

#### **Responsibilities of New Green Organics**

- New Green Organics will accept all waste delivered by the City from the City Zoo and the Environmental Services Department to its permitted facility in Vinton, Texas.
- New Green Organics will provide one-half of the required carbon for the compost recipe.
- New Green Organics will compost the material according to the composting requirements and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
- New Green Organics will maintain all permits and licenses required by federal, state and local regulatory agencies for a composting and recycling facility, and will notify the City of El Paso if their status changes or is affected.
- Once the compostable material provided by the City Zoo Department and Environmental Services Department has fully composted and cured, New Green Organics will provide one roll-off of cured compost, or an otherwise agreed upon amount, to the City of El Paso.
  - The City of El Paso will be responsible for picking up the finished product (cured compost) from New Green Organics and transporting it to a City facility.
  - New Green Organics will load the cured compost onto the City of El Paso's transport vehicle.
  - No later than 5 months into the pilot, New Green Organics will provide the City of El Paso with one roll-off of cured compost. This roll-off will be picked up by the City of El Paso and delivered to the Westside CCS (or an otherwise agreed upon location) to give back to the public.
- New Green Organics will record and track input and output data of the compostable material received from the City of El Paso and the composted material produced and sold / donated by New Green Organics.

- New Green Organics will record and track all related maintenance and process information for the compost (turnover period, material ratios, etc.)
- New Green Organics will provide this recorded and tracked data to the City of El Paso upon request.
- After the first batch of compost is completed, New Green Organics will provide the City of El Paso with a nutrient test of the finished compost. The City may require that another test be conducted before the end of the pilot period.

### **Benefits of the Pilot Program Partnership**

- Establish a mutually-beneficial partnership between a private, local entity and a municipality
- Encourage the recycling and reuse of all products
- Promote the production of compost, which is a product that can potentially offer soil quality and water conservation benefits when properly cured
- Reduce the amount of waste taken to and accumulating in the City landfill, extending the life of the City landfill, which will reduce City costs in the future
- Improve our air quality by supporting the production of a material that can potentially act as a “carbon sink,” which stores more carbon than it releases in to the atmosphere
- Support recycling and composting companies which provide waste reduction and waste reuse options for local companies committed to diverting waste from the landfill
- Demonstrate that the City of El Paso is willing to find solutions that support our sustainability goals

## Maps Showing the Transportation of Zoo Compostable Waste

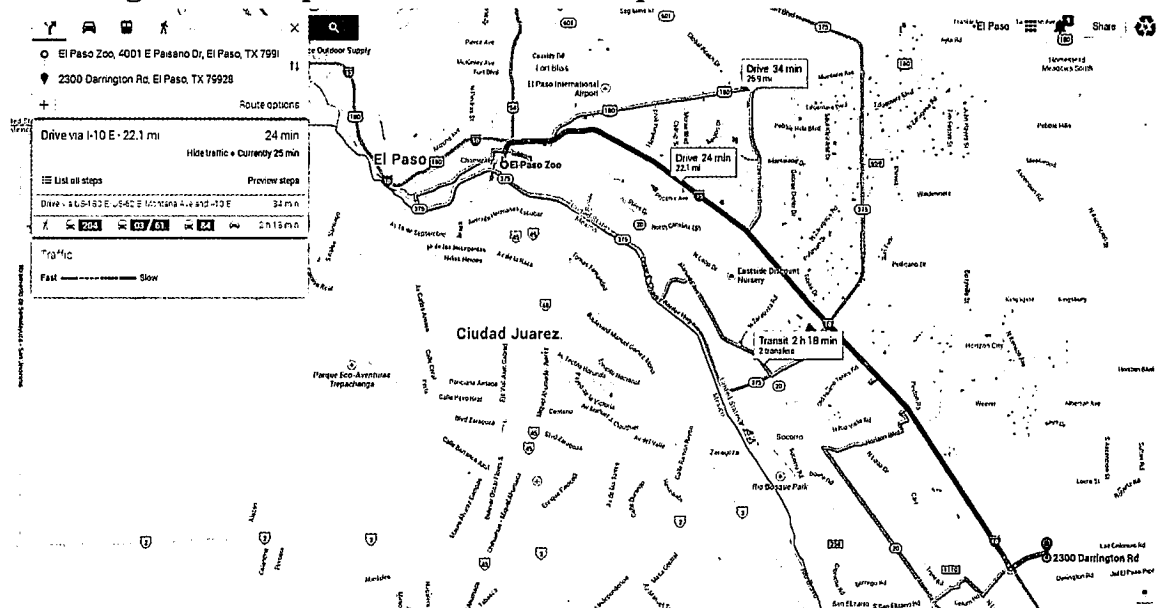


Figure 1: Current route for the disposal of El Paso Zoo waste. The distance from the El Paso Zoo to the Greater El Paso Landfill is 22.1 miles.

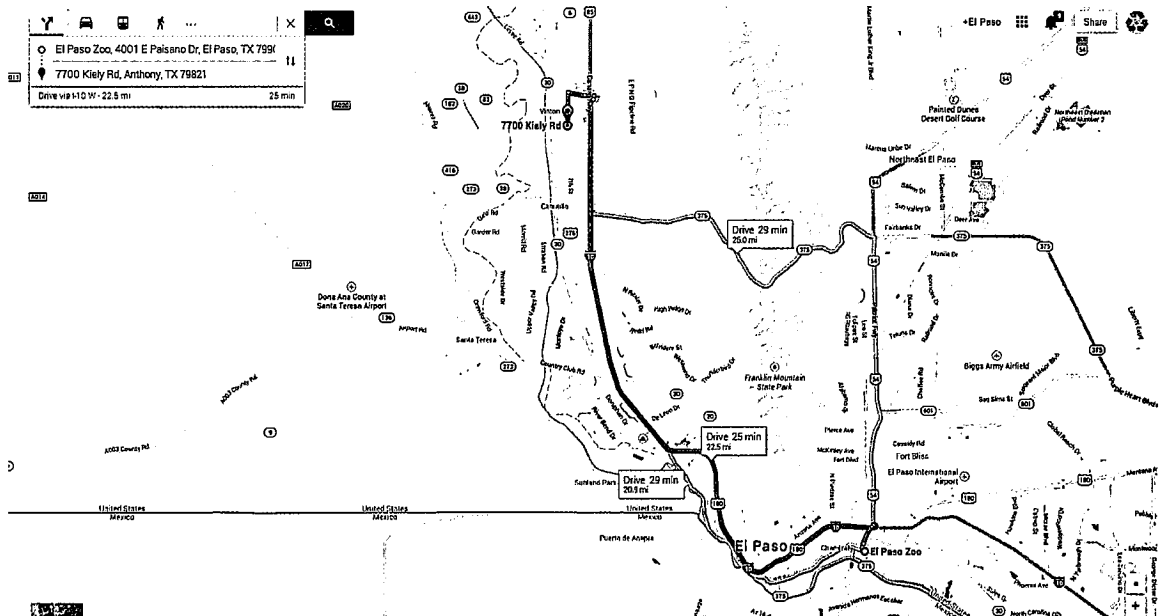


Figure 2: Proposed route for the disposal of El Paso Zoo compostable waste. The distance from the El Paso Zoo to the New Green Organics facility is 22.5 miles.

## Conclusion

This program promotes the beneficial reuse of Zoo compostable waste and furthers the sustainability goals of the City of El Paso. Compost, when properly cured with the correct balance of nutrients, is a high-quality product and has soil quality and water conservation benefits, which should be encouraged in our region. Because compost acts as a "carbon sink," it has the potential to store carbon and return it to the earth, meaning that less carbon is emitted into the air, potentially providing benefits to our air quality.

In addition, the City of El Paso supports local businesses and public-private partnerships that promote mutually-beneficial solutions. By supporting local businesses, the City of El Paso helps keep dollars in our local economy. Plus, by supporting the growth of recycling and composting companies, we are helping provide more sustainability options for local businesses *and* keeping more waste out of the landfill. This pilot program will divert 800-1000 pounds a day of Zoo waste from the City landfill, which saves landfill space and extends the life of our valuable landfill asset.

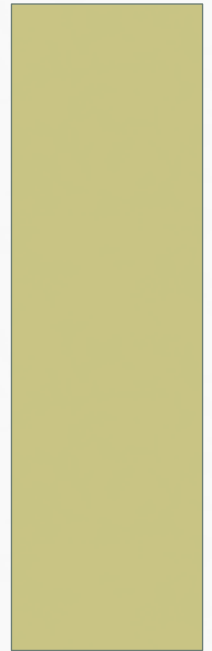
The City has made a commitment to sustainability and continually reaffirms its dedication to reducing waste, cutting energy waste, and protecting our environment. This program will continue to show how the City is willing to find solutions to promote a more harmonious and sustainable community.



# WASTE REUSE PILOT PROGRAM PROPOSAL

MAY 13, 2014

EL PASO ZOO  
GENERAL SERVICES - SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
EL PASO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
NEW GREEN ORGANICS, LLC



# OVERVIEW

- The Zoo generates compostable material that currently goes to the City Landfill as waste.
- The Environmental Services Department currently generates a large amount of wood chips from yard waste, which is distributed to Citizen Collection Stations.
- The Sustainability Office, Environmental Services and the Zoo envision a pilot program with new Green Organics, LLC as a solution.
- We are requesting Council action to approve a six month pilot program to explore this solution.

# PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Determine a baseline value for compostable material
- Analyze the cost/benefit of compostable material diversion
- Test material ratios and the quality of end product
- Reduce the City's waste stream/extend the life of the landfill
- Promote partnerships that support the City's sustainability goals

# PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

- **El Paso Zoo:**
  - Segregate compostable material currently going to landfill
- **El Paso Department of Transportation:**
  - Provide one additional roll-off dumpster for segregation
  - Transport one dumpster of compostable material from the Zoo to NG Organics, LLC every other week
- **Environmental Services:**
  - Provide chipped yard waste to New Green Organics, LLC
  - Pick up one 20 yard roll-off of compost for dissemination at Citizen Collection Stations
- **Sustainability Office:**
  - Assist in program management & analysis of program goals
- **New Green Organics, LLC:**
  - Process waste material into compost



# AFTER SIX MONTHS

- Assign a value to segregated compostable material
- Document the cost/benefit of compostable material diversion
- Record material ratios and the quality of end product
- Measure waste stream reduction and landfill space savings
- Analyze the value of the partnership
- Establish the criteria for launching a long term waste diversion/composting program