

E Environment Committee
Meeting date: **January 10, 2012**
For the Council Meeting of **January 25, 2012**

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	December 30, 2011
Subject:	Authorization to Accept Grant and Execute Grant Agreement with St. Paul Port Authority for Evaluation of Anaerobic Digestion as Renewable Energy Process
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	MC Income Grants Policy #3.2.2; MN Statute 473.504
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Bryce Pickart 651-602-1091
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to accept a \$150,000 grant from, and to execute a grant agreement with, the St. Paul Port Authority for evaluation of anaerobic digestion as a renewable energy process at selected MCES facilities.

Background

The St. Paul Port Authority has received state funding to work with potential developers of anaerobic digestion facilities throughout the State of Minnesota for the purpose of generating energy from renewable resources. The Port Authority has requested that MCES evaluate anaerobic digestion as a renewable energy process using MCES wastewater as a feedstock with or without food waste as a supplemental feedstock.

The basic work tasks that MCES has proposed for this evaluation are as follows:

1. Field inspection and evaluation of existing wastewater sludge-food waste co-anaerobic digestion facilities in Oakland and San Jose, California.
2. Evaluation of feasibility, costs, and energy use for sludge-food waste co-digestion at Blue Lake and Empire Plants' anaerobic digestion facilities:
 - a. Evaluation of large commercial food waste co-digestion at either/both facilities.
 - b. Evaluation of co-digestion of high strength dairy waste at Empire Plant.
 - c. Evaluation of co-digestion of high strength food processing waste at Blue Lake Plant.

Estimated evaluation costs will not exceed \$150,000. The evaluation will be integrated with our on-going evaluation of MCES solids processing facilities.

Rationale

Acceptance of grants generally require Council authorization. Part of the grant money will be looking at bringing in a waste-stream that is not wastewater.

Funding

None required.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.