



DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 3, 2025

To: Chairperson Vered Meltzer and Members of the Utilities Committee

From: Brian Kreski, Environmental Programs Coordinator

CC: Chris Stempa, Utilities Director
Kelli Rindt, Enterprise Fund Accounting Manager

Subject: Informational Item: 2024 AWWTP Biosolids Compost processing expenditures associated with Hsu Growing Supply contract

BACKGROUND:

The Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) has operated a biosolids compost facility since fall 2010. Since 2010, the AWWTP has partnered with Hsu Growing Supply (Hsu) for compost processing services. Hsu provides all the labor, equipment, and additional tools needed to mix and process raw compost materials like biosolids, leaves, and ground brush into a final product that complies with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Administrative Code NR 204.06 and NR 502.12. Product quality is demonstrated through the US Composting Council's (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program. Hsu's services over the years have consistently achieved the standards outlined as part of the USCC STA Program.

Unpredictable weather patterns in Wisconsin can negatively impact on outdoor windrow composting practices. The start of the 2024 processing event was ideal but by early fall wet weather conditions complicated the completion of the compost batch.

To complete the 2024 compost batch and preserve finished material quality standards, Hsu was asked to provide additional windrow turns. The contract with Hsu specifies the baseline criteria to achieve regulatory standards through composting as process to further reduce pathogens (PFRP) (e.g. minimum of five windrow turns and maintaining at least 130 oF over 15 days). The additional turns were necessary to dry the compost and provide sufficient air to complete the composting process. The added costs include equipment mobilization and operation of the windrow turning equipment, along with the labor and materials required thereafter to repair damaged areas of the compost processing pad.

COST SUMMARY:

Table 1 below details the additional hours and equipment used to complete the compost batch for 2024, while Table 2 presents a five-year summary of costs associated with processing Biosolids Compost. In total, there was an additional \$10,250 over the amount anticipated based on the specified contract unit rates.

Table 1

Task Description	Hours	Amount
Loader work on pad	12.5	\$1,477.50
Loader extra turns	23.5	\$3,172.50
Turner extra turns	28	\$5,600.00
Total	64	\$10,250

Table 2

Year	Tons Biosolids / Batch	Batch cu/yd	Hsu Invoice Amount
2020	1,261	5,365	\$30,666
2021	1,236	3,221	\$27,140
2022	1,364	5,321	\$31,766
2023	1,374	5,631	\$30,971
2024	1,377	6,468	\$45,774

The 2024 budget allocated \$100,000 for biosolids compost processing (up to two batches). There were sufficient funds in the 2024 budget to cover the \$10,250 in costs outlined above.

If you have any questions regarding this informational item, please contact Brian Kreski at ph: 832-5945.