

Hennepin County, MN | RFQ for Anaerobic Digestion of Organic Materials | June 2018

On June 19, Hennepin County, Minnesota, released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), requesting submissions from qualified, experienced, and financially capable entities to anaerobically digest a minimum of 25,000 tons per year of source-separated organics to produce energy and beneficial soil or agricultural supplements. The RFQ can be accessed at <https://www.hennepin.us/business/work-with-henn-co/rfq-anaerobic-digestion-organic-materials>. Submissions are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 7, 2018.

Hennepin County is focused on diverting organic materials from the trash to meet its goals of recycling 75 percent of waste and sending zero waste to landfills. The county is pursuing requirements for cities to make curbside organics recycling available to residents and requiring food waste recycling for certain businesses.

The county is interested in the development of an anaerobic digestion facility to increase processing capacity to manage the increase in diverted organics that would result from residential and commercial organics recycling requirements. This RFQ also seeks information on project concepts and business terms and conditions required by a Respondent for a viable project. Hennepin County does not have a specific contracting, ownership, or operation mechanism selected.

Based on the responses submitted, county staff will brief the county board on the potential for expanding organics processing in the county and the implications for achieving the recycling and zero waste to landfill goals. The county board will subsequently decide whether and how to proceed for the provision of additional organics processing capacity via anaerobic digestion.

The county's waste sorts continue to show that organic materials comprise 30 percent of the trash. With ambitious strategies to divert organics and put this material to a better, higher use, the county's 2018-2023 Solid Waste Management Master Plan was approved in November 2017. The Master Plan can be found at www.hennepin.us/solidwasteplanning.