

Letter of Support: City of La Crescent – Greater MN Waste Reduction Grant

Date: 9 November 2023

From: Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling Service Inc.

Dear Grant Committee –

I, Brandon Knudtson, am expressing my support for the City of La Crescent as they apply for funds through the Greater Minnesota Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Composting Grant to conduct a feasibility study for a commercial compost facility to serve SE Minnesota & SW Wisconsin.

Since 1984, Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling Service, Inc. (HRR) has had a strong presence in Western WI and Southeastern MN when managing waste and recyclables. As a reliable family owned and operated hauler, we value and admire the communities we serve by engaging new opportunities that meet the demand of our customers/residents, while accomplishing sustainability goals. In Summer 2019, HRR rolled out the La Crosse areas first large-scale organics diversion program, which targeted pre-consumer commercial food waste. To date, HRR has gained credibility as “a bridge has been built” between the producer of organic waste and the compost processing facility. The program has shown great success as a total of ~750 tons of organic material has been diverted from the general waste stream.

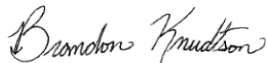
As this organics program moves into the future, we (HRR) are always looking for additional ways to expand these great services. Unfortunately, the program has stayed somewhat stagnant over the last few years due to local composting infrastructure limitations. As a waste hauler that values the reduction of valuable resources from the general waste stream, there is a large demand to divert organic material from both residential homes and businesses/organizations in this area (SE Minnesota & SW Wisconsin); however, a more enhanced processing facility is desired.

With these grant funds awarded to the City of La Crescent, the MPCA (and other statewide organizations, businesses, etc.) will understand, in detail, the overall benefits of a more well-rounded composting program in this area. Many local municipalities & organizations highlight in their Sustainability Plans and/or Climate Action Plans the visions of composting at a large scale throughout their cities, campuses, etc. An example of this is the City of La Crosse’s Climate Action Plan that specifies, “Achieve 50% organics landfill waste diversion, including food waste reduction by 2030.” Without an accessible and innovative compost processing facility, this goal, and others with composting dreams, are quite unattainable.

We, at Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling Service Inc., are determined to enhance the already stout partnership with the City of La Crescent by being at the side of City officials as this study is conducted. We look forward to the growth of composting in Southwest Wisconsin AND Southeastern Minnesota!

Sincerely,

Brandon Knudtson



General Manager

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