



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00510

Agenda Date: 6/11/2024

Agenda Item Name:

EcoLoop Project Proposal Presentation

Presenter:

Gus Olmos, 352.548.1282; Sean H. Mclendon, 352.548.3765

Description:

Update on the EcoLoop business recruitment and project proposal from Sunshine Organics and Compost.

Recommended Action:

Authorize staff to start negotiations with Sunshine Organics & Compost to develop a lease agreement for the construction and operation of a composting facility at the EcoLoop.

Prior Board Motions:

September 28, 2021 – Adoption of Zero Waste Strategy Report and Implementation Plan.

February 8, 2022 – Approval of Request for Proposal documents, including Screening Criteria.

Fiscal Note:

No fiscal impacts at this time.

Strategic Guide:

Environment

Background:

On September 28, 2021, the County adopted the Joint Alachua County / City of Gainesville Zero Waste Strategy Report and Implementation Plan. The project provides direction for devising the means, methods, and infrastructure necessary to sustainably manage materials within both jurisdictions. One of the key components of the County's Zero Waste Plan is the development of the EcoLoop, located adjacent to the Leveda Brown Environmental Park (5115 NE 63 Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609). The purpose of the EcoLoop is to recruit businesses to take advantage of the many emerging waste recycling technologies, generate quality employment opportunities, and to stimulate the market for locally sourced manufacturing inputs.

As part of the business recruitment process, the County received two qualified proposals. GreenEdge / Green Technologies proposal is to build an anaerobic digester to use food waste, fats, oil & grease and biosolids to generate renewable natural gas and organic fertilizer. Sunshine Organics and Compost is

proposing to build a facility to turn food waste, manure, yard waste, palm and wood pallets into compost and biochar.

The proposals were presented to the Climate Citizen, Environmental Protection and Economic Development Advisory Committees. The Advisory Committees evaluated the proposal using the EcoLoop Screening Criteria approved by the BoCC. The recommendations of the advisory committees and county staff are included in the presentation. GreenEdge / Green Technologies decided to withdraw their project from consideration after receiving the input from the advisory committees.

Staff are recommending starting negotiations with Sunshine Organics & Compost to develop a lease agreement for the construction and operation of a composting facility at the EcoLoop. The results of the lease agreement negotiations will be brought back to the BoCC for final approval.