

# Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN BUNCOMBE COUNTY AND CDM SMITH FOR AN ORGANIC WASTE PROCESSING FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**MEETING DATE:**

August 6, 2013

**REQUESTED BY:**

Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager

**Background information**

Buncombe County desires to partner with the City of Asheville to have a feasibility study conducted related to an organic waste processing operation. The study, to be conducted by CDM Smith, will include researching organic collection and processing programs in existence, conducting a field audit to assess the organic content and waste stream produced from residential waste, reviewing composting technologies, and determining requirements, operating/maintenance costs, and a business plan for an organic composting facility. It is anticipated that such an organic composting facility will allow the County to better manage and control compostable materials that can be diverted from the landfill.

**Pro's**

- Partnership with City focuses on increasing composting and reducing the residential waste stream disposed of in the County landfill
- Organic compost facility would transform materials into usable compost, decomposed organic matter rich in nutrients which can be used as a soil amendment
- Revenues would be received from compost tipping fees as well as sale of organic compost

**Con's**

- Requires adherence to guidelines for design/permitting/construction and operation/maintenance of compost facility, as well as collection of waste

**Funds required**

CDM Smith proposed contract amount is \$99,200. City will participate 50% in the study cost. Remaining funds are available within the existing budget. No new funds are required.

**Alternatives**

None

**Action recommended:**

Adopt the proposed resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement with CDM Smith and the City of Asheville