



Auraria Sustainable Campus Program

Project Funding Proposal

Auraria Sustainable Campus Program

To: Sustainable Campus Program and Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board

From: Cassy Cadwallader

Date: 3/26/2021

Re: Waste Bin Purchase re: Compost Expansion

Project Description

The ASCP is launching the first phase of the compost bin rollout in the summer 2021 semester. This is made possible primarily because of the new \$3 Compost Expansion fee that the student body approved last fiscal year, 2020. We will be looking for a vendor that can supply our indoor and outdoor waste bins campus-wide for many years to come so that we can improve continuity and make it easier for our constituents to dispose of their waste properly. To choose the right vendor, we are going with a public Documented Quote which will allow us to compare multiple vendors to our needs all at the same time. Once that process is complete, we will be purchasing upwards of 30-40 new waste bins containing compost, recycling, and landfill streams to deploy across campus.

New Bin Examples:



Costs

FY20/21 Bin/Bag Purchase

Line Item	Quantity	Cost
Outdoor Bins	10	\$35,288.00
Indoor Bins	25	\$75,745.00

FY21/22 Bin/Bag Purchase

Line Item	Quantity	Cost
Indoor Bins	30	\$65,186
Compost Bags (recurring annually)	27,375	\$18,505.50
Compost Dumpsters (recurring annually)	2	\$5,000

Total one-time purchases = \$176,219.00

Total recurring charges = \$23,505.50

Total contingency funds = \$10,000.00

Total = \$204,730.00

Quantities are subject to change based on the vendor chosen during the Documented Quote process taking place in April 2021

Financial Savings & Payback

The compost bin rollout will help reduce our greenhouse gas emission across campus by avoiding generation of methane in our atmosphere. While this does not have a monetary value directly tied to it, the climate crisis is an existential threat to everyone on the planet. It is our responsibility as a campus to reduce our contributions to the externalities of waste.

Timeline

Pending approval and ordering of the waste bins, this will be implemented prior to the beginning of the fall 2021 semester. Once the bins are received and placed in the selected location, marketing for the program and collection will begin immediately.

Sustainability Context

Engagement in this compost and recycling program supports the ASCP's mission to divert waste from landfills. This is a particularly impactful program for several reasons. There is little opportunity in our current waste management efforts to compost at this scale. It also stands to make a large impact because much of the organic material that could be recycled into soil ends up in landfills, creating greater methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas. Zero waste markets are becoming more prevalent, where compost containers are offered, but this waste stream can be financially inaccessible to many students on a limited income. This program will help students, faculty, and staff who are concerned about minimizing their impact on the environment reduce their landfill contribution, which otherwise may not be possible.

Educational Component

This program will alert the campus community to the problems the world currently faces with regard to the volume of organic material that is currently placed in landfills. The increased presence of compost on campus will increase awareness about the necessity of mitigating these environmental impacts and will provide the campus community with an opportunity to make a difference. After the bins are deployed ASCP staff will host an educational campaign for all constituents on how to properly sort their waste. This will help ensure our waste streams are uncontaminated and student funds are going to good use.

Implementation

Cassy Cadwallader will take the lead on establishing the project with the procurement office, the Documented quote committee, and the chosen vendor. To choose deployment locations and bin deployment she will work with the Facilities and Grounds teams for all three universities and AHEC. She will also work with marketing to developing marketing materials and distributing them and will facilitate implementation through any other means required by the ASCP. The ASCP's help will be needed to maintain the project after its establishment, in the form of ongoing education, waste diversion tracking, and bag purchases. It would also be beneficial to distribute marketing materials on a periodic basis to support community participation.

*****Please refer to the *Process for Submittal and Review* document for additional instructions*****

Please contact SCP_Contact@ahec.edu or the AHEC Sustainability Officer at (303) 556 –3481 with questions.