



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

**8B**  
Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** November 14, 2023

**Title of Item:** Greater MN Recycling Grant - Recyclops Rural Curbside Recycling

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>
<b>Submitted by:</b> Andrew Carlstrom	<b>Department:</b> Environmental Services
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director	<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 15 Minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> <p>Aitkin County recycled over 2200 tons of residential recycling in 2022, and we anticipate our numbers and citizen participation to continue to increase into the future. In 2022, Aitkin County applied for and received the Greater Minnesota Recycling and Composting grant in an effort to increase more access and participation of recycling in rural Aitkin County.</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Recyclops, Ryan Smith will present and discuss the mission of Recyclops. Recyclops is an "Uber-like" company that hires local drivers, with their own personal vehicles, to offer curbside recycling pickup. Recyclops operates in 19 states of the US and provides access to curbside recycling to over one million customers nationwide.</p> <p>For discussion only. Please see memorandum. County Attorney to review and approve final contract.</p>	
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b> Discussion only.	
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Discussion only.	
<b>Financial Impact:</b> <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping?</i> \$ 154,175.00 (estimated) <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i> Total grant monies anticipated from MPCA = \$91,325.00 (estimated) Total in-kind and match anticipated from Aitkin County = \$22,831.25 (estimated)	

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

**Aitkin County Environmental Services Planning and Zoning**  
**307 Second Street NW**  
**Room 219**  
**Aitkin, MN 56431**  
Phone: 218-927-7342  
Fax: 218-927-4372



## **MEMORANDUM TO AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

DATE: November 14, 2023

FROM: Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director – Planning & Zoning Administrator

RE: Greater Minnesota Recycling Grant and Composting Grant

In early 2022, Aitkin County Environmental Services applied for and received a Greater Minnesota Recycling Grant in an effort to encourage more access and participation of recycling in rural Aitkin County. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), who manages the Greater Minnesota Recycling Grant, awarded Aitkin County a total of \$91,325.00 to implement a test pilot program to offer **Curbside Recycling Services** to rural Aitkin County residents.

The innovative business contractor that will work with Aitkin County to execute **Curbside Recycling Services** is called “**Recyclops**”. **Recyclops** has been in operation since 2014, currently operates **Curbside Recycling Services** in **19 states providing access to over 1 million households**, with a simple mission statement, “To make recycling accessible to everyone, regardless of where you live!”. **Recyclops** will recruit and hire local Aitkin County citizens, who use their own personal vehicles to pick up standard accepted recyclables at the customer’s home, then deliver the recyclables to Aitkin County’s Recycling Center in Aitkin (much like the public transportation company “Uber”). Please visit [recyclops.com](http://recyclops.com) for more fascinating information about this technology-driven and creative new business model!

Initially for this test pilot, households in the townships of Aitkin, Farm Island, Nordland, and Spencer (which are in close proximity to the Aitkin Recycling Center) will be offered the chance to sign up for weekly service (from March 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024), at a discounted rate of \$10.00 per month, provided for by the Greater Minnesota Recycling Grant. If customers are satisfied with **Recyclops**, they can renew their monthly subscription for a regular cost of \$20.00 to \$30.00 per month starting in 2025. Lastly, in the next two months if the minimum required 625 customers sign up for **Recyclops**, to our knowledge, Aitkin County will be the first recycling test-pilot of this kind in Minnesota! Lastly and most importantly, our local waste haulers in Aitkin County are aware of this new concept of recycling, and **Recyclops** service will not interfere with any current **Curbside Recycling** being done by our haulers within the County.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this new venture of bringing recycling to rural Aitkin County residents and families!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 218-927-7342 or by email at [andrew.carlstrom@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:andrew.carlstrom@co.aitkin.mn.us).

# recyclops

Join your neighbors in making  
your town more sustainable!

## SIGN UP

Go to [www.Recyclops.com](http://www.Recyclops.com) & sign up  
for your recycling pick ups.



## BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES

No need to sort! Just put all of your  
clean recyclables in Recyclops bags.

## PLACE THEM ON THE CURB

Put your bags out on your recycling  
pick-up day. We'll drive by and pick it up



## WE'LL DO THE REST

Once we pick up your recyclables,  
we'll take care of getting all of your  
materials recycled!



## SIGN UP NOW!

Scan the QR code & find your location to  
start your sustainability journey!





At-home & business  
recycling pickup is  
now available in  
**Aitkin County!**

Get your monthly  
subscription for just  
\$10/month.



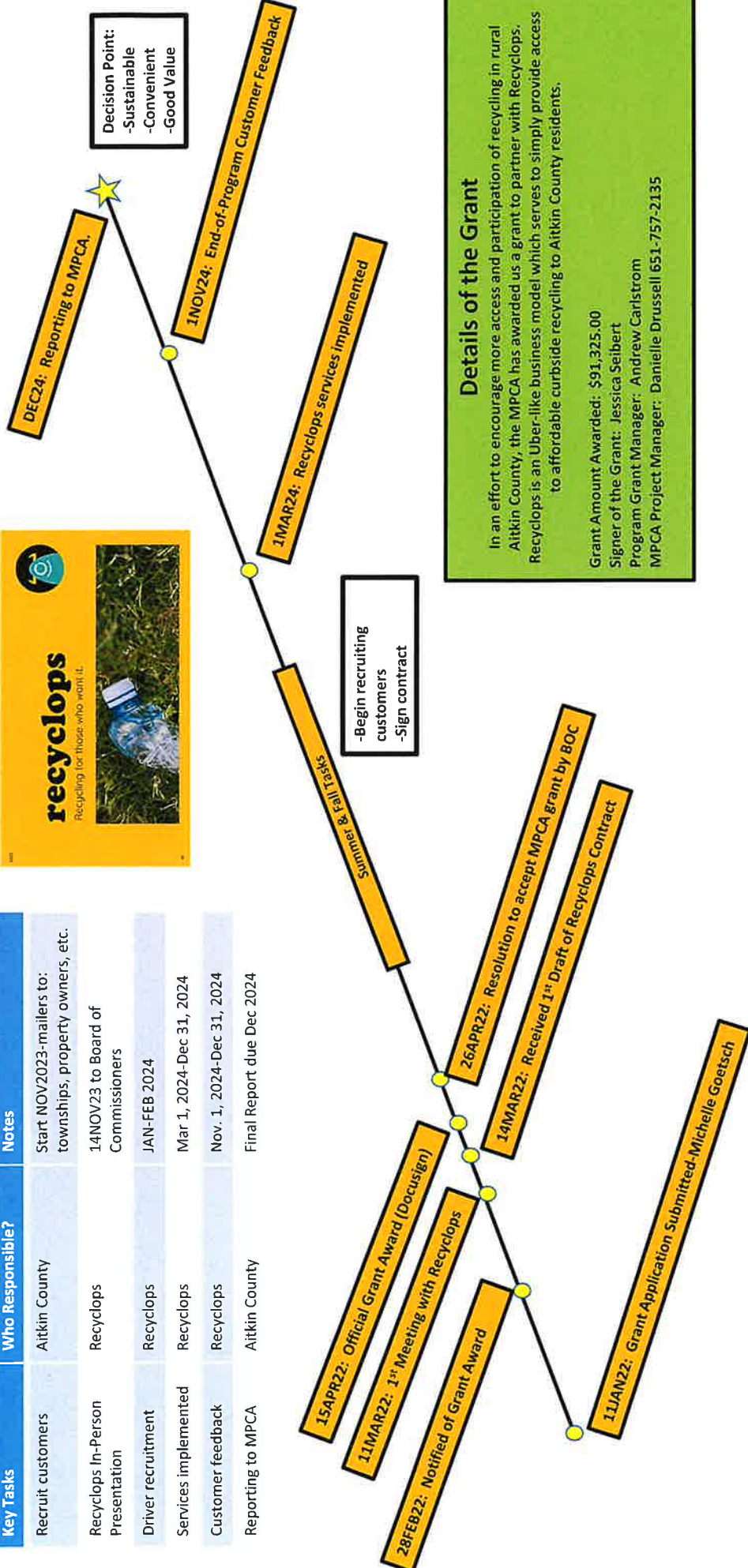
Sign up today at  
[recyclops.com](https://recyclops.com)

**recyclops**



# Greater MN Recycling Grant In-Progress Report

Key Tasks	Who Responsible?	Notes
Recruit customers	Aitkin County	Start NOV2023-mailers to: townships, property owners, etc.
Recyclops In-Person Presentation	Recyclops	14NOV23 to Board of Commissioners
Driver recruitment	Recyclops	JAN-FEB 2024
Services implemented	Recyclops	Mar 1, 2024-Dec 31, 2024
Customer feedback	Recyclops	Nov. 1, 2024-Dec 31, 2024
Reporting to MPCA	Aitkin County	Final Report due Dec 2024



**Details of the Grant**

In an effort to encourage more access and participation of recycling in rural Aitkin County, the MPCA has awarded us a grant to partner with Recyclops. Recyclops is an Uber-like business model which serves to simply provide access to affordable curbside recycling to Aitkin County residents.

Grant Amount Awarded: \$91,325.00  
 Signer of the Grant: Jessica Seibert  
 Program Grant Manager: Andrew Carlstrom  
 MPCA Project Manager: Danielle Drussell 651-757-2135