



**PRESS** release

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*Akron to eliminate almost all of the smell that wafts from Akron's Compost Facility.*

Mayor Don Plusquellic will ask Council on Monday to approve a contract extension with KB Compost Services, Inc., a company that will eliminate almost all of the odors emanating from Akron's Compost Facility. Once again, Akron is at the forefront of "green" technology that will manage waste at Akron's Compost Facility, produce construction jobs, reduce costs and create reusable energy.

KB Compost is the premier biosolids management company in Ohio providing comprehensive expertise in creating useable by-products from biosolids, an organic waste. The City originally contracted with KB Compost in 2007 for the construction of an anaerobic digestive system (ADS) to manage one-third of the biosolids generated by the City of Akron while producing renewable energy. This Phase 2 solution will generate over a hundred construction jobs and produce electricity that can be used at the WPCS

facility and will also generate Renewable Energy Credits that can be sold on the open market.

“We completed Phase 1 in December 2007, and after three years of operational experience and after independent evaluation by an outside consultant, we have determined the system performs as expected, and we are ready to implement Phase 2,” said Mayor Plusquellic.

The Phase 2 system expansion will direct all of the City’s biosolids to the ADS. The combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 system will eliminate almost all of the odors in the Valley that are generated by the composting operation because the City will not be composting sludge any longer and there will be no outside storage of material.

“This is a modern solution to composting sludge that benefits our citizens and the environment. Additionally,” said Service Director Rick Merolla, “we believe that not only will this green solution be better for the environment, it will also cost less than upgrading the existing composting facility.”

The total cost to implement Phase 2 is estimated at \$32 million, but there is a 30 percent energy credit available for private investment into this operation. The City will have no upfront costs, but after ten years will take on the debt service payments which should be funded 100 percent from the annual operating cost savings.

“This is certainly a great system for Akron that I think will be emulated by cities around the country,” said Mayor Plusquellic. “Not only will we be eliminating odors coming from our Compost Facility, but we are implementing a green alternative to composting sludge.”

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