

EXHIBIT A

**Questions & Answers**  
**Solicitation No. DCAM-20-NC-IFB-0002 | ORGANICS COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES**

NO.	QUESTIONS	DGS RESPONSE
01	We have a concern about the safety and efficacy of utilizing 96 gallon carts for composting. The average weight a gallon of food waste is 7.4 lbs. which would mean that a full 96 gallon cart could weigh up to 710.5lbs, which is double the weight capacity of a 96 gallon cart (approximately 350lbs) and outside of DCMR 708.7-8, which lays out that the maximum that should be held in a 96 gallon cart is 250 lbs. This weight is a concern as it is the upper limit of a truck toter lift and above the safe lift limit of our staff. Each property currently has up to four (4) - 96 gallon carts for up to 384 gallons of waste, which is equal to 6 x 65 gallon carts of the same capacity. While from a purely numeric perspective this would also apply to 65 gallon carts, our experience is that even when full they do not reach the rated limit. However, we are concerned that going to the larger carts may tip the scale. Have you taken cart and cart-tipper capacity into consideration?	Yes, the Department has taken into consideration the cart size and weight. Program participants help cut on weight by keeping liquids out of the collection stream. Participants also limit the amount of compostable materials to about 15 gallons per bag (2-3 bags, or approximately 45 gallons per meal time). Having multiple containers helps balance collection weight on the Tue/Thurs/Sat collection schedule. Most of the volume can be attributed to compostable trays used at most schools. The Department does not foresee compromising safety or cart tipper capacity.
02	(a) How has the current Contractor conducted service? (b) Was there anything specific you liked or did not like about their service? (c) What did you learn from this experience that we should be aware of?	(a) The District has a short-term contract with a qualified contractor who is performing the required services specified in their contract. (b) Contractors who provide services to DGS are expected to perform services under the contract requirements and are evaluated for their performance. Information, such as what DGS "likes" and "dislikes" about the incumbent's services does not add value to bidders responding to this IFB, as the scope is not the same. (c) This question is not relevant to bidders interested in responding to this IFB.
03	Basic Services: We need further clarification on the pricing table. For labor (CLIN 0001), (a) do you want the cost per location of compost collection or cost per ton? (b) Is the daily subtotal for collection of all 41 locations? (c) Does the number of estimated collections mean the collection of compostables from the 41 schools picked up 129 times per year? These units are important to determine pricing.	Please refer to Item No. 2, Addendum No. 02 and <i>Revised Price Schedule (Bid Form), 08-Nov-2019 (Attachment J.11)</i> . (a) DGS is asking the Contractor to provide a firm-fixed fully loaded labor rate, regardless of the number of containers per site, for collecting and hauling the material. The labor rate is <b>not</b> inclusive of the disposal rate. The disposal cost = (the tonnage we collect) X (whatever set price we have at the facility), so it varies day to day. (b) Yes, the daily subtotal includes the 41 locations; it will automatically calculate. (c) Yes, the number of estimated collections is the collection of organics from the 41 locations for the entire base year (school year) which DGS determined to be 129 collections.
04	Will compostable liners be used and provided by each school?	DGS provides compostable liners to schools to use for organics collection. Most schools will utilize these liners for collections, but some may dump organic materials into the collection carts directly.
05	How will the schools make sure to put only organics and/or BPI-Certified materials in the bins?	DGS has a program that includes training and outreach for students and staff at each school to ensure proper collections. If hauler finds that collections are too contaminated, contractor shall not empty container(s) into truck, which could contaminate the entire load.
06	Are there any logistical information we should be aware of for each school? For example, will the bins be stored in accessible areas between the service time window provided, and located in areas where the bins can be easily rolled to our truck?	Containers will be stored in a location that is accessible to the hauler. DGS can work with school and hauler to find ideal location to store bins, if necessary. If containers are stored behind garage doors, fences, gates, etc., DGS will coordinate with hauler and school to ensure hauler has access to empty containers as scheduled.
07	C.5.4.1.4. states "the Contractor shall ensure that it maintains all containers free of dirt, debris and sticky substances at all times." How has the previous contractor handled this in the past? How can we control how the schools are using and handling our bins at all times?	These requirements described in section C.5.4.1.4 were not included in the previous contract; therefore, not applicable. Concerns regarding how schools are using and handling bins should be communicated to the COTR. For clarification, the bins are not property of the Contractor; DGS will purchase the bins and therefore, DGS will have full ownership of all bins used.
08	What is the procedure for picking-up overflow organics the school has placed on or around our bins?	Schools are instructed to containerized material set aside for collection in accordance to DCMR requirements. Any overflow or other concerns should be immediately communicated to the COTR.
09	Would you please clarify Reimbursement description (CLIN 0009) "SUPPLEMENTAL MISCELLANEOUS HIGH VOLUME MATERIAL (UNFORSEEN LANDSCAPING; HAND PULL)"? Does this mean we have to perform landscaping labor?	As exemplified in C.5.17.3.2 Supplemental Periodic Services, Supplemental Miscellaneous High Volume Material would be something such as a parent-led school-yard cleaning event generating cardboard bags of leaves and brush. Contractor (Hauler) will not provide landscaping labor; however, DGS may request that materials gathered during a clean-up event be collected on organics route.
10	Why do you require rubber wheels on the 96 gallon containers? Would you be open to considering standard plastic wheels?	Rubber wheels are traditionally more durable and safe compared standard plastic wheels; however, the COTR is open to review product specifications provided by the proposed manufacturer.
11	Would DGS accept a higher quantity of smaller bins (65 gallon) at each location? Fully loaded 96 gallon carts can be dangerously heavy.	No, DGS will not accept a higher quantity of smaller (65-gallon) bins at each location. Due to space constraints of school loading docks and parking lots where collection carts are typically stored, numerous 65 gallon carts are not ideal. Please refer to previous response about cart size.