

AGENDA ITEM – 3A



DATE: January 12, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
Jessica Jagoe, City Administrator

FROM: Jen Estling, Deputy Clerk

SUBJECT: SCORE Grant Incentive Funds for 2026

Budgeted Amount:
\$11,027 SCORE

Estimated Amount:
N/A

Funding Source:
Recycling Funds

Council Should Consider

Council should discuss and provide direction on use of SCORE Grant Incentive Funds for cleanup events.

Background

The City applied for grant money from Ramsey County’s recycling SCORE grant program for 2026. The base funds are used to offset the cost of the City’s recycling program, including administration, equipment, and collection costs. There is incentive funding, in addition to the base allowance, that can be used for up to two approved incentive initiatives per year. In 2025 Arden Hills received \$23,815.00 in incentive funds. The 2026 incentive amount is \$11,027.

In the past the incentive funds have been used for the annual Cleanup Day event where Arden Hills partners with Recycle Technologies in Blaine. Thanks to the increase in incentive funding in 2025, we were able to offer a second cleanup day and Council agreed to pay 100% of the costs for the second cleanup event with the additional SCORE incentive dollars.

Resident feedback was positive regarding the Recycle Day cleanup event that was held in Arden Hills. Staff have been in contact with the Military and Ramsey County (along with the other tenants of their building) and neither entity has a conflict with us moving forward with a Recycle Day at the Public Works Yard on May 30, 2026.

The total cost of the Recycle Technologies event was \$3,401.50, which was down slightly from previous years. The total cost for the City-paid event was \$7,800.21. It is notable that City

Attorney fees in the amount of \$1,071 paid for through SCORE grant funds were applied to the second event as Ramsey County required a written agreement to facilitate the event on their property. That agreement was reviewed, revised and passed between City Attorney and County Attorney until a final agreement was produced. Staff will be able to modify that same agreement and only update it with the new date and will not need to be reviewed by the City Attorney again.

Discussion

While the 2026 incentive funds are less than what we received last year, they are still higher than previous years. Therefore, staff feels we can provide two recycling events for Arden Hills residents again this year.

Staff is recommending holding a City-paid recycling event on May 30. The final cost would be an unknown if Council decides to use SCORE incentive money to pay for the entire event. However, based on the totals for both events in 2025, Staff believes funding the entire May event will still leave enough incentive money to hold a second cleanup event in the fall.

Staff will re-evaluate the City-paid portion, prior to the second event, and provide a recommendation on offering coupons for a specified number of free items, depending on the amount of funds spent for the May event. Staff is aware that many of the items collected can be dropped off at the Environmental Center. We will continue to promote those opportunities. Ramsey County has assured Staff that using SCORE funds to provide cleanup events for residents is not “double dipping” and is an allowable use of SCORE incentive funds.

Staff is seeking Council confirmation of recommended next steps:

- Holding two cleanup events in 2026.
 - First event will be May 30th at the Public Works Yard
 - Free of charge to residents
 - Vendor: Freimuth Enterprises
 - Staff will be bringing forward to the February 9th meeting the agreement with Ramsey County for authorization to sign.
 - Second event to be held fall of 2026
 - Cost to residents to be determined
 - Vendor: Council is asked to provide comments on partnering with Recycle Technologies in Blaine for the fall event or if we want to move to two cleanup days held in Arden Hills. The same vendor, Freimuth Enterprises dba All Appliance Recycling, is open to facilitating both events, should we so choose.

Budget Impact

The cost for the proposed cleanup event in addition to staff time would be covered by the SCORE Grant Incentive funding.

Attachments

N/A