ANOKA COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
2024

Anoka County
MINNESOTA
Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

Table of Contents

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Executive Summary

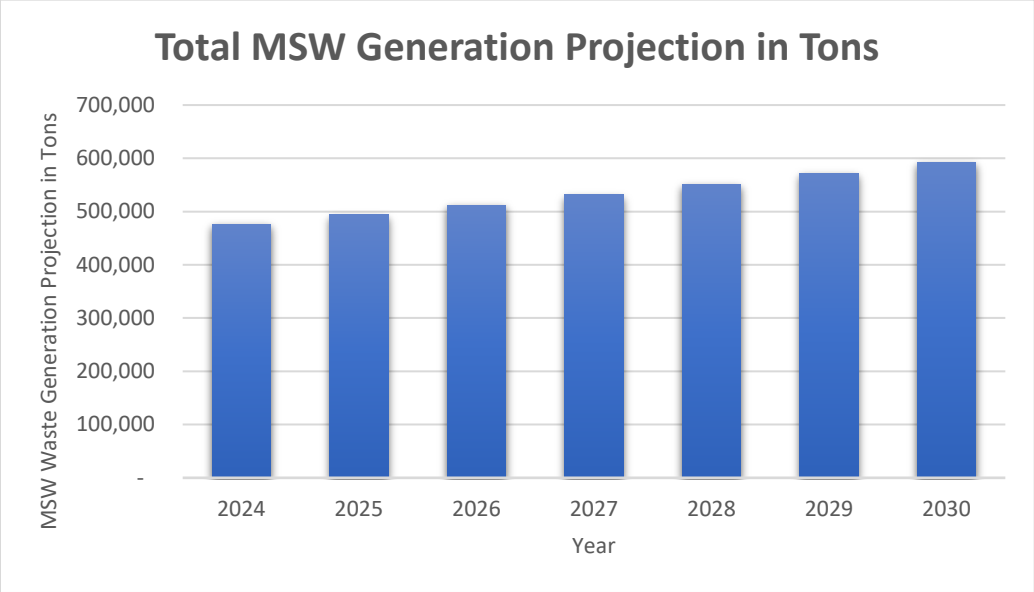
This document contains the goals, policies, and strategies that will guide the management of solid waste generated within the borders of Anoka County through the year 2042. It is a revision of the *2018 Anoka County Solid Waste Management Master Plan*, which was prepared according to Minn. Stat. §§115A.46 and 473.803 and approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on June 29, 2018.

This *2024 Anoka County Solid Waste Management Plan* ("The Plan") incorporates the vision, goals, and objectives of *the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042 (MSWMPP)*.

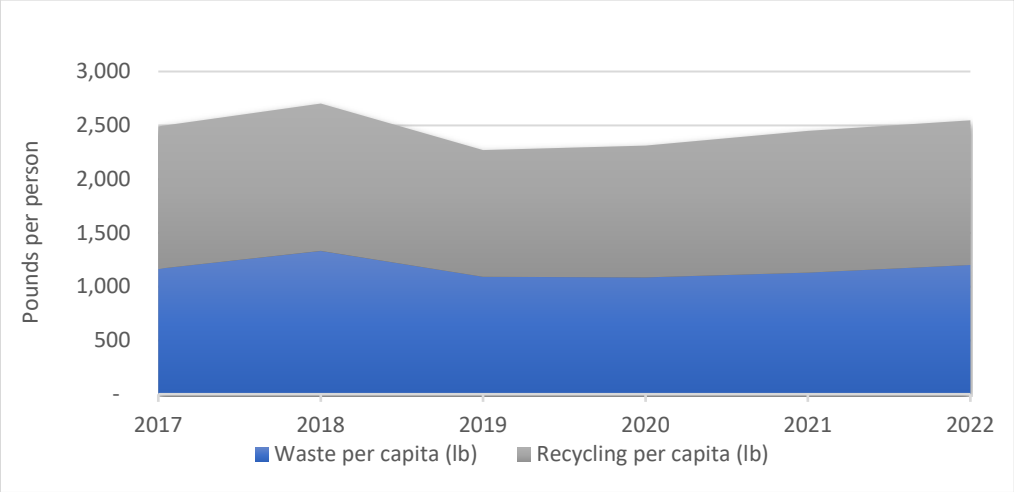
Chapter One describes the plan preparation process. The Plan has been prepared for County Board approval by the staff of the Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions (R&RS) Unit of the Public Health & Environmental Services Department, with assistance from the Anoka County Attorney's Office, in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 473.803, Subd. 4.

Chapter Two is a description of Anoka County's geography and population. Chapters Three and Four are an overview and history of the existing solid waste management system. These chapters describe the programs and facilities currently available to manage the waste stream. Anoka County managed 459,109 tons of municipal solid waste in 2023. The County projects an increase to 592,561 tons of municipal solid waste in 2030, in addition to meeting the 75% state-required diversion goal, which is a significant challenge to manage. Waste generation per capita has increased steadily over the last several years, while recycling rates have also risen.

Figure ES.1 Anoka County MSW Growth Projections, 2024 – 2030



ES.2 Anoka County Per Capita Waste and Recycling, 2017 – 2022



Chapter five is a description of how the County will implement The Plan, measure, and evaluate solid waste management programs and hazardous waste management programs over the next planning cycle. Plan implementation is presented in Chapters Six through Sixteen and establishes the County's policies and strategies to manage waste. The emphasis on waste management has evolved from considering waste as something without value to managing waste as a resource. In addition, the key elements to achieve these policies and strategies, based on the solid waste management hierarchy, are accountability, generator responsibility, government as a leader, and private sector initiative.

This is a collaborative effort, and the emphasis is reflected in each of the topic areas in The Plan:

Toxicity Reduction: The Plan emphasizes toxicity reduction in all elements of the integrated solid waste management system to protect the public as well as the environment.

Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling: The Plan focuses on expanding our efforts and achieving the new objectives in the plan for 15% waste reduction and 47.7% recycling by 2030.

Organics Management: The Plan describes new efforts for organics recovery and sets forth strategies that will result in 27.6% abatement of organics by 2030.

Yard and Tree Waste: Yard and tree waste is to be managed as a resource, rather than waste. Yard and tree waste material will be an integral carbon source to process the anticipated amount of organics coming from homes and businesses.

Processing: The Plan describes new efforts for organics recovery and sets forth strategies that will result in a 20% waste-to-energy recovery rate by 2030. The focus is on promoting opportunities to process waste that cannot be reused, recycled, or composted, and informing public entities of their requirement to process their waste. The County will look to the private sector to develop new processing technologies and to increase the processing capacity available to metropolitan waste generators.

The Plan describes new efforts for organics recovery and sets forth strategies that will result in a 20% waste-to-energy recovery rate by 2030. The focus is on promoting opportunities to process waste that cannot be reused, recycled, or composted, and informing public entities of their requirement to process their waste.

Regarding examples of how the County has sought to support private industry, for the past four years, the County has been discussing a partnership with the Vonco II facility in Becker, Minnesota. This discussion has been regarding restarting the existing permitted organics processing operation at the site. Vonco II has since restarted this operation. The County hopes to enter a formal partnership within the next couple of years, whereby it can actively support this operation by transporting organic waste to the site for processing.

The County also explored co-developing a new commercial organics processing site in Blaine, Minnesota, on land owned by Waste Management. Earlier this year, after the company completed its due diligence for this potential development, it made the decision not to pursue this opportunity, for cost and permitting reasons.

The County will continue to explore private/public partnership opportunities to develop new organics processing options and to increase the capacity available to metropolitan waste generators.

Landfilling: The Plan describes new efforts for landfill abatement and sets forth strategies that will result in 5% landfill rate by 2030. Conservation of existing landfill space is critical, considering the difficulties in siting new facilities. Development and implementation of new technologies will be encouraged if they provide environmental protection.

Non-MSW Management: The emphasis is on recognizing non-mixed municipal solid waste (Non-MSW) streams as resources and providing opportunities to manage them per the waste management hierarchy.

Regulation: The County regulates entities to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public. The regulated community in the County consists of solid waste and hazardous waste facilities, solid waste haulers, and, in certain instances, generators.

Cost and Finance: The integrated solid waste management system is funded with fees that are used as tools to fund programs to safeguard the public and provide incentives to comply with the waste management hierarchy and state law. Funding sources such as SCORE and LRDG are critical to the success of our programs.

Anoka County emphasizes collaboration with its municipalities and waste haulers. County R&RS staff have productive and active partnerships with waste management staff at all 21 municipalities in the county. Our Environmental Services staff also works closely with all waste haulers that provide services and have processing facilities in the county.

To achieve the objectives set by the State to protect the public, conserve resources, and reduce the amount of material landfilled, a collaborative approach remains a central theme in this Plan.

Chapter One: Introduction and Plan Preparation

Introduction

The 2024 Anoka County Solid Waste Management Plan contains the goals, policies, and objectives that will guide the planning and management of solid waste generated within the borders of Anoka County through the year 2042. It is a revision of the *2018 Anoka County Solid Waste Management Master Plan* that was prepared pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§115A.46 and 473.803, Subd. 4, and the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022 – 2042 (MSWMPP). This plan was approved by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners on September 24, 2024, and submitted on September 27, 2024, to the commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). This *2024 Anoka County Solid Waste Management Plan* meets legislative mandates. These goals, policies, and strategies were developed to be consistent with the missions of Anoka County and the Public Health & Environmental Services Department (PHES).

Anoka County Mission

The mission of Anoka County is to serve citizens in a respectful, innovative, and fiscally responsible manner.

Public Health & Environmental Services Mission

Mission: to improve health through education, prevention, service, regulation, and advocacy in Anoka County.
Vision: Optimal health for all people, communities, and environments in Anoka County.

Plan Preparation Process

This Solid Waste Management Plan has been prepared for the Anoka County Board of Commissioners' approval by the Anoka County Public Health & Environmental Services Department staff and the Anoka County Attorney's Office.

Community Engagement

The Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions Unit conducted a broad community engagement process to aid in the development of this plan. The County contracted with WSB to conduct partner engagement within Anoka County. The partner engagement consisted of 4 focus groups and a community-wide survey for residents and businesses. The focus groups consisted of representatives of municipalities, waste haulers, internal county staff, and commercial entities. In addition to the input provided at these meetings, Anoka County received public input from 719 residents through printed and online surveys promoted on the County website, the county newsletter, social media, and municipal newsletters, websites, and libraries. This input was considered when selecting the optional strategies to achieve the plan's goals.

In addition, the County identified internal workgroups responsible for administering the required and optional strategies of the MSWMPP. The workgroups met to evaluate all required and optional strategies based on cost, operational level of difficulty, the County’s ability to implement with existing staff, what, if any, infrastructure changes would be needed, and anticipated roadblocks. Based on those criteria, the workgroups recommend optional strategies of the MSWMPP to achieve a minimum of 75 points of optional strategies as required for this plan. Those required and optional strategies are incorporated into the relevant chapters. The County also proposed three alternative strategies to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and those were accepted for inclusion in the Plan.

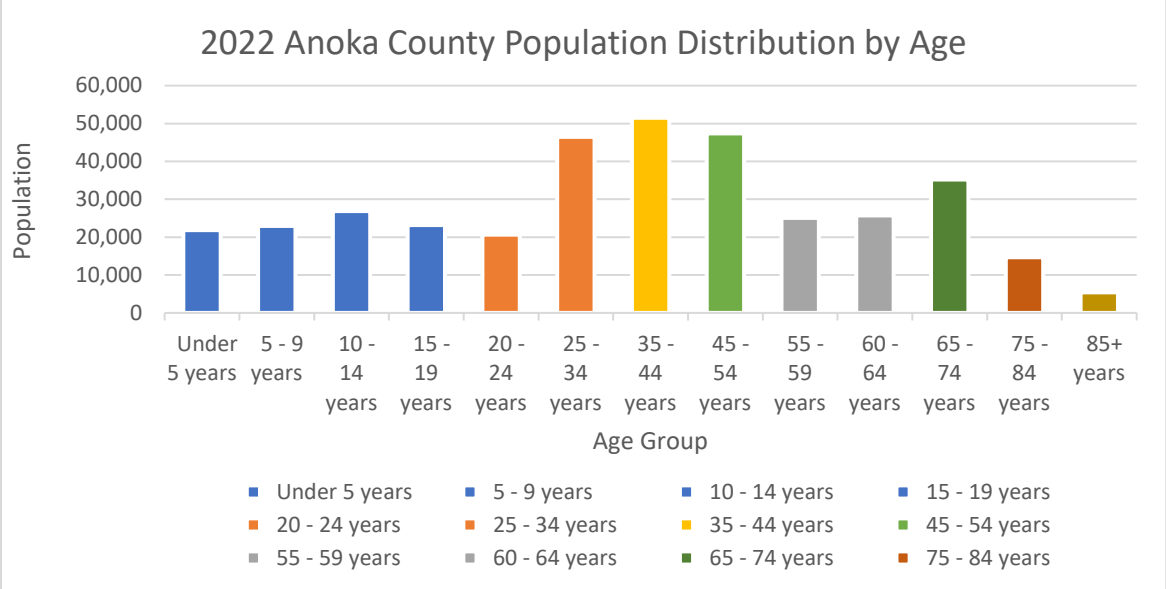
Chapter Two: Background Information

Demographic, geographic, and regional information

Anoka County, located minutes from the Twin Cities, covers 424 square miles, of which more than 5% is water, and is the fourth most populous county in the state. According to Metropolitan Council estimates, Anoka County's population was 371,269 in 2023, an increase of 6.49% since 2016. With award-winning schools, a major hospital with two campuses, world-class recreational facilities, and two post-secondary educational institutions, there are many reasons why people and businesses choose Anoka County.

- 94% of residents have at least a high school diploma.
- 81% own their home.
- The median household income is 15% higher than the statewide average.
- Along with the Mississippi and Rum Rivers, there are 125 lakes and 18 county parks.
- 25% of our population is under the age of 19.
- Anoka County is the fourth most populous county in the state.
- The number of housing units increased from 128,135 to 142,649, an 11.3% increase from 2016 to 2023.
- The average household size is 2.71 persons.

Figure 2.1 Current Population Distribution
Source: Data.Census.gov



Population Projections 2030

The County estimates the total population of Anoka County will be 400,230 by 2030. Source: Data.Census.gov

Current and Projected Land Use Patterns

Anoka County is a diverse county in how the land is utilized. The southern portion of the county, adjacent to Hennepin County, is highly urban. The central areas of the county are suburban, and the northern third of the county is mostly rural. Anoka County continues to see suburban sprawl moving further north from Minneapolis and St. Paul. 3% of the county is zoned for commercial buildings, 45% is

zoned for single-family homes, and 4% is zoned for multi-family homes (2+ units). Other major land uses include agricultural (17%), Industrial (3%), and Rural vacant (5%). The remaining land uses within the County are highly varied and in small quantities.

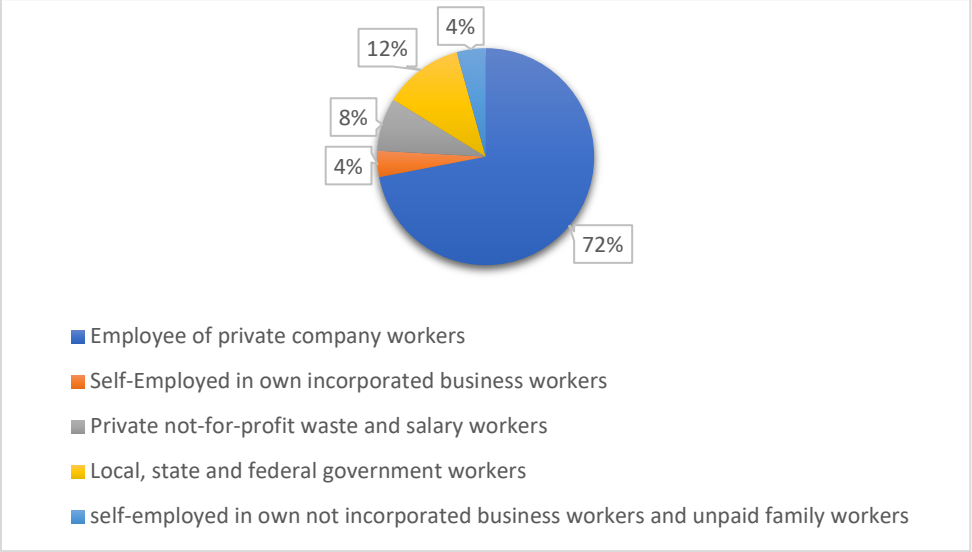
Figure 2.2 Current Demographic Statistics

Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/anokacountyminnesota/INC110221

Total Employer Establishments in 2021	8,003
Anoka County Rate of Employment (vs MN rate 65%)	66%
Median household income (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	$88,680
Per capita income in the past 12 months (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	$40,057

Figure 2.3 Anoka County Class of Worker

Source: https://data.census.gov/



Summary of demographic, geographical, and regional constraints and opportunities that have impacted or may impact the existing or proposed system

Anoka County has an urban southern panhandle with a suburban southern half and a rural northern half. This geography can be challenging when planning for collection events, when most people would only be willing to drive 15 minutes or less to attend a collection event or go to a facility. The County has supported municipal collection drop-off locations and events to address these geographical challenges.

MSW transfer stations are centrally located in Blaine and serve to consolidate waste to be brought to either landfills, industrial compost facilities, or a waste-to-energy facility if there is any available processing capacity. Transfer capacity will be integral to achieving the strategies laid out in the plan. An additional challenge is the proximity of permitted operational industrial compost facilities. Additional organics processing capacity is necessary for the County to achieve the organics diversion goal. The County seeks to work collaboratively with the private sector, surrounding counties, and municipalities in Anoka County to increase organics processing capacity.

Chapter Three: Solid Waste Collection and Generation

Introduction

The current solid waste management system in Anoka County is a mix of proven methods developed in cooperation with county partners such as municipalities and private waste haulers. The system is designed to successfully support county, regional, and state goals. The purpose of these goals is to conserve natural resources and protect the environment and public health. The County is tasked to achieve lower overall waste generation, higher recovery rates of recyclables and organics, and higher waste-to-energy recovery to achieve a 5% landfill rate by 2030.

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners makes decisions about the integrated solid waste management system. The Board receives recommendations from the Human Services Committee. The R&RS unit of the Public Health and Environmental Services Department (PHES) coordinates waste abatement programs in partnership with municipalities and service providers. Additionally, the County collaborates on regional hauler licensing and reciprocal use agreements for household hazardous waste (HHW) with Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, and Washington counties.

Solid Waste Generated Annually

Over the last planning cycle, waste generation has been increasing. In 2022, 467,243 tons of municipal solid waste were managed or 1.27 tons per person. In comparison, in 2016, the County managed 409,112 tons of waste, or 1.16 tons per person. The following charts show the composition of how waste has been managed over the previous 6-year planning cycle, and the per capita waste generation within the County. There was an increase in generation in 2018, with a slight dip in overall waste generated in 2019, and then an increase in waste generation since 2019. Recycling rates have remained stable; however, the County must increase recovery rates of recyclables and organics, and reduce overall waste generation to achieve the 75% recycling rate set in statute.

Figure 3.1 Anoka County MSW Managed in 2022
In tons

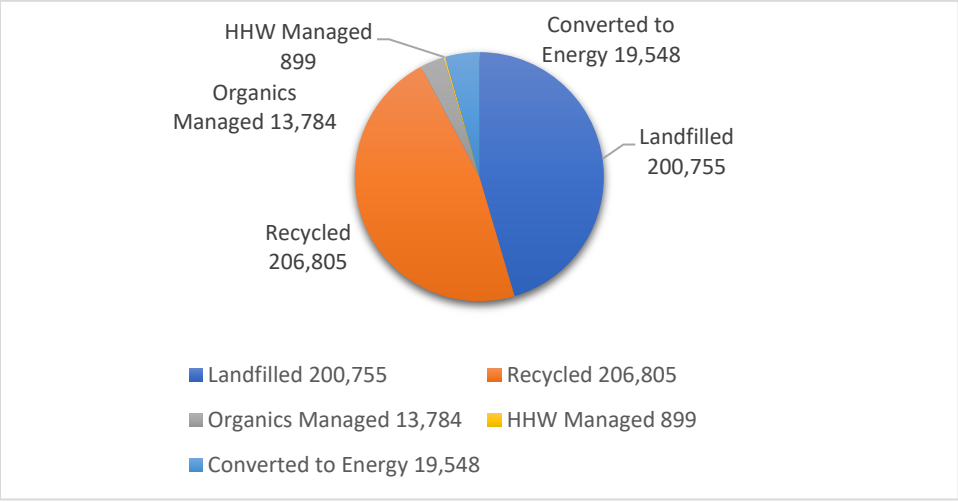


Figure 3.2 Anoka County MSW Generated Annually 2017 - 2022
In tons

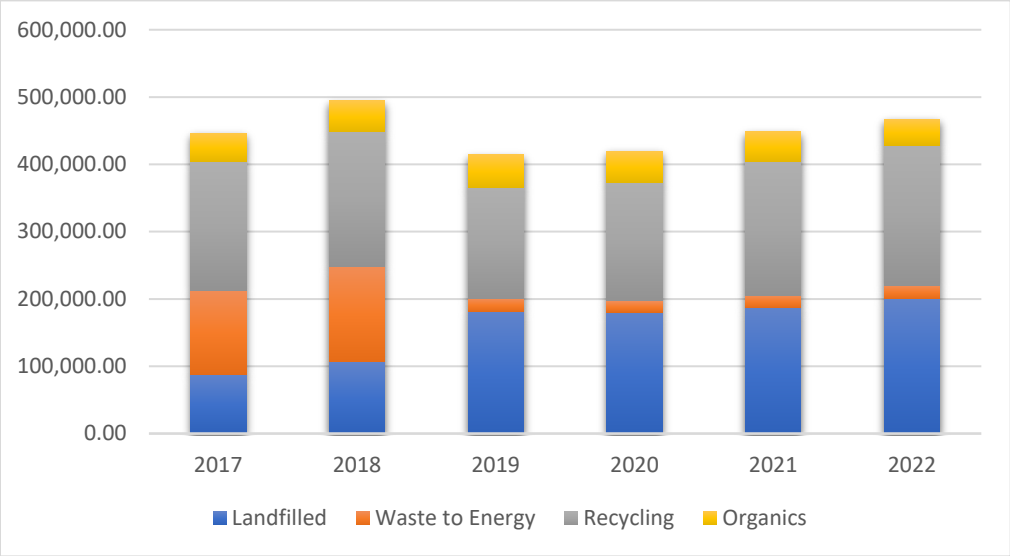
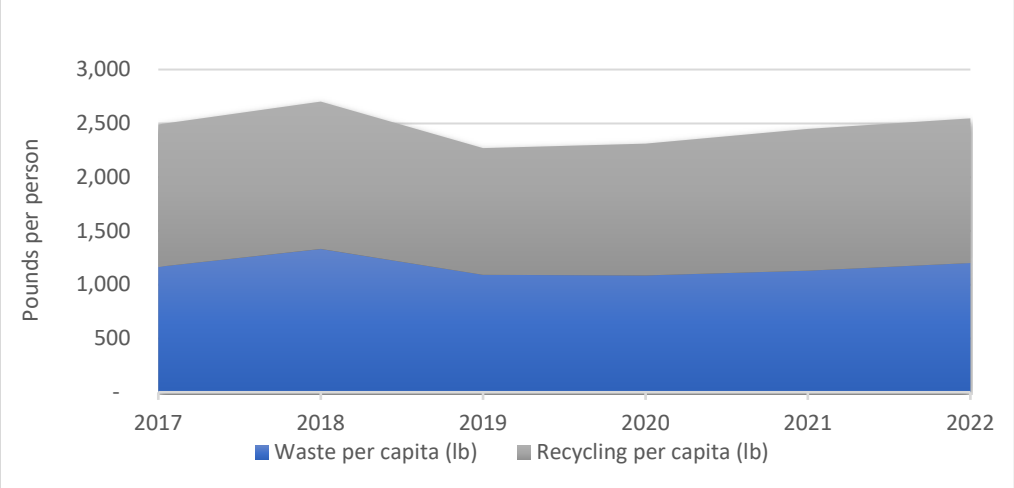


Figure 3.3 Anoka County Per Capita Waste and Recycling, 2017 - 2022



Toxicity Reduction

Anoka County places a high priority on reducing the toxicity and hazards associated with waste in the integrated solid waste management system. The county focuses on providing technical assistance, disposal opportunities, and effective communication to residents, encouraging them to adopt practices that minimize the use of hazardous materials and promote proper disposal methods. The county also provides technical assistance and regulatory oversight to commercial generators.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Management

Household hazardous waste (HHW) presents a significant challenge to the environment and public health. Hazardous products are commonly found in residential settings, such as oil-based paint, drain cleaners, and solvents. Improper disposal of these substances can lead to soil, water bodies, and air contamination, resulting in lasting damage to the environment and public health.

The primary objectives of Anoka County's HHW program are:

- Reduce the use of hazardous household products.
- Provide information about proper disposal.
- Provide disposal options for household waste streams that cannot be managed at home or through other collection sites.

The permanent Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility is vital in collecting hazardous waste from the community to ensure proper disposal and serves over 300,000 residents. There has been a significant 70% increase in materials managed at the facility over the past 12 years. Maintaining and improving service levels is imperative. A facility efficiency evaluation by Special Waste Associates in 2022 identified key objectives to enhance operations, including improving customer service, optimizing traffic control, streamlining intake and data collection, enhancing waste handling efficiency, improving waste packaging practices, exploring facility redesign options, and maintaining equipment and facility conditions.

Two recommended options were proposed to address the growing waste volume and respond to anticipated population growth. The first option involves constructing a new facility in another area of the County to respond to the increased demand of growing populations. The second option the county is considering is making necessary repairs and modifications to the existing facility to extend its useful life. Funding for these improvements would be derived from the Solid Waste Management charge; additional grant or bond funding is not needed.

These facility updates would meet growing demand, maintain a safe working environment, reduce wait times, provide clear participant directions, and streamline processes. By achieving these objectives, the HHW program will elevate service quality; meet the needs of the expanding population; and offer safe, convenient, and efficient disposal services.

The following charts show materials collected and participation in the HHW program.

Figure 3.4 HHW Collected at the Anoka County Facility in 2022
In pounds

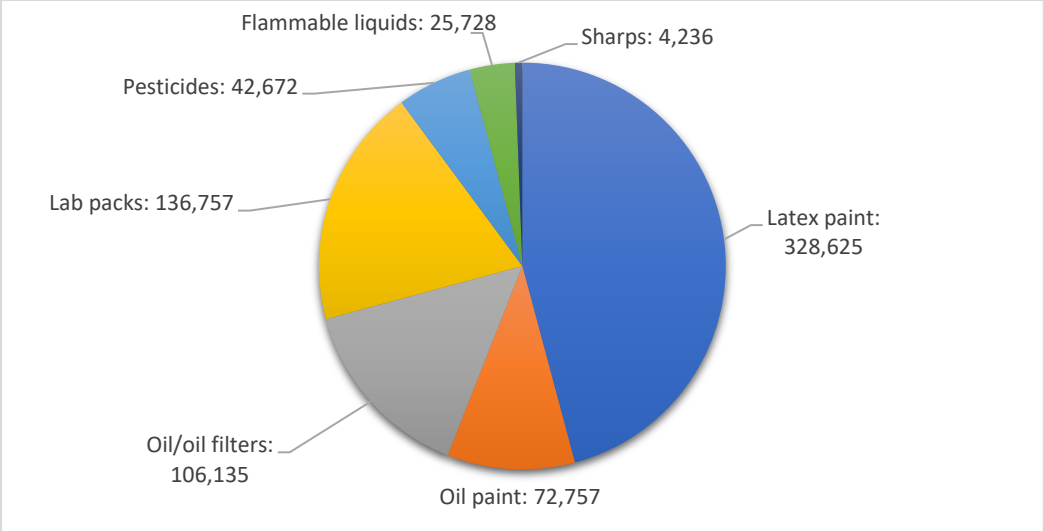


Figure 3.5 Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Program
Participation and HHW Managed

Year	Participation at Anoka County HHW Facility (vehicles)	Participation in HHW Collection Events (vehicles)	Tonnage Managed by Anoka County HHW Program	Anoka County Residents Who Used Other Metro County Facility/Event
2017	11,061	641	344.13	780
2018	10,589	653	360.55	801
2019	12,160	434	354.17	806
2020	11,695	No Event Held Due COVID-19 Pandemic	323.76	593
2021	14,067	385	896.79	535
2022	10,562	975	899.17	580

Participation and the amount of material collected at the facility continue to increase. In 2009, less than 300 tons of HHW were collected at the facility. In 2022, the total was nearly 900 tons, more than a 70 percent increase over twelve years. The waste received in the largest quantity by weight is latex paint. In 2022, 200.61 tons of latex and oil-based paint were collected; other waste streams collected in large quantities are motor oil, aerosols, and flammable solvents.

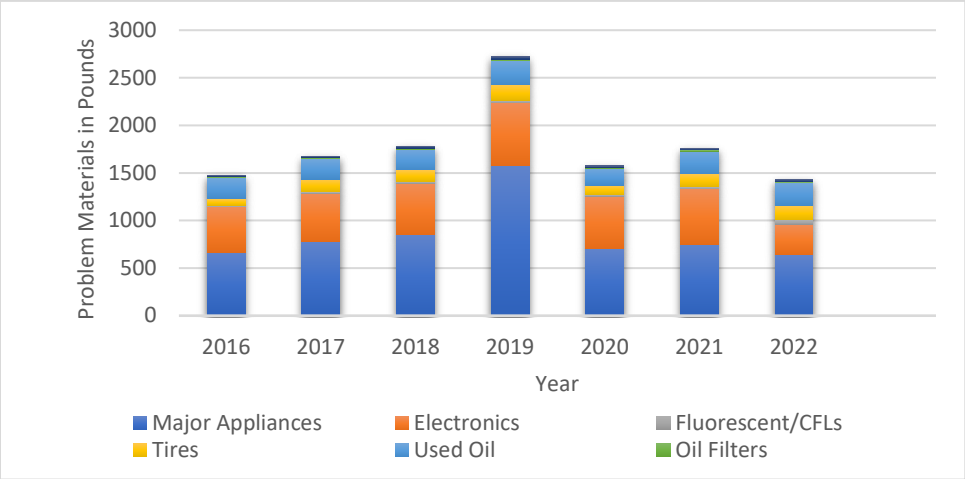
Staff at the HHW facility screen incoming waste for usable products, which are made available for residents to take, free of charge. In 2022, 16.22 tons of products were placed in the free product area. Offering usable products to residents reinforces messages of:

- purchase only the amount needed;

- use up leftover products;
- give leftover products to someone who can use them; and
- choose safer alternatives to hazardous products.

Municipal drop-off recycling days and centers also offer effective and convenient drop-off opportunities for problem materials, some of which are not accepted at the HHW facility. In 2022, the total amount of problem materials collected by municipalities was over 1,439 tons.

Figure 3.6 Problem Materials Collected by Anoka County Municipalities
In Pounds



The County provides funding to the municipalities to provide and promote the collection of residential problem materials. In addition to municipal drop-off opportunities, there are many locations in the County, operated by the private sector, for a variety of automotive wastes and problem materials. The county promotes these opportunities to residents as well.

Figure 3.7 Number of Municipal and Private
Drop-off Opportunities as of June 2023

Material Accepted	Private Business (within county)	Public Drop-Off Events	Public Drop-Off Site
Automotive batteries	55	59	5
Electronics	11	73	3
Florescent Bulbs	14	92	5
Major Appliances	7	100	3
Motor Oil	46	10	8
Propane Tanks	2	33	3
Tires	38	91	3

Non-Residential Hazardous Waste Management

Anoka County licenses hazardous waste generators, including those producing less than ten gallons per year. It is the responsibility of the generator to verify and meet licensing and business requirements. In 2022, there were 771 licensed hazardous waste generators, which is fewer than in 2016 (856). The County believes this is due to area businesses minimizing the use of hazardous materials and economic fluctuations due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A wide variety of hazardous wastes are generated in Anoka County. Each type of business typically generates a similar group of waste. For instance, auto repair businesses typically generate parts washer solvents, used oil, oil filters, antifreeze, and spent lead-acid batteries. The medical and dental communities also generate hazardous wastes in the form of fixer solution with heavy metal content (silver) and waste pharmaceuticals.

The Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services (PHES) Department works with generators to evaluate the types of hazardous waste they generate. After evaluation of the waste generated, County staff offer information on non-hazardous alternatives and disposal options for any remaining hazardous waste. This information is typically provided during routine inspections. In 2022, Anoka County conducted 730 routine inspections of hazardous waste generators. In addition, online hazardous waste training is offered for generators. A total of 58 people attended the training in 2022.

Volume-based license fees provide a financial incentive for generators to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated. Regulation increases as the amount of hazardous waste generation increases, such as stricter training requirements and the development of emergency response and waste minimization plans.

Contaminated Lands Cleanup and Restoration

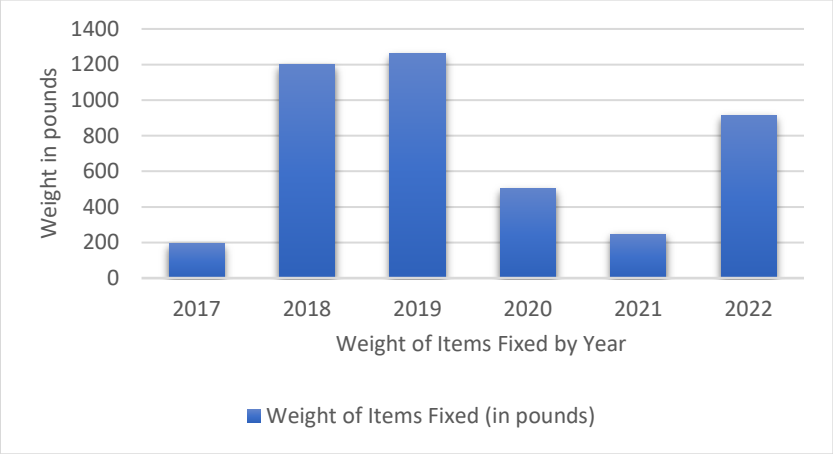
County policies are in place to assist operators and landowners in the cleanup procedures of contamination caused by hazardous waste or solid waste. PHES provides information on procedures and services to assist in the cleanup. For other types of contaminated land, state agencies provide direction.

Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling

Residential Waste Reduction and Reuse Program

Residential waste reduction and reuse programming consists of a variety of efforts. In 2023, the County offered nine fix-it clinics for residents to bring in items to be repaired or mended free of charge. Fix-It Clinic data is below in chart 3.7. The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency required canceling many events, and most likely had an impact on participation from March 2020 to June 2022. The County resumed more regular Fix-It Clinics in 2023. These events are very popular, and participants are appreciative of the service. After a successful pilot in 2022, the County partnered with 3 municipalities to host free reuse events in conjunction with municipal garage sales and recycling days. The 3 reuse events held in 2023 resulted in 8.625 tons of household goods and furniture reuse.

Figure 3.8 Weight of Items Fixed at Fixit Clinics 2017 - 2022



Residential Recycling Program

Residential recycling programs in Anoka County consist of curbside collection and drop-off sites. All single-family homes in Anoka County have access to curbside recycling. Materials collected include aluminum, steel, glass, and plastics #1, #2, and #5 food and beverage containers, mixed paper, cardboard, and paper cartons. Additionally, Anoka County municipalities operate 8 year-round recycling drop-off centers, which collect a variety of materials from the public that are not accepted curbside. See Figure 3.2 for annual tons of recycling collected over the last planning period. Additionally, the county provides support for municipalities to hold a variety of collection events for residents.

Anoka County encourages municipalities to develop and promote multi-family dwelling recycling programs. The county also has dedicated staff working on supporting multi-family dwellings with technical assistance and grant funding. Continual education and technical assistance are necessary due to the high turnover rate of tenants. Additional grants have been given to municipalities to provide direct outreach to multi-family dwellings.

The County services for the multi-family sector have grown over the past three years, in part due to the State granting two GreenCorps members to the County to help us conduct this work. The GreenCorps members were instrumental in helping the County develop new strategies for outreach, such as geo-mapping to identify properties located in areas of environmental justice concern most efficiently. The County also launched a cardboard box reuse program for multi-family properties in 2024. Three properties now have a cardboard box reuse station, and residents are actively using it to deposit boxes for reuse by other residents.

The County will continue to explore and implement opportunities to advance reuse and clean recycling streams at multi-family properties in the County.

Municipal drop-off recycling centers are for materials that cause problems or are cumbersome to collect at the curb, such as large amounts of cardboard, scrap metal, automobile batteries, and used motor oil/filters. They also provide an outlet for excess curbside recyclables. See Figure 3.5 Problem Materials Collected by Municipalities and Figure 3.6 Municipal and Private Drop-off Opportunities.

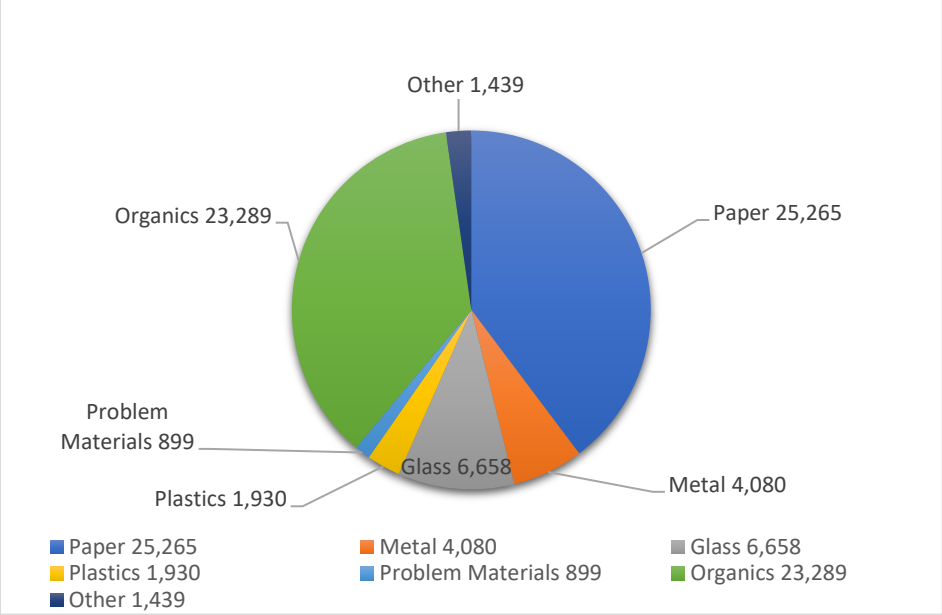
All municipalities have traditionally held spring and fall recycling drop-off days or events to collect items, such as automotive products (antifreeze, motor oil, oil filters, tires), appliances, bicycles, electronics,

fluorescent lamps, mattresses/box springs, secure documents to be shredded, and scrap metal. To reach increasing recycling goals, the county has encouraged municipalities to collect difficult materials to recycle year-round at permanent recycling centers, host special monthly events at municipal facilities, or partner with local businesses to host recycling events. One example is the city of Blaine's partnership with Recycle Technologies to host monthly recycling day drop-off events at Recycle Technologies. This worked well for Blaine, and the County encouraged other communities to host their events every other month or quarterly events at Recycle Technologies as well.

Another option to collect difficult-to-recycle items such as appliances, electronics, mattresses/box springs, and furniture is to hold special curbside collection events. Municipalities are starting to hire companies that specialize in reusing and recycling these materials to collect these items from homeowners at reduced costs.

Several nonprofit agencies pick up small furniture, household goods, and used clothing from homes in the County. These non-profits include Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Disabled Veterans of Minnesota, and Bridging. Habitat for Humanity ReStore and DAV offer free pickup, and Bridging offers this service with a $125.00 pickup fee. This curbside pickup service is convenient for residents and supplements the municipal drop-off recycling days held during the year. After materials are collected from residents, the recycling service provider is responsible for processing and marketing the materials.

Figure 3.9 Residential Recyclable Materials Collected 2022
In tons



Non-Residential Program

Anoka County encourages its non-residential sector waste reduction and recycling by providing technical assistance and serving as a resource for general recycling questions and information.

Technical assistance to the County's 7,900+ businesses is offered through a contract with Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation (MWWF) and includes recommendations on waste reduction, recycling implementation, or improvement, as well as the implementation of organics recovery programs to

participating businesses. The County provides grant funding to business participants to implement MWWF recommendations. Business recycling and organics recovery are reported to the County annually by MWWF from each business receiving technical assistance that calendar year.

Figure 3.10 MWWF Annual Reported Metrics to the County

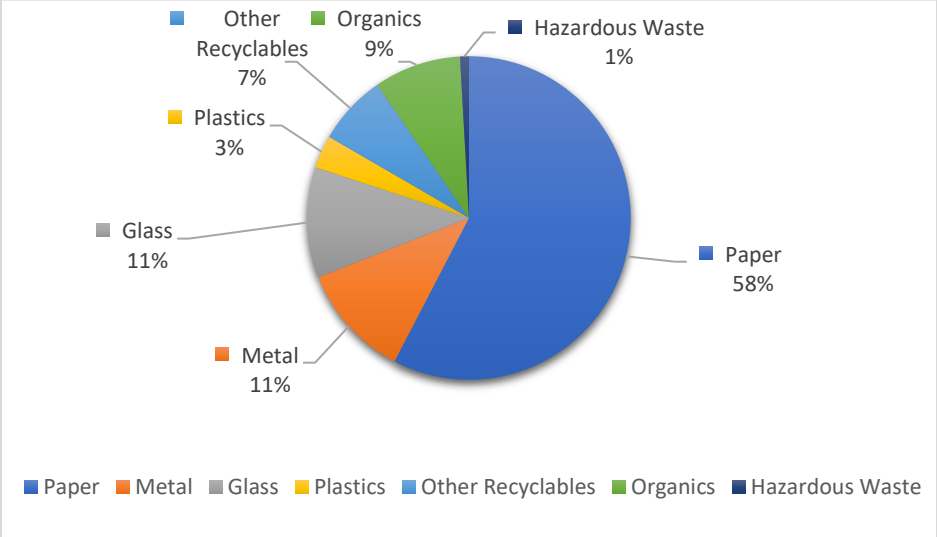
	Outreach	Participants	Total Site Visits	Technical Assistance	Grant Applicants	Grants Distributed	Diversion (in tons)
2018		99	87	162	39	$188,283	566,812
2019	423	83	114	178	42	$149,487	499,093
2020	111	50	49	146	23	$156,246	126,235
2021	261	60	88	176	35	$163,683	682,670
2022	483	83	105	217	41	$262,965	503,526

Businesses are also referred to state programs such as the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP), the Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program (RETAP), and the Minnesota Materials Exchange program for additional services. Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services (PHES) regulates non-residential generators of hazardous waste and provides information on the recycling and reuse of materials to avoid disposal as hazardous waste.

Anoka County encourages small businesses with residential quantities of recyclables and organics to use municipal curbside or drop-off recycling programs. Larger businesses either hire a service provider or self-haul recyclables to a drop-off recycling center or take them directly to an end market.

Non-residential recycling tonnage data is compiled largely by emailing survey forms to school districts and larger businesses. Recycling data is also collected from businesses that submit an appeal of the County Solid Waste Management Charge (SWMC).

Figure 3.11 Non-residential Recyclable Materials Collected 2022



*Due to rounding totals in Figure 3.9 do not add up to 100%.

Anoka County businesses are provided a financial incentive to reduce and recycle their waste. The current SWMC ranges from $53.23 - $1,362.90. Businesses are given a 20% reduction of their SWMC if they recycle at least 50% of their waste. An additional reduction in the SWMC is given to businesses that generate less waste than expected for their property value range. A business can reach micro-generator status with a fee of $27.92, through the appeal process, if 1.5 tons or less of waste is produced per year.

School Recycling

Anoka County has eight school districts, including a large portion of the Anoka-Hennepin School District (ISD #11), which is the largest school district in the state. In addition, there are many private, parochial, and charter schools. Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Anoka Technical College, and Rasmussen University are also located in the County.

Anoka County continues to offer technical assistance and grant funding for waste reduction, recycling, and organics recovery. Grant funding can be used for collection containers, reusable tableware, and other needed equipment to implement best practices. In 2022, 22 schools received technical assistance and grant funding to enhance their recycling programs, some of which began organics collection programs.

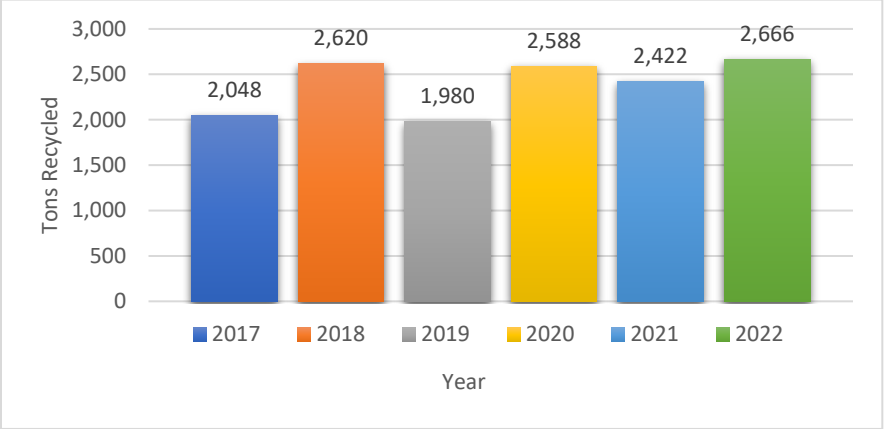
County Government Facilities Program

Anoka County actively promotes and encourages waste reduction and recycling in all County government facilities, complies with Minn. Stat. §115A.151 through internal programs, and provides grant funding to assist in implementation.

The County utilizes technologies such as hydration stations, SMART Boards, Webex software, and SharePoint to reduce waste. The County works with PCs for People to clean and refurbish the best computer equipment for redistribution to lower-income families and non-profit organizations. Computer equipment that is not reused is recycled.

The County has a large variety of facilities that collect mixed paper, cardboard, and beverage containers. In addition, some facilities collect appliances, batteries, electronics, fluorescent lamps, mattresses, organics, polystyrene, and toner cartridges, antifreeze, motor oil, motor vehicle batteries, oil filters, scrap metal, solvents, tires, and tire rims for recycling. County facilities producing large amounts of organics, such as Bunker Beach Water Park, the Government Center, and correctional facilities, divert those materials to be composted or to food-to-animals programs.

Figure 3.12 Anoka County Government Facility Recycling



The County continues to audit county-owned and operated buildings, including all county parks. The audits are conducted to ensure sufficient availability of conveniently placed recycling containers and to assess the feasibility of adding organics diversion programs.

Organics

All programs collect food scraps, soiled, non-coated paper products, and Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certified compostable products to be composted at an industrial composting facility. Three communities have curbside organics collection available, and two cities have it as an option within their open hauling community. The County has 15 organics drop-off locations where dumpsters or carts are provided for county residents to use free of charge to collect organics. See Figure 3.13 for a map of current drop-off locations.

Figure 3.13 Residential and Commercial Organics Recovery in Tons

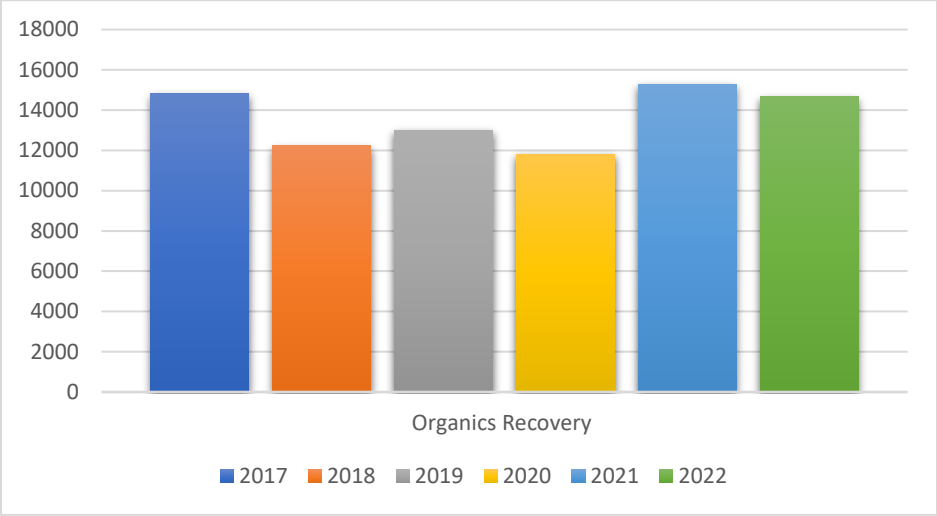


Figure 3.14 Residential Organics Drop-off Locations, June 2023

The County provides kits for residents to easily begin collecting organics at home. The kit includes a kitchen collection pail, compostable bags, and information about the program, and is provided using dedicated SCORE funds used to purchase supplies and pay for collection costs. The County purchases compostable bags and bins in bulk from the state contract and passes those cost savings on to the municipalities. All publications stress the difference between backyard composting and organics recovery.

The County provides technical assistance to community festivals and events when requested. Municipal grant funding is available for purchasing compostable food service ware to be used at events, hiring workers to work at waste stations to educate festival attendees, or helping offset organics collection costs. Additionally, the County has a recycling and organics container loan program available to residents and community groups to use at events throughout the year. More businesses in the area have also begun to collect organics since the contract with Minnesota Waste Wise was implemented.

Food Waste Reduction

There are several ways food waste is being reduced in Anoka County. The County is consistently and throughout the year providing information to residents on food waste reduction to prevent food from being thrown away. Anoka County also encourages businesses, schools, and county-operated facilities to donate usable food to food shelves in the area.

As an example of how the county intends to take food waste reduction efforts to the next level, in 2024, the County Recycling and Resource Solutions (R&RS) unit formed a synergistic partnership with our sister unit in the Public Health Department—SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership). Early in the year, the SHIP team had identified a need for a larger refrigeration unit at a food shelf in the County so that more perishable food could be refrigerated while awaiting distribution to the community…and not have to go into the trash. The funding available through the SHIP program for this purpose wasn't sufficient for the need. SHIP staff contacted R&RS as they knew that food waste reduction was a primary objective for the County. Staff discussion led to funding through the R&RS-led Waste Prevention and Recycling grant program. A contingency placed on this funding was that the food shelf start an organics recycling program. A large new refrigeration system has been installed. Less food has gone bad and is kept out of the trash. Any perishable food that can't be distributed is now being put in an organics recycling bin.

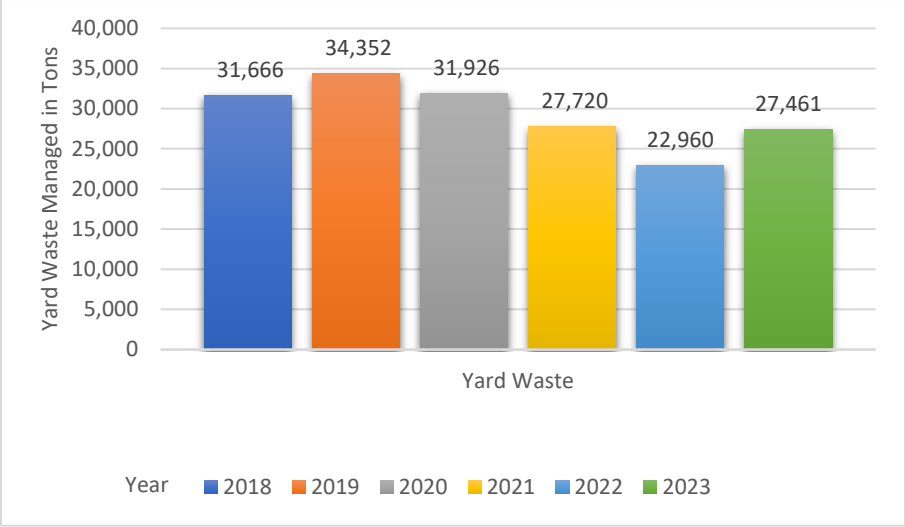
The County will continue to explore and implement opportunities to advance food waste reduction through creative partnerships such as that noted above.

Yard and Tree Waste

In 2023, 27,461 tons of yard waste and tree waste were managed in Anoka County. The Anoka County yard waste program provides waste reduction and backyard composting information, as well as operating two drop-off yard waste sites. Residents are encouraged to plant appropriate species for Anoka County soil, to leave clippings on the lawn, and to compost in their backyard following the waste hierarchy. Municipalities or private waste haulers provide curbside collection services for yard waste. Residents and businesses may bring yard and tree waste for proper management to the County-owned compost sites or to a privately-owned compost site.

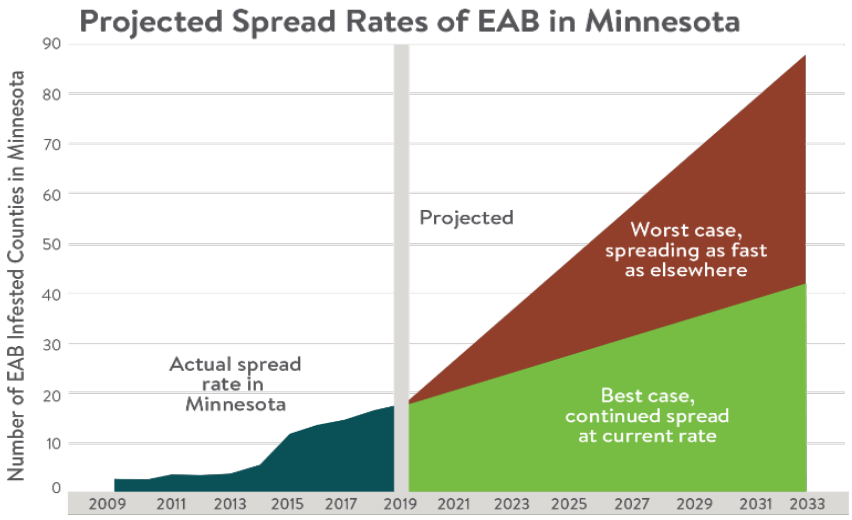
Figure 3.15 Anoka County Yard and Tree Waste

Yard waste is managed at county facilities and reported by municipalities in tons.



The Twin Cities Metro Area is heavily impacted by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive tree pest. It is estimated by the MPCA that 20% of the trees in the region are Ash. As of February 2024, the emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in 48 Minnesota counties**.** Once Ash trees are infested, they die within 1-3 years. The County is working with the MPCA, tree care professionals, city foresters, and yard waste facilities to collaboratively manage the influx of tree waste anticipated throughout this plan.

Figure 3.16 Past and Projected Rates of EAB Spread in Minnesota
Source: 2019 Minnesota State Agency Emerald Ash Borer Report



Past and projected spread rates of EAB have been slower in Minnesota than the national average. In the worst-case scenario, all 87 counties will have EAB infestations by 2031, as calculated with the national average rate of spread. Under a best-case scenario, with EAB spreading no faster than it has in Minnesota to date, EAB will be present in 39 counties by the same date. Source: MDA

Figure 3.17 Average Cost of Ash Tree Management in Minnesota
Source: 2019 Minnesota State Agency Emerald Ash Borer Report

Average costs of ash tree management in Minnesota	
Action	**Costs**
Tree Removal	**$1,000 for communities Up to $4,000 for homeowners**
Treatment (every 2-3 years for a 20-inch tree)	**$50-$200**
Tree Planting (6-foot hardwood with labor costs)	**$40-$300**

Residential Yard Waste Collection System

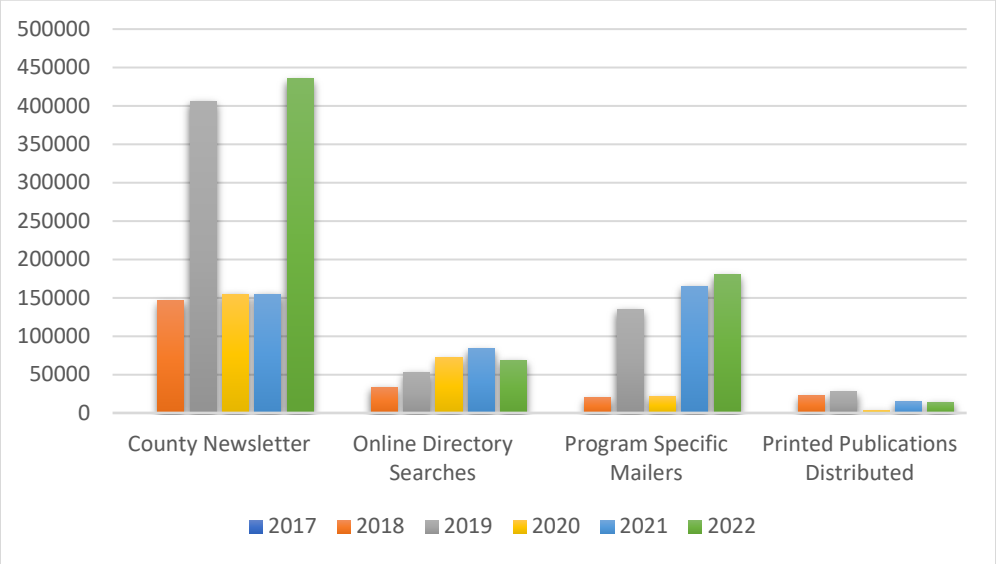
Each municipality in the County plans and implements its yard waste program. The collection of yard waste varies widely in the County. In most communities, residents have access to curbside collection of yard waste. Many rural communities do not have curbside collection because residents manage their yard waste on-site. The more densely populated municipalities have weekly or seasonal curbside collection of yard waste. It is most common to leave yard waste collection up to the individual haulers that charge for this service, either with a cart collected weekly or a “by the bag” pickup service. Residents may also self-haul yard waste to one of the yard waste sites within the county.

Education and Outreach

The County provides information to residents on recycling, organics management, recycling at community events, and commercial waste abatement, by phone, the County website, social media, and printed publications. A printed recycling guide of waste management opportunities is printed every other year, listing many recycling options for a wide variety of items. The County offers a wide variety of information on its website to promote recycling opportunities for items that are not collected at the curb, as well as locations where large quantities of material can be taken for proper handling.

In general, municipalities provide recycling information to their residents at various times during the year, promoting curbside and drop-off recycling opportunities. Examples include direct mail pieces, articles in city newsletters, and information posted on their websites. Municipalities also provide information on what and how to recycle. The County uses the REC guide for organics and recycling and has in our municipal contracts that we are to review all of their published content before it is distributed to ensure that it is aligned with the REC guidelines.

Figure 3.18 Education and Outreach Metrics



Collection Infrastructure

City and rural residents with solid waste collection service types

Anoka County has 21 diverse municipalities that design and operate waste management programs for their communities. All county residents have access to curbside recycling and trash service. The county licenses haulers as part of the regional hauler licensing agreement. Most municipalities license their haulers and may limit the number of haulers who can obtain licenses in their community. All municipalities offer commingled recycling collection every other week for the collection of paper, glass, plastic (#1, #2 & #5), metals, and cartons.

There are three models for curbside collection at single-family homes and multi-unit homes (up to four units), which include:

- Five municipalities have organized hauling for both trash and recycling; out of the five, two also collect organics curbside.
- Five municipalities contract for recycling only, one offers curbside collection of organics; and
- Eleven have open hauling systems where each household chooses its own hauler to collect trash and recycling, and one hauler offers curbside collection of organics to their customers in two of the communities.

In the organized hauling municipalities, Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, and Columbia Heights contract with one hauler for service, and Ham Lake uses the consortium model. Ham Lake's residential garbage and recycling service contractor is Ham Lake Haulers. Ham Lake Haulers is a partnership between ACE Solid Waste and Waste Management. At one time, Ham Lake had four haulers, but as consolidations occurred, it now has two haulers. The cities of Fridley and Lino Lakes tried to implement organized collection, but it failed to get the votes needed to pass. Currently, the City of Anoka is going through the process of switching to an organized collection of garbage. They are currently organized for recycling services.

Solid Waste Composition

Anoka County employs a market-based approach to waste management; the transfer stations within the County are all privately owned and operated. The best data for the composition of waste comes from the waste sort conducted in 2013 at the Great River Energy Processing Facility in Elk River. This facility is no longer operational and was closed in January 2019.

Figure 3.19 MSW Waste Sort 2013
Confidence interval 90%

Waste Sort for the Elk River Resource Recovery Facility – October 2013		
Waste Categories	Mean Percentage	Abatement Potential
Paper	24.3%	
Newsprint	1.4%	11.5% Recyclable
Magazines	.7%	
High Grade Office	.7%	
Boxboard	1.8%	
Phone Books	.4%	
Old Corrugated Cardboard & Kraft Bags	3.3%	
Gable Top/Aseptic Containers/Cartons	.4%	
Mixed Recyclable Paper	2.8%	
Compostable Paper	11.4%	11.4% Compostable*
Non-Recyclable Paper	1.5%	
Plastic	17.8%	
#1 Polyethylene Terephthalate	1.4%	3.2% Recyclable
#2 High-Density Polyethylene	1%	
#3 Polyvinyl Chloride	.1	
#4 Low-Density Polyethylene Rigids	0%	
#5 Polypropylene	.7%	
#6 Polystyrene	1.3%	
#7 Other Plastics	.1%	

Film/Wrap/Bags	7.2%	
Other Plastic (Nonpackaging)	6.1%	
Metal	5.9%	
Aluminum Beverage Containers	.4%	5.9% Recyclable
Ferrous Food and Beverage Containers	1.1%	
Other Aluminum	.5%	
Other Metal	3.9%	
Glass	1.8%	
Beverage Container Glass	1.4%	1.6 % Recyclable
Glass Containers	.2%	
Non-container Glass	.3%	
Organic	33.9%	
Yard Waste	4.4%	22.9% Compostable
Food Waste	18.5%	
Other Organic Material	4.6%	
Wood	6.3%	
Electronics	1.1%	
Laptops	Not Found	1.1% Recyclable
Computer Monitors	Not Found	
Televisions	Not Found	
Printers	Not Found	
All other electronic items	1.1%	
Other Wastes		
Waste Sort for the Elk River Resource Recovery Facility – October 2013		
Waste Categories	Mean Percentage	Abatement Potential
Carpet	2.5%	2.5% Recyclable
Textiles & Leather	3.8%	3.8% Recyclable
Appliances and Furniture	1.0%	
HHW**	1.1%	
Mattresses/Box Springs	Not found	
Other Not Elsewhere Classified	6.8%	
Sharps and Infectious Waste	0%	

*Considered compostable at the time of this waste sort.

**HHW represents batteries, mercury-containing lamps, paint containers, oil containers and filters, smoke detectors, and other HHW.

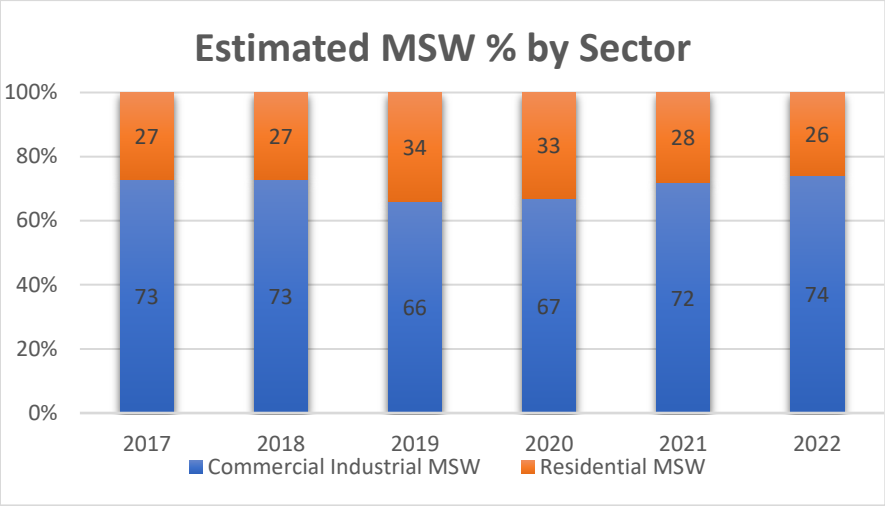
Per the waste sort conducted at the Elk River Resource Recovery Facility in 2013, 63.9% of the garbage is recyclable (29.6%) and compostable (34.3%). The categories are based on markets available in 2013 and do not include the potential for the new materials being collected for recycling or changes to organics markets. The percentages are weight-based.

The state has not conducted a statewide waste characterization study since 2013; however, several waste-to-energy facilities have conducted smaller studies at individual WTE facilities as a part of their air permit requirements. These facilities include Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) (2017), Perham Resource Recovery Facility (2018), Pope Douglas WTE Facility (2019), and Olmstead WTE Facility (OWF) (2019). These studies were conducted in different years, in different counties, and were not weighted by

the amount of garbage sorted. The data have been averaged across the studies for comparison purposes. The top categories remained the same, with similar amounts – paper (25%), plastics (19%), and organics (28%).

Annual Percentage of Solid Waste from Residential and Commercial/Industrial Solid Waste Generators 2017-2022.

Figure 3.20 Estimated Annual Percentage of MSW from Residential and Commercial/Industrial Waste Generators 2017 - 2022



Landfilling

MSW landfills

No landfills are operating in Anoka County currently. Landfill capacity needs are presently being met by landfills located in nearby counties or states. However, as mixed municipal solid waste increases, more landfilling will occur without increases in recycling and organics collection, maximizing existing processing capacity and state enforcement of Minn. Stat. §473.848.

Private waste haulers accepting waste from Anoka County residents and businesses bring MSW via transfer station or direct haul to the following landfills surrounding Anoka County:

- Elk River Landfill SW-74
- Pine Bend Landfill SW-45
- Spruce Ridge Resource Management Facility SW-6
- Nobles County Landfill Inc. SW-11
- Burnsville Sanitary Landfill SW-56
- Lake Area Landfill
- Seven Mile Creek Landfill

Closed MSW landfills

There are four closed MSW landfills in Anoka County: Oak Grove Landfill in Oak Grove, Sylvester Brothers Development Company, Inc. (East Bethel Landfill) in East Bethel, Waste Disposal Engineering in Andover, and the Waste Management of Minnesota, Inc. landfill located in Ramsey. The landfills are

owned by the State of Minnesota and are being monitored and maintained by the MPCA through the Closed Landfill Program.

Non-MSW Management

The County does not regulate the collection of non-MSW. Many haulers specialize in collecting these wastes, i.e., construction/demolition debris. However, some businesses haul non-MSW themselves. Anoka County collaborates regionally to promote best management practices and alternative processing options for this waste stream.

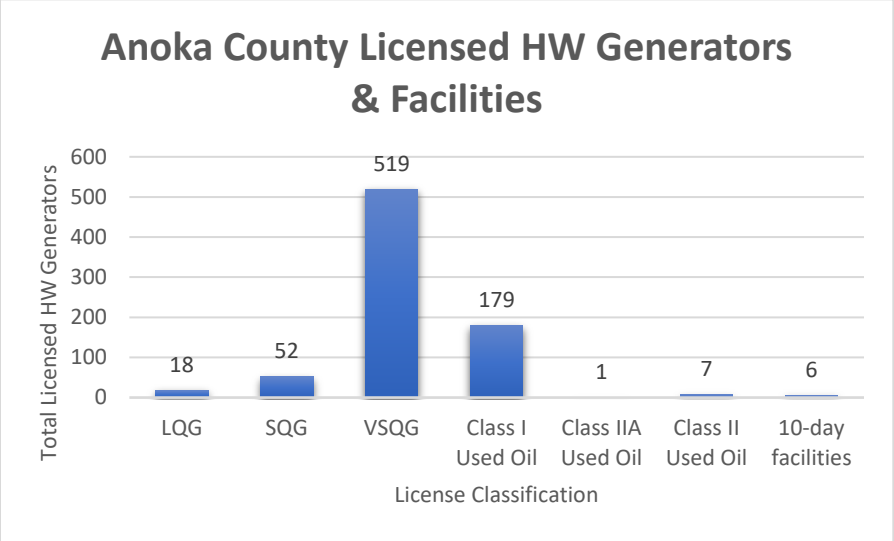
There are no active public demolition landfills in Anoka County. Residents and businesses have access to transfer and sorting stations for their demolition waste. However, the County occasionally licenses a clean-fill demo landfill to take specific waste from a controlled source. These are not available for public use.

Hazardous Waste

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners passed its first version of a hazardous waste ordinance addressing the specific management of hazardous waste in July 1985. The ordinance requires the licensing of businesses that produce wastes that meet characteristics or listings as hazardous. Hazardous Waste Generators are classified based on the volume and type of waste meeting the definition of hazardous waste: Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG), Small Quantity Generator (SQG), and Large Quantity Generator (LQG). In addition, Anoka County regulates businesses that generate used oil (Class I Used Oil), businesses that drain used oil for recycling (non-salvage) (Class II Used Oil), or drain used oil from the dismantling of vehicles for parts (Class II Used Oil). License fees are based on the rate of generation and the management method.

Facilities that consolidate waste from other locations or are permitted to store waste beyond the limits allowed for a typical generator may be required to obtain an Anoka County license. Anoka County does not have jurisdiction to regulate Hazardous Waste Haulers operating in the County. Anoka County PHES licenses the following types of solid waste facilities.

Figure 3.21 2023 Licensed Hazardous Waste Generators in Anoka County



As of January 2024, there are a total of 21 licensed solid/hazardous waste facilities. Those facilities include solid waste transfer facilities, hazardous waste facilities, construction and demolition waste management facilities, yard waste drop-offs, composting facilities, and special waste facilities.

Transfer Stations

There are five solid waste transfer stations in Anoka County. Four are in the City of Blaine, and one is in the City of Ramsey. These facilities are inspected monthly by Anoka County PHES staff. Operators are required to maintain the facilities in an orderly and environmentally sound condition. These operations accept MSW, non-MSW, and recyclable materials from waste haulers, other non-residential customers, and residents.

Two Permit-by-Rule transfer facilities accept only non-MSW, primarily construction and demolition waste. One facility is in the City of Anoka, the other is LePage and Sons in the City of Bethel. LePage and Sons recycles some mattress materials to reduce the amount of material that needs to be landfilled. PHES also inspects these facilities monthly.

Material Recovery Facilities

There are five solid waste transfer stations within the County. Recyclables brought by private waste haulers to transfer stations are brought to privately owned material recovery facilities within the TCMA. Private entities do not report to the County the waste flow data on recyclables.

Food-to-Animals Outlet

There is one food-to-animals outlet for food scraps in the area. Barthold Farms offers food waste recycling options to entities such as grocery stores, schools, restaurants, and malls. This option utilizes edible food waste for feeding to garbage-fed livestock. For Barthold the livestock is pigs. Entities agree to separate edible food waste from non-edible food items in specific containers. Barthold Farms agrees to operate in compliance with Minnesota Rules, parts 1721.0590 to 1721.0660, Feeding of Garbage to Livestock and Poultry, which includes specifications for permits, processing, and sanitation.

Anoka County uses the state contract for this service. Outlined in that contract is pricing that is currently at $6.50 per barrel. Price per barrel may vary based on factors such as distance to drive for barrels and if other special circumstances apply to the location, like security protocols.

Summary of achievements, opportunities, challenges, or problems:

Per capita waste generation is rising, which is an opportunity to promote and educate about reducing and reusing materials before they are discarded. In 2022, 1.27 tons per person of municipal solid waste were managed. In 2016, 1.16 tons per person of municipal solid waste were managed, and in 2010, the County managed 1.02 tons of waste per person. Consistent education and promotion of reduction, reuse, recycling, and organics recovery opportunities were identified as one of the areas the County can improve upon throughout the next planning cycle. Strategies have been identified in forthcoming chapters.

The County has had success with expanding organics drop-off programs over the last plan and will work to continue to encourage the use of drop-off sites. Residents are provided free compostable bags and kitchen pails to collect organics at their homes, and then they bring them to the drop-off location. Through the partner engagement process, the County asked residents what would make it easier for those who do not currently participate in organics collection programs, and overwhelmingly, the response was curbside collection. Currently, three municipalities have opt-in curbside collection

programs, so there is a great deal of opportunity for enhancing this programmatic offering. While it is not broadly in place yet, curbside collection of organics is required for municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more by 2030, as per the MSWMPP. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity to divert greater amounts of organics from being landfilled. This requirement is a requirement of the MSWMPP and seeks to bring curbside organics programs into compliance with 115A.552.

The County has also had success with developing the first-of-its-kind small-scale organics processing facilities adjacent to the two county compost sites. Residents are provided free compostable bags and kitchen pails to collect organics at their homes, and then they bring them to the drop-off location. These sites process food scraps and yard waste collected onsite and create free unscreened compost for residents of the County. See Figure 3.13, organics, and Figure 3.15 on yard waste recovered.

According to the most recent waste composition studies conducted at waste-to-energy facilities throughout the state, organics are still the largest portion of the trash. This is the largest area of opportunity for the County to increase diversion. Expanding curbside collection programs, as well as expanding commercial organics recovery at businesses, will be a key component of success in recovering organics and moving those materials up the waste hierarchy.

Anoka County is geographically further away from other areas of the TCMA from the current large-scale organics processing facilities, which have an impact on the cost for those participating in organics programs. The lack of organics processing capacity in the north metro to cost-effectively process organics from the County program, city programs, and commercial generators continues to have an impact on the cost of hauling organics to existing facilities. The County will work collaboratively with organics processors in the private sector to increase hauling, transfer, and processing capacity.

One area of great success for the County has been in its management of yard and tree waste for residents. Both municipal curbside collection and the County compost sites have been convenient and cost-effective options for residents and businesses. The expansion of the Rice Creek Compost Site will position the County to be able to accept greater amounts of tree waste as more and more diseased trees are removed due to Emerald Ash Borer infestations.

Approximately 60-75% of waste generated in the County comes from the commercial sector and multi-unit homes; this poses opportunities and challenges. In previous planning cycles, the County has embraced an optional approach for commercial sector reduction, recycling, and organics recovery. The most recent Solid Waste Policy Plan now requires all commercial entities within the seven-county TCMA to recycle at least four material streams. Additional diversion from the private sector will have a significant impact on whether or not the County reaches its 75% recycling goal by 2030. The county is working on revising its solid waste ordinance to require businesses to recycle four material types and will require large-scale organics generators to do organics recovery.

Throughout the previous plan, the Elk River Resource Recovery and Processing Facility closed in January 2019, which had a great impact on the amount of waste processed in the region and a large impact on Anoka County waste processing. The Metro region has since been at capacity for processing, leaving private waste haulers in Anoka County with few options for a cost-effective processing option. As a result, the MSW previously going for waste processing is now being landfilled. The lack of processing capacity in the region continues to have an impact on processing, landfilling, and recovery rates in the County.

The County has requirements for all municipal and county-generated waste to go to processing whenever feasible. The County has seen moderate increases in the tons recycled and organics recovered since 2017. The County continues to emphasize in its policies and programming moving materials up the waste hierarchy with a focus on waste prevention, reuse, then recycling, and organics recovery. The County does not conduct comprehensive planning, so the data points for projecting future employment, wages, and land use patterns are unknown. Comprehensive plans are done at the municipal level.

Chapter Four: History and Overview of Existing System

The following is the history, overview, and description of the existing solid waste system in Anoka County, including costs and financing of the system, and system regulation.

Existing System Policy and Goals

The state of Minnesota sets goals for the County to achieve, see Figure 4.1. Anoka County continues to make progress towards these goals; however, the County is not on track to meet the objectives for source reduction and reuse, organics recovery, waste-to-energy, and landfilling. A strong emphasis on organics recovery and moving materials up the hierarchy in this next planning cycle is necessary to achieve the state-mandated goals. Anoka County will have to be creative and collaborate with public and private partnerships in the region to have the necessary processing facilities to manage waste up the hierarchy.

Figure 4.1 Anoka County Achievements and State Policy Plan Objectives

Management Method	Anoka County Actual	State Policy Plan Objectives for MSW Generated in the Region			
	2023	2025	2030	2036	2042
Source Reduction and Reuse	N/A	1%	6.4%	10.7%	15%
Recycling	44.88%	36.9%	47.4%	47.4%	47.4%
Organics	9.76%	21.5%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
Waste to Energy	4.46%	24%	20%	20%	20%
Landfilling	40.9%	17.6%	5%	5%	5%

History of System Development

Toxicity Reduction History

From the inception of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program in 1992 through 2000, the County conducted HHW collection events to provide opportunities for residents to dispose of HHW properly. On August 11, 1999, the County opened a year-round HHW collection facility in Blaine. The facility is operated by a private vendor, who collects, packs, and ships the waste per the State of Minnesota requirements. Since 2012, the County has also held HHW collection events to better serve residents in other parts of the County.

In the early 1990s, Anoka County worked with the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board (SWMCB) to develop and contract with the State of Minnesota for the County to use a state hazardous waste generator identification number, indemnifying the County for long-term disposal liability, and provided operating guidelines for an HHW program.

Reciprocal use agreements between Anoka County and other Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA) counties allow out-of-county residents to take HHW to the Anoka County facility and HHW collection events, and vice versa. The county of origin of the resident is billed for this service. Reciprocal use increases the convenience of using HHW facilities for metropolitan area residents.

Resource Recovery History

In 1989, Anoka County began processing waste at the Elk River Resource Processing Plant in Elk River, Minnesota. This facility could process 1,500 tons per day (TPD) of waste into refuse-derived fuel (RDF). In its first 20 years of operation, the project received over 3,000,000 tons of garbage from Anoka County for processing into renewable energy. Since its closure in 2018, this has left a gap in processing capacity within the region and has had a marked effect on the processing of waste from Anoka County. Waste that is currently processed is brought by private waste haulers to processing facilities either via direct haul or a transfer station. The processing facilities that are being utilized include the Recycling & Energy Center SW-286 and Hennepin Energy Recovery Center SW-396. The following charts illustrate the percent and actual tons of waste delivered for processing at waste-to-energy facilities serving the Twin Cities Metro Area

Figure 4.2 Percent of Anoka County Waste Processed by Year

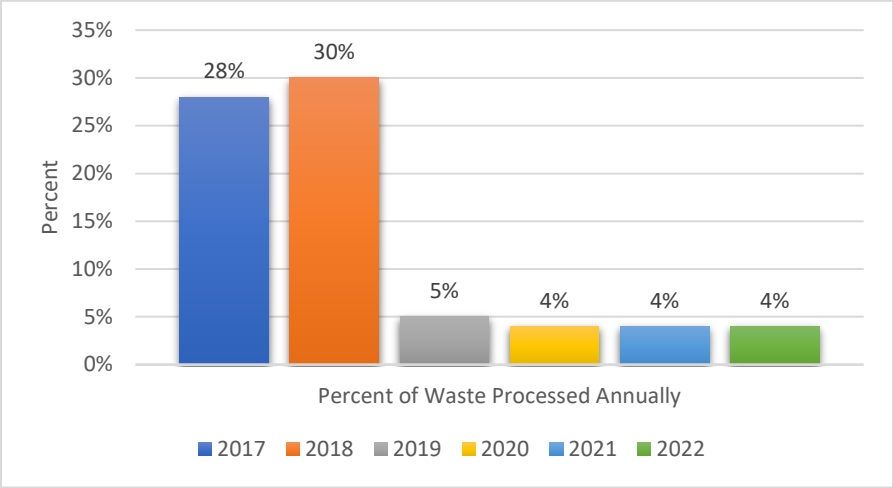
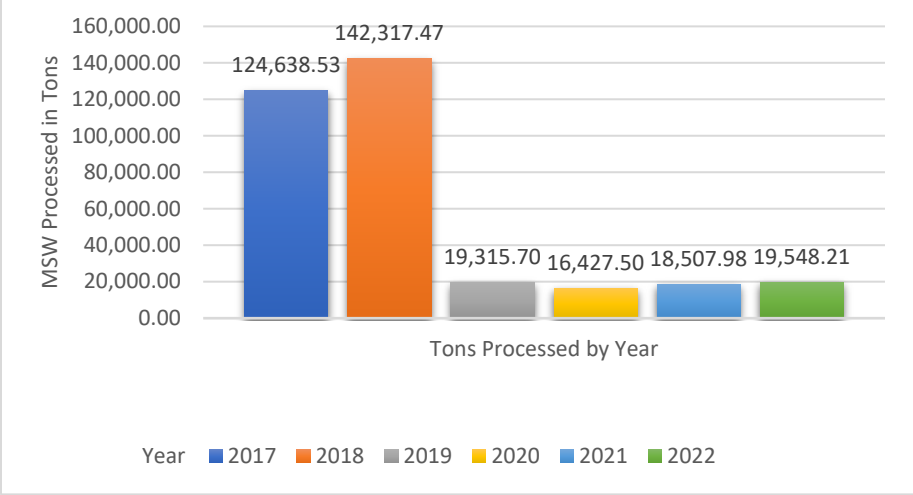


Figure 4.3 Anoka County MSW Delivered for Processing
In tons



Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling History

In 1990, municipalities with a population over 5,000 began collecting recycling curbside in Anoka County. Currently, Anoka County has curbside collection of recyclables required in 17 of its cities due to population size. All municipalities have grant contracts with the County to assist them with implementing residential recycling programs. Since 1990, the County has funneled SCORE and LRDG funding received from the state directly to our municipal partners to operate their residential recycling programs. Funding is also available to municipalities for additional grants above and beyond their SCORE allocation. These additional funding opportunities are for waste prevention and reuse programming in addition to improving recycling.

Municipalities and the County work together to improve multi-family recycling outcomes. There are more than 47,449 multi-unit properties in the County. In 2015, the County created a new staff position to provide technical assistance for multi-family properties to comply with the state commercial recycling law. The County also provides grant funding directly to multi-family properties to improve recycling and or waste reduction for residents. Both the County and municipalities have also worked with GreenCorps Members for service projects related to providing technical assistance to multi-family properties.

In 2017, the County began hosting Fixit Clinics for residents to reduce waste. These events were staffed by the county and skilled volunteers knowledgeable in household item repair and clothes mending. The county hosts 9nine of these events each year.

In 2022, the County piloted free reuse events in conjunction with municipality-organized community-wide garage sales. Residents brought unsold items to the reuse events for others to take free of charge, whether they donated an item or not. The events are staffed and organized by R&RS. In 2022, 1.4 tons of materials were reused, and 3.5 tons were recycled. The second year, in 2023, the County had a total of three reuse events, which resulted in 8.6 tons of materials being reused.

Non-residential Waste Reduction and Recycling History

In 2008, the County began working directly with public and private schools, providing technical assistance to improve school recycling. In 2015, the R&RS department expanded assistance offered to Anoka County schools and community events with new dedicated staff. Grant funding has also been available from state and county funds for improving recycling or waste reduction at these types of facilities or events since 2015.

From 2013 to the present, Anoka County has contracted with the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation (MWWF) for waste assessment services for businesses. The program is free for businesses to participate in. In 2015, the County began offering a non-residential assistance grant program to help implement recycling and organics recommendations from MWWF. This grant program exists to help businesses come into compliance with the business recycling law, which went into effect on January 1, 2016.

In 2014, Anoka County began working closely with community volunteer organizations and municipalities to ensure recycling was available at all community events held at public entity locations. From 2014 to 2020, the County provided technical assistance at approximately 25 different community festivals and events each year. Since 2022, the County has provided technical assistance to community events upon request.

Organics Recovery

In 2013, Coon Rapids started the first SSO (Source Separated Organics) drop-off in the County at the city recycling center. Anoka County added SSO collection containers at its two compost sites in April 2016. The County now has 10 communities with one or more organics drop-off locations. In 2018, Columbia Heights and Fridley began collecting organics from their residents at the curb. In 2022, the city of Circle Pines began offering curbside collection of organics to residents through its contracted hauler. These curbside programs are opt-in with minimal user fees. The collection infrastructure continues to develop for organics, and most waste haulers in Anoka County have not started curbside collection programs for organics.

From 2020 to 2023, the county redeveloped the Rice Creek Compost Site, and as part of that redevelopment, there arose an opportunity to create a small-scale compost facility adjacent to the yard waste site. The concept of co-locating a small-scale compost site adjacent to an existing yard waste site was the first of its kind in the state. This additional processing capacity allowed for the organics collected through the drop-off program to be processed on-site instead of being shipped to a separate industrial compost facility in the South metro. The concept was replicated at the Bunker Hills compost site from 2023 to 2024.

Yard and Tree Waste

In 2017, the County Board implemented a new fee structure at the County yard waste sites. Before 2017, there was a fee for all amounts of yard and tree waste. Due to a change in expenses to offer this collection service to residents, in 2017, a new fee structure was put in place. The county subsidizes the service using a metric based on how much material the resident drops off at the compost sites. The first four cubic yards of yard and small tree waste are free of charge for residents to drop off at the two county-operated compost sites. A cost metric is applied if more than four cubic yards of material or larger tree waste is received at the site. Beginning in 2023, a modified tree waste disposal fee structure was implemented at County compost sites. Fees vary depending on the diameter of the branch and the quantity of materials. For instance, tree waste less than 6” in diameter is free for the first 2 cubic yards, while larger quantities or diameter sizes have fees that are applied and collected from the resident. The city of Circle Pines has a municipal yard waste collection program. Tree waste is mulched and then used at municipal parks and in other municipal projects.

Description of Existing Resource Recovery Programs and Facilities in Use

Availability of Resource Recovery Programs or Facilities

Waste in the county is brought directly to resource recovery facilities or is consolidated at the private transfer stations in the county and then brought to a resource recovery facility. In 2023, the resource recovery facility that accepted waste from Anoka County transfer stations was the Recycling & Energy Center SW-286 in Newport, Minnesota, and the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center – SW-396 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Description of Land Disposal Facilities in Use

Anoka County no longer has open landfills; any materials that have not been processed go to landfills outside of the county and some outside of the state. In 2023, these landfills included the following:

- Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill SW-45
- Burnsville Sanitary Landfill SW-56
- Elk River Landfill SW-74
- Nobles County Landfill SW-11
- Spruce Ridge Resource Management Facility SW-6

- Lake Area Landfill
- Seven Mile Creek Landfill

As mixed municipal solid waste increases and waste-to-energy processing capacity decreases, more landfilling will occur without increases in waste reduction, recycling, and organics collection.

Closed MSW Landfills

There are four closed MSW landfills in Anoka County: Oak Grove Landfill in Oak Grove, Sylvester Brothers Development Company, Inc. (East Bethel Landfill) in East Bethel, Waste Disposal Engineering in Andover, and the Waste Management of Minnesota, Inc. landfill located in Ramsey. The landfills are owned by the State of Minnesota and are being monitored and maintained by the MPCA through the Closed Landfill Program.

In 2019, the State of Minnesota led cleanup efforts at the Waste Disposal Engineering (WDE) closed landfill in Andover, which was listed as a Superfund site to remediate portions of the unlined landfill where 6,600 barrels of hazardous waste had been disposed of between 1972 - 74. The MPCA conducted cleanup efforts from spring 2019 to fall 2019 to remove barrels with hazardous wastes and contaminated soil below the hazardous waste pit within the WDE landfill. Groundwater and air monitoring continue through the Closed Landfill Program.

Transfer Stations

Anoka County's private waste haulers use five transfer stations located in Blaine. The total permitted capacity at these facilities annually is as follows.

- SW-582 Blaine Environmental Campus capacity limit: 155,999 total tons of MSW and recyclables each year.
- SW-592 Dem-Con capacity limit: 218,400 total tons/yr. of MSW, recycling, and C&D waste.
- SW-688 Ace: Annual capacity limit: 97,500 tons/yr. for MSW, and 40,000 tons/yr. for recyclables.
- LePage & Sons: Annual capacity limit 14,016 tons/yr. MSW, C&D, yard waste
- SW-663 Walters: Annual capacity limit: 140,000 tons each year for MSW, C&D, and industrial waste. Additional 45,000 tons each year for recyclables.

Yard Waste Sites

There are four permit-by-rule (PBR) yard waste facilities in Anoka County and two transfer stations accepting yard waste. The PBR facilities can have up to 125 cubic yards of tree and yard waste at any given time. There are two county-owned yard waste sites, two municipal sites, and two privately owned yard waste facilities. The total annual permitted capacity at these facilities is as follows:

- Bunker Hills Compost (county-owned): 14,016 tons/yr.
- Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Compost (county-owned): 14,016 tons/yr.
- Linwood Yard Waste (municipal): 14,016 tons/yr.
- City of Spring Lake Park Public Works (municipal): 14,016 tons/yr.
- LePage and Sons Transfer Station (privately owned): 14,016 tons/yr. of solid waste (C&D is most of what is accepted and transferred out of this facility.)

- Walters Recycling and Refuse Transfer Station (privately owned): 6,240 tons/yr. (according to their issued solid waste facility permit with the MPCA)

The County compost sites are open year-round and accept debagged garden wastes, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, prunings (soft-bodied, green plant material), SSO, brush, logs, and stumps from municipalities and residents. Small yard waste companies can use the site if they set up an account with the County's contractor. They are charged at a commercial rate.

Cost and Finance

Costs to Operate and Maintain the System

The Anoka County integrated solid waste management program is funded using a variety of revenue sources. Funds for county-operated programs are reserved or dedicated to the management of these solid waste programs and cannot be used for any other county programs.

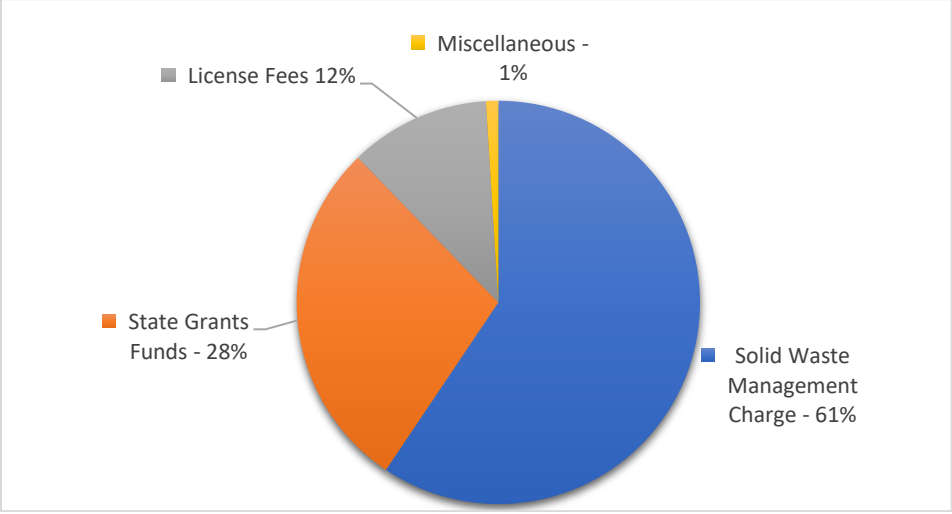
Sources of Revenue

Solid Waste Management Charge – An annual charge assessed to owners of improved property in the County. Residential charges range from $15.61 - $24.02. Non-residential charges range from $53.23 - $1,362.90.

State Grant Funds – The SCORE Funds (Minn. Stat. §115A.557) are a direct transfer of revenue collected by the state as the solid waste management tax (Minn. Stat. §297H.01 Subd. 12) charged on waste services. The LRDG funds (Minn. Stat. §473.8441) are from revenue collected as a surcharge on metropolitan area landfills. In addition, the County may occasionally obtain grants for special projects.

Miscellaneous – Includes payments from other counties, tipping fees, material sales, user fees, license fees, and reimbursements.

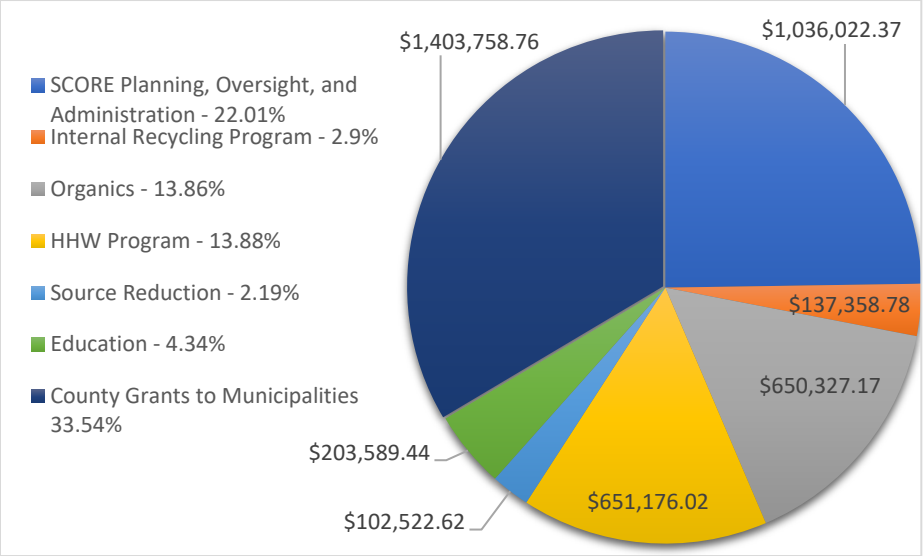
Figure 4.4 2022 Recycling & Resource Solutions Revenues*



County Expenditures

The County uses its funding to support expenditures for the following waste abatement activities: SCORE planning, oversight, and administration; internal recycling program; organics management; the HHW permanent facility and collection events; source reduction activities; education and outreach to residential and commercial audiences; and county grants to municipalities.

Figure 4.5 2022 Recycling & Resource Solutions Expenditures*



The County currently allocates most SCORE funds received to the municipalities for residential recycling programs. The state also provides dedicated organics funding, which must be spent on organics programming in the County. The county also provides additional grants to municipalities, multi-unit homes, schools, and businesses to enhance or improve waste reduction and recycling throughout the County.

The funding is provided by:

- The Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) allocation, with a specific percent received needing to be spent on organics expenditures.
- LRDG (Local Recycling Development Grants) is dedicated to programming enhancements; and
- Other County budgeted funds provided by the County Solid Waste Management Charge (SWMC).

Private Waste Management and Recycling Service Costs

The costs for the private management of waste and recycling services are paid by the generator or the property owner. The chart below shows the current range of residential and commercial/industrial solid waste collection rates within Anoka County.

Figure 4.6 Charges for Garbage and Recycling in Anoka County

Monthly Service Charge Range of Contracted Residential Garbage Service			
Contracted Garbage Service Charge Range		Contracted Recycling Service Charge Range Multi-family	
30–38-gallon container	$6.58 - $13.35	$2.85 - $5.60 per household	$1.95 - $4.00 per unit
60–76-gallon container	$9.77 – $19.18		
90–96-gallon container	$14.32 - $ 21.92		

Monthly Service Charge Range for Contracted Residential Recycling Services Only	
Single Family Service Charge Range	Multi-family Service Charge Range
$2.85 - $5.60 per household	$1.95 - $4.00 per unit

Monthly Service Charge Range for Curbside Organics Collection Services Only (Contracted Communities Only)
Single-Family Service Charge Range
$4.00 - $11.75

Monthly Service Charge Average for Open Hauling Single Family Garbage and Recycling Service	
Single Family Service Charge Range	
30–39-gallon container	$24.22 - $32.98
60–69-gallon container	$25.08 - $48.00
90–96-gallon container	$25.93 - $49.00

Transfer Station Fee Range for MSW and C&D	
MSW/ton	$105.00 - $150.00
C&D/ton	$.68.00 - $162.50

Municipal Recycling Center/Drop-off Day Pricing Range for Commonly Accepted Items	
Appliances	$0.00 - $30.00/item
Batteries	$0.00 – 6.75/lb.
Electronics	$0.00 - $85.00/item
Furniture	$15.00 - $40.00/item
Mattresses	$5.00 - $50.00/item
Tires	$2.25 – $9.00/auto tire

Yard Waste Management Costs

The County contracts with a business to operate its yard waste sites, which also collect and conduct on-site processing of organics. The County subsidizes the SSO program and up to a certain volume of materials received at the site from residents of Anoka County. Figure 4.7 lists the disposal costs for residents at the County Yard Waste Sites.

Figure 4.7 Yard and Tree Waste Fees at Anoka County Compost Sites

Yard Waste	$0/first four cubic yards + $5 for ea. add'l. four cubic yards
Branches/trunks/logs, 6 in. or less in diameter	$0/first 2 cubic yards + $8 for ea. add'l cubic yard
Branches/trunks/logs, 6 -18 in. in diameter	$12/cubic yard
Branches/trunks/logs, 18 in.+ in diameter	$24/cubic yard
Stumps, 1-36 in. in diameter	$60/cubic yard
Stumps, 36 in.+ in diameter	$120/cubic yard
Christmas trees	No charge
Christmas wreaths	No charge
Organics	No charge

Regulation

Anoka County Solid Waste Ordinance

Anoka County implemented its Solid Waste Ordinance in August 1970. It has been amended approximately 20 times the last of which took place in 2018. The ordinance requires licensing of any solid waste operation, including yard waste operations, which would qualify as a site or facility under the ordinance. A site or facility is defined as any place that receives solid waste, whether for final disposal or an intermediate step between the point of generation and ultimate disposition. This includes such operations as transfer stations (MSW or non-MSW), landfills (sanitary, demolition, clean fill), waste processors (tires), yard waste, lime sludge, other special waste application sites, and yard and tree waste processing facilities. The ordinance also requires MSW haulers to be licensed. A list of Anoka County ordinances related to solid waste can be found in Appendix B. Recycling centers, such as municipal drop-off recycling centers and private sector drop-offs for electronics and or major appliances, are not licensed.

Regional MSW Hauler Joint Powers Agreement

The purpose of the Joint Powers Agreement is to establish rules, regulations, and standards for the regional licensing of mixed municipal solid waste haulers in the region. Under this program, the hauler submits paperwork to its base county (the County in which its business is located). The base county issues a base license and forwards the application to the counties in which the hauler wishes to do business (the operating counties). The license specifies that all haulers will operate in compliance with the provisions in the Anoka County Solid Waste Ordinance and abide by all statutory mandates, i.e., all haulers must offer volume-based fees to their customers. Anoka County is the base licensing county for 30 haulers operating 505 trucks as of January 1, 2024.

Municipal Ordinances

Eighteen of the twenty-one municipalities in Anoka County require generators to have collection service, and nineteen municipalities require regular removal of garbage. All but two of the twenty-one municipalities in Anoka County have passed ordinances regulating some aspect of solid waste management within their boundaries. Nineteen municipalities issue licenses or permits to waste haulers in addition to the County license.

At present, the cities of Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbia Heights, and Ham Lake have organized collection of MSW and recyclables. Columbia Heights and Circle Pines have opt-in organized collection for organics. Four of these cities contract with a single service provider. Ham Lake formed a consortium of haulers to provide for the collection of MSW and recyclables. The remainder of the County, including most of the rural areas, operates under an open hauling system, where the individual resident contracts for the collection of MSW and recycling.

Four cities contract for recycling service: Anoka, Hilltop, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park. Fridley has organized collection of recyclables and organics. Organics collection in Fridley is an opt-in service. The cities that do not contract recycling services require haulers to collect recyclables from residents where required by state law. Appendix C describes the municipal regulatory activity.

Hazardous Waste

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners passed its first version of a hazardous waste ordinance addressing the specific management of hazardous waste in July 1985. The ordinance requires the licensing of businesses that produce wastes that meet characteristics or listings as hazardous. Hazardous Waste Generators are classified based on the volume and type of waste meeting the definition of hazardous waste: Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG), Small Quantity Generator (SQG), and Large Quantity

Generator (LQG). In addition, Anoka County regulates businesses that generate used oil (Class I Used Oil) or drain used oil from the dismantling of vehicles for parts (Class II Used Oil). License fees are based on the rate of generation and the management method.

Facilities that consolidate waste from other locations or are permitted to store waste beyond the limits allowed for a typical generator may be required to obtain an Anoka County license. Anoka County does not have jurisdiction to regulate Hazardous Waste Haulers operating in the County. See Figure 3.18 for Licensed Hazardous Waste Generators in Anoka County.

Yard Waste and Tree Waste Sites

There are six-yard waste drop-off sites in Anoka County: two private, two municipal, and two owned by the County. PHES staff inspect these facilities annually. Operators are required to maintain the facilities in an orderly and environmentally sound condition.

Transfer Stations

There are four MSW Transfer Stations in Anoka County. All of them are in the City of Blaine. The total permitted capacity for these facilities is 623,996 tons per year. These facilities are inspected monthly by Anoka County PHES staff. Operators are required to maintain the facilities in an orderly and environmentally sound condition. These operations accept MSW, non-MSW, and recyclable materials from waste haulers, other non-residential customers, and residents. Two transfer stations accept only non-MSW, primarily construction and demolition waste. Both facilities also conduct some processing activities to reduce the amount of material needing to be landfilled. These facilities are also inspected monthly by PHES. There are three Permit by Rule transfer facilities located in the County: one in Anoka and two in Blaine.

Non-MSW

The County does not regulate the collection of non-MSW. Many haulers specialize in collecting these wastes, i.e., construction/demolition debris. However, some businesses self-haul non-MSW themselves. Anoka County collaborates regionally to promote best management practices and alternative processing options for this waste stream.

Chapter Five: Plan Implementation

Introduction

The role of Anoka County in the integrated solid waste management system is to:

- Implement programs and provide funding to achieve the goals of the Policy Plan;
- Research and promote best management practices;
- Provide generators information on how, what, when, why, and where to reduce, reuse, recycle, and dispose of materials;
- Offer technical assistance to public entities, residents, and the non-residential sector;
- Regulate entities, when required by statute and as necessary, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment;
- Encourage and support pilot projects to explore new technology and opportunities; and
- Implement essential programs if others are unable or unwilling to do so and/or if the County deems the programs are vital in the integrated solid waste management system.

The state retains oversight authority and supports local efforts through planning, financial support, technical assistance, permitting, and enforcement. Waste generators also have a role to play in preventing and managing waste. Haulers and facility operators must ensure waste is properly collected and look for opportunities to shift materials up the hierarchy.

General Policies

In addition to the policies of the Policy Plan, the following county policies will guide the integrated solid waste management system in the County.

1. Government should serve as a leader in waste and toxicity reduction, reuse, recycling, and organics recovery.

2. The County's integrated solid waste management system's highest priority is to reduce the toxicity of its waste, followed by waste reduction, reuse, recycling, organics recovery, resource recovery, and landfilling.

3. The County supports the full cost accounting for the life cycle environmental impacts to create a more complete view of solid waste management and ensures strategies address the points of the greatest influence.

4. Waste generators are responsible for
    - reducing waste generated;
    - maximizing the reuse of materials;
    - recycling what cannot be reduced or reused;
    - managing organics separately from garbage whenever possible; and
    - managing hazardous wastes and problem materials properly.

5. Public information will be developed to promote efficiency, consistency, and effectiveness.

6. The pricing of solid waste management services should provide an incentive for waste reduction and recycling and increased management of organic wastes by use, reuse, recycling, or composting.

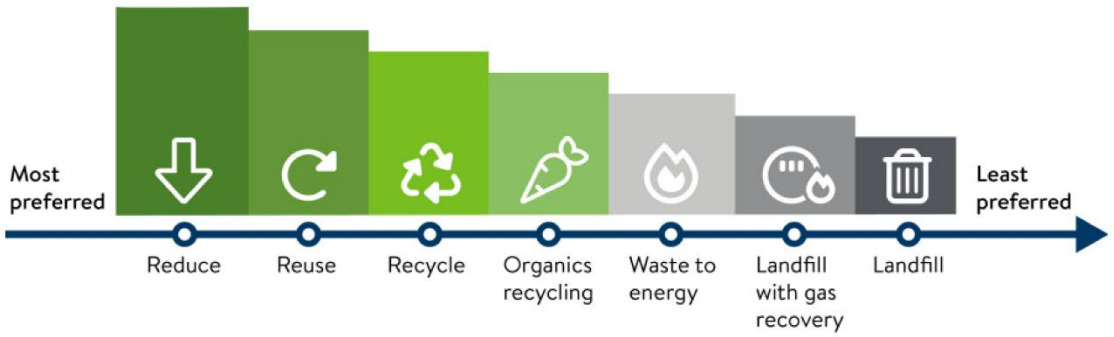
7. Market development is the responsibility of the private sector and the state, with the assistance of the host county. The county will provide facilities and or programs when a market failure exists and if those programs or facilities are deemed necessary to achieve state-mandated goals.

8. Manufacturers and retailers should design consumer products for durability, reuse, recycling, and minimization of environmental impact.

9. It is the responsibility of the County to manage waste following the Policy Plan. The County will partner with waste haulers, facility operators, municipalities, and commercial generators to achieve the goals of the Policy Plan.

10. The Solid Waste Management Plan stresses the need to manage waste following the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy, with an emphasis on reduction, reuse, recycling, and organics recovery to promote resource conservation and environmental protection. Scientific research has pointed out the environmental benefits of the hierarchy. Figure 5.1 shows the solid waste management hierarchy and emphasizes the need to focus efforts at the top, where environmental benefits are most significant.

Figure 5.1 The Solid Waste Management Hierarchy



General County Implementation Strategies – Evaluation

Strategies that include evaluation of programs incorporate gathering information, examining cost savings, examining increases to recycling, and, if the solution is feasible and meets business needs, then the County will provide recommendations and act on those recommendations.

General County Implementation Strategies – Measurement

Implementation strategies for measurement are illustrative of the methods to be considered. They are not exclusive, as other measures may become available for use in the future. We intend to collaborate with our target audiences and the waste industry, so our measurement methods accurately reflect the results of actions taken and help us plan additional actions when necessary. The projection of our progress is based on achieving the state objectives and is measured in tons.

Figure 5.2 Quantifiable Objectives
Reported as a percentage

Management Method	Anoka County	State Goals			
	2022	2025	2030	2036	2042
Source Reduction & Reuse[1]	0%	1.0%	6.4%	10.7%	15%
Recycling[2]	44.45%	36.9%	47.4%	47.4%	47.4%
Organics Recovery[3]	8.39%	21.5%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
Restriction on disposal of MMSW – The percentages below represent the amount of resource recovery expected to occur after maximizing reduction, recycling, and organics recovery. Restrictions on the land disposal of processible MMSW will be enforced.					
Resource Recovery[4]	4.18%	24%	20%	20%	20%
Ceiling – The percentages below represent the maximum amount of MSW land disposal that will be allowed.					
Landfill[5]	42.97%	17.6%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%

1 To avoid double-counting, the source reduction percentages cannot be added to the other MSW management method percentages lower on the hierarchy.
2 This does include residue after processing that cannot be recycled and is sent to a landfill.
3 Organics may include food to people, food to animals, and composting of source-separated compostable materials.
4 Resource recovery through mixed municipal solid waste processing or waste-to-energy includes residue before and after processing that is sent to a landfill; a byproduct of resource recovery is ash that must be managed at an industrial land disposal facility (the weight of the ash is 15% - 20% of the incoming tons).
5 This objective refers to TCMA-generated MSW that is disposed of at all landfills that serve the TCMA. This does not include ash from resource recovery facilities.

County Facilities

The abatement programs for county-owned and operated facilities have two separate target users: employees and those who utilize County facilities, such as office buildings, license centers, parks, and correctional facilities. Methods to measure the effectiveness of the County Facilities' waste reduction and recycling program are to monitor:

- Recycling levels and garbage generation;
- Intranet usage and phone requests;
- Quantity and innovative nature of internal waste reduction and recycling grant program applications; and
- Response to promotion methods.

Household Hazardous Waste Program

The abatement program for household hazardous waste is targeted to residents. Methods to measure the effectiveness of the household hazardous waste program are to monitor:

- Participation and quantity of household hazardous waste collected;
- Internet usage and phone requests; and
- Response to promotion methods.

Residential Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling

The abatement programs for the residential sector have three target groups: residents, Anoka County municipal recycling program managers, and the waste industry. Methods to measure the effectiveness of the residential waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs are to monitor:

- Annual residential recycling goal achievement;
- Annual reuse weights from entities providing reuse services within Anoka County;
- Municipal implementation of best management practices;
- Residential recycling funding agreements;
- Internet usage and phone requests; and
- Response to promotion methods.

Standards and procedures for annually assessing whether each city is implementing the plan and meeting the required waste reduction and abatement goals are incorporated into the Agreements for Residential Recycling Program (see Appendix G) with each municipality. Each municipality reports to the County twice per year to ensure that they are working to achieve the goals of the Anoka County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Non-Residential Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling

The abatement programs for the non-residential sector have two target groups: businesses (owners and employees) and schools (students and staff). Methods to measure the effectiveness of the non-residential waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs are to monitor:

- Results of actions taken, and tonnage abated;
- Technical assistance and site visits conducted;
- Posters, signage, and containers provided;
- Download internet request forms; and
- Response to promotion methods.

Organics Recovery

The abatement programs for organics recovery programs have both residential and non-residential audiences. Methods to measure the effectiveness of the organics recovery programs are to monitor:

- Organics recovery levels and garbage generation;
- Participation in organics recovery programs;
- Response to the promotion and technical assistance outreach methods; and
- Interest in implementing organics recovery programs.

Yard Waste

The abatement program for yard waste is targeted at residents. Methods to measure the effectiveness of the yard waste program are to monitor:

- Data/tons collected through municipal contracts;
- Number of vehicles and cubic yards delivered at both compost sites;
- Resident compost site calls/requests via phone or website; and
- Response to promotion methods.

Processing

The waste processing information will be to waste hauler and public entity audiences. Measurement methods include:

- Tonnage processed and
- Hauler contracts for waste delivery.

Landfill

The communications for landfill abatement will have both residential and non-residential audiences. Methods to measure the effectiveness of the communications are to monitor:

- Data/tons collected through municipal contracts;
- Data/tons collected through regional and state efforts; and
- Promotion and number of disposal opportunities.

Non-MSW

The communications for non-MSW will be to non-residential audiences. Methods to measure the effectiveness of the communications are to monitor:

- Data/tons collected through regional and state efforts;
- Internet usage and phone requests;
- Number of reuse, recycling, and disposal opportunities (drop-off and pick-up); and
- Response to promotion methods.

Contingency Plan

In the event the program objectives are not being met, the County will work collaboratively with those involved in providing abatement programs, and those targeted by these programs, by one or a combination of the following actions:

- Review existing programs to see what is working and what is not working;
- Meet with the targeted audience to determine what they need to complete the action;
- Review any barriers that may prohibit a successful program and work to find solutions;
- Review programs in other areas of the country to see if any of their program elements might be useful in our area;
- Test new actions with pilot programs and implement those that seem most likely to succeed;
- Review staff efforts and financial expenditures to determine if alteration of time or money used for specific programs is productive or if additional staff and resources are necessary;
- Develop an action plan within one year to meet the program objectives and then present our plan to our committee of jurisdiction and then the Anoka County Board of Commissioners for consideration and approval;
- Implement the action plan.

Definitions of Terms

The following terms are used in Chapters Four through Twelve of this plan.

Vision: Sets forth a vision of sustainability for the County.
Goals: Represent elements of the vision. Goals are intended to bring the vision closer to reality.
Policies: Establish a framework to guide the development and implementation of county programs.
Strategies: Specific implementation activities that support the achievement of county program objectives as specified in the *2018 Anoka County Solid Waste Management Master Plan*.
Support: Provide input, technical assistance, and or financial support.
Consider: Think carefully, especially about taking action as needed.
Encourage: Attempt to persuade, urge, stimulate, or give help such as technical assistance and or financial support.
Evaluate: Determine the significance, worth, or condition of a specific action item for consideration.

Chapter Six: Solid Waste Education Programs

Introduction

Implementation strategies for promotions to target audiences are illustrative of the methods to be considered. They are not exclusive, as new opportunities may be available for use in the future. The County intends to collaborate with regional partners, with our target audiences, and the waste industry so our promotions meet our objectives, the needs of the target audiences, and the capabilities of the private sector waste industry. The County may choose to use one or more means of communication to promote and encourage a specific action or opportunity. The County will work to promote messages to all residents with the idea that everyone should have the right to live in a safe and clean environment. One example is a project where the County provided translated materials to multi-family properties based on population data. Another example has been the AnokaBiz campaign to promote grant opportunities available and technical assistance through the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation.

The following chart demonstrates the education and outreach methods the County may implement throughout the plan.

Figure 6.1 Possible Promotion Methods

Residential Audience	Non-Residential Audience	County Employee Audience
• Printed materials Newsletters Mailings Brochures/guides Newspaper ads Press releases • Translated publications • County website • Emails • TV/Cable • Movie theater ads • Pandora radio ads • Partner websites Municipal State • Social media • Workgroups – Waste Prevention and Recycling Committee • Technical assistance • Training sessions • Displays • Presentations • Social Marketing/Social Diffusion	• Chambers of Commerce Publications • Printed materials Newsletters Mailings Brochures/guides Newspaper ads Press releases • Translate publications • County website – AnokaBizRecycle.com • Partner websites Municipal • Site audits/inspections • Social media • Trade associations publications • Training sessions • Emails • Displays • Presentations	• Signage • Printed materials • Emails • Workgroups • County intranet • Displays • Presentations • Training sessions

Chapter Seven: Waste Reduction & Reuse Programs

Introduction

Waste reduction and reuse are critical to maximize waste diversion and to achieve the goals of the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan. The County Solid Waste Management Plan combines waste reduction and reuse policies and strategies because they are highly intertwined. This reflects the way most consumers think about waste abatement and recognizes that implementing these initiatives jointly creates synergy.

According to the 2013 Statewide Waste Characterization Study (See Figure 2.14), the materials with the greatest potential for waste reduction efforts are food waste. In this planning period, the County will focus on the following to maximize the amounts of material reduced and reused through the promotion of:

- Waste reduction opportunities;
- Reuse opportunities;
- Reuse of food waste for people and animals;

The major challenge will be to provide information and reinforce the message effectively so that generators will participate in waste reduction and reuse programs to reduce the amount of waste they generate. The waste reduction goals have increased from 5% to 15% so a greater emphasis on waste reduction strategies is necessary to achieve the goals laid out for the County. It is expected that the state will continue to develop Extended Producer Responsibility models for the state. The County will support and follow the state's lead for Extended Producer Responsibility models. The County will encourage similar private-sector involvement where appropriate.

Waste Reduction and Reuse Objectives

The following chart summarizes the Anoka County achievement for 2022 in comparison to the Policy Plan objectives through 2042. The County will use the guidance and metrics provided by the MPCA to calculate waste reduction.

Figure 7.1 Waste Reduction and Reuse Objectives

Management Method	Anoka County Actual	State Policy Plan Objectives for MSW Generated in the Region			
	2022	2025	2030	2036	2042
Source Reduction and Reuse	N/A	2.9%	6.4%	10.7%	15%

Waste Reduction and Reuse Policies

1. The county supports a materials management approach and the waste hierarchy for waste reduction and reuse.

2. The County supports state-led Extended Producer Responsibility initiatives when they enhance local programs and remove financial burdens for waste managers.

3. Waste reduction and reuse efforts will focus on materials that offer the greatest benefits, including:
   - resource conservation;
   - pollution prevention;
   - public health; and
   - economic benefits (jobs created/taxes paid by the industry/avoided disposal costs).

4. Waste reduction and reuse programs will be:
   - available to all generators in the County;
   - consistent and efficient; and
   - minimize the volume of waste generated.

5. Anoka County encourages and promotes waste reduction and reuse, consistent with the Waste Management Hierarchy.

6. Generators will use their best efforts to reduce at least 15% of their waste from the baseline waste generation for the County, as is required in the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022 – 2042.

7. Commercial waste reduction efforts shall focus on generators of large quantities of recyclables and the generators of the most impactful materials through partnerships with the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation, the region, and the MPCA. Anoka County:
   - will work with partners to establish a baseline for commercial waste reduction and reuse in the County and identify strategies for waste reduction;
   - will work with partners to identify materials most impactful to the environment;
   - will focus on commercial assistance to target outreach based on the environmental and public health impact of materials reduced or reused.

Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategies – The County will:

1. Collaborate with the region to provide information and to develop and disseminate timely and consistent messages that promote reduction and reuse. (see Figure 6.1)

2. Provide grants for or access to software that can track food waste. (MSWMPP requirement #13)

3. Establish partnerships between food rescue organizations and restaurants/stores to increase food rescue. (MSWMPP requirement #14)

4. Conduct bi-annual waste minimization challenges for residents. (MSWMPP requirement #15)

5. Implement a formal county Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy using MPCA guidance. (MSWMPP requirement #16)

6. Participate in Responsible Public Purchasing Council meetings. (MSWMPP requirement #17)

7. Offer grants or rebates for organizations to transition to reusable food and beverage service ware. (MSWMPP requirement # 19)

8. Offer grants for waste reduction, reuse, and repair. (MSWMPP requirement #20)

9. Implement a green meeting policy. (MSWMPP requirement #21)

10. Join and/or actively participate in a reuse network, like Reuse Minnesota, to provide county and city staff with learning opportunities to broaden their reuse expertise. (MSWMPP optional strategy #24)

11. Establish a Repair Ambassador program, like the Recycling Ambassador program. (MSWMPP optional strategy #25)

12. Conduct a minimum of three Re-Use events annually to keep materials out of the waste disposal stream. The County requests seven optional points for this strategy from the MPCA. (MSWMPP optional proposed strategy #26a.) Weights of materials at reuse events will be collected upon intake by the County or one of its event contractors. Materials will be available for reuse by the public at the event or at an event contractor's physical location. Events will be planned for indoor locations to ensure events may still take place in the case of inclement weather or other unexpected challenges, ensuring a minimum of three events are held.

13. Participate in the Solid Waste Administrators Association Product Stewardship Committee. (MSWMPP requirement #60)

14. Work with municipalities, businesses, service providers, and others to research waste reduction and reuse programs and opportunities in other regions of the country to minimize waste to be managed:
    a. Continue to evaluate waste reduction and reuse programs and propose solutions;
    b. Evaluate available data to determine targeted materials for waste reduction and reuse strategies.

15. Collaborate where appropriate with the MPCA, the region, municipalities, private industry, and/or haulers to:
    a. Continue to improve the collection of waste reduction and reuse data for state reports and planning purposes;
    b. Continue or implement new joint initiatives;
    c. Report on waste reduction and reuse data annually to the MPCA.

Public Entity Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategies – Public entities will:

1. Provide information to public and internal audiences by continuing to promote (see Figure 6.1) efficient and effective waste reduction in operations such as intranet content, online content,

and communications to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee.

In addition, the County will:

3. Work with public entity operations to maximize the reduction of MSW generated by reviewing and evaluating opportunities to reduce or reuse additional public entity facility waste.

4. Provide information and technical assistance to public entities to develop and implement best management practices for recycling at events, facilities, and parks.

Residential Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategies – The County will:

1. Promote (see Figure 6.1)
    - Waste reduction actions;
    - Reuse opportunities such as waste exchanges and thrift stores; and
    - Reuse options, such as curbside service, reuse day events, and drop-off centers.

2. Provide funding for programs:
    - Continue to provide SCORE funds for eligible residential waste reduction and reuse program costs and use the funding to promote activities to meet the objectives in the Policy Plan;
    - Annually, analyze waste reduction and reuse goal achievement and review residential reuse goals as necessary to meet state recycling objectives; and
    - Evaluate residential funding agreements to determine if programs and expenditures result in goals being met.

3. Provide information to residents on waste reduction and reuse, through:
    - Printed materials;
    - Social media; and
    - Websites.

4. Work with each municipality to implement at least two programs that focus on reuse. Municipal recycling contracts (SCORE) will include identified choices. Some possible activities include:
    a. Increasing the capture rate of usable goods from residents who tend to move frequently, such as with multi-family homes;
    b. Providing educational materials related to donation and clean-ups, focusing on the environmental, social, and economic benefits of buying used, renting, or repairing;
    c. Encourage and support municipalities to host fix-it clinics;
    d. Promote reuse options for municipal recycling days; and
    e. Encourage municipalities to partner with community garage sales and share information about reuse outlets with participants hosting sales.

Non-Residential Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategies – The County will:

1. Promote (see Figure 6.1) waste reduction and reuse to non-residential generators by providing information to the non-residential sector on waste reduction and reuse (see Figure 6.1).

2. Continue to provide technical assistance to the non-residential sector by:
    a. Working with organizations in the private sector to advance non-residential waste reduction and reuse (e.g., the non-residential grant program, contract with Minnesota Waste Wise, reduction in Solid Waste Management Charge, etc.);

b. Focusing outreach efforts on non-residential generators with the greatest potential to increase waste reduction and reuse;
c. Continuing efforts on compliance with the public entity recycling requirements (Minn. Stat. §115A.151, Subd. (a)) by offering non-residential technical assistance and grant funding to sports facilities, commercial building owners, and public entities; and

3. Provide funding for the Anoka County non-residential sector grant program.

County Waste Reduction and Reuse Contingency Plan

The waste reduction and reuse markets in Anoka County continue to expand and grow. However, market failures may still occur.

A market failure is defined by any of the following:

- Only a pilot program exists and is not accessible to all residents;
- A market is not available within a reasonable distance or at a reasonable cost; and
- Market capacity is not sufficient, and no new capacity is being developed.

In the event of a market failure, the county will commit to the following actions.

The County will promote the following, in order of preference, for managing those materials collected for recycling:

- Short-Term
  - recycling if possible
  - storage;
  - processing (resource recovery or other technology) if approved by the MPCA and;
  - landfilling if approved by the MPCA;

- Long-Term
  - discontinue collection.

Chapter Eight: Recycling Programs

Introduction

Recycling is critical to conserve natural resources and reduce the amount of waste landfilled. According to the 2013 Statewide Waste Characterization Study (See Figure 3.16), the materials with the greatest potential for increased recycling diversion include paper and plastics.

In this planning period, the County will focus on the following to maximize the amounts of material recycled through:

- Recycling education and outreach;
- Recycling options for large volume generators;
- Modifying collection methods to maximize recovery from residents and businesses.

The major challenge will be to engage generators to participate in recycling programs to minimize the amount of waste landfilled. It is expected that the state will continue to develop markets for the materials collected for recycling. The County will support and follow the state's lead and promote the collection of marketable materials. The County will encourage similar private-sector involvement where appropriate.

Recycling Objectives

The following chart summarizes the Anoka County achievement for 2022 in comparison to the Policy Plan objectives through 2042.

Figure 8.1 Recycling Objectives

Management Method	Anoka County Actual	State Policy Plan Objectives for MSW Generated in the Region			
	2022	2025	2030	2036	2042
Recycling	44%	36.9%	47.4%	47.4%	47.4%

Recycling Policies

1. Recycling efforts will focus on materials that offer the greatest benefits, including:
    - resource conservation;
    - pollution prevention;
    - public health; and
    - economic benefits (jobs created/taxes paid by the industry/avoided disposal costs).

2. Recycling collection services will be:
    - available to all generators in the County;
    - consistent and efficient; and
    - maximize the volume of waste recycled.

3. Anoka County encourages and promotes recycling.

4. Anoka County encourages any entity that holds a public event where mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) is collected to have sufficient recycling containers available, provide clear, consistent signage, and ensure the material collected is recycled.

5. All public entities within the County will have recycling containers and a collection system for recyclables from their facilities and parks as required in Minn. Stat. §115A.151 and as amended.

6. Anoka County encourages the collection of additional recyclable materials as technology and markets become available.

7. Municipalities and school districts use best efforts to recycle at least 50% of their waste as required by Anoka County resolution #94-1 and as amended to receive a 60% reduction in the Solid Waste Management Charge.

8. Commercial recycling in the metro area shall focus on generators of large quantities of recyclables and the generators of the most impactful materials through partnerships with the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation, the region, and the MPCA. Anoka County:
    - will work with partners to establish a baseline for commercial recycling in the County and identify the generators of large volumes of recyclables;
    - will work with partners to identify materials most impactful to the environment;
    - will focus commercial recycling assistance to target outreach based on the environmental impact of materials recycled; and
    - encourages and supports the collaboration of the MPCA, the County, and municipalities to address state and city codes and ordinances that inhibit recycling.

Recycling Strategies: The County Will -

1. Continue to improve the collection of recycling data for state reports and planning purposes and increase compliance with hauler reporting per Minn. Stat. 115A.93. (MWSMPP requirement #1)

2. Provide required County reporting to the MPCA. (MSWMPP requirement #2)

3. Provide recycling information to the public through:
    a. Working with the region to implement standardized outreach and educational messaging for residential recycling. (MSWMPP requirement #10)
    b. Educational messaging will be distributed through websites, printed media, and social media (see Figure 6.1).

4. Engage in efficient and value-added infrastructure planning with the MPCA and or regional partners. (MSWMPP requirement #11)

5. Develop contingency plans for large recycling facility closures to reduce landfill reliance. (MSWMPP requirement # 12)

6. Implement a formal county sustainable purchasing policy using MPCA guidance. (MWSMPP # 16)

7. Participate in Responsible Public Purchasing Council Meetings. (MWSMPP # 17)

8. Work with municipalities and waste haulers to provide recycling, trash, and organics collection on the same day of the week in each community. (MSWMPP requirement # 30)

9. Collect recycling every other week and provide two carts for households on an opt-in basis at no additional charge to residents. The County requests seven optional points for this strategy. (MSWMPP proposed optional strategy #31a)

10. Recruit a minimum of 12 businesses a year to recycle at least 3 materials from their operations and promote the environmental and resource benefits. (MSWMPP requirement #35)

11. Assist with multi-unit properties (4 or more units with shared walls) to improve recycling. (MSWMPP requirement #37)

12. Update and revise County ordinances and provide technical support on best practices to municipalities when updating city codes to be consistent with current state law, MCPA rules, and the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022 – 2042.

13. Work with municipalities, businesses, recycling service providers, and others to research recycling programs and opportunities in other regions of the country to increase recycling:
    c. Continue to evaluate recycling programs and propose solutions to increase recycling;
    d. Incorporate consistent terminology for material collected for recycling.

14. Collaborate where appropriate with the MPCA, the region, municipalities, private industry, and/or haulers to:
    a. Continue or implement new joint initiatives such as regional licensing of haulers and standard hauler reporting requirements;
    b. Invest in new technologies and sorting equipment;
    c. Establish a shared vision to build and improve local market development infrastructure and capacity;
    d. Coordinate material quality, collection, and markets for recyclables.

Public Entity Recycling Strategies – Public entities will:

1. Work with public entity operations to maximize diversion by reviewing and evaluating opportunities to recycle additional public entity facility waste.

2. Provide information and technical assistance to public entities to develop and implement best management practices for recycling at events, facilities, and parks.

3. Continue efforts on compliance with the public entity recycling requirement (Minn. Stat. §115A.151, Subd. (a)) by offering waste reduction and recycling grant funding and technical assistance to schools, businesses, municipalities (see Appendix H), and County departments. To increase recycling by public entities, Anoka County will:
    a. Provide grants to public entities that are incentive-based. Grantees should demonstrate measurable results.
    b. Provide education and assistance to public entities on best practices for recycling.
    c. Conduct periodic recycling assessments at local government buildings not already audited by the County, including city-owned buildings, such as offices, libraries, parks, and public works facilities, to ensure compliance.

Residential Recycling Strategies – The County will:

1. Provide funding for programs:
    a. Continue to provide SCORE funds for eligible residential recycling program costs and use the funding to promote activities to meet the objectives in the Policy Plan;
    b. Annually, analyze recycling goal achievement and review residential recycling goals as necessary to meet state recycling objectives; and
    c. Evaluate residential recycling funding agreements to determine if programs and expenditures result in goals being met.

2. Promote (see Figure 6.1) and provide information on recycling options, such as curbside service, and drop-off locations to residents.

3. Continue to provide technical assistance to municipalities and recycling service providers to:
    a. Encourage the enhancement of existing programs and the development of new programs;
    b. Identify specific strategies to overcome barriers to recycling;
    c. Work with municipal recycling coordinators and recycling service providers to develop and implement Best Management Practices as defined in Appendix E for residential recycling;
    d. Encourage municipalities to implement a variety of collection opportunities (such as special pickups, monthly drop-offs, full-service drop-off recycling facilities, etc.);
    e. Develop and implement cost-effective recycling programs; and
    f. Support the collection of non-traditional recyclables by promoting (see Figure 6.1) convenient recycling options and evaluating the need for additional recycling opportunities for materials generally not collected curbside, such as but not limited to, appliances, electronics, motor oil, mattresses, and plastic film.

Non-Residential Recycling Strategies – The County will:

1. Promote (see Figure 6.1) and provide information on recycling to non-residential generators.

2. Continue to provide technical assistance to the non-residential sector by:
    a. Working with organizations in the private sector to advance non-residential recycling (e.g., the non-residential grant program, contract with Minnesota Waste Wise, reduction in Solid Waste Management Charge, etc.);
    b. Focusing outreach efforts on non-residential generators with the greatest potential to increase recycling;
    c. Continuing efforts on compliance with the public entity recycling requirements (Minn. Stat. §115A.151, Subd. (a)) by offering non-residential technical assistance and grant funding to sports facilities, commercial building owners, and public entities.

3. Provide funding for the Anoka County non-residential sector grant program.

County Recycling Contingency Plan

A market failure is defined by any of the following:

- Only a pilot program exists and is not accessible to all residents;
- A market is not available within a reasonable distance or at a reasonable cost; and
- Market capacity is not sufficient, and no new capacity is being developed.

If a market has failed, the County will promote the following, in order of preference, for managing those materials collected for recycling:

- Short-Term
  - storage;
  - processing (resource recovery or other technology) if approved by the MPCA and;
  - landfilling if approved by the MPCA;

- Long-Term
  - discontinue collection.

Chapter Nine: Organics Programs

Introduction

Organics are critical to conserving natural resources and reducing the amount of waste landfilled. The Solid Waste Management Plan combines waste reduction, reuse, and composting policies and strategies. According to the 2013 Statewide Waste Characterization Study (See Figure 3.16), the materials with the greatest potential for increased diversion include:

- Food waste;
- Compostable paper;
- and Wood waste.

In this planning period, the County will focus on the following to maximize the amounts of material reused and composted through the promotion of:

- Food waste reduction opportunities;
- Organics recovery for large volume generators;
- Reuse of food waste for people and animals;
- Management methods and public information strategies that will increase organics recovery by residents, public entities, businesses, and sports facilities; and
- Purchasing of compost.

The major challenge will be to provide information and reinforce the message effectively so that generators will participate in waste reduction, reuse, and organics programs to reduce the amount of waste they generate. It is expected that the state and private sectors will continue to develop markets for the materials collected for organics. The County will support and follow the state's lead and promote the collection of marketable materials. The County will encourage similar private-sector involvement where appropriate.

Organics Recovery Objectives

The following chart summarizes the Anoka County achievement for 2022 in comparison to the Policy Plan objectives through 2042.

Figure 9.1 Organics Recovery Objectives

Management Method	Anoka County Actual	State Policy Plan Objectives for Organics Generated in the Region			
	2022	2025	2030	2036	2042
Organics Recycling	8%	21.5%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%

Organics Reduction, Reuse, and Recovery Policies

1. Organics reduction, reuse, and organics recovery efforts will focus on materials offering the greatest benefits, including:
    - resource conservation;
    - public health;
    - pollution prevention; and
    - economic benefits (jobs created/taxes paid by the industry/avoided disposal costs).

2. Organics collection services will be:
    - available to all generators in the County;
    - consistent and efficient; and
    - maximize the volume of organics diverted for composting.

3. Anoka County encourages and promotes waste reduction, reuse, and organics recovery.

4. Anoka County encourages any entity that holds a public event where mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) and recycling is collected to have sufficient organics containers available, provide clear, consistent signage, and ensure the material collected is composted.

5. Anoka County encourages the collection of additional compostable materials as technology and markets become available.

6. Commercial organics recovery in the metro area shall focus on generators of large quantities of organics through partnerships with the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation, the region, and the MPCA. Anoka County:
    - will work to identify the generators of large volumes of organics;
    - will focus commercial organics reduction and recovery assistance to target outreach based on the environmental quantity of organics reduced or recovered; and
    - encourages and supports the collaboration of the MPCA, the County, and municipalities to address state and city codes and ordinances that inhibit organics recovery.

Organics Recovery Strategies – The County will:

1. Provide required County reporting to the MPCA. (SWMPP requirement #2)

2. Collaborate where appropriate with the MPCA, the region, private industry, and or haulers to improve organics recovery data collection at businesses within the county. (SWMPP requirement #4)

3. Conduct annual food waste reduction challenges for residents. (SWMPP requirement #15)

4. Offer grants for food waste reduction, food to people, and food to animals programs. (SWMPP requirement #20)

5. Collect recyclables, organics, and trash on the same day within each community. (SWMPP requirement #30)

6. Make residential curbside organics collection available in cities with a population greater than 5,000 by 2030. (MSWMPP requirement #40) (See Appendix I for implementation details.)

7. Expand backyard composting outreach and resources to residents. (MSWMPP requirement # 41)

8. Require management of organics from large commercial food generators by 2033. (MSWMPP requirement #42).

9. Establish additional organics drop-off sites throughout the County. (MSWMPP optional strategy #43).

10. Continue to support composting and mulching operations at the County Yard Waste Facilities. (MSWMPP requirement #47)

11. Require food-derived compost in county construction and landscaping projects. (MSWMPP requirement # 55)

12. Provide information about food waste reduction, reuse, and organics recovery through:
    a. Working with the region to develop and disseminate timely and consistent messages that promote reduction, reuse, and organics recovery;
    b. Continue working with the region to implement standardized messaging regarding residential organics recovery in all seven TCMA counties.

13. Work with municipalities, businesses, service providers, and others to research organics recovery programs and opportunities in other regions to increase organics recovery:
    a. Continue to evaluate organics programs and propose solutions to increase recovery;
    b. Incorporate consistent terminology for material collected; and
    c. Evaluate available waste sorts to determine targeted materials for organics recovery promotions.

14. Collaborate where appropriate with the MPCA, the region, municipalities, private industry, and/or haulers to:
    a. Continue to improve the collection of organics recovery data for state reports and planning purposes;
    b. Continue or implement new joint initiatives;
    c. Address city codes and County ordinances that inhibit organics recovery;
    d. Invest in new technologies and sorting equipment;
    e. Establish a shared vision to build and improve local markets, infrastructure, and capacity.

Public Entity Organics Recovery Strategies – **The County will:** Use state contracts or other purchasing policies or contracts to support the State's Sustainable Purchasing Program when it meets business needs.

1. Provide information (see Figure 6.1) to public and internal audiences by:
    a. Creating and disseminating organics recovery guidelines to employees and the public; and
    b. Communicating the results of organics recovery programs to partners.

2. Provide information and technical assistance to public entities to develop and implement best management practices for organics recovery at events and facilities.

3. Continue efforts on compliance with the public entity recycling requirement (Minn. Stat. §115A.151, Subd. (a)) by offering waste reduction and organics recovery grant funding and technical assistance to schools, businesses, municipalities (see Appendix F), and County departments.

4. Increase organics recovery of public entities by:
    a. Providing incentive-based grants to public entities. Grantees should demonstrate measurable results.
    b. Provide education and assistance to public entities on best practices for organics recovery.

Residential Organics Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recovery Strategies – The County will:

1. Promote (see Figure 6.1) and provide information on waste reduction actions; reuse opportunities for food to people; and organics recovery options, such as curbside service, and drop-off locations to residents.

2. Provide funding for programs:
    a. Continue to provide SCORE funds for eligible residential organics recovery program costs and use the funding to promote activities to meet the objectives in the Policy Plan;
    b. Annually, analyze organics goal achievement and review residential organics recovery goals as necessary to meet state organics recovery objectives; and
    c. Evaluate residential funding agreements to determine if programs and expenditures result in goals being met.

3. Continue to provide technical assistance to municipalities and service providers to:
    a. Encourage the enhancement of existing programs and the development of new programs;
    b. Identify specific strategies to overcome barriers to organics recovery;
    c. Work with municipal recycling coordinators and service providers to develop and implement Best Management Practices as defined in Appendix E;
    d. Provide technical assistance to develop and implement cost-effective organics recovery programs.

4. Provide information (see Figure 6.1) to residents on organics reduction, reuse, and recovery.

Non-Residential Food Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Organics Recovery Strategies – The County will:

1. Promote (see Figure 6.1) and provide information on waste reduction, reuse, and organics recovery to non-residential generators.

2. Continue to provide technical assistance to the non-residential sector by:
    a. Working with organizations in the private sector to advance non-residential organics recovery (e.g., the non-residential grant program, contract with Minnesota Waste Wise, reduction in Solid Waste Management Charge, etc.);
    b. Focusing outreach efforts on non-residential generators with the greatest potential to increase recovery of organics; and
    c. Continuing efforts on compliance with the public entity recycling requirements (Minn. Stat. §115A.151, Subd. (a)) by offering non-residential technical assistance and grant funding to sports facilities, commercial building owners, and public entities.

3. Provide funding for the Anoka County non-residential sector grant program.

County Organics Recovery Contingency Plan

A market failure is defined by any of the following:

- Only a pilot program exists and is not accessible to all residents;
- A market is not available within a reasonable distance or at a reasonable cost; and
- Market capacity is not sufficient, and no new capacity is being developed.

If a market has failed, the County will promote the following, in order of preference, for managing those materials collected for organics recovery:

- Short-Term
    - locate and transport to a permitted organics processing facility further away from the point of generation;
    - processing (resource recovery or other technology) if approved by the MPCA and;
    - landfilling if approved by the MPCA;
- Long-Term
    - develop organics processing facilities or partnerships with existing facilities to increase organics processing capacity for Anoka County residents and businesses;
    - discontinue collection.

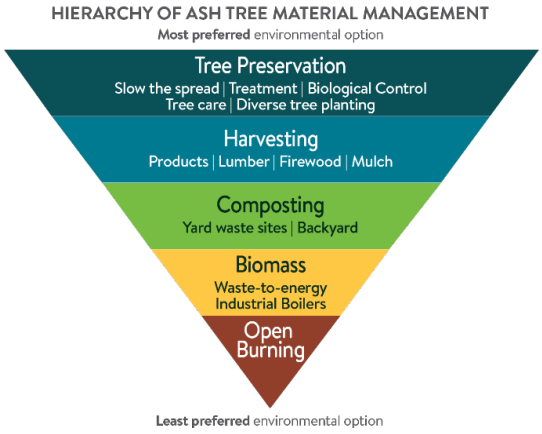
Chapter Ten: Yard and Tree Waste

Introduction

Since 1990, under Minnesota Statute §115A.931, yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, weeds, garden wastes, prunings, and tree waste) may not be placed in MSW, or in land disposal or resource recovery facilities (except for compost or co-composting). Yard waste should be managed following the state solid waste management hierarchy. Managed yard waste is reported with organics in the SCORE report.

The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area has been heavily impacted by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), and Anoka County is in one of the quarantine counties. The MPCA estimates that 20% of trees in the metropolitan area are Ash. This has led to an increasing amount of wood waste, which will need to be managed now and into the future.

Figure 10.1 Hierarchy of Ash Tree Material Management
Source: 2019 Minnesota State Agency Emerald Ash Borer Report



Yard and Tree Waste Policies

1. Yard and tree waste should be managed per the Hierarchy of Ash Tree Material Management, see Figure 10.1.

2. Yard and tree waste will be managed as resources rather than waste.

3. Yard and tree waste should be managed by the generator to the greatest extent possible.

4. Emphasize the reduction of the amount of yard and tree waste that must be managed.

5. Encourage convenient and cost-effective opportunities for responsible yard and tree waste management.

6. The county will work cooperatively with state, municipal, and regional partners to mitigate the spread of Emerald Ash Borer and plan for an increase in wood waste over the next 20 years.

Yard and Tree Waste Strategies – The County will:

1. Work with the state, counties, and municipalities to develop plans to prevent and manage wood waste. (MSWMPP requirement #45)

2. Promote existing programs that use EAB-affected wood for furniture, home goods, flooring, and other purposes. (MSWMPP requirement #46)

3. Continue to support composting and mulching operations within the County. (MSWMPP requirement # 47)

4. Develop and distribute Emerald Ash Borer tree care education programs for privately owned land. (MSWMPP requirement # 49)

5. Support the development of systems that use wood fuel, such as Project Stove Swap, to encourage the use of low-emission wood-burning appliances to heat homes. (MSWMPP requirement #53)

6. Inform (see Figure 6.1) generators about yard waste reduction strategies such as backyard composting, leaving grass clippings on the lawn, and treating trees to prevent pests like Emerald Ash Borer.

7. Continue to inform (see Figure 6.1) generators of available yard and tree waste services and options in the County.

8. Promote (see Figure 6.1) and encourage the beneficial uses of compost and mulch.

9. Promote (see Figure 6.1) best management practices to manage yard and tree waste generated in the County.

10. Continue to provide yard and tree waste drop-off opportunities at Anoka County compost sites.

11. Cooperate as needed with other natural resource professionals, such as city foresters, public works departments, and state agencies, to manage tree waste.

County Tree and Yard Waste Contingency Plan

A market failure is defined by any of the following:

- Only a pilot program exists and is not accessible to all residents;
- A market is not available within a reasonable distance or at a reasonable cost; and
- Market capacity is not sufficient, and no new capacity is being developed.

If a market has failed, the County will promote the following, in order of preference, for managing tree and yard waste:

- Short-Term
  - storage;
  - processing (resource recovery or other technology) if approved by the MPCA and;
  - landfilling if approved by the MPCA;

- Long-Term
  - discontinue collection.

Chapter Eleven: Solid Waste Incineration and Energy Recovery

Introduction

Processing of MSW rather than landfilling is mandated by state law. Processing recovers and conserves valuable resources, protects the environment, reduces dependence on landfills, and produces renewable energy. To date, MSW waste processing capacity in the Metropolitan region is at capacity; however, the County will consider opportunities to process other materials as technology becomes available.

Waste Processing Objectives

The Policy Plan objectives provide for utilizing existing TCMA resource recovery capacity. The last several years of reporting indicate the region has reached processing capacity. Anoka County waste haulers do not have facilities for waste to be processed before those materials are landfilled.
The following chart summarizes Anoka County's achievement for 2022 compared to the Policy Plan objectives through 2042**.**

Figure 11.1 Waste Processing Objectives

Management Method	Anoka County Actual	State Policy Plan Objectives For MSW Generated in the Region			
	2022	2025	2030	2036	2042
Waste Processing	4%	24%	20%	20%	20%

Processing Policies

1. The county will encourage partners and interested parties to manage materials higher up on the waste hierarchy to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, the amount of material available to be processed or landfilled.

2. Processing of MSW is preferred to landfilling. MSW generated in the County, which is not reduced, reused, recycled, or composted, will be processed to the extent that processing capacity is available:
    - The County will maximize the use and capacity of existing processing facilities;
    - To maximize resource conservation, landfill abatement, and facility efficiency, waste delivered to a processing facility should, to the extent feasible, be suited to the facility's technology.

3. Public entities, including but not limited to state, regional, county, local governments, and school districts, will incorporate processing requirements for MSW into their service agreements with MSW haulers to the extent that processing capacity is available.

4. Waste from the County should be managed in processing facilities operating in a manner that protects the health, safety, and welfare of the public, as well as the environment, and
    - are designed for the waste materials accepted;
    - incorporate short- and long-term financial, societal, and environmental costs into pricing;
    - meet or exceed all applicable state and federal standards;
    - monitor for environmental impacts; and
    - actively screen wastes managed.

Processing Strategies – The County will:

1. Participate in an annual joint commissioner and staff meeting on solid waste. (MSWMPP requirement #9)

2. Establish mandatory pre-processing of waste at resource recovery facilities and landfills within the County by 2030. (MSWMPP requirement #36)

3. Continue to support the implementation of Minn. Stat. 473.848 Restriction on Disposal. (MSWMPP requirement #58)

4. Manage wastes generated by the County following the Policy Plan, the Master Plan, and state law: (Minn. Stat. §§115A.46, 115A.471, and 473.848)
    a. County funding agreements for municipalities will require public entity waste to be processed if capacity is available; and
    b. Inform other public entities about the statutory requirement to process waste (state agencies, Metropolitan Council, schools, etc.).

5. Continue to allocate resources and efforts to higher levels of the hierarchy, including waste and toxicity reduction, reuse, recycling, and organics recovery.

6. Follow the Policy Plan waste certification criteria as found in Appendix D of the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042.

Chapter Twelve: Landfilling & MSW Land Disposal Facilities

Introduction

Landfills continue to be a part of the integrated solid waste management system. Landfill space is needed for materials that cannot be reduced, reused, recycled, composted, or processed. Considering the difficulties in siting new landfills, conserving existing landfill space is critical. Anoka County partners with the private sector to reach the goals of the Policy Plan and relies on the MPCA to enforce restrictions on disposal (see Minn. Stat. §473.848).

As noted in other sections of this plan, the County pursues public-private partnerships wherever possible. Vonco II and Waste Management have previously been noted as examples of this commitment. Other examples include partnerships with the contractors that operate the county-owned Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility and the two compost sites.

The basis of these partnerships is through service contracts. The County has continued to work to expand material collection and processing at these three County-owned sites. For instance, the County, alongside its contractor, has launched two first-of-its-kind on-site processing of organics at both compost sites. A building was built at each site specifically for the on-site processing of organic material.

The County has also worked with the contractor that operates the county-owned HHW residential service operation. The vendor and the County have worked to expand operations to accept more HHW materials such as auto batteries and lead fishing tackle. The County is in the process of renovating the Blaine HHW building so that more HHW materials can be accepted at the site. We hope to launch expanded HHW materials collection at this building in 2026. Additional materials to be accepted may include electronics. The County will continue to explore and consider opportunities to partner with the private sector to develop options for pulling more material out of the waste stream.

Anoka County does not have any open landfills and relies on partnerships with other counties to appropriately license and set policies. To reach the objectives of the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan, the County will need to increase waste reduction efforts, reuse, and organics management to achieve the 5% landfilling rate by 2030. Private transfer stations within the County bring most of the landfilled waste to the two closest landfills. Once those facilities reach capacity, they will either have to build more capacity (if adjacent land is available and the MPCA allows for expansions) or MSW will have to be transported greater distances.

New landfilling technologies can conserve existing landfill space and generate energy by recovering methane gas. Development and implementation of new technologies should be encouraged, as long as they protect the environment. For example, to the extent that recovery of methane gas is cost-effective, Anoka County encourages exploration regarding closed landfills.

Landfilling Objectives

The following chart summarizes Anoka County's achievement for 2022 in comparison to the new Policy Plan objectives through 2042**.**

Figure 12.1 Landfilling Objectives

Management Method	Anoka County Actual	State Policy Plan Objectives for MSW Generated in the Region			
	2022	2025	2030	2036	2042
MSW Landfilled	42.9%	17.6%	5%	5%	5%

Landfilling Policies

1. The County recognizes that landfills are a necessary component of an integrated solid waste management system. Sufficient landfill capacity should be available to:
    - manage solid wastes that cannot be reduced, reused, recycled, composted, or processed;
    - operate an efficient regional solid waste management system; and
    - manage waste in the event of unscheduled facility shutdowns, abatement market downturns, or catastrophic events.

2. All members of the solid waste system are accountable for meeting the goals of the Metropolitan Policy Plan, following the Policy Plan and the state solid waste management hierarchy.

3. Landfilling is the least preferred management method on the waste hierarchy and should only be used as a last resort for items that cannot be reused, recycled, composted, or processed.

4. Anoka County will use responsible waste management principles and careful risk analysis when arranging for land disposal of waste from its operations. Public entities in Anoka County are expected to do the same. County contracts for managing mixed municipal solid waste shall require processing. When feasible, county contracts for managing construction and demolition waste shall maximize recycling and processing.

5. Solid waste from the County, which is landfilled, should be managed in landfill disposal facilities that.
    - are designed for the waste materials accepted;
    - incorporate short- and long-term financial, societal, and environmental costs into pricing;
    - meet or exceed all state and federal standards;
    - monitor for environmental impacts;
    - actively screen wastes managed;
    - recover and collect methane gas and, to the extent possible, use it as fuel or to produce electricity; and

- provide financial assurance for contingency action, closure, and long-term care of the landfill.
  Anoka County relies on the MPCA, other counties that host landfills, and private industry to follow these criteria.

6. The County supports the collection of reliable data to accurately measure progress toward achieving the objectives of the MSWMPP.

7. The County holds haulers accountable for managing waste according to the MSWMPP through the regional licensing agreement.

Landfilling strategies – The County will:

1. Use responsible waste management principles as outlined in the state solid waste management hierarchy through:
   a. Maximizing reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and processing technologies for resource recovery;
   b. Landfilling County waste only when waste is non-processible, See Minn. Stat. §§115A.46, 115A.471; and
   c. Including statutory requirements in all municipal residential recycling agreements (SCORE).

Chapter Thirteen: Toxicity Reduction and Household Hazardous Waste Management

Introduction

Reducing toxicity in waste is important for many reasons. Toxic or hazardous materials endanger people at every stage of waste management. Improper management can result in environmental and public health hazards. Benefits of proper management include protection of public health and safety as well as cleaner air, land, and water.

Toxicity Reduction Policies

1. Household hazardous waste (HHW) and problem materials should be managed following the waste management hierarchy.

2. The County will regulate and promote the proper management of hazardous waste to reduce the toxicity of the MSW waste stream.

3. Residential waste generators will have access to convenient household hazardous waste collection and management options.

4. The State of Minnesota will bear the risk and liability for transportation, management, and disposal of household hazardous waste collected through the County HHW program.

5. The County emphasizes a reduction in the toxic/hazardous character of waste in its integrated solid waste management system.

6. The County will lead by example in reducing the toxicity of MSW generated in county operations and will encourage other public entities to do the same.

Toxicity Reduction Strategies – The County will:

1. Work with the MPCA, the region, and other stakeholders to encourage retailers to increase consumer awareness of responsible end-of-life handling for products containing lithium batteries. (MSWMPP requirement #61)

2. Continue participation in the reciprocal use agreement for HHW collection sites. (MSWMPP requirement #62)

3. Partner with cities to increase participation in HHW collection. (MSWMPP requirement #63) The County will strategically work with municipalities in areas farther away from the permanent facility in Blaine to hold two HHW collection events annually. The County will contract with its vendor to collect and manage materials. The County will create and mail information to residents surrounding the collection event location. The county will also provide newsletter, social media, and website content for the municipality to promote the event. The municipality will provide the physical location for the event, such as a public works facility or fire station.

Additionally, each municipality will be provided with information about the permanent HHW facility to be shared through newsletters, websites, and social media, promoting the year-round collection option. This strategy will also be achieved through the municipal recycling center collection of hazardous materials, such as motor oil and batteries.

4. Hold a minimum of two Household Hazardous Waste collection events annually in various areas of the county. The County requests four optional points for this strategy. (MSWMPP proposed optional strategy)

5. Provide information (see Figure 6.1) and technical assistance on the reduction and proper management of hazardous waste and problem materials, as well as waste reduction and recycling opportunities.

6. Provide and promote information (see Figure 6.1) about opportunities to
    - use nonhazardous materials in place of materials needing special disposal;
    - reduce the amount of hazardous and problem materials used;
    - reuse or recycle hazardous or problem materials, and
    - dispose of hazardous waste and problem materials properly.

7. Continue to use a variety of compliance strategies, including education, consultation, technical assistance, licensing, inspection, and enforcement, to ensure that regulated solid and hazardous waste is properly managed.

County Facilities Toxicity Reduction Strategies – The County will:

1. Promote (see Figure 6.1) the use of products that contain less hazardous materials or do not contain hazardous materials whenever cost-effective alternatives exist.

2. Provide information (see Figure 6.1) to County employees about:
    a. Purchasing fewer and less hazardous products and problem materials and incorporating these concepts into purchasing decisions; and
    b. Options to manage county-generated hazardous waste and problem materials properly.

Residential Toxicity Reduction Strategies – The County will:

1. Identify, provide information (see Figure 6.1), and collection options for household hazardous waste or problem materials, such as but not limited to, appliances, electronics, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, sharps, prescription medications, and motor oil.

2. Develop and execute a plan to increase capacity and necessary building modifications at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility to extend the life of the existing facility. Contract for the design and construction of improvements to the current Household Hazardous Waste facility to improve safety, extend the life of the building, expand the ability to collect more materials, and service more vehicles. The County has approved funding to develop a plan with our consultant to improve and extend the life of the current facility and make necessary building modifications.

3. Site, design, and build an Environmental Center for HHW collection and materials reuse in addition to the current HHW facility. The County is experiencing growth in the Western portion of the County, which is a further distance for residents to drive to the existing Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Blaine. The County surveyed the public, and survey results support

the addition of an environmental center that is more conveniently located.

4. Provide technical assistance and funding for:
    a. HHW collection and disposal options for residents;
    b. Continuing to explore the siting of an additional HHW facility to serve residents best, further away from the existing facility;
    c. Evaluating adding acceptable materials to the HHW program, such as appliances and electronics.

5. Continue to contract with the State of Minnesota to receive indemnification for transportation, management, and disposal of HHW collected through the County's HHW program.

Non-residential Toxicity Reduction Strategies – The County will:

1. Provide hazardous waste generators with information on the reduction and proper management of hazardous waste, waste reduction, and recycling opportunities through:
    a. Training sessions;
    b. Information provided during site inspections; and
    c. Waste exchanges.

2. Continue to license and inspect hazardous waste generators in the County.

Chapter Fourteen: Regulation of Solid Waste, Ordinance & Licensing

Introduction

The County regulates entities to promote the health, welfare, and safety of the public. The County is responsible for licensing and regulating MSW haulers, solid waste facilities, hazardous waste generators, and facilities.

Regulation Policies

1. Regulation of solid waste management activities is conducted to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public as well as the environment.

2. Regulation should be used when it is the most appropriate method for achieving the County's solid and hazardous waste goals and policies.

3. The County works with its regulated community, municipalities, and other government entities to promote coordination, develop consistency, and compliance, and reduce duplication of effort.

4. Facility license/inspection program costs should be recovered through license fees.

5. The regulated community should be knowledgeable about how to achieve full compliance with applicable laws, rules, and ordinances.

Regulation Strategies – The County will:

1. Establish and administer ordinance standards and license conditions necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment by:
    a. Licensing and inspecting solid waste facilities, hazardous waste generators, and hazardous waste facilities in Anoka County;
    b. Requiring through licensing that solid waste collectors charge fees based on container size, volume, or weight (see Minn. Stat. §115A.9301); and
    c. Providing technical assistance to regulated entities to assist in regulatory compliance.
    d. Updating its Solid Waste Ordinance to be consistent with current law and to achieve the goals of the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan.

2. Cooperate with the region, state agencies, and other interested counties to enhance and coordinate regulatory activities through:
    a. Participation in training;
    b. Regional hauler licensing;
    c. Coordination meetings; and
    d. Standard hauler reporting requirements.

3. Evaluate the use of environmental justice review tools as developed by the MPCA when they become available for licensing new facilities, when appropriate.

Chapter Fifteen: Cost and Finance

Introduction

The County integrated solid waste management system funds programs through fees, grants, material sales, and reimbursements. County programs comply with state law, safeguard the public, and foster regulatory compliance. The funding assists in achieving the goals of the solid waste management hierarchy.

Cost and Finance Policies

1. Responsible solid waste management practices limit financial liability and protect the environment and public health, safety, and welfare.

2. Pricing policies for solid waste management should create incentives for generators to manage solid waste as high as possible on the hierarchy of preferred waste management practices.

3. Anoka County supports increased SCORE funding for recycling programs and encourages the State to fully use the Solid Waste Management Tax dollars for SCORE and related recycling purposes to achieve increased state goals.

4. The County will work with the state and region to obtain the appropriate level of revenues and revenue sources to finance the integrated solid waste management system. Such financing should provide the public entities responsible for solid waste management under the Waste Management Act and related laws:
    - sufficient revenues to meet responsibilities;
    - stable revenue source(s);
    - revenues targeted for county priorities; and
    - revenues administered with few costs and burdens.

5. The integrated solid waste management system funding should result in increased waste abatement and pollution prevention, fair allocation of costs and liabilities, efficient provision of services, and provision of services that meet the diverse needs of the County.

6. The roles and responsibilities of public entities, the private sector, and other waste generators in achieving the goals of the Policy Plan are shaped by state law, local commitment to protecting the environment, as well as short- and long-term economic and technological considerations.

7. The solid waste management system and each of its components should account for the full costs of managing waste, including risk management, long-term care, and environmental costs.

8. The costs of waste disposal should be visible and borne by waste generators and not deferred to future generations.

Cost and Finance Strategies – The County will:

1. Use the following funding mechanisms to meet the needs of the integrated solid waste management programs within the County:
    - Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE)/Local Recycling Development Grants (LRDG) and other grant funds;
    - The County Solid Waste Management Charge (SWMC);
    - Tipping fees;
    - User fees;
    - License fees;
    - Material sales; and
    - Reimbursements.

2. Monitor market conditions for the integrated solid waste management system. Information to be monitored may include fees, revenues, service charges, and waste management costs.

3. Fund new innovative programs that expand and contribute to efficient and cost-effective integrated solid waste management.

Chapter Sixteen: Construction & Demolition Waste and Industrial Waste

Introduction

The construction, renovation, and demolition of buildings, roads, and bridges generate construction and demolition (C&D) waste. Traditional demolition destroys valuable materials and typically goes to a landfill. Processing this waste recovers and conserves valuable resources, protects the environment, and reduces dependence on landfills. The Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan lays out requirements for the County to have strategies to manage this waste according to the waste hierarchy. Transfer stations accepting C&D waste in the County are privately owned, one of which processes waste before landfilling to keep valuable materials from being landfilled and conserve landfill capacity.

Construction and Demolition Waste Objectives

The Policy Plan does not currently provide objectives for the County to achieve regarding construction and demolition waste.

Non-MSW Policies

1. The county will educate and encourage partners and interested parties to manage materials higher up on the waste hierarchy to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, the amount of material available to be processed or landfilled.

2. Non-MSW materials should be managed following the solid waste management hierarchy.

3. The priority of program development for the management of non-MSW materials will be
    a. Wastes containing components that present environmental hazards;
    b. Materials that represent the greatest opportunity for reducing impacts on the environment from a whole cost accounting perspective;
    c. High-volume materials that are currently landfilled.

4. Reuse and Recycling of C&D waste is preferred to landfilling. C&D waste generated in the County, which is not reused or recycled, should be properly disposed of.

5. Industrial, and Construction & Demolition (C&D) Landfills will be sited, designed, and operated to protect the environment and public health.

6. The County will encourage the private sector to demonstrate innovative methods of managing non-MSW materials higher on the hierarchy.

7. The County will promote (see Figure 6.1) the beneficial reuse of construction and demolition waste.

8. Public entities will serve as leaders in reducing, reusing, and recycling non-MSW.

9. The County will encourage the reuse and recycling of non-MSW at transfer stations.

10. Non-MSW from the County should be managed in land disposal facilities that are designed for the materials accepted; incorporate short and long-term financial, societal, and environmental costs into pricing; meet or exceed all federal and state standards; monitor for environmental impacts; actively screen waste managed; and provide for financial assurance for contingency action, closure, and long-term care of the landfill.

Construction & Demolition Waste and Industrial Waste Strategies – The County will:

1. Implement the use of a Building Material Management Plan at County-owned Facilities. (MSWMPP requirement #65)

2. Before the demolition of county-owned buildings, require that SMM strategies be considered. (MSWMPP requirement #66)

3. Host a building material collection event or swap. (MSWMPP requirement #67)

4. Provide deconstruction training. (MSWMPP requirement #69)

5. Annually host or aid with home and building repair and refurbishment trainings. (MSWMPP requirement #70)

6. Promote the beneficial use of non-MSW as specified in the MPCA solid waste utilization rules. (Minnesota Administrative Rule 7035.2860)

7. Inform residents of options for proper disposal of non-MSW materials that cannot be reduced, reused, recycled, or processed.

8. Continue to use a variety of compliance strategies, including education, consultation, technical assistance, licensing, inspection, and enforcement, to ensure regulated non-MSW is properly managed.

9. Provide funding for programs to:
    a. Include grants to facilitate resource conservation (e.g., use repurposed/recycled content building materials, recycling C&D waste) in the planning process and specifications of architectural services for the remodeling, construction, and demolition of county government buildings and other county projects;
    b. Include specifications for waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and disposal options in the contract documents for remodeling, construction, and demolition projects to receive R&RS department grant funds.

10. Support a market approach to C&D processing in the Twin City Metropolitan Region.

11. Continue to allocate resources and efforts to higher levels of the hierarchy.

Appendix A: Anoka County Solid Waste Management Milestones

1970	Anoka County adopts a Solid Waste Ordinance requiring licensing of solid waste operations, including yard waste operations.
1985	Anoka County adopts a Hazardous Waste Ordinance requiring licensing of hazardous waste generators.
1986	Anoka County develops a 3–4-acre site in Bunker Hills Park, and the Parks Department begins operating the site.
1987	Bunker Hills Compost Site expanded, and a 3–4-acre site is established in the Rice Creek Chain-of-Lakes Park. Only yard waste from residents was accepted.
1987	The Solid Waste Abatement Advisory Task Force was formed to aid in the implementation of the *1987 Anoka County Solid Waste Management Master Plan.*
1988	Anoka County adopts a Solid Waste Source Separation Ordinance allowing the County to impose a mandatory source separation requirement on municipalities failing to meet their recycling goals.
1989	Elk River Resource Recovery Facility begins processing Anoka County MSW. Anoka County receives its first SCORE payment and passes the money through to the municipalities for residential recycling program expenses. Anoka County joins with the other metropolitan counties to create the Solid Waste Management Task Force, also known as the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board. County expands recycling program to all county-owned/operated buildings. The County Board bans bags from the compost sites.
1991	HHW Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreement was first implemented. First joint park container purchase offered to municipalities to meet the new law in effect.
1992	The first household hazardous waste collection event occurs.
1993	The County consolidates refuse and recycling service for all county-owned and operated buildings under one contract.
1994	A Solid Waste Management Charge is adopted to offset the cost of processing garbage/waste and pay for other integrated solid waste management program costs, such as regulation, household hazardous waste, recycling, and composting.
1995	The last MSW landfill in Anoka County is closed. (East Bethel Landfill)
1999	The County contracts with SET to operate the yard and tree waste sites. Anoka County opens a year-round household hazardous waste facility.
2001	The compost bin distribution program begins.
2003	The county enters into separate contracts for document destruction/recycling.

2005	Anoka County purchases HHW facility property in Blaine.
2007	The County initiated a fee at the Anoka County Compost Site to offset the cost of operating the sites and develop a user fee system. The County started transferring most of the yard waste off-site for composting. The County begins selling compost bins through local garden centers.
2008	The first school recycling workshop was held, and the container grant program began.
2010	The first food-to-hogs pilot project was conducted at Madison Elementary School in Blaine.
2011	The Solid Waste Management Charge is reduced by 33% for all categories, to become effective on January 1, 2012. HHW facility starts accepting fluorescent and HID lamps for recycling. Additional recycling enhancement grants began being offered to municipalities.
2012	HHW collection events resume. The county holds two events. The County discontinues the compost bin distribution program, and non-profits like the Recycling Association of Minnesota are filling the niche. County Jail begins food-to-hogs program. Joint purchase of park recycling containers begins to provide consistency in park recycling throughout the county.
2013	Anoka County begins contracting for business assistance services with the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation to improve commercial recycling. Per vehicle user fees for leaves and grass increase from $4 to $5 per vehicle. Compostable bags are allowed at the County compost sites. A new funding formula was established to encourage enhanced programming efforts.
2014	The county begins working cooperatively with community events to add recycling and organics collection programs. The first Recycling Ambassador class was held to train volunteers to assist with community outreach and education. R&RS relocated to a more central location in the County to be more accessible to residents and municipal recycling coordinators. The new location provides for adequate meeting and storage space, allowing the department to operate more efficiently.
2015	Two new positions were created, and staff were hired to assist the County in achieving more aggressive recycling goals.

	The County issues an RFP for the operation of the compost sites. Anoka County begins a grant program for businesses and schools to improve recycling programs. The R&RS department began promoting messages to the general public via social media outlets.
2016	Anoka County begins a source-separated organics recycling drop-off program for residents at both compost sites. The County compost sites are now open year-round to accommodate the Organics Recycling Drop-off program. The County changed vendors and began a contract with OTI to operate the compost sites. Compostable bags are no longer accepted at the County yard waste sites.
2017	Anoka County removes the fee for the first four cubic yards of grass and leaves at the yard and tree waste sites. Anoka County purchases land adjacent to the Rice Creek Compost Site to provide for a larger compost facility. Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties discontinue their formal partnership known as the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board.
2018	The county held its first Fix-It Clinic, a free event to the public staffed by volunteers and R&RS. Anoka County entered into a joint powers agreement with the other TCMA counties to form a regional hauler licensing board. The County updated its waste hauler license to reflect the regional hauler licensing joint powers agreement. The Recycling & Resource Solutions Department was reorganized from a part of the County Parks Division to become a unit of the Environmental Services Department in the Human Services Division.
2019	The Elk River Energy Resource Recovery Project (GRE-Elk River) closed in January of this year. The facility had the capacity to process 250,000 tons of waste annually. The County improved the online recycling and disposal directory. The HHW facility began collecting sharps from residents for proper disposal.
2020	County offices, the County Compost sites, and the HHW Facility closed temporarily due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The HHW facility began the collection of batteries from residents.
2021	A custom online solution using the ReTRAC software tool was developed for the residential SCORE grant program.

2022	The expanded Rice Creek Compost site reopened on the adjacent property acquired in 2015 after site modifications to improve traffic flow and access. The Rice Creek Compost Site opens a small-scale compost processing facility adjacent to the Rice Creek yard waste operations at the Rice Creek Compost Site. This is the first-of-its-kind facility located adjacent to a yard waste facility. The Solid Waste Abatement Advisory Team is disbanded. The County-led Waste Prevention and Recycling Committee was formed in its place. A custom online solution using the ReTRAC software tool was developed for the Business, Schools, and Multi-Family residential grant program.
2023	The first reuse events were held in partnership with several municipalities to provide free reuse opportunities to residents in tandem with a community garage sale or recycling day event.
2024	The County removes the fee for the first 2 cubic yards of tree waste for residents. Bunker Hills Compost Site opens the small-scale compost processing facility adjacent to the Yard waste operations at the compost site.

Appendix B: Anoka County Ordinances Related to Solid Waste Management

2023 Anoka County Ordinances Governing Waste and Recycling		
Anoka County Ordinances	**Ordinances/Excerpts**	**Effective Date**
73-1, 82-1, 83-2, 83-3, 84-2, 85-5, 86-1, 88-1, 88-4, 88-5, 89-1, 91-1, 93-1, and 94-2	**Solid Waste Ordinance** establishes standards for and regulation of the operation of solid waste disposal facilities; requires a license for the establishment and operation of a solid waste disposal facility; establishes requirements for certain facilities on a disposal site, for control of special solid waste and for fire protection; provides for an enforcement agency, requires a performance bond and provides penalties for lack of compliance.	Most recent date August 23, 1994
85-4, 86-3, 87-1, 94-3, and 99-3	**Hazardous Waste Management Ordinance** to establish rules, regulations, and standards for hazardous waste and used oil management in Anoka County, Minnesota for the identification, labeling, and classification of hazardous waste and used oil; the handling, collection, transportation, and storage of hazardous waste and used oil; the treatment, processing or disposal of hazardous waste and used oil; requiring the licensing of hazardous waste and used oil generators and facilities; payment of license fees; penalties for failure to comply with the provisions of this ordinance; issuing, denying, modifying, imposing conditions upon, suspending or revoking licenses, and other matters as determined to be necessary for the health, welfare and safety of the public.	November 9, 1999
88-6	**The Solid Waste Source Separation Ordinance** regulates the separation of recyclable materials from mixed municipal solid waste by generators before collection, and requires certain municipalities to adopt and enforce a source separation ordinance to reduce dependence on landfills and meet source separation recycling goals.	August 16, 1988
94-1, 95-3, 98-2, and 01-47	**Anoka County Solid Waste Management Charge Ordinance** establishes solid waste management charges to fund environmental programs that protect the health and welfare of Anoka County citizens, procedures for setting and modifying the amounts of the charges, payment and collection methods, and the appeal process.	Most recent date November 22, 2011
95-1	**The Regional Licensing Ordinance** establishes rules, regulations, and standards for the regional licensing of mixed municipal solid waste haulers in the seven metropolitan counties.	July 1, 2018

Appendix C: Anoka County Municipal Ordinances Governing Solid Waste and Recycling

Municipality	Ordinances/Excerpts From City/Town Codes	Licenses Solid Waste Haulers
Andover	http://www.ci.andover.mn.us/191/Andover-City-Code	YES
Anoka	https://library.municode.com/mn/anoka/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CD_CH70UT_ARTIIISOWACODI	YES
Bethel	https://bethelmn.govoffice2.com/index.asp?SEC=A0592022-F82C-40D2-897C-F9E9C0F30E86&DE=0AFAD69E-A8AB-40CC-8403-169F1AD2320D Pg. 62 - 66	YES
Blaine	https://library.municode.com/mn/blaine/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CD_ORDCIBLMI Chapter 62	YES
Centerville	chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.centervillemn.com/DocumentCenter/View/397/Centerville-Code-updated-07182022PDF Pg. 27 - 28	YES
Circle Pines	https://www.ci.circle-pines.mn.us/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7BDF0BA107-3975-4F11-BC5F-690729686DEB%7D	YES
Columbia Heights	https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/columbiahts/latest/overview	YES
Columbus	https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/columbusmn/latest/columbus_mn/0-0-0-6544	YES
Coon Rapids	https://library.municode.com/mn/coon_rapids/codes/code_of_ordinances	YES
East Bethel	https://library.municode.com/mn/east_bethel/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH58SOWA	YES
Fridley	https://fridley.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=ordinances#name=Preface	YES
Ham Lake	https://www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us/government/city-code	YES
Hilltop	Contact City Clerk: Ruth J. Nelsen, City Clerk Phone: 763-571-2023	YES
Lexington	https://www.ci.lexington.mn.us/page/open/648/0/CHAPTER%206%20-%20OTHER%20BUSINESS%20REGULATION%20AND%20LICENSING.pdf	YES
Lino Lakes	https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/linolakes/latest/linolakes_mn/0-0-0-1	YES
Linwood Township	https://library.municode.com/mn/linwood_township/codes/code_of_ordinances	YES
Nowthen	https://www.cityofnowthen.com/about	NO
Oak Grove	https://library.municode.com/mn/oak_grove/codes/code_of_ordinances	YES

Municipality	Ordinances/Excerpts From City/Town Codes	Licenses Solid Waste Haulers
Ramsey	https://library.municode.com/mn/ramsey/codes/code_of_ordinances	YES
St. Francis	https://library.municode.com/mn/st._francis/codes/code_of_ordinances	YES
Spring Lake Park	https://springlakepark.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=ordinances#name=5_PUBLIC_WORKS	YES

Appendix D: Solid Waste Management Acronyms

ACSWMP	Anoka County Solid Waste Management Plan
BMP	Best Management Practices
BPI	Biodegradable Products Institute
BRG	Business Recycling Guide
PHES	Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPP	Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
HW	Hazardous Waste
ISWM	Integrated Solid Waste Management
LRDG	Local Recycling Development Grant
MnTAP	Minnesota Technical Assistance Program
MWWF	Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MSW	Mixed Municipal Solid Waste
MSWMPP	Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan
Non-MSW	Non-Mixed Municipal Solid Waste
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Title 40 CFR, parts 239 through 282)
RDF	Refuse-Derived Fuel
RETAP	Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program
R&RS	Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions
SCORE	Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment
SMM	Sustainable Materials Management
SSCM	Source Separated Compostable Materials
SSO	Source Separated Organics
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
SWMC	Solid Waste Management Charge
SWMT	Solid Waste Management Tax
TCMA	Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
TPD	Tons Per Day
VSQG	Very Small Quantity Generator
WMA	Waste Management Act
WPRC	Waste Prevention and Recycling Committee

Appendix E: Glossary of Solid Waste Terms

Anaerobic Digestion (AD):	A technology that uses microorganisms in the absence of oxygen to convert various types of organic wastes into renewable energy and compost or fertilizer.
Best Management Practices (BMP)	A variety of strategies to provide the flexibility to meet the needs of each program or situation.
Collection	The aggregation of waste from the place at which it is generated includes all activities up to the time the waste is delivered to a waste facility. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 5)
C & D Waste	A term referring to construction waste and demolition debris.
Commingled Recycling	Placing two or more source-separated recyclable materials in the same container for recycling.
Composting	The controlled microbial degradation of organic waste yields a humus-like product. (Minn. Rules 7035.0300 Subd. 20)
Construction Debris	Waste building materials, packaging, and rubble resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of buildings and roads. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 7)
Curbside Collection	Collection of waste (garbage, recyclables, yard waste, etc.) from residences at the point of generation.
Demolition Debris	Solid waste resulting from the demolition of buildings, roads, and other man-made structures, including concrete, brick, bituminous concrete, untreated wood, masonry, glass, trees and tree trimmings, rock, plastic building parts, and other inert waste materials, but not including asbestos wastes.
Disposal	The discharge, deposit, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any waste into or on any land or water so that the waste or any other constituent thereof may enter the environment or be emitted into the air, or discharged into any waters, including ground waters. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 9)
Environmentally Responsible Preferable Purchasing (Procurement)	Intentionally choosing products or services that promote pollution prevention, waste reduction, or reuse; purchasing products that can be easily recycled; buying recycled-content products; or making other purchasing decisions that are better for the environment when compared to other, typically more traditionally-purchased, products or services.
Food Recovery Hierarchy:	Prioritizes actions organizations can take to prevent and divert wasted food. Each tier of the Food Recovery Hierarchy focuses on different management strategies for wasted food, with the top tier being the most preferred strategy.
Generation	The act or process of producing waste. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 11)
Generator	Any person who generates waste. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 12)

Hazardous Waste	Any refuse, sludge, or other waste materials or combinations of refuse, sludge, or other waste materials or discarded materials, or a combination of refuse or discarded materials, in solid, semisolid, liquid, or contained gaseous form, which because of the quantity, concentration, or chemical, physical, or infectious characteristics may: a) cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitation reversible illness; or b) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed. Categories of hazardous waste materials include, but are not limited to, explosives, flammables, oxidizers, poisons, irritants, and corrosives. Hazardous waste does not include source, special nuclear, or by-product material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. (Minn. Stat. §116.06, Subd. 11)
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	Waste generated from household activity that exhibits the characteristics of or that is listed as hazardous waste under Minnesota Pollution Control Agency rules, but does not include waste from commercial activities that is generated, stored, or present in a household. (Minn. Stat. §115A.96, Subd. 1b)
Industrial (Solid) Waste	Solid waste resulting from an industrial process, manufacturing, service activity, or commercial activity is managed as a separate waste stream. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 13a) It does not include wastes regulated as hazardous wastes.
Infectious Waste	Laboratory waste, blood, regulated body fluids, sharps, and research-animal wastes that have not been decontaminated. (Minn. Stat. §116.76, Subd. 12)
Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM)	A solid waste management system in which various waste management methods are used to manage waste (i.e., waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, resource recovery, landfilling, etc.), depending upon the characteristics of the waste and often according to a waste management hierarchy.
Joint Powers Agreement	A legally binding agreement between two or more governmental entities. It is a tool for intergovernmental action on, for example, solid waste management activities.
Landfill (land disposal facility)	A waste facility permitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that is designed or operated for disposing of waste on or in the land. (Defined as “disposal facility” in Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 10)
Landfill Abatement	Actions that avoid landfilling of waste, such as waste reduction, recycling, or resource recovery.
Landfill Surcharge	A surcharge applied to waste tipped at landfills can include State, county, and local surcharges.
Leachate	Liquid that has percolated through solid waste and has extracted, dissolved, or suspended materials from it. (Minn. Rules 7035.0300, Subd. 56)

Local Recycling Development Grant (LRDG)	Funds are administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and allocated to metropolitan counties for the planning, development, and operation of recycling and yard waste composting programs. Local Recycling Development Grant funds are distributed from the Metropolitan Landfill Abatement Account.
Major Appliances	Commonly referred to as "white goods." Includes items banned by State law from disposal with solid waste (clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, water heaters, heat pumps, furnaces, garbage disposals, trash compactors, conventional and microwave ovens, ranges and stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators and freezers). (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 17a)
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)	Facility designed for centralized sorting, processing, and/or grading of collected recyclable materials for marketing.
Medical Waste	A commonly used term referring to infectious waste from medical facilities or procedures.
Metropolitan Landfill Abatement Account	Established under Minn. Stat. §473.844, an account was created to fund projects that result in landfill abatement in the metropolitan area. Part of the proceeds from a State landfill surcharge on waste tipped at metropolitan area landfills is deposited into this account.
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)	The state agency responsible for the overall environmental quality of the state, primarily through enforcement of State rules, issuing of permits, and education for compliance. The Governor appoints a commissioner.
Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	Garbage, refuse and other solid waste from residential, commercial, industrial, and community activities that the generator of the waste aggregates for collection, but does not include auto hulks, street sweepings, ash, construction debris, mining waste, sludges, tree and agricultural wastes, tires, lead acid batteries, used oil and other materials collected, processed, and disposed of as separate waste streams. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03 Subd. 21)
Multi-Unit Dwelling (MUD):	A classification of housing where multiple separate units for residential living are contained within one building.
Non-MSW	Solid waste that is not managed as part of the MSW stream. Typically thought of as those items specifically excluded from MSW in the statutory definition of MSW, as well as other wastes such as non-hazardous industrial waste, C&D waste, infectious waste, and other separately managed solid waste streams.
Non-processible Waste	Waste that was brought to a resource recovery facility but cannot be mechanically processed due to its physical characteristics or potentially harmful effects.
Non-residential	Refers to nonresidential sources, including businesses, commercial, government facilities or operations, industrial, institutions, schools, non-profit organizations, community activities, etc.
Open Collection	A solid waste collection system in which multiple waste haulers or collectors compete for collection accounts in the same geographical area.
Organics	See Source Separated Compostable Materials. Organic waste typically includes food waste, non-recyclable paper products, yard waste, and other materials that readily degrade.

Organized Collection	A system for collecting solid waste in which a specified collector, or a member of an organization of collectors, is authorized to collect from a defined geographic service area or areas some or all of the solid waste that is released by generators for collection. (Minn. Stat. §115A.94, Subd. 1)
Policy Plan Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan	The Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan, a regional policy plan for solid waste management in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, was adopted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as required under Minn. Stat. §473.149. The MPCA developed the current Policy Plan, adopted in October 1997.
Pollution Prevention	Eliminating or reducing at the source the use, generation, or release of toxic pollutants, hazardous substances, and hazardous wastes. (Minn. Stat. §115D.03, Subd. 8)
Problem Material	A material that, when it is processed or disposed of with mixed municipal solid waste, contributes to one or more of the following results: (1) the release of a hazardous substance, or pollutant or contaminant, as defined in Minn. Stat. §115B.02, Subd. 8, 13, and 15; (2) pollution of water as defined in Minn. Stat. §115.01, Subd. 13; (3) air pollution as defined in Minn. Stat. §116.06, Subd. 4; or (4) a significant threat to the safe or efficient operation of a solid waste facility.
Processible Waste	Acceptable waste brought to a resource recovery facility that may be mechanically processed using the existing technology at the facility.
Processing	The treatment of waste after collection and before disposal. Processing includes but is not limited to reduction, storage, separation, exchange, resource recovery, physical, chemical, or biological modification, and transfer from one waste facility to another. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 25) For purposes of certification of unprocessed waste, per Minn. Stat. §473.848, Subd. 5 “storage,” “exchange,” and “transfer” are excluded (see unprocessed waste).
Product Stewardship	The concept that all parties who have a role in producing, selling, or using a product, including material suppliers, manufacturers, retailers, and consumers, assume responsibility for the environmental impacts of a product throughout its life cycle. These include impacts from the selection of raw materials, the design and production processes, and the use and disposal of the product.
Public Entities	Any unit of State or local government, including counties, cities, towns, metropolitan agencies and districts, special districts, school districts, or any other general or special purpose unit of government in the state. (Minn. Stat. §115A.471) With regard to certain public entity procurement standards established in (Minn. Stat. §16C.073), “public entities” also include any contractor acting pursuant to a contract with a public entity.
Reciprocal Use Agreement	An agreement among counties to allow residents of one county to use certain services (i.e., household hazardous waste collection) provided by another county that is a party to the agreement.

Recyclable Materials (Recyclables)	"Recyclable materials" means materials that are separated from mixed municipal solid waste for the purpose of recycling or composting, including paper, glass, plastics, metals, automobile oil, batteries, source-separated compostable materials, and sole source food waste streams that are managed through biodegradative processes. Refuse-derived fuel or other material that is destroyed by incineration is not a recyclable material. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 25a)
Recycled-content	Used to describe a product that contains recycled materials. Often further clarified as to "post-consumer" recycled content and/or "pre-consumer" or "post-industrial" content. "Post-consumer" refers to a finished material that would normally have been discarded as solid waste, having completed its life cycle as a consumer item (Minn. Stat. §16C.073, Subd. 1c; and Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 24b), but instead was used to manufacture a recycled-content product. "Post-consumer" is typically thought of as those recyclable materials collected from residents and businesses in recycling programs. "Pre-consumer" or "post-industrial" typically refers to recyclable materials that come from manufacturers and product converters, including damaged or obsolete products, overruns, and trimmings. These materials have not yet completed a life cycle as a consumer item.
Recycling	The process of collecting and preparing recyclable materials and reusing the materials in their original form or using them in manufacturing processes that do not cause the destruction of recyclable materials in a manner that precludes further use. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 25b)
Refuse-derived Fuel (RDF)	The product results from techniques or processes used to prepare solid waste by shredding, sorting, or compacting for use as an energy source. It consists of lighter-weight materials such as paper products, with most metals, glass, and other non-combustible materials removed, commonly referred to as RDF.
Residuals, Residue	Waste materials remaining after processing waste for the separation and recovery of materials or energy.
Resource Conservation	Preserving raw materials, energy, water, or other materials for future use.
Resource Recovery	Reclamation for the sale, use, or reuse of materials, substances, energy, or other products contained within or derived from waste. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 27) Resource recovery is typically used to refer to the recovery of energy and usable materials during the processing of mixed-municipal solid waste.
Resource Recovery Facility	A waste facility established and used primarily for resource recovery, including appurtenant facilities such as transmission facilities and transfer stations primarily serving the resource recovery facility. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 28)
Reuse	The practice of avoiding disposal of material that would become solid waste were it not put to use again in its original form.
SCORE	Acronym for "Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment," a State task force appointed by the Governor in the 1980s to recommend strategies for supporting recycling in Minnesota. "SCORE" is commonly used to refer to State grant funding to counties to support local source reduction and recycling programs.

Separately Managed Wastes	Waste materials managed as discrete waste streams, such as lead-acid batteries, recyclables, or infectious wastes.
Service Charge	Under the authority granted in (Minn. Stat. §§400.08 and 473.811, Subd. 8a), a fee collected for services rendered by a county or by extension through joint powers agreements, by municipalities of the County.
Source Separated Compostable Materials (aka 'organics')	"Source-separated compostable materials" means materials that: (1) are separated at the source by waste generators for the purpose of preparing them for use as compost; (2) are collected separately from mixed municipal solid waste, and are governed by the licensing provisions of section 115A.93; (3) are comprised of food wastes, fish and animal waste, plant materials, diapers, sanitary products, and paper that is not recyclable because the commissioner has determined that no other person is willing to accept the paper for recycling; (4) are delivered to a facility to undergo controlled microbial degradation to yield a humus-like product meeting the agency's class I or class II, or equivalent, compost standards, and where process rejects do not exceed 15 percent by weight of the total material delivered to the facility; and (5) may be delivered to a transfer station, mixed municipal solid waste processing facility, or recycling facility only for the purposes of composting or transfer to a composting facility, unless the commissioner determines that no other person is willing to accept the materials. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 32a)
Solid Waste	Garbage, refuse, sludge from a water supply treatment plant or air contaminant treatment facility, and other discarded waste materials and sludges, in solid, semisolid, liquid, or contained gaseous form, resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities, but does not include hazardous waste; animal waste used as fertilizer, earthen fill, boulders, rock; sewage sludge, solid or dissolved material in domestic sewage or other common pollutants in water resources, such as silt, dissolved or suspended solids in industrial wastewater effluents or discharges which are point sources subject to permits (in federal law), dissolved materials in irrigation return flows; or source, special nuclear, or by-product material as defined by The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. (Minn. Stat. §116.06, Subd. 22)
Solid Waste Management Tax	A percentage tax collected by the State for management services for MSW and non-MSW (specifically construction waste, infectious waste, and industrial waste). Services subject to the tax include collection, transportation, processing, and disposal. Service providers (such as haulers and landfill operators) who directly bill generators or customers are responsible for collecting and remitting the tax. The rate in 1998 was 9.75% for residential generators and 17% for commercial generators.
Source Reduction	An activity that prevents the generation of waste or the inclusion of toxic materials in waste, including: (1) reusing a product in its original form; (2) increasing the life span of a product; (3) reducing material or the toxicity of material used in production or packaging; or (4) changing procurement, consumption, or waste generation habits in smaller quantities or lower toxicity of waste generated. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 36b)

Source-Separated Recyclable Materials	Recyclable materials, including commingled recyclable materials, are separated by the generator.
Source Separation	Separation of recyclable, compostable, or other materials by the waste generator before collection.
Sustainable Materials Management	Sustainable materials management (SMM) is a systemic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their entire lifecycles. It represents a change in how our society thinks about the use of natural resources and environmental protection. By examining how materials are used throughout their lifecycle, an SMM approach seeks to: •Use materials in the most productive way with an emphasis on using less. •Reduce toxic chemicals and environmental impacts throughout the material lifecycle. •Assure we have sufficient resources to meet today's needs and those of the future. Source: https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-basics#permit
Tipping Fee	The fee charged by solid waste facilities to waste haulers, collectors, or other parties for the privilege of depositing or "tipping" waste.
Toxicity	Under (Minn. Rules. 7045.0131), toxicity is one of the six characteristics of hazardous waste. Contaminants of concern include heavy metals, such as lead or mercury, volatile organic compounds, such as benzene or chloroform, semi-volatile organic compounds, such as pyridine or nitrobenzene, and pesticides/herbicides, such as endrin or lindane.
Toxicity Reduction	A term used to refer to efforts to reduce the hazardous character of the waste stream.
Transfer Station	An intermediate waste facility in which waste collected from any source is temporarily deposited to await transportation to another waste facility. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 33)
Unacceptable Waste	Waste that is not acceptable at a resource recovery facility under the terms of the service agreement.
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):	Includes a variety of chemicals that evaporate easily from the solid or liquid state and are found in a variety of products. Some VOCs can have short- or long-term adverse health effects. Many VOCs are found in higher concentrations indoors than outdoors.
Volume-based (Weight-based) Fees	A graduated pricing system for waste collection services in which the fees increase for larger quantities of waste collected.
Waste	Solid waste, sewage sludge, and hazardous waste. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 34)
Waste Management	Activities that are intended to affect or control the generation of waste and activities that provide for or control the collection, processing, and disposal of waste. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 36)

Waste Management Hierarchy (Order of Preference)	A ranking of waste management methods or of preference practices in the order in which they are the preferred method or practice. Informally referred to as the "waste management hierarchy." (Minn. Stat. §115A.02) establishes the following order of preference for waste management: 1) waste reduction and reuse; 2) waste recycling; 3) composting of yard waste and food waste; 4) resource recovery through mixed-municipal solid waste composting or incineration; 5) land disposal which produces no measurable methane gas or which involves the retrieval of methane gas as a fuel for the production of energy to be used on-site or for sale; and 6) land disposal which produces measurable methane gas and which does not involve the retrieval of methane gas as a fuel for the production of energy to be used on-site or for sale.
Waste Management Act	Chapter 115A of the State Statutes, which governs waste management activities in the State of Minnesota. Adopted in 1980 and amended by subsequent legislation. Some other sections of State Statutes also affect solid waste management, but are technically not part of the Waste Management Act.
Waste Reduction	(See "source reduction")
Yard Waste	Garden wastes, leaves, lawn cuttings, weeds, shrub and tree waste, and pruning clippings. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 38)

Appendix F: Statutory Definitions and Obligations

Hazardous Waste

Hazardous Waste, as defined in Minn. Stat. §116.06, Subd. 11 is any refuse, sludge, or other waste material or combinations of refuse, sludge or other waste materials in solid, semisolid, liquid, or contained gaseous form which because of its quantity, concentration, or chemical, physical, or infectious characteristics may (a) cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible illness; or (b) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed. Categories of hazardous waste materials include, but are not limited to: explosives, flammables, oxidizers, poisons, irritants, and corrosives. Hazardous waste does not include source, special nuclear, or by-product material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Household Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), as defined in Minn. Stat. §115A.96, Subd.1b, means waste generated from household activity that exhibits the characteristics of or that is listed as hazardous waste under agency rules, but does not include waste from commercial activities that is generated, stored, or present in a household.

Minn. Stat. §115A.96, Subd. 6 (a) requires counties to include plans for household hazardous waste (HHW) management in their solid waste Master Plans. These plans must provide for public education on HHW, develop a strategy to reduce HHW, and provide for the collection of HHW. Minn. Stat. §473.803, has specific requirements for metropolitan counties, including a minimum of quarterly collection of waste.

Metropolitan counties have been required since the late 1970s to regulate hazardous waste. Minn. Stat. §473.811, Subd. 5b required metropolitan counties to adopt ordinances relating to hazardous waste. Counties must require permits or licenses for the generation, collection, processing, and disposal of hazardous waste by non-households. Minn. Stat. §473.811, Subd. 5c, assigns each metropolitan county the responsibility for ensuring that hazardous waste facilities and generation and collection operations are brought into conformance with county ordinances and state rules, or their activities are terminated.

Landfilling

Minn. Stat. §473.848 addresses landfilling in the metropolitan area. Minn. Stat. §473.848 places a restriction on the disposal of unprocessed MSW generated in the metropolitan area and restricts disposal of waste to landfills meeting the standards in Minn. Stat. §473.849. Additionally, in order to be landfilled in Minnesota, MSW generated in the Metropolitan area must be: certified as unprocessible by a county, or transferred to the landfill by a resource recovery facility certified as unprocessible by the operator of a resource recovery facility serving the metropolitan area; and unable to be processed at any resource recovery facility serving the metropolitan area. Additionally, several State Statutes ban materials from disposal with MSW and/or in resource recovery and landfill facilities.

The landfilling, transfer, and processing of non-MSW is regulated under State statutes, MPCA rules, and county ordinances. Some counties license and inspect non-MSW management facilities.

MSW and Non-MSW

MSW is defined in Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 21 (a), as meaning: "garbage, refuse, and other solid waste from residential, commercial, industrial, and community activities that the generator of the waste aggregates for collection, except as provided in paragraph (b)." Paragraph (b) is a list of materials explicitly excluded from MSW. Most of these materials are generally managed separately from MSW, although it is common for generators to dispose of household quantities of construction debris with household MSW. See the definition of non-MSW in the Definitions section for a list of materials excluded from MSW.

Industrial waste that is not regulated as hazardous waste is also considered non-MSW. Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 13a defines industrial waste as "solid waste resulting from an industrial, manufacturing, service, or commercial activity that is managed as a separate waste stream".

Construction and demolition wastes are considered non-MSW. Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 7 defines construction debris as "waste building materials, packaging, and rubble resulting from construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of buildings and roads".

Non-MSW includes materials that are banned from resource recovery or landfill facilities. For a list of some of the materials banned from these facilities, which must be properly disposed of in a specific manner, see the definition of banned materials in the Glossary of Solid Waste Terms.

Organics

MPCA rules on compost facilities design and operation requirements are outlined in Minnesota Administrative Rules 7001.3375 PERMITS AND CERTIFICATIONS, 7035.2836 COMPOST FACILITIES, and 7035.0300 DEFINITIONS.

Processing

Minn. Stat. §473.848, Subd. 5, Restriction on Disposal, states a waste is unprocessed if it has not, after collection and before disposal, undergone separation of materials for resource recovery through recycling, incineration for energy production, production and use of refuse-derived fuel, composting, or any combination of these processes so that the weight of the waste remaining that must be disposed of in a mixed municipal solid waste disposal facility is not more than 35% of the weight before processing, on an annual average. Additionally, several State statutes ban materials from disposal at resource recovery and landfill facilities.

Public Entities Law

Minn. Stat. §115A.471 states (a) Prior to entering into or approving a contract for the management of mixed municipal solid waste which would manage the waste using a waste management practice that is ranked lower on the list of preferred waste management practices in section 115A.02, paragraph (b), than the waste management practice selected for such waste in the county plan for the county in which the waste was generated, a public entity must:
(1) determine the potential liability to the public entity and its taxpayers for managing the waste in this manner;
(2) develop and implement a plan for managing the potential liability; and
(3) submit the information from clauses (1) and (2) to the agency.
(b) For the purpose of this subdivision, "public entity" means the state; an office, agency, or institution of the state; the Metropolitan Council; a metropolitan agency; the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District;

the legislature; the courts; a county; a statutory or home rule charter city; a town; a school district; another special taxing district; or any other general or special purpose unit of government in the state.

Recycling

Recycling is defined in Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 25b is the process of collecting and preparing recyclable materials and reusing the materials in their original form or using them in manufacturing processes that do not cause the destruction of recyclable materials in a manner that precludes further use. Minn. Stat. §115A.551 Subd. 1(a). also includes source-separated organic material and yard waste into the definition of a recyclable material.

Minn. Stat. §115A.551, Subd. 2a sets a recycling goal for metropolitan counties that by December 31, 2030, 75% by weight of total solid waste generation will be recycled. Additionally, Minn. Stat. §115A.552, Subd. 1 requires counties to ensure that residents, including residents of single and multi-family dwellings, have an opportunity to recycle. County requirements for providing information, education, promotions, and encouraging nonresidential recycling are in Minn. Stat. §115A.552, Subd. 3 and 4.

Minn. Stat. §115A.151 requires public entities, commercial buildings in the metropolitan area and sports facilities to recycle at least three types of recyclable materials and have those materials collected for recycling by a licensed hauler. This requirement applies to commercial entities which contract for waste service with a four-yard trash container or larger; are located within the seven-county metro area; and is a business classified in sectors 42 to 81 under the North American Industrial Classification System.

Toxicity Reduction

Minn. Stat. §115A.02 establishes waste toxicity reduction to serve the following purposes: protect the state's land, air, water, and other natural resources and the public health by improving waste management in the state. The Anoka County Solid Waste Management Plan interprets the statutory term "toxicity reduction" to mean reduction in the toxic/hazardous character of waste. Under more specific federal laws and Minn. Stat. §182.651 Subd. 14 and Minn. Rules 7045.0135 toxicity is one of seven characteristics of hazardous wastes, the others being corrosivity, ignitability (flammability), reactivity (explosiveness), oxidizers (permanganates), Minnesota lethality (LD50), acute hazardous waste (pesticides), characteristics of toxicity (heavy metals), and toxicity characteristic waste (chlorinated Solvents).

Minn. Stat. §115A.1415 Subd. 15. Local government responsibilities.

a. A city, county, or other public agency may choose to participate voluntarily in a product stewardship program.
b. Cities, counties, and other public agencies are encouraged to work with producers and stewardship organizations to assist in meeting product stewardship program reuse and recycling obligations, by providing education and outreach or using other strategies.
c. A city, county, or other public agency that participates in a product stewardship program must report for the first year of the program to the agency using the reporting form provided by the agency on the cost savings as a result of participation and describe how the savings were used.

Waste Reduction

Waste reduction or source reduction, as defined in Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 36b means an activity that prevents the generation of waste or the inclusion of toxic hazardous character materials in waste, including:

a. reusing a product in its original form,
b. increasing the life span of a product,
c. reducing material or the toxicity of material used in production or packaging, or
d. changing procurement, consumption, or waste generation habits to result in small quantities or lower toxicity of waste generated.

Yard Waste

Minn. Stat. §115A.931, states that after January 1, 1990, in the metropolitan area, a party may not place yard waste in MSW, or disposal facility, or in a resource recovery facility except for the purpose of reuse, composting or co-composting.

Appendix G: Sample 2023 Agreement for Residential Recycling Program

Anoka County Contract # Cxxxxxx

2024 AGREEMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING PROGRAM

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into on the 1st day of January 2024, notwithstanding the date of the signatures of the parties, between the COUNTY OF ANOKA, State of Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as the "COUNTY", and the CITY OF _____, hereinafter referred to as the "MUNICIPALITY".

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the County will receive funding from the State of Minnesota pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115A.557, the Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (hereinafter "SCORE funds") during 2024 which must be used to encourage and improve recycling and a portion must be specifically directed to recycling source -separated compostable materials; and

WHEREAS, the County will also receive funding pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 473.8441, Local Recycling Development Grants (hereinafter "LRDG funds") during 2024; and

WHEREAS, the County also has additional budgeted program funding available to supplement SCORE and LRDG funds for solid waste recycling programs, so that the available amount for the Residential Recycling Program is $_____; and

WHEREAS, the County Solid Waste Management Master Plan 2018 (Master Plan 2018) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (hereinafter "MPCA") Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2016-2036 state that MSW generated in the County that is not reused, recycled, or composted, will be processed to the extent that processing capacity is available; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan 2018 was developed with the participation of a representative from the Municipality staff, and the Municipality is required to develop and implement programs, practices, or methods designed to meet waste abatement goals by Minn. Stat. § 115A.551, Subd 2a. (b).; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to assist the Municipality in meeting recycling goals established by Anoka County by providing said SCORE, LRDG, and County budgeted program funds to cities and townships in the County for solid waste recycling programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained in this Agreement, the parties mutually agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. **PURPOSE AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.** The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for cooperation between the County and the Municipality to implement solid waste recycling programs in the Municipality which will help the County and member municipalities meet the goals set in the current Anoka County Solid Waste Management Master Plan. The County and the Municipality agree that the information provided in the recitals above is to be incorporated into the purpose of this agreement.

   The Anoka County Municipal Waste Abatement Grant Program (hereinafter "Grant Program") Contract Documents include: the **Anoka County Municipal Waste Abatement Grant Funding Application** submitted by the Municipality for the current contract year, and the **Grant Funding Award** issued by Anoka County for the current contract year. These documents are incorporated into this agreement by reference and are components of the entire contract package. The order of precedence of these documents in the event of inconsistency or ambiguity shall be resolved in the following order: 1) this **Agreement for Residential Recycling Program;** 2) **Grant Funding Award**; and 3) **Anoka County Municipal Waste Abatement Grant Funding Application.**

2. **TERM.** The term of this Agreement is from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, unless earlier terminated as provided herein.

3. **DEFINITIONS.** Defined terms contained in this Agreement and all the attachments are found in Minn. Stat. § 115A.03; 115A.471; and 115A.552. The use of capitalization for defined terms has no special effect. Additionally:

   a. "Full-Service Recycling Drop-off Center" means centralized permanent drop-off center that is open at least two times a week and accepts at least four types of materials beyond traditional curbside recyclables, i.e.: mattresses, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, source-separated compostable materials, electronics, etc.

   b. "Multi-family dwellings" means households within apartment complexes, condominiums, townhomes, mobile homes, and senior housing complexes.

   c. "Community Partner" means community festivals which appear to the public to be supported and run by the Municipality but in fact are sponsored or co-sponsored by a municipality or an independent non-profit 501c (3) organization, for example: the Anoka Halloween Parade.

4. **ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDS.** Per Minn. Stat. § 115A.557, Subd. 1, funding eligibility is based primarily on population, with a minimum funding floor. For 2024, the County has determined that funding will be determined by the Grant Program funding application. The Municipality is entitled to receive reimbursement for eligible expenses, less revenues or other reimbursement received, for eligible activities up to the project maximum, which shall not exceed $_____. The Municipality

shall be provided documentation of the funding award determination and rationale as indicated by the approved 2024 Grant Program Funding Application.

The County reserves the right to assess reimbursement reporting status for each municipality mid-year and recommend funding adjustments as determined by the County Program Specialist managing the Grant Program.

The County also reserves the right to withdraw reimbursement of approved expenses if the requirements noted in section 6. of this contract are not met.

The County also reserves the ability to assess the programs and reallocate unused SCORE and/or, LRDG funds mid-year if any participating municipality demonstrates the need for the funding and funds are available. The Municipality shall be provided documentation of the Grant Program funding award determination and rationale as indicated by the 2024 Grant Program Funding Award.

5. **PROGRAM.** The Municipality shall develop and implement a residential solid waste recycling program adequate to meet the Municipality's annual recycling goal of _____ tons of recyclable and source-separated compostable materials as established by the County. The Municipality shall ensure that the recyclable materials collected are delivered to processors or end markets for recycling or composting.

   a. The Municipal recycling program shall include the following components:

      i. Per Minn. Stat. § 115A.552, each household (including both single and Multi-family dwellings) in the Municipality shall have the Opportunity to Recycle at least four broad types of materials, including but not limited to, paper (including cardboard/paperboard cartons), glass, plastic, and metal.

      ii. The recycling (including any organics) program shall be operated in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations.

      iii. The Municipality shall implement a public information program that contains at least one of the following components:

         (1) One promotional mailing to each household focused exclusively on the Municipality's recycling and source-separated compostable materials program;

         (2) One promotional advertisement detailing recycling and source-separated compostable materials opportunities available for residents included in the Municipality's newsletter or local newspaper; or

(3) Two community outreach activities at Municipal or Community Partner events to inform residents about recycling and source-separated compostable materials opportunities.

iv. The public information components listed above shall focus on all recyclable materials and the various opportunities to recycle and compost source-separated compostable materials within the Municipality. The Municipality shall incorporate County/regional/State campaigns and images and use the toolkits provided by the County when preparing promotional materials. The Municipality, on an ongoing basis, shall identify new residents and provide detailed information on the recycling opportunities available to these new residents. The County shall work with the Municipality on promotional materials to coordinate messages. The Municipality shall provide promotional materials to the County for review prior to publication to ensure accuracy.

v. The Municipality shall offer a minimum of one spring or fall recycling drop-off event where items not normally accepted at the curb are collected for recycling. If the Municipality is hosting a monthly drop-off as described below, the spring/fall recycling drop-off events may be included within that program.

b. The Municipality is encouraged to expand its recycling program to include one or more of the following components in order to receive additional funding.

i. Organize monthly/quarterly recycling drop-off events which can be held in conjunction with a neighboring municipality(ies) on a cooperative basis for the citizens of both/all municipalities.

ii. Provide a community event recycling program, which at a minimum would consist of providing recycling opportunities at all Municipal sponsored or Community Partner events and festivals as required by Minn. Stat. § 115A.151. The feasibility of adding source-separated compostable material collection at the event will be explored, and if feasible, implemented as an enhancement to the waste abatement program.

iii. Provide the opportunity for citizens to engage in recycling activities at Municipal and Community Partner facilities as required by Minn. Stat. § 115A.151 such as athletic fields and public centers.

iv. Organize and manage a Full-Service Recycling Drop-off Center.

v. Implement enhanced recycling promotion and assistance for Multi-family dwellings.

vi. Develop additional opportunities for source-separated compostable materials collection.

vii. Develop and implement additional opportunities to recycle bulky and problem materials (e.g., appliances, batteries, electronics, fluorescent lamps, mattresses, oil, scrap metal, etc.) from residents on an on-going basis either curbside or at a drop-off.

c. If the Municipality's recycling program did not achieve the Municipality's recycling goals as established by the County for the prior calendar year, the Municipality shall work with the County to prepare a plan to achieve the recycling goals set forth in this Agreement.

d. The Municipality's recycling program shall be limited to residential programming for funding reimbursements under this Agreement. The County will not reimburse business recycling programming or household hazardous waste programming by the Municipality. Any inquiries or requests regarding these topics should be sent to the County for response.

e. In addition to the above requirements designed to increase residential recycling opportunities, the Municipality shall provide recycling opportunities in all municipal buildings including but not limited to, city offices, public meeting rooms and parks, as required by Minn. Stat. § 115A.151.

f. If the Municipality requests reimbursement for park/public entity recycling/organics/trash waste systems/containers, the Municipality needs to work with the County before an order is placed to make sure the containers are consistent with the requirements set forth by the County for colors e.g. (blue for recycling, green for organics and gray or black for trash), openings and labels.

g. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 115A. 46, 115A.471 and 473.848, all waste generated by municipal government activities (including city/town halls, public works and public safety buildings, parks, and libraries, and for municipalities that arrange for waste services on behalf of their residents (organized collection)) shall be delivered to a waste processing plant for disposal as long as capacity is available. Failure to comply with this provision shall constitute a breach of this Agreement resulting in the loss of all Grant Funding unless, pursuant to statute, the Municipality has conferred with the County and developed a plan to comply within a reasonable period of time.

6. **REPORTING.** The Municipality shall submit the following forms via Re-TRAC: application, reimbursement, and tonnage report forms to the County on the schedule noted below:

a. June 3, 2024 – Deadline for submitting via Re-TRAC the 2025 Anoka County Municipal Waste Abatement Grant Funding Application and all required attachments

b. July 12, 2024 – Deadline for submitting via Re-TRAC the 2024 January – June Anoka County Municipal Reimbursement Report Form and all required attachments

c. July 31, 2024 – Deadline for submitting via Re-TRAC the 2024 January – June Anoka County Municipal Tonnage Report Form and all required attachments

d. November 15, 2024 – Deadline for submitting via DocuSign the signed 2025 Agreement for Residential Recycling Program

e. January 10, 2025 – Deadline for submitting via Re-TRAC the 2024 July – December Anoka County Municipal Reimbursement Report Form and all required attachments

f. January 31, 2025 – Deadline for submitting via Re-TRAC the 2024 July – December Anoka County Municipal Tonnage Report Form and all required attachments

g. For the Anoka County **Municipal Waste Abatement Grant Funding Application**, **using set categories in Re-TRAC,** the:
- Municipality is required to follow application instructions
- Municipality must refer to list of eligible expenses when completing the application
- Municipality is required to upload in Re-TRAC a complete and accurate 2024 Staffing Metric and Drop-off Calculator
- Municipality is required to upload in Re-TRAC a complete and accurate .pdf file of up-to-date promotions listing collection opportunities at curbside, permanent drop-off centers or other special events

h. For the Anoka County **Municipal Reimbursement Report Form**, **using set categories in Re-TRAC,** the:
- Municipality is required to follow reimbursement form instructions
- Municipality must refer to list of eligible expenses when completing the reimbursement form
- If the Municipality is being audited, the Municipality must provide a full accounting of the expenses incurred that have been approved in the 2024 Municipal Waste Abatement Grant Funding Application
- Municipality is required to upload in Re-TRAC a complete and accurate Reimbursement Worksheet which matches the amounts entered in the associated sections in the Re-TRAC Reimbursement Report Form
- Information regarding any revenue received from sources other than the County, for the Municipality's recycling and source-separated organics programs, i.e., revenue taken in from the sale of recyclables and fees collected from residents, shall be reported
- Copies of all promotional materials that have been prepared by the Municipality during each reporting period shall be uploaded in the Re-TRAC Reimbursement Report Form

i. For the **Municipal Tonnage Report Form, using set categories in Re-TRAC,** the:

- Municipality is required to follow tonnage report form instructions
- Municipality shall keep detailed records documenting the disposition of all recyclable materials collected pursuant to this Agreement
- When calculating all tonnage categories, weight slips from haulers and end markets are required. If weight slips cannot be obtained, written documentation of the quantity and type of material being reused, recycled, or composted must be provided
- Using quantity and type of material, the Municipality shall use the conversion factors provided by the County to determine the tonnage
- If County conversion factors do not apply to any given materials, a description of the methodology used for calculations must be provided to the County
- If the Municipality is being audited, the Municipality must provide a full accounting of the amount of waste which has been reused, recycled, and composted due to the Municipality's activities and the efforts of other community programs, redemption centers and drop-off centers
- Municipality is required to upload in Re-TRAC a complete and accurate Tonnage Worksheet which matches the amounts entered in the associated sections in the Re-TRAC Tonnage Report Form
- For waste abatement programs run by other persons or entities, the Municipality shall provide documentation of materials recycled by the Municipality's residents through these other programs

j. The Municipality agrees to support County efforts in obtaining hauler reports by ensuring compliance through ordinance, contract or license requirements and the ability to exercise punitive actions, if needed.

k. The Municipality agrees to furnish the County with additional reports in form and at frequencies requested by the County for financial evaluation, program management purposes, and reporting to the State of Minnesota.

7. **REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENT PROCEDURE.** Approved grant reimbursement payments shall be paid in accordance with standard County procedures, subject to the approval of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. Payments will not be made until the set contract deadlines are met.

8. **PUBLICATIONS.** The Municipality shall acknowledge the financial assistance of Anoka County on all promotional materials, reports and publications relating to the activities funded under this Agreement, by including the following acknowledgement: "Funded by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and State SCORE funds." The Municipality shall provide to the County copies of all promotional materials funded by this grant.

The County shall provide to the Municipalities printed public information pieces about County programs and topics developed by the Recycling Education Committee (REC). The Municipality shall not modify County provided publications and promotional materials.

Information about all County programs and drop-off sites that a Municipality plans to publish in a Municipal communication, printed, electronic, or on social media platforms shall be provided to the County for review and approved by the County prior to publication. This includes all information related to County waste prevention, reduction, recycling programs, County household hazardous waste operations and the County compost sites.

To ensure content accuracy and message consistency throughout the region, any technical information about waste prevention, reduction, recycling, composting and household hazardous waste should be provided to the County for review, before it is printed, to verify that it is correct information for Anoka County. Information copied from the Internet may not be accurate for the twin cities metro area.

9. **INDEMNIFICATION.** The County agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the Municipality harmless from all claims, demands, and causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, resulting from the acts or omissions of its public officials, officers, agents, employees, and contractors relating to activities performed by the County under this Agreement.

The Municipality agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the County harmless from all claims, demands, and causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, resulting from the acts or omissions of its public officials, officers, agents, employees, and contractors relating to activities performed by the Municipality under this Agreement.

The provisions of this subdivision shall survive the termination or expiration of the term of this Agreement.

10. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

a. In performing the provisions of this Agreement, both parties agree to comply with all applicable federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, or standards established by any agency or special governmental unit which are now or hereafter promulgated insofar as they relate to performance of the provisions of this Agreement. In addition, the Municipality shall comply with all applicable requirements of the State of Minnesota for the use of SCORE funds provided to the Municipality by the County under this Agreement. The Municipality shall also comply with all relevant portions of the current Anoka County Solid Waste Management Master Plan and shall participate in the preparation of the successor Master Plans.

b. If the Municipality utilizes the services of a subcontractor for purposes of meeting requirements herein, the Municipality shall be responsible for the performance of all such subcontracts and shall ensure that the subcontractors perform fully the terms of the subcontract. The agreement between the Municipality and a subcontractor shall obligate the subcontractor to comply fully with the terms of this Agreement.

c. It is understood and agreed that the entire agreement is contained herein, and that this Agreement supersedes all oral and written agreements and negotiations between the parties relating to the subject matter hereof.

d. Any amendments, alterations, variations, modifications, or waivers of this Agreement shall be valid only when they have been reduced to writing, duly signed by the parties.

e. The provisions of this Agreement are severable. If any paragraph, section, subdivision, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Agreement is for any reason held to be contrary to law, such decision shall not affect the remaining portion of this Agreement.

f. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating the relationship of co-partners, joint venturers, or an association between the County and the Municipality, nor shall the Municipality, its employees, agents, or representatives be considered employees, agents, or representatives of the County for any purpose.

g. The Municipality shall maintain financial and other records and accounts in accordance with requirements of the County and the State of Minnesota. The Municipality shall maintain strict accountability of all funds and maintain records of all receipts and disbursements. Such records and accounts shall be maintained in a form which will permit the tracing of funds and program income to final expenditure. The Municipality shall maintain records sufficient to reflect that all funds received under this Agreement were expended in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 115A.557, Subd. 2, for residential solid waste recycling purposes. The Municipality shall also maintain records of the quantities of materials recycled. All records and accounts shall be retained as provided by law, but in no event for a period of less than five years from the last receipt of payment from the County pursuant to this Agreement.

h. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16C.05, the Municipality shall allow the County or other persons or agencies authorized by the County, and the State of Minnesota, including the Legislative Auditor or the State Auditor, access to the records of the Municipality at reasonable hours, including all books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Municipality relevant to the subject matter of the Agreement, for purposes of audit. In addition, the County shall have access to the project site(s), if any, at reasonable hours.

i. The County reserves the right to withdraw reimbursement of approved expenses if the Municipality does not comply with state law or the County's Solid Waste Ordinance.

11. **TERMINATION.** This Agreement may be terminated by mutual written agreement of the parties or by either party, with or without cause, by giving not less than seven (7) days' written notice, delivered by mail or in person to the other party, specifying the date of termination. If this Agreement is terminated, assets acquired in whole or in part with funds provided under this Agreement shall be the property of the Municipality so long as said assets are used by the Municipality for the purpose of a landfill abatement program approved by the County.

(SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereunto set their hands.

[INSERT SIGNATURE BLOCK]

Appendix H: Environmental Justice

The MPCA defines environmental justice as the fair treatment and involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, concerning the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice incorporates equal access to services. It also incorporates the right to ethical, balanced, and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a healthy planet for humans and other living things for many generations. Environmental health policy is based on mutual respect and justice for all people, free from any form of discrimination or bias.

In Anoka County, as of August 2024, the areas of concern for environmental justice identified by the MPCA are primarily without solid waste facilities. There are three facilities in Anoka County that are currently in areas of environmental justice concern identified by the MPCA; all others are outside of those geographic areas. One of which is the Coon Rapids recycling center, which applied to be a drop-off facility for organics before the rule change and had gone through the process to be licensed as a solid waste facility. Anoka County has municipal recycling drop-off centers in nine cities throughout the County. These facilities are seen as a positive service by residents who appreciate the proximity to the facility. Anoka County does not determine or have any involvement in municipal zoning decisions by statute. Anoka County does have non-discretionary authority over local licenses.

An example of how the County can carry out this work, given the above parameters, is below:

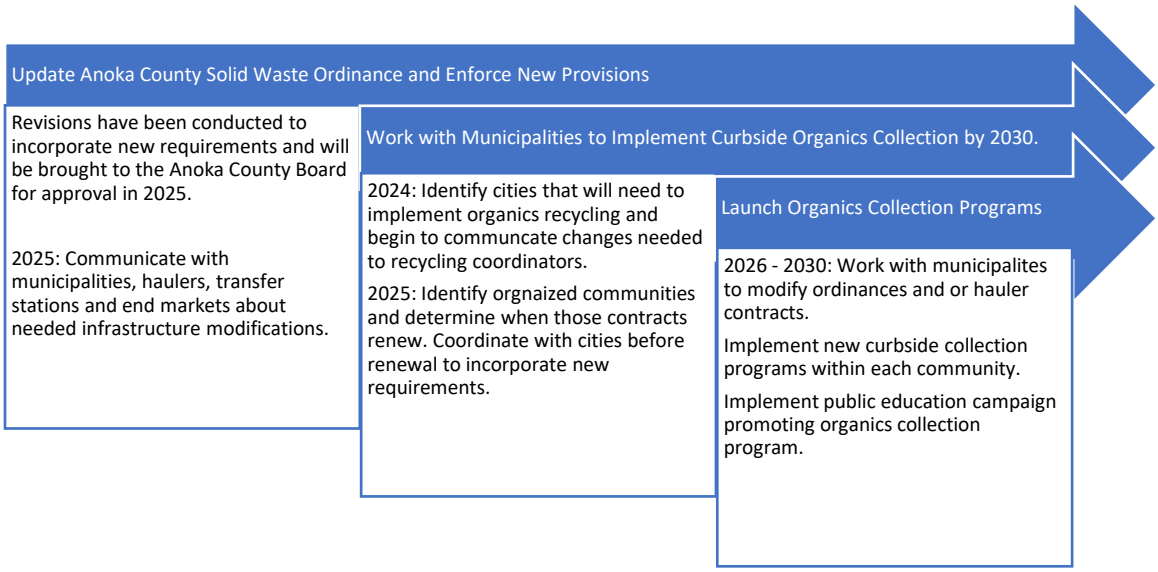
> In 2021 and 2022, the County was granted a Minnesota GreenCorps member to focus on engaging and completing projects in the multi-family residential sector. This work prioritized multi-family properties in areas identified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as having areas of environmental justice concerns. As an example of how the county prioritized this service area, in 2022, the County included in this project the City of Columbia Heights and the City of Anoka because both cities have one or more specific areas of environmental justice concern within the city limits. Properties in areas of environmental justice concerns were given top priority for outreach, education, grant funding, and project implementation. The County continues to consider and apply this methodology in waste reduction and recycling efforts.

When needs assessments are conducted for new County-owned solid waste facilities, the County will consider MPCA environmental justice tools to evaluate site locations and or public input.

Appendix I: Curbside Organics Implementation

Additional details related to strategy #6 on page 58: “Make residential curbside organics collection available in cities with a population greater than 5,000 by 2030. (MSWMPP requirement #40)”

Figure I: Municipal Curbside Organics Implementation Timeline



Municipalities Affected by New Curbside Organics Collection Requirements

Cities with a population over 5,000 are required to implement curbside organics collection and include Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Circle Pines (currently curbside collection is available on a subscription basis), Columbia Heights (currently curbside collection is available on a subscription basis, East Bethel, Fridley (currently curbside collection is available on a subscription basis, Ham Lake, Lino Lakes, Linwood Township, Oak Grove, Spring Lake Park, and St. Francis. The collection systems within these communities vary, with organized and open hauling for trash and recyclables. All of these municipalities are required to have curbside collection of organics available to all and charge every resident equally to comply with state law.

Anoka County Staff and Leadership Commitment:

County R&RS Program Specialist staff will communicate the new program requirements to recycling coordinators, provide technical assistance, model ordinance language for municipalities, and offer grant funding to municipalities. Technical assistance will focus on modifying existing hauler contracts for organized collection communities and revising municipal ordinance language for open hauling communities. If a municipality chooses to commit to organized collection of organics, the County will provide technical support upon request. PHES leadership will communicate with end markets, private transfer stations, and private waste haulers to ensure they understand the amounts of anticipated organics that will need to be diverted and when those requirements must be achieved.

Public Education and Outreach:

Public education and outreach will use consistent terminology following the Recycling Education Committee Organics Terminology Guide. Terminology of future SSO program with consideration to regional education and naming conventions- per requirements of Required Strategy #10, which requires the use of "organics recycling" or "food scraps" based on the collection method used. Messaging and outreach efforts will be consistent with Chapter 6.