

MEETING MINNESOTA'S WASTE CHALLENGES



Minnesota's Waste Management System:


“The waste management goal of the state is to foster an ***integrated waste management*** system in a manner appropriate to the ***characteristics of the waste*** stream and thereby ***protect*** the state's land, air, water, and other natural resources and the public health.”

(from the Minnesota Waste Management Act, M.S. 115A)



Cornerstones of the MN Waste Management Act

- Focused on reducing risk
 - *Health*
 - *Environment*
 - *Safety*
 - *Financial*
- Minnesota has spent over \$400 million cleaning up landfills, and an estimated \$300 million is needed in coming decades
- Counties are responsible to meet state mandates



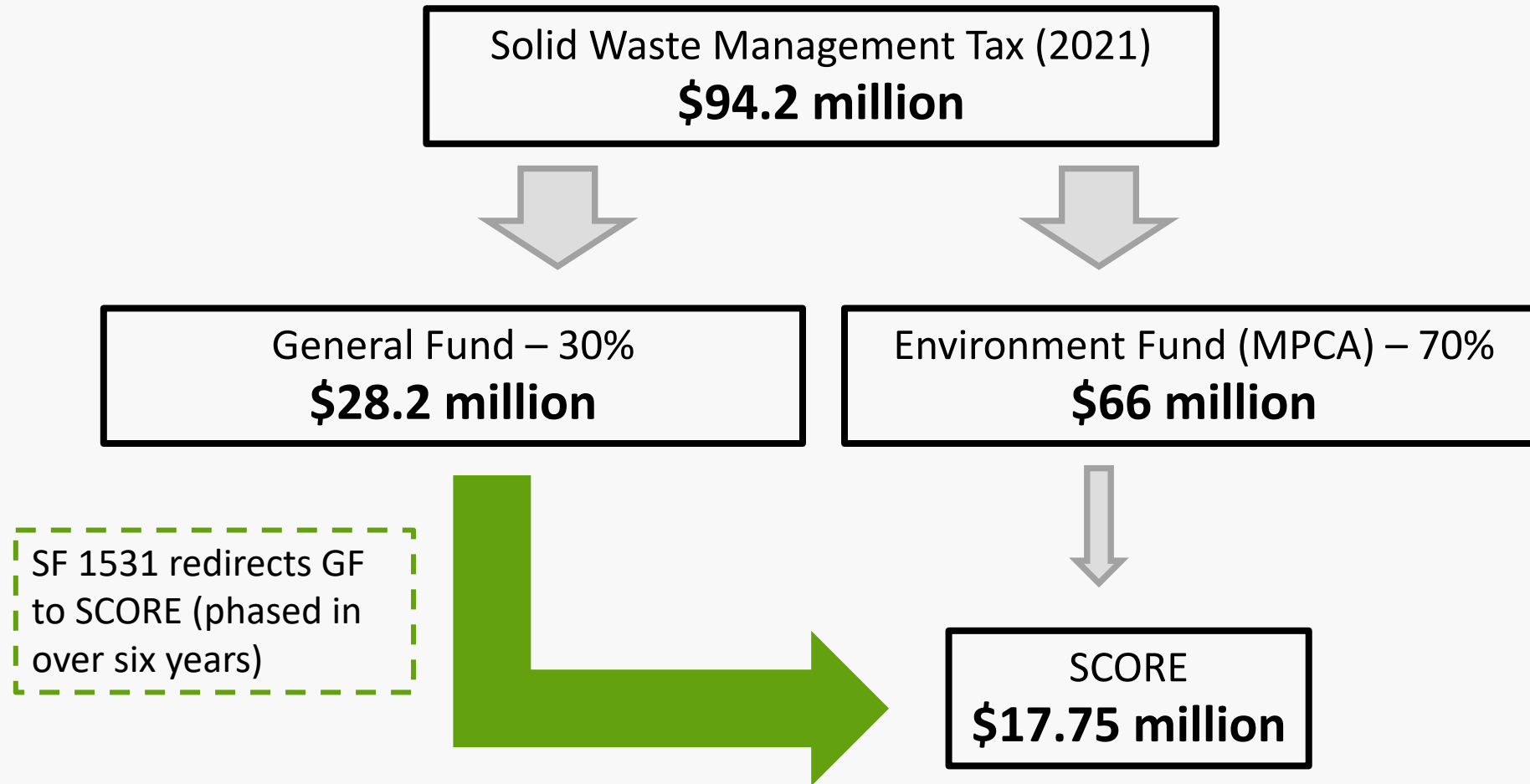
Counties and Waste

Counties are required by the state to manage waste.

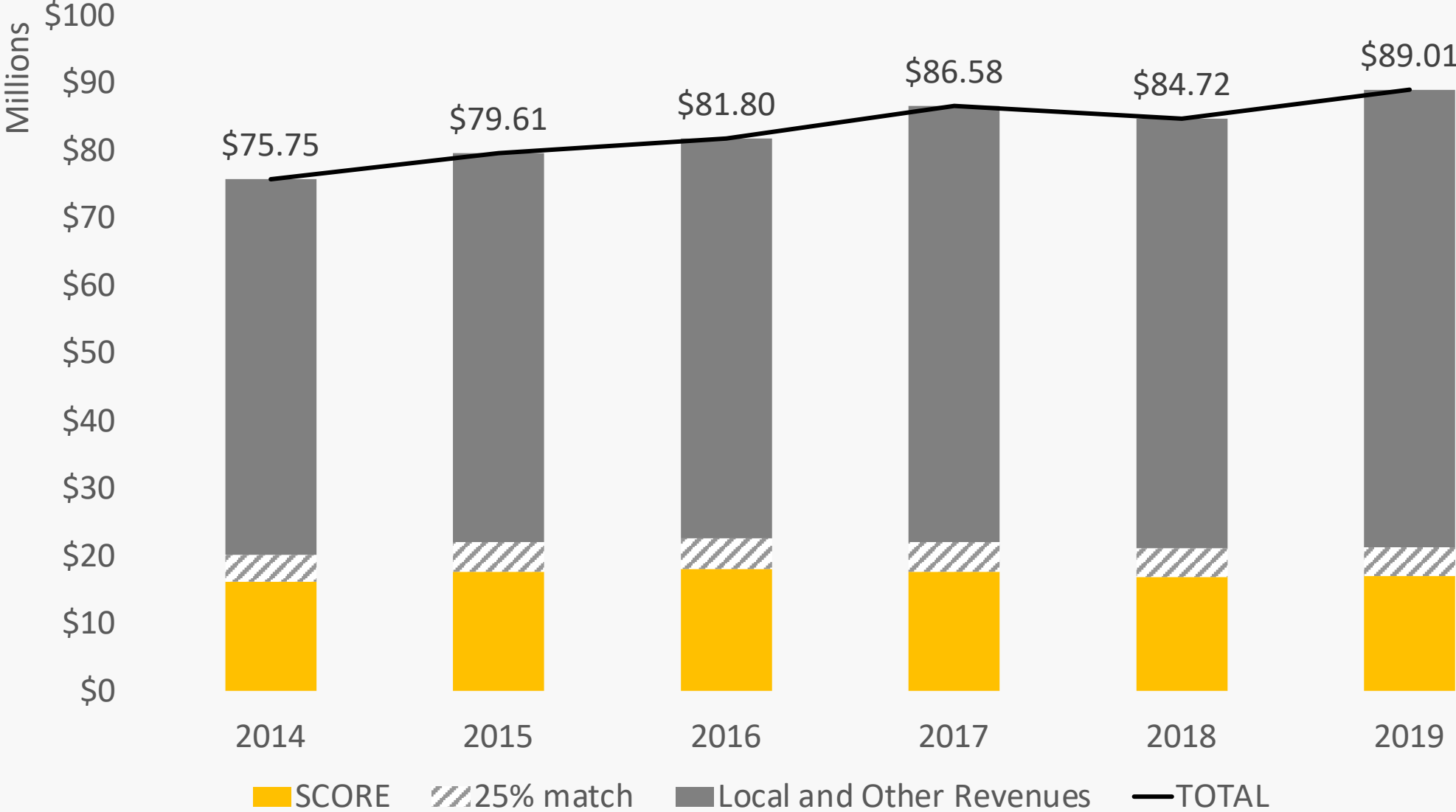
- Combination of public and private services
- Costs borne mainly by local government

Solid Waste Management Tax

Based on cost of trash services



SCORE Grants and Total Recycling Spending





Environmental benefits will increase with expanded programs

Recycling and reuse programs run by counties leads to successes according to the state's 2019 report:

- 2.512 million tons of waste were managed through recycling or organics programs.
- Source reductions efforts are estimated to have reduced waste by 1.1 million tons
- These efforts have saved roughly 4.1 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent. This equates to removing annual emissions from 891,000 passenger vehicles.

SCORE: An Investment in Minnesota

- Passage of SF1531 to increase SCORE is truly an investment in Minnesota:
 - The recycling industry employs 37,000 Minnesotans and has an estimated \$15.7 billion economic impact.
 - Developing local recycling markets keeps resources, jobs and businesses here.
 - It will allow us to build on a system that reduces, reuses, and recycles to move us closer to zero waste.

However, there is much more work to do. Waste generation is nearing 6 million tons annually. More than 56% is still managed at the bottom of the hierarchy.





THANK YOU