

# MEETING MINNESOTA'S WASTE CHALLENGES







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## 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)

Counties are mandated to manage solid waste and meet state recycling goals.

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### Cornerstones of the MN Waste Management Act

- Focused on reducing risk
  - Health
  - Environment
  - Safety
  - Financial
- Minnesota has spent over \$500 million cleaning up landfills, and an estimated \$300-400 million is needed in coming decades

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### Solid Waste Management Tax

Based on cost of trash services

Solid Waste Management Tax (2022)

General Fund – 30%  
**\$32.5 million**

Environment Fund (MPCA) – 70%  
**\$76 million**

SF1587 redirects  
 General Fund to SCORE  
 (phased in over time)

➔

SCORE  
**\$18.45 million**

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## SCORE Grant – eligible expenditures

- Prevent waste
- Maximize recycling
- Create and support markets for recycled products
- Deal with problematic and toxic materials
- Educate and provide technical assistance
- Litter prevention
- Manage organics
- Prevent food waste and help get edible food for donation

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

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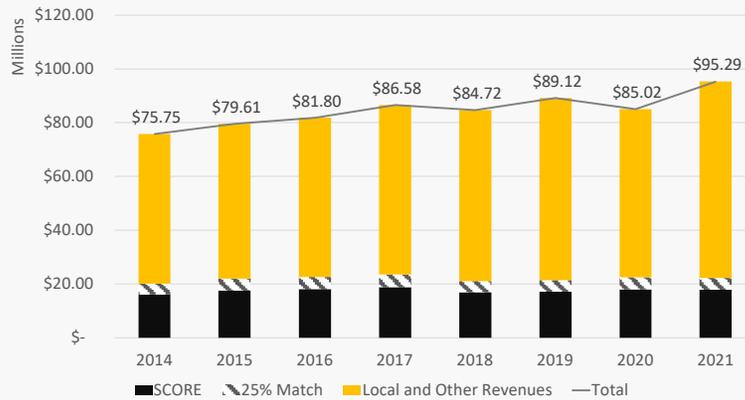
## Counties and Waste

Counties are mandated by the state to manage waste but inadequately funded.

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

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SCORE Grants and Total Recycling Spending



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## Local and Other Revenue

Counties piece together different ways to attempt to fund recycling and reuse programs due to inadequate SCORE grant allocations.

- Pool resources through a solid waste management organization.
- Local and Other Revenues:
  - Waste tax assessment
  - Landfill fees
  - Service charges
  - General property tax revenue
  - Reinvest revenues from material sales i.e. aluminum

**These all fall short of funding the scale of recycling and waste prevention goals.**

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### Environmental and climate benefits will increase with expanded programs

Recycling and reuse programs run by counties lead to successes:

- 3.1 million tons of waste were managed through recycling or organics programs.

According to the state's 2019 report:

- 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 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. This equates to removing annual emissions from 891,000 passenger vehicles.

### SCORE: An Investment in Minnesota

- Passage of SF1587 to increase SCORE is truly an investment in Minnesota:
  - The recycling industry employs over 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 waste hierarchy.

