

Natural Organic Reduction

a natural legacy

HF 2669 / SF 3134

Establishes licensure requirements
and fees for natural organic
reduction facilities

"With this act I can... say I have left the world just a little bit better than when I found it"

- Steve Wheeler

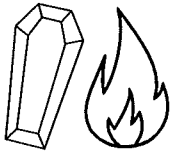
Lake Elmo resident who chose NOR for after his death

What it is

Natural organic reduction (NOR) is an alternative to cremation and burial. Also known as human composting, it is:

- 1. Safe and natural process** that gently transforms a body into nutrient rich soil over 60 days. Families may use the soil to plant a tree/memorial, or donate the soil to conservation projects
- 2. Sustainable and environmentally friendly** option for body disposition with significant savings in carbon emission, energy and land usage.
- 3. Gentle and dignified process** that allows a person to enhance the environment through their death, a meaningful preference for some Minnesotans.

Need



Limited Options

The over 50,000 Minnesotans who die each year have four options for the disposition of their body after death: burial with embalming, green burial, flame cremation, water cremation.

70% of Minnesotans were cremated in 2022 (an est. 35,000 cremations).¹



Growing Senior Population

By 2030, the number of Minnesota seniors aged 65+ is projected to reach almost 1.5 million,² making sustainable death care options like NOR increasingly important.



Comparable costs

NOR facilities in other states keep costs comparable to other death care options when total costs of body disposition are considered.

Costs below do not include viewing or service.

Burial with embalming

\$7,219⁴ + **\$7,785⁵** = **\$15,004**
funeral home cemetery est.
avg. est.

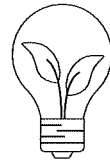
Direct Cremation

\$2,194⁶+ optional cemetery costs
crematory avg.

NOR
\$6,500⁴
avg.



Impact



NOR uses 1/8 the energy of cremation and burial.⁷

The NOR process saves over a metric ton of CO2 per person

1/8 Energy Use

Burial with Embalming

Consumes large quantities of metals, hardwoods, concrete, and hazardous embalming fluids as well as a continuous need for land

Cremation

Emits CO2 and can release mercury directly into the atmosphere. Burns fossil fuels.

Proven safe and effective in a 2018 study by the Washington State University Soil Science Department.⁸



Safe Soil

The heat produced by the process, in excess of 131°, kills viruses, bacteria and pathogens.

Soil can be used to plant a tree, memorial garden or donate to conservation projects

Contact Information:

MNNORActionGroup@gmail.com
www.norminnesota.org

¹Cremation Association of North America (CANA) 2023 Annual Statistics Report

²MN Dept. of Human Services. "Aging 2030, Aging data profiles."

³Recompose, Earth Funeral, Return Home, and The Natural Funeral, 2024.

⁴Funeralocity MN, 2024.

⁵Lakewood Cemetery 2024 price list.

⁶Funeralocity MN, 2024. Includes transfer to crematory, cremation services, and ashes returned to family.

⁷Recompose, 2024. www.recompose.life

⁸Dr. Carpenter-Boggs, Lynne, 2018. "Proof of Concept: Recomposition of Human Remains," Washington State University.