



March 31, 2025

Minnesota Senate Commerce Committee

Senate File 1690 (Kupec)

RE: E-Waste and Batteries Amendment

Dear Chair Klein and Commerce Committee Members,

On behalf of Otter Tail County, we are writing in support of SF1690. With an increased reliance on electronics and lithium-ion batteries, residents and municipalities are facing challenges related to the management of these materials. In Greater Minnesota, the 2023 capture rate for mixed electronics was 19.3%, with a total wasted amount of 19,704 tons¹.

Depending on the specific electronic (e-waste) material, recycling of an electronic costs a household \$5-\$50 (per item). In addition, Otter Tail County spent \$61,094.20 for the transportation and recycling of 224 tons of electronic materials in 2024. This does not include storage and handling costs. Additional storage requirements are currently a moving target with the aim of preventing future health and safety risks. The included table and charts detail further information regarding quantities and costs.

Cost barriers can be a contributing factor to the improper disposal of electronic materials by households. This increases the cost and staff time needed by municipalities to safely and responsibly manage materials, which is especially true of items such as lithium-ion batteries that are a major cause of fires in recycling and waste disposal facilities. Otter Tail County and its affiliates have had several fires in recent years. We are seeing an increased risk and expect it is due to lithium-ion batteries in the waste stream.

We need electronic and battery manufacturers to be engaged in Minnesota's efforts to properly manage e-waste and batteries. We appreciate the efforts taken and support SF1690 as proper stewardship of electronic materials and batteries is essential to a healthy and vibrant state.

Sincerely,

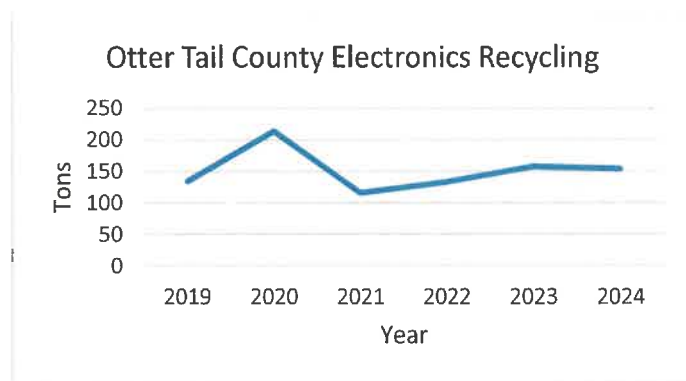
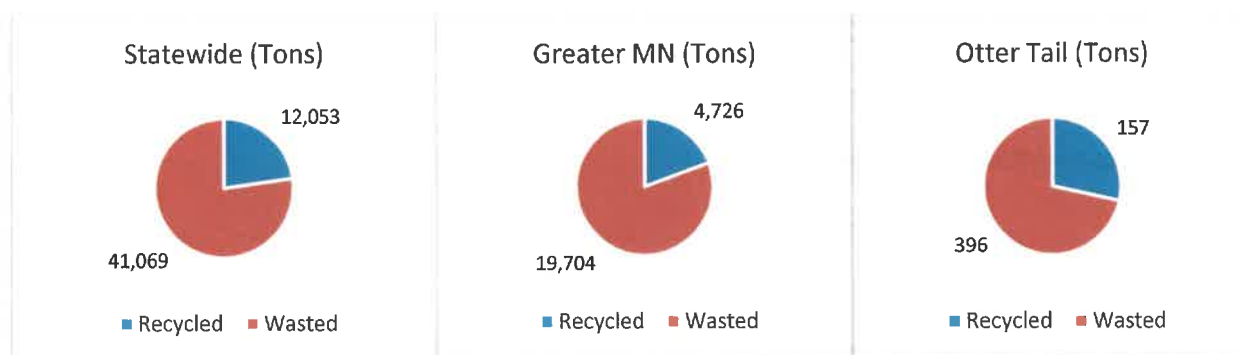
Clancy Oliphant

Public Information and Education Officer

Otter Tail County Solid Waste



Mixed Electronics Recycling Data (2023)¹



Otter Tail County Electronics Recycling Data

YEAR	TONS	COST
2019	269.35	\$ 62,468.91
2020	217.84	\$ 54,397.51
2021	135.42	\$ 49,494.44
2022	141.74	\$ 36,198.09
2023	157	\$ 38,666.59
2024	224.1	\$ 61,094.20

¹<https://data.pca.state.mn.us/views/SCOREreport2023/CaptureRateByMaterial?%3Aembed=y&%3AsGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y>