Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MMSW): Garbage, refuse, and other solid waste from residential, commercial, industrial, and community activities that the generator of the waste aggregates for collection." It includes common materials found in household and commercial garbage such as packaging materials, containers, food discards, plastic, paper, etc.

MMSW does not include auto hulks, street sweepings, ash, construction debris, mining waste, sludges, tree and agricultural wastes, tires, lead acid batteries, motor and vehicle fluids and filters, and other materials collected, processed, and disposed of as separate waste streams (Minn. Stat. § 115A.03, subd. 21).

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): Encompasses both MMSW as well as materials collected for reuse and recycling.

Recyclable materials: 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.

Yard waste is also considered a recyclable material when determining the recycling rate of a given county.

Total solid waste generation: Total by weight of the following: Materials separated for recycling, materials separated for yard waste and source-separated compostable materials composting, MMSW plus motor and vehicle fluids and filters, tires, lead acid batteries, and major appliances, and any residential waste materials that would be MMSW but for the fact that they are not collected as such

Yard waste: Garden wastes, leaves, lawn cuttings, weeds, shrub and tree waste, and prunings.