



State of Minnesota Enterprise Solid Waste Action Plan

2025 - 2030

Office of Enterprise Sustainability
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

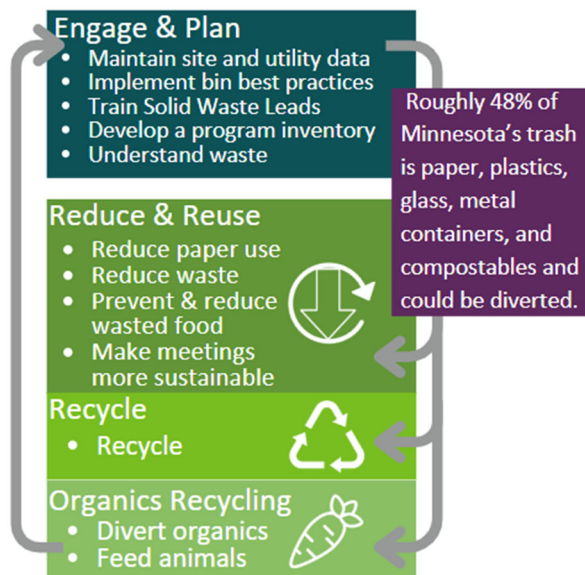
mn DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION
ENTERPRISE SUSTAINABILITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *2025-2030 Solid Waste Action Plan* provides the State Enterprise (the Enterprise) with solid waste reduction and diversion actions all agencies can use to achieve the solid waste goal of reaching a 75% recycling and organics recycling rate by 2030. These actions can be grouped into three categories:

1. **Engagement and Planning:** Planning is the foundation of a successful solid waste management program. Planning efforts use data to understand the types and amount of waste generated, right size hauling services, and to implement best practices that also reduce costs. Engagement provides staff and building users the tools to properly manage waste.
2. **Reduction and Reuse:** Source reduction prevents waste from being created and should be the first method to manage waste. Eliminating the need for disposal or diversion prevents unnecessary use of environmental and/or financial resources. Waste reduction saves money twice by not purchasing a new product and then not paying to dispose of it. Great reuse examples are reusing office supplies or furniture, using a reusable bottle, and following sustainable meeting guidelines.
3. **Diversion:** Properly diverting waste to recycling or organics recycling reduces the amount of trash going to a landfill or incinerator, conserves natural resources, and saves money.

Figure 1. Agency Actions



THE VALUE OF PROPER WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste diversion has significant environmental benefits – making a can from recycled aluminum uses 90% less energy compared to virgin material and recycled paper leads to 74% less air pollution. Lower energy use means less air pollution, and both cut down on greenhouse gas emissions. There are also considerable economic benefits. In Minnesota, approximately 78,000 jobs are supported by the recycling industry, paying \$7.9 billion in wages, and adding over \$23 billion to our state's economy.

Reducing and diverting waste also avoids costs. Recycling and organics recycling isn't subject to the state and county trash disposal taxes, which can be up to 70%! The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is avoiding about \$30,000 each year by preventing wasted food. Metro Transit, part of the Metropolitan Council, has right sized their dumpsters and hauling frequency so they're paying the same amount today as they were in 2019, even though hauling costs have increased, and their program has grown.

Annually, all agencies in the Enterprise are required to submit a sustainability action plan to the Office of Enterprise Sustainability (OES). In their plan, agencies are required to address the relevant agency actions detailed in this plan. By targeting the most effective strategies for the agency, we will continue to make progress toward achieving the solid waste diversion goal and reduce waste.

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The *2025-2030 Solid Waste Action Plan* establishes an aggressive yet achievable roadmap to guide the Enterprise in achieving the waste diversion goal and promote waste prevention and reduction efforts. Executive order (EO) 19-27 directs the Enterprise, defined as the 23 cabinet agencies and the Metropolitan Council, to achieve sustainability goals in six focus areas: energy, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, water, solid waste, procurement, and fleet. Specific to this plan, EO 19-27 directs the Enterprise to achieve a 75% combined recycling and composting rate, also called a diversion rate, by 2030. Since the executive order was signed in 2019, the Enterprise has implemented many initiatives to work toward the diversion goal; however, there is still progress to be made.

This plan summarizes waste generation and diversion data and provides guidance to state agencies for their internal planning. The enterprise-wide Solid Waste and Procurement Workgroup was instrumental in developing this plan and will continue to tailor the agency actions to meet state agencies' needs, respond to evolving technology, and adhere to federal, state, and local mandates.

This plan is a companion to other enterprise action plans, creating a coordinated pathway to achieve the sustainability goals.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

This plan applies to the Enterprise and its nearly 4,000 owned and leased buildings that cover roughly 35 million square feet from the City of Luverne to the Arrowhead Region and everything in between.

The Office of Enterprise Sustainability (OES) sits within the Department of Administration and assists the Enterprise in achieving the sustainability goals. OES does this by the following methods:

- Providing data reporting tools and annually publishing agency and enterprise data, trends, and progress toward the sustainability goals.
- Conducting enterprise-level planning and assisting with agency-level planning.
- Implementing projects and providing technical assistance to agencies.
- Championing sustainability by advocating for sustainability in funding discussions and sharing best practices.

EO 19-27 requires the Enterprise agencies to make progress toward the goals and participate in sustainability efforts by fulfilling the following responsibilities:

- Designating a sustainability coordinator.
- Participating in workgroups and sharing best practices.
- Creating and implementing an annual sustainability action plan.
- Reporting energy, water, solid waste, and fleet data.

This *2025-2030 Solid Waste Action Plan* describes 1) actions that OES will take to assist agencies and 2) the actions agencies should take to prevent and reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

SCOPE

This *2025-2030 Solid Waste Action Plan* describes how the Enterprise can reduce and divert municipal solid waste (MSW). As related to this plan, MSW means traditional recyclables, organics, and trash. It does not include specialty recyclable items like tires or medical waste, hazardous waste like chemicals or light bulbs, e-waste like computers or monitors, or construction and demolition waste like asphalt, concrete, or stone.

This plan centers on the solid waste hierarchy of preferred solid waste management practices. The hierarchy was established to, among other things, reduce the toxicity of waste, separate and recover materials and energy from waste, and reduce our dependence on waste disposal.

Figure 2. Solid Waste Management Hierarchy



DATA

In 2023, the Enterprise diverted 28% of waste to recycling and organics recycling. The Enterprise generated 31.7 million pounds of waste, or about 6.7 million pounds of recycling, 2.1 million pounds of organics recycling, and 23 million pounds of trash. Since 2017, the diversion rate has plateaued in the mid-twenties to low thirties while overall generation has decreased by about 8 million pounds, or 20%.

Refer to Appendix 1 for 2023 reported data and sustainability.mn.gov for current data.

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS

OES assists the entire Enterprise in achieving the sustainability goals by advocating for enterprise-wide needs and providing resources that can be used at different agencies, regardless of their mission, size, or types of buildings they occupy.

As part of the *2025-2030 Solid Waste Plan*, OES will prioritize the following actions.

- I. **Commit to staff and their development.**
 - a. Develop and distribute template messaging for solid waste prevention, reduction, and diversion.
 - b. Facilitate a solid waste lead training program with information and resources to help staff establish, enhance, and maintain a successful solid waste management program.
- II. **Assess Enterprise performance.**

- a. Report annual data.
 - b. Use data to identify trends, barriers, and opportunities.
- III. **Provide a solid waste technical assistance program.**
 - a. Support agencies with planning and executing waste audits, bin assessments, and bill reviews. Bins are the receptacles for trash, recyclables, organics recycling, or another waste streams throughout facilities.
 - b. Connect agencies with outside assistance resources, like grant opportunities and local resources available through counties or municipalities.
- IV. **Recognize achievements through the annual sustainability awards.** Annually, OES will solicit award nominations and facilitate the recommendation process through the Sustainability Steering Team.

Enterprise Data

OES publishes enterprise and agency-specific sustainability data annually at sustainability.mn.gov.

AGENCY ACTIONS

Different factors impact an agency's ability to influence waste generation and diversion. The primary drivers include if the building houses people, the number of staff per day reporting to the office, and if food is prepared onsite. This section describes the expectations for agencies depending on those factors. Some actions apply to all agencies, some only to large waste generators, and some to agencies that prepare and serve food.

Note: Actions in this plan **do not** supersede any state statute, executive order, or county or municipal ordinance. Please refer to any relevant authorities for your agency's locations.

ALL AGENCIES

All agencies in the Enterprise have a role in reducing waste generation and increasing diversion.

As part of the *2025-2030 Solid Waste Plan*, all agencies will prioritize the following actions.

- A. Maintain site and municipal solid waste generation data:** You can't manage what you don't measure. For all state-owned buildings that are 5,000 square feet or more, for leased buildings that are more than 10,000 square feet, or locations that contract for eight cubic yards or more of waste per week (e.g., a state park campground may not have buildings with more than 10,000 square feet, but generate more waste relative to building square footage relative to an office building):
 - i. Annually, update and/or confirm the site information is correct (e.g., square footage, events, occupancy).
 - ii. Confirm that abandoned sites are decommissioned (not deleted) and new sites are added.
 - iii. Report recycling, organic recycling, and trash generation data at least quarterly.
- B. Reduce paper consumption:** Implement the following printing best practices, as appropriate:
 - i. Educate staff to eliminate or reduce handouts and to only print in necessary quantities.
 - ii. Implement default printer settings, like double-sided and black and white printing.

- iii. Remove deskside printers and transition to multifunction devices with controlled release settings.
- iv. Use electronic signature software.
- v. Transition to digital alternatives.

C. Reduce waste: Implement the following waste reduction best practices, as appropriate:

- i. Install water bottle refilling stations to reduce single use water bottles.
- ii. Provide reusable dishes, flatware, and service ware for breakrooms and events.
- iii. Establish office supply reuse areas and educate buyers to shop them first.
- iv. Consider items offered through Surplus Services or other agencies when available.

Reduce Paper with e-Signatures

*Agencies are transitioning to electronic document signature software, eliminating paper copies for wet signature. Between 2017-2023, this software has saved agencies nearly **11 million sheets of paper**, which equates to roughly **4.4 million gallons of water**, **417,200 kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions**, and **29,000 pounds of waste**.*

D. Recycle: Recycle at least three materials at all locations where municipal solid waste is collected. (Mn. Stat. §115A.151, EO 19-27)

E. Divert organics: Implement organics recycling at sites where a commercial organics recycling facility is within 50 miles and where feasible. See Appendix 3 for a map of state buildings within 50 miles of a commercial organics recycling facility or contact OES. Organics recycling is feasible if all conditions are met:

- i. The facility's waste hauler offers organics service.
- ii. More than 25% percent of the waste stream could be diverted to organics recycling, as determined by a waste audit.
- iii. The majority of the waste at the site is not generated by short-term public visitors and/or contamination concerns can be addressed.

F. Implement bin best practices:

- i. Annually, review bins to ensure they are co-located; equipped with restrictive lids; consistently colored (e.g., black or grey for trash, blue for recycling, and green for organics recycling); labeled with standardized signage displaying images; and in visible, accessible locations.
- ii. Remedy/implement any necessary updates based on the bin review.
- iii. Annually, review signage and, if needed, update to ensure it is current.

Bin Best Practices

*In 2023, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) kicked off a waste standardization effort to standardized bin labels and ensure bins are co-located. At the same time, DMA launched a waste challenge that scored barrack dumpsters based on diversion rates. These efforts **increased diversion 11%** and noticeably lowered contamination.*

G. Make meetings more sustainable: Adopt and implement Sustainable Meeting Guidelines or Policy to prevent and reduce the use of single-use items (bowls, cups, flatware, plates, etc.), printed materials, and waste at meetings and events.

LARGE WASTE GENERATORS AT THEIR TARGETED LOCATIONS

Eight agencies are considered a Large Waste Generator. Individually, they generate the most waste across the Enterprise, and combined, generated 97% of the Enterprise's waste in 2023. These agencies are the Metropolitan Council (MetC) and Departments of Administration (ADM), Corrections (DOC), Human Services (DHS), Military Affairs (DMA), Natural Resources (DNR), Transportation (DOT), and Veterans Affairs (MDVA). Refer to Appendix 1 to see the distribution of waste generation. Note: these data are from before the creation of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the separation of Direct Care and Treatment from DHS. The solid waste shown for DHS can be primarily attributed to DCT's operations.

Appendix 2 lists the Targeted Locations, which are all Large Waste Generators' locations that generate more than 0.5% of the Enterprise's total waste per year and have a diversion rate less than 60%. For these targeted locations, Large Waste Generators will prioritize the following actions.

- H. Identify and train solid waste leads:** Solid waste leads ensure agencies are properly managing municipal solid waste and working toward improved outcomes. Solid waste leads should attend the one-time solid waste training program offered by OES and the periodic refresher course(s) to stay updated on solid waste best practices. Agencies have the discretion to implement the solid waste lead position as appropriate, but responsibilities should be identified in position description(s). Options for solid waste lead staff are:
- One solid waste lead for each Targeted Location (Appendix 2), or
 - A dedicated staff position or positions, or percentage of work assignment in staff position description(s), to implement the actions in this plan at a scale appropriate to the agency (e.g., site-specific, region-specific, or at a program-level).
- I. Develop a solid waste program inventory:** For each Targeted Location (Appendix 2):
- Document the current waste stream(s) being diverted and the current diversion rate.
 - Document the waste hauler(s), dumpster(s)/compactor(s) volume, and hauling frequency.
 - Identify the date when the hauling contract is due for renewal and potential improvements to the contract.
 - Develop and document a waste program evaluation schedule that details:
 - The year the bin inventory will be (or was) conducted.
 - The year the solid waste audit(s) will be (or was) conducted.
 - A timeline for implementing the recommendations from the bin inventory and waste audit.
- J. Understand waste:** Conduct a minimum of one bin inventory and one waste audit each year at a Targeted Location (Appendix 2). The bin inventories should be done at the same locations as the waste audit.

Waste Audits

*In 2024, DNR conducted **three waste audits and nine bin inventories** at state parks and campgrounds and found a **15%** average diversion rate, a **65%** potential diversion rate, and a **57%** contamination rate. To increase diversion and reduce contamination, DNR can pair trash and recycling bins, keep bins consistently colored (e.g., recycling bins are blue and trash bins are black), and put up-to-date labels on all bins so people know what's recyclable and what's trash.*

- i. Conduct a minimum of one bin inventory each year. Document the locations of all bins and note the quantity, waste stream (e.g., recycling, organics recycling, trash), and sizes of all indoor and outdoor bins.
- ii. Conduct a minimum of one waste audit each year using resources like OES's solid waste technical assistance program, OES's waste audit kit, the state contract for professional/technical services for waste technical assistance (PT Contract T Number: 21BMR), the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP), or conduct it internally.
- iii. Conduct a right sizing exercise. Use the OES template if appropriate.
- iv. Use the results from the inventories and audits to implement best practices to increase diversion and reduce contamination.

AGENCIES THAT PREPARE AND SERVE FOOD ONSITE

State agencies that prepare and serve food are uniquely positioned to properly manage this waste stream. Examples of food preparation and service include agency owned and managed kitchens that serve food, cafeterias leased by a third party in a building at which the agency has custodial control, or the agency has a whole lease.

As part of this plan, all agencies where food is prepared or served will prioritize the following actions.

- K. **Prevent and reduce wasted food:** Evaluate and implement method(s) to reduce the amount of edible food disposed of, whether that's in the trash or organics recycling. These methods may include prevention strategies like ordering a more accurate amount of food, and reduction strategies like working with a food rescue organization to redistribute edible food or institutional strategies like including wasted food prevention requirements in lease contracts.
- L. **Feed animals:** Evaluate whether a food-to-animals program is feasible based on the organic material stream, proximity to a participating farm, and cost feasibility.

Prevent Wasted Food

*MDVA used grant funding to implement a process that allows Residents in the Veterans Homes to order meals in real time. This replaced the old, inflexible system of ordering meals weeks in advance, which led to wasted food as appetites and nutrition plans changed. Annually, the new system is preventing over **14,000 pounds of food waste** and **avoiding about \$30,000 in costs** and **26 tons of greenhouse gas emissions**.*

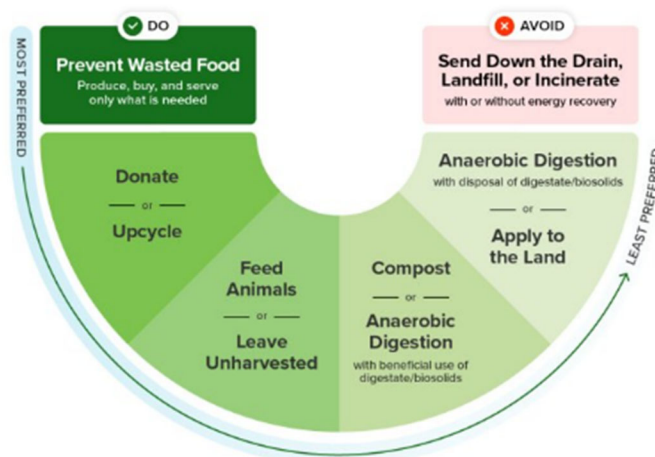


Figure 3. Wasted Food Scale

Edible food makes up about 12% of Minnesota's trash. Growing, harvesting, transporting, processing, packaging, storing, and disposing of that food uses resources like land, water, fuel, refrigerants, and plastics. These processes contribute to air pollution, water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions, which is why it's important follow the EPA's Wasted Food scale to best preserve and use our resources.

IMPLEMENTATION

Many of the actions in this plan have been included in prior enterprise action plans, so some should already be implemented (ongoing actions). Other actions may be implemented at different times. Agencies can implement the actions sooner than in the below table, but they must be implemented by the end of the calendar year indicated.

Table 1 – Agency Action Recommended Implementation Schedule

Strategy	Ongoing	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
All Agencies						
Maintain site and solid waste data						
Reduce paper consumption						
Reduce waste						
Recycle						
Divert organics						
Implement bin best practices						
Make meetings more sustainable						
Large Generators						
Train solid waste leads						
Develop a solid waste program inventory						
Understand waste						
Agencies that prepare and serve food onsite						
Prevent and reduce wasted food						
Feed animals						

 = year action should be implemented

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Success stories related to a few agency actions are highlighted throughout this plan. Additional case studies are available at sustainability.mn.gov.

OPPORTUNITIES

Greater Minnesota recycling and organics infrastructure

Recycling and organics recycling are widely available in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area but are less so in Greater Minnesota. Even when available, recycling facilities in Greater Minnesota may accept fewer items. State facilities in Greater Minnesota may have challenges finding and contracting with haulers that offer recycling and organics recycling services. Recently, state agencies have begun collaborating to create viable routes for area haulers and increase access for Greater Minnesota recycling and organics recycling opportunities.

Measuring waste prevention and reuse

The easiest way to manage waste is to not produce it in the first place. Waste reduction and reuse are the most preferred methods on the solid waste management hierarchy and prevents waste that needs disposal (landfilling, incineration, or recycling). When we reduce waste by changing processes like transitioning to digital alternatives or reusing water bottles, we sometimes reduce the amount of recycling and organics recycling, which can lower our diversion rate. The Enterprise goal is only to increase diversion, so we need to better understand how to measure waste avoided and how to apply this to our goal.

Accurate data

Accurate data is crucial to track program successes and understand opportunities for improvement. Not all haulers have the technology to collect the exact weight of a dumpster when it's collected. Widely used solid waste volume-to-weight conversions published by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) are generalized to the whole country so they're not always accurate to the waste we generate across the Enterprise. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has updated select materials for more accurate volume-to-weight estimates, but it will still vary by building and week, depending on waste being brought into the building.

Public waste

There are some State locations where most of the waste is generated by the public, not the employees. The locations include DNR campgrounds, parks, and visitor centers or DOT rest areas and truck stops, and the Metro Transit's transit platforms. Public waste is harder to control and there are fewer educational opportunities to promote proper diversion. However, these locations may continue to increase diversion and reduce contamination through bin best practices and education campaigns.

RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Department of Administration's Surplus Services

Surplus Services assists with the redistribution, reuse, and disposal of state surplus property. Surplus Services also operates the state auction program that sells surplus property to the public via auctions.

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP)

[MnTAP](#) is an outreach program at the University of Minnesota that offers free and confidential solutions to prevent pollution and reduce and divert waste. MnTAP also manages the [Minnesota Materials Exchange](#) that connects organizations with reusable items to those who can use them.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area County programs

The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area's seven counties provide a range of free resources for commercial and state reduction and diversion programs, including bin labels and technical assistance. Occasionally, the county will offer grant and/or technical assistance to state agencies.

- [Anoka](#)
- [Carver](#)
- [Dakota](#)
- [Hennepin](#)
- [Ramsey/Washington's BizRecycling Program](#)
- [Scott](#)

Minnesota Composting Council (MNCC)

[MNCC](#) is dedicated to the development, expansion, and promotion of the composting industry based on sound science, sustainability principles, and economic viability. MNCC and stakeholders developed the [Organics Recycling Outreach Guide](#) to create common terminology and understanding of organics recycling in Minnesota.

Minnesota GreenCorps Program

The Minnesota GreenCorps program aims to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals. The program is coordinated by the MPCA and every year it places AmeriCorps members with host site organizations around the state to help communities increase resilience to climate change by, among other things, reducing solid waste and increasing recycling.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Technical Assistance

Staff in the Resource Management and Assistance Division are available to provide technical assistance for waste diversion and sustainable procurement.

Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM)

RAM provides leadership, advocacy, and education to encourage the responsible use of resources through recycling and supporting modes of waste reduction and they maintain a list of resources on their website: recycleminnesota.org/resources/recycling/.

Recycling Education Committee (REC)

[REC](#)'s goal is to increase recycling and reduce recycling contamination by building consensus around recycling education and communication. REC developed the [Recycling Outreach Guide for Minnesota](#) to create common terminology and understanding of what's recyclable in Minnesota's recycling facilities.

Reuse Minnesota

[Reuse Minnesota](#) promotes the principles of reuse, which extends the life of resources and decreases the demand for new production.

Sustainability.mn.gov

OES's website, www.sustainability.mn.gov, shows current sustainability data, case studies, and methodology.

Waste Wise

[Waste Wise](#) is a program funded by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and can provide technical assistance to landlords of agencies at leased buildings, including site visit consultations, bill analysis, grant assistance, employee training, and waste sorts.

AUTHORITIES

Below are applicable Minnesota state laws, rule, statutes, executive orders, or other authorities related to solid waste generation and diversion.

Climate Action Framework

Developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Climate Action Framework provides an approach for Minnesota to address and prepare for climate change by strengthening the economy, improving health, and creating a more equitable Minnesota.

Executive Order 19-27 Directing State Government to Conserve Energy and Water, and Reduce Waste to Save Money

Establishes the framework for the Office of Enterprise Sustainability, including the Sustainability Steering Team and sustainability goals. It also directs cabinet agencies to be involved in making progress toward the sustainability goals.

Mn. Stat. §16B.2975 Surplus Property Acquisition, Distribution, and Disposal

Establishes the surplus services program and outlines the Department of Administration's methods of disposing of surplus property.

Mn State Stat §16B.372 Environmental Sustainability Government Operations; Office Created

Establishes the Office of Enterprise Sustainability to assist agencies in making measurable progress toward improving the sustainability of government operations. Directs OES to manage sustainability reporting and metrics, assist agencies in developing and implementing sustainability plans, and requires agencies to participate.

Mn. Stat. §115A.02 Legislative Declaration of Policy; Purposes

Establishes the waste hierarchy criteria for managing solid waste in order of preference: waste reduction and reuse, recycling, composting, resource recovery, landfilling with gas recovery, and landfilling. It also establishes a food waste reduction hierarchy of reducing the amount generated at the source: upcycling or donating food, diverting food to animals, composting or anaerobic digestion with

biogas and digestate recovery, and composting or anaerobic digestion without biogas and digestate recovery.

Mn. Stat. §115A.15 State Government Resource Recovery

Requires agencies to achieve a 60% recycling rate in Greater Minnesota or 75% for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. It also establishes the requirement to include recycled content in the procurement process and allows the Department of Administration to compel compliance with solid waste programs.

Mn. Stat. §115A.551 Recycling

Sets a diversion goal of 75% for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and 35% for counties outside of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area by 2030 and for counties to include a recycling implementation strategy in their solid waste management plan.

Mn. Stat. §115A.151 Recycling Requirements; Public Entities; Commercial Buildings; Sports Facilities

Requires public entities to recycle at least three recyclable materials.

DEFINITIONS

Bin: A receptacle for trash, recyclables, organics recycling, or another waste stream. Bins are typically smaller in volume and portable, compared to dumpsters or compactors.

Composting: The controlled microbial degradation of organic waste to yield a humus-like product. (Minn. R. 7035.0300, subp. 20)

Diversion: The process of redirecting waste from landfills or incinerators. For the purposes of this plan, a diversion rate is the combined recycling and organics recycling generation amount divided by total waste generated.

Large waste generator: Based on 2023 data, the eight large waste generators are the Metropolitan Council, Departments of Administration, Corrections, Human Services, Military Affairs, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

Municipal solid waste (MSW or waste): Mixed municipal solid waste (MMSW) and materials banned from MMSW such as yard waste and specific problem materials, recyclable materials, and other solid waste that is generated by residential, commercial, industrial, and community activities. For the purposes of this plan, MSW includes waste generated by the staff and the public. (Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042, January 2024)

Mixed municipal solid waste: Garbage, refuse, and other solid waste from residential, commercial, industrial, and community activities that the generator of the waste aggregates for collection, except 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. (MN Stat 115A.03)

Non-municipal solid waste (non-MMSW): Solid waste resulting from construction, demolition, or industrial activities which is not mixed municipal solid waste. (Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042, January 2024)

Organics: A waste stream that typically includes food waste, non-recyclable paper products, yard waste, and other materials that readily degrade. According to EPA, “Organic matter in landfills breaks down and releases methane, a potent GHG, and contributes to landfill leachate that can pollute waterways.” (Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042, January 2024)

Organics recycling: Diverting organics from landfill or incineration.

Recycling: The process of collecting and preparing recyclable materials and reusing the materials in their original form or using them in manufacturing processes that do not cause the destruction of recyclable materials in a manner that precludes further use. (Minn. Stat. § 115A.03, subd. 25b)

Solid waste: Garbage, refuse, or sludge from a water supply treatment plant or air contaminants treatment facilities, and other discarded waste materials and sludges, in solid, semisolid, liquid, or contained gaseous form, resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities, but does not include hazardous waste; animal waste used as fertilizer; earthen fill, boulders, rock; sewage sludge; solid or dissolved materials in domestic sewage or other common pollutants in water sources, such as silt, dissolved or suspended solids in industrial wastewater effluents or discharges which are point sources subject to permits under section 402 of the federal Water Pollution Control Act; as amended, dissolved materials in irrigation return flows; or source, special nuclear, or by-product materials as defined by The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. (Minn. Stat. § 116.06, subd. 22)

State Enterprise or the Enterprise: The 23 agencies represented in the Governor’s cabinet and the Metropolitan Council.

Sustainability: Meeting the economic, social, and environmental needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same needs

Sustainability Steering Team: Sets priorities for OES by approving changes to the sustainability goals and plans to achieve the goals and reviewing progress of the Enterprise and individual Cabinet Agencies. The team is chaired by the Lieutenant Governor with eight commissioners as members. (EO 19-27)

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area: The area over which the Metropolitan Council has jurisdiction, including only the counties of Anoka; Carver; Dakota excluding the city of Northfield; Hennepin excluding the cities of Hanover and Rockford; Ramsey; Scott excluding the city of New Prague; and Washington. (Minn. Stat. § 473.121, subd. 2)

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. (Minn. Stat. § 115A.03, subd. 25a). For the purposes of this plan, recyclable materials are plastic containers #1, #2, and #5 in most locations; aluminum and steel cans and materials; food and beverage glass containers; paper, cardboard, and paper board; paper cartons in select areas of the state.

Waste audit: Process to collect data on the types and quantities of waste generated by evaluating a representative sample of waste generated at a location. For the purposes of this plan, an audit of one day's waste at a location is generally sufficient.

Yard waste: Garden wastes, leaves, lawn cuttings, weeds, shrub, and tree waste, and prunings. (Minn. Stat. § 115A.03, subd. 38)

APPENDIX 1 - DATA TRENDS

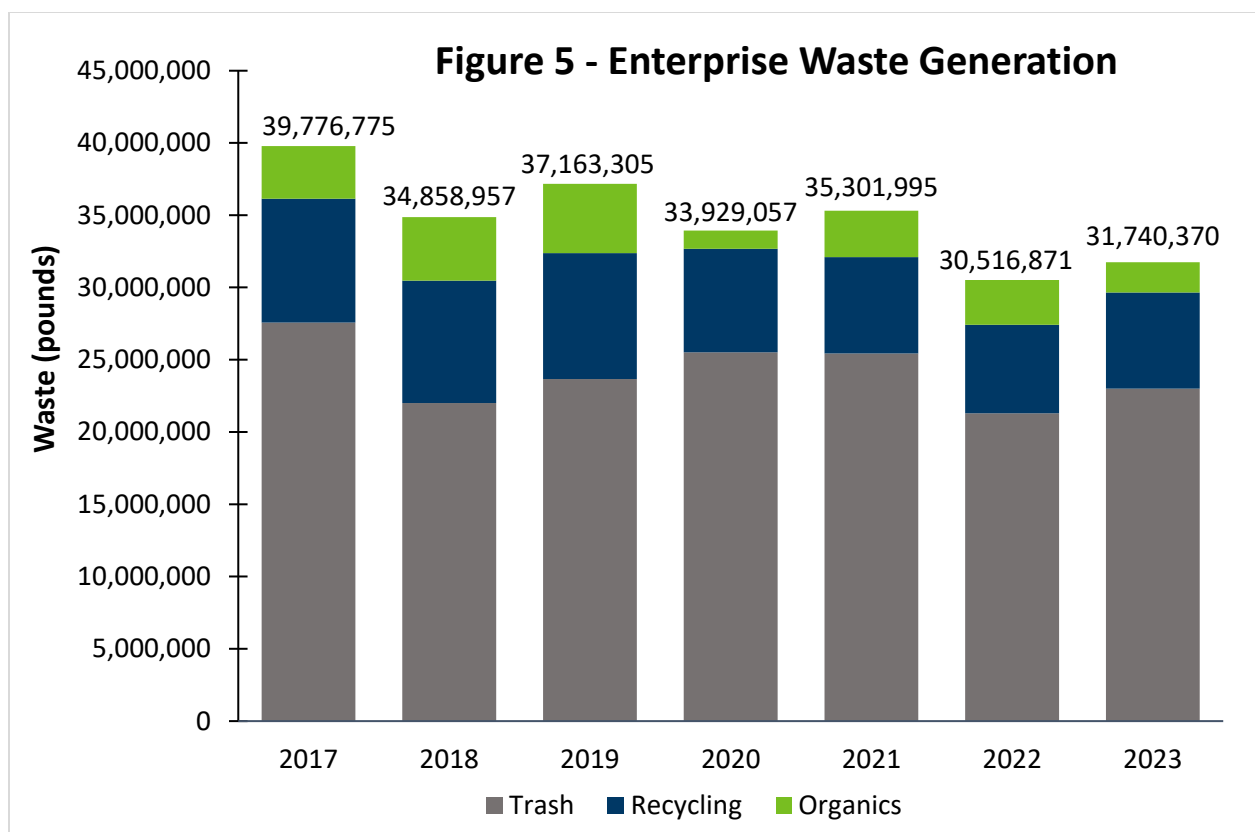
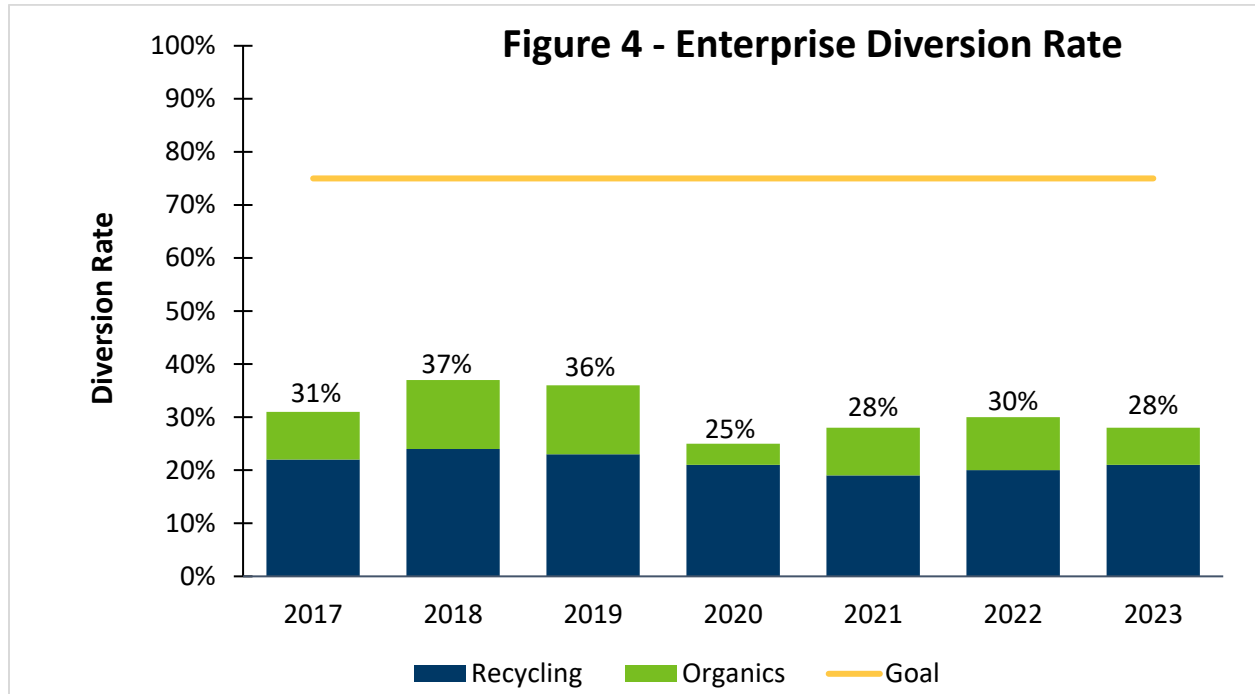
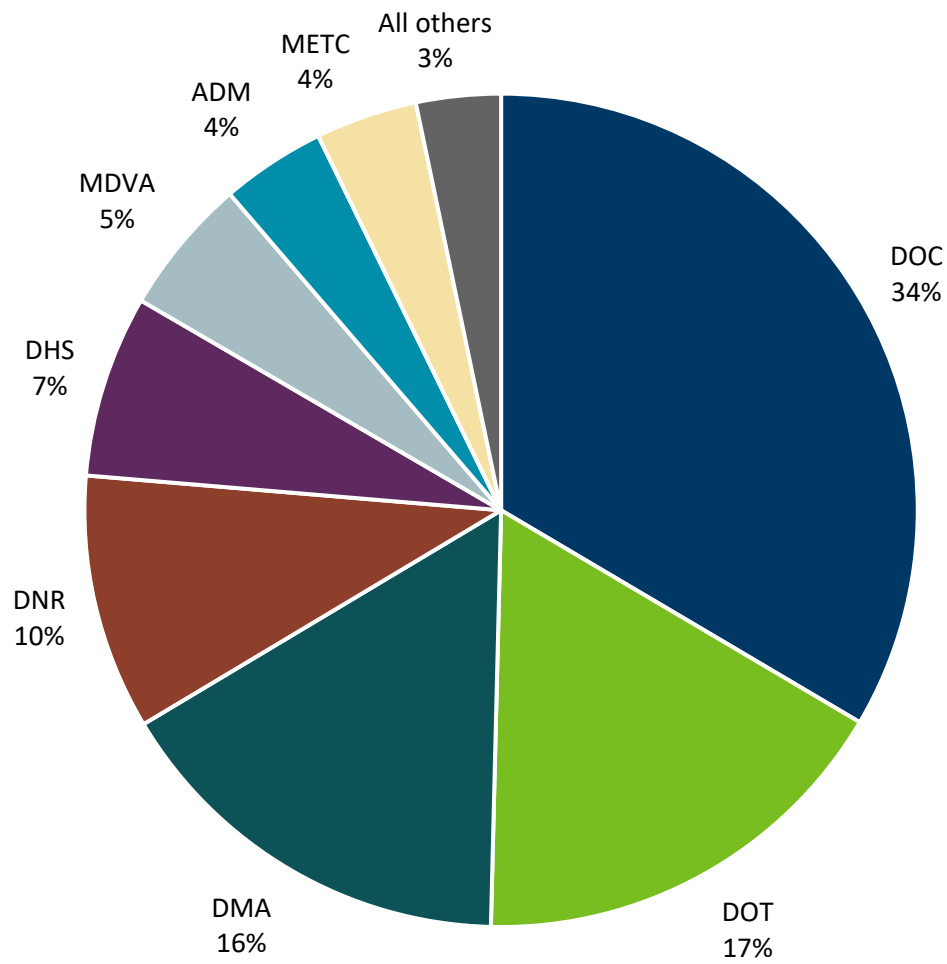


Figure 6 - Percent of Total Waste By Agency (2023)



APPENDIX 2 TARGETED FACILITIES

Agency	Facility Name	Recycling (lbs)	Organics (lbs)	Trash (lbs)	Total waste (lbs)	Diversion (%)
DOC	MCF - Faribault	465,243	304,000	2,236,000	3,005,243	26%
DMA	CRTC	706,600	25,000	931,760	1,663,360	44%
DOC	MCF - Stillwater	420,819		1,053,104	1,473,923	29%
DOC	MCF - St. Cloud	50,786	458,130	674,480	1,183,396	43%
DOC	MCF - Rush City	119,704		1,047,316	1,167,020	10%
DOC	MCF - Lino Lakes	123,849	355,130	563,696	1,042,675	46%
DNR	Itasca State Park	97,786	0	912,450	1,010,236	10%
ADM	Capitol Complex	370,980	101,968	533,093	1,006,041	47%
DOC	MCF - Moose Lake	64,948		938,153	1,003,101	6%
MDVA	Minneapolis Veterans Home	143,928	38,496	620,884	803,308	23%
DHS	DHS - ST. PETER	195,438		557,981	753,419	26%
DNR	St. Croix State Park	36,140	0	672,000	708,140	5%
DOC	MCF - Oak Park Heights	172,662	147,815	282,100	602,577	53%
DOC	MCF - Redwing	105,850		476,660	582,510	18%
DMA	AHATS Campus	282,260	5,640	250,600	538,500	53%
METC	Transfer Road	39,416	3,218	408,940	451,574	9%
DHS	DHS - Moose Lake	93,794	26,820	309,710	430,324	28%
DNR	William O' Brien State Park	80,064	0	282,800	362,864	22%
DHS	DHS - ANOKA	74,739	20,250	230,480	325,469	29%
MDVA	Hastings Veterans Home	104,004	14,028	169,524	287,556	41%
DNR	Tettegouche State Park	51,233	0	228,993	280,226	18%
DOT	D1A, HEADQUARTERS, DULUTH	15,483		212,100	227,583	7%
DOT	D7E, HEADQUARTERS, MANKATO	57,824		145,600	203,424	28%
METC	Minneapolis Campus	37,862	6,990	156,600	201,452	22%
DNR	Gooseberry State Park	53,880	0	138,600	192,480	28%
METC	Overhaul Base	95,849	0	85,420	181,269	53%
MDVA	Luverne Veterans Home	26,766	987	152,484	180,237	15%
MDVA	Fergus Falls Veterans Home	43,824		133,640	177,464	25%
DOT	D5E, HEADQUARTERS, OAKDALE	11,400		161,392	172,792	7%
MDVA	Silver Bay Veterans Home	43,340	0	129,381	172,721	25%
DOT	D6A, MAINT OPS, ROCHESTER	94,765		74,880	169,645	56%

The targeted facilities list is subject to change as new or updated data is available

APPENDIX 3 ORGANICS FACILITIES

