



# 2018

## SOLID WASTE PROGRESS REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

This 2018 Solid Waste Progress Report provides an overview of Dakota County (County) projects and programs developed and continued throughout the year to meet the goals of the [Dakota County Solid Waste Master Plan](#) 2012 – 2030 (Master Plan). The Master Plan, adopted by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners in March 2012, provides a framework for the County, residents, businesses, municipalities and others to properly manage solid waste. Strategies focus on reducing land disposal through waste reduction and reuse, recycling, organics recycling, and resource recovery (i.e., waste-to-energy). The Master Plan was developed in accordance with [MN Stat. §§ 473.803](#) and [115A](#), which govern waste management in Minnesota.

In April 2017 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) approved the 2016 – 2036 [Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan](#) (Policy Plan), which sets waste management objectives for counties located in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area<sup>1</sup> and establishes a framework for meeting the statutory goal to recycle 75 percent by 2030 ([Minn. Stat. § 115A.551](#)). The Policy Plan objectives are meant to make the most of the upper end of the waste hierarchy.

**Table 1. TCMA Policy Plan Objectives for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management System (2016 – 2036)**

MSW Management Method	2015 TCMA System	2020	2025	2030	2036
<b>Source Reduction &amp; Reuse</b>		1.5 %	3 %	4 %	5 %
<b>Total Recycling</b> <i>(Recycling + Organics Recovery)</i>	49 percent	63 %	68 %	75 %	75 %
<b>Resource Recovery</b>	28 percent	35 %	31 %	24 %	24 %
<b>Maximum Landfill</b>	23 percent	2 %	1 %	1 %	1 %

The Waste Management Hierarchy outlines how the State’s would like to deal with waste ([Minn. Stat. § 115A.02](#)) in order of importance:

1. Waste reduction and reuse
2. Waste recycling
3. Composting of source-separated compostable materials, including but not limited to, yard waste and food waste
4. Resource recovery through mixed municipal solid waste composting or incineration
5. Land disposal which produces no measurable methane gas or which involves the retrieval of methane gas as a fuel for the production of energy to be used on site or for sale
6. Lastly, land disposal without the ability to capture methane for energy production either on site or for sale



# POLICY PLAN PROGRESS SUMMARY

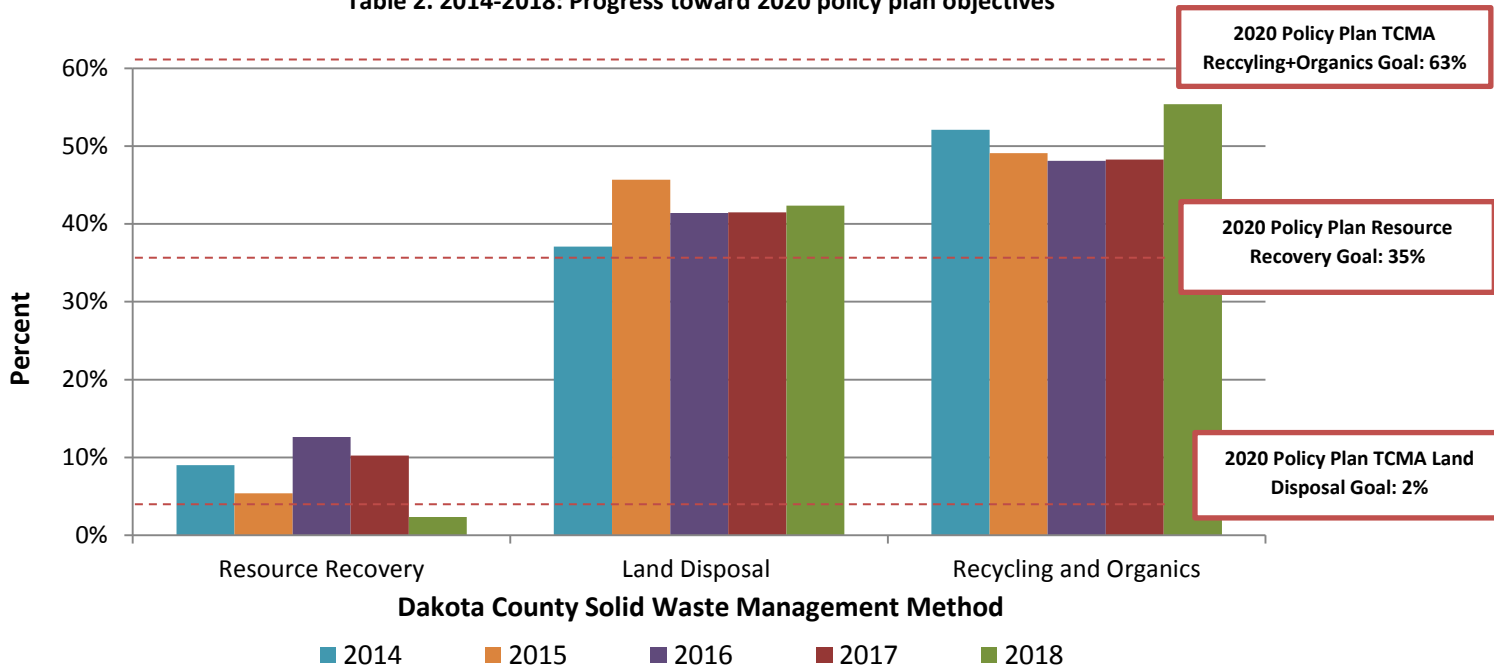
**Progress Summary.** To manage our resources in an effective and environmentally-sound manner, Dakota County prioritizes managing municipal solid waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy; County programs and initiatives are designed to reflect this. Keep in mind that many programs are new or continuously adjusted to meet the needs of our community, with some of the benefits not yet realized.

## Progress Toward Policy Plan 2020 Objectives

In 2018, the County diverted 57 percent of materials from entering a municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill. Total waste generation in Dakota County decreased just over 1 percent in 2018.

## Progress-At-A-Glance

Table 2. 2014-2018: Progress toward 2020 policy plan objectives



Progress Toward 2020 Policy Plan Objectives		Good Progress	Moderate Progress	Slow Progress
TONS	Waste Reduction (cumulative)		●	
	Recycling and Organics Recovery	●		
	Resource Recovery			●
	Maximum Land Disposal			●

## WASTE REDUCTION AND REUSE

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The Policy Plan objective for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA) counties is to reduce waste 1.5 percent by 2020; however, the MPCA has not defined actual reduction and reuse measures for reporting purposes. As a measure of waste reduction, Dakota County measures waste per capita growth compared to population. Overall waste generation in 2018 was 462,731 tons, down from 468,342 tons in 2017. **MSW managed, per capita, decreased from 1.11 tons in 2017 to 1.09 tons in 2018.** The County continued to support local waste reduction efforts through the reuse area at [The Recycling Zone](#), increased participation in Fix-It Clinics and increased promotions of reuse outlets in the community.

Moderate  
Progress

## RECYCLING (TRADITIONAL MATERIALS AND ORGANICS RECOVERY)

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The County is not meeting the 2020 Policy Plan objective to recover 63 percent of waste generated by 2020 through recycling and organics recovery. **In 2018, 255,939 tons of MSW were recovered for a 55 percent recycling rate.** Of that, 111,594 tons were organics, a 15 percent increase over the previous year. The remaining 144,345 tons included recyclable materials like paper, cardboard, metals, glass, plastics, and other household items. The overall amount recycled in 2018 (including both traditional recyclable materials and organics), by weight, increased just over 13 percent from 2017. The County continued to support local recycling efforts through ongoing programs with cities and townships and through recycling initiatives at The Recycling Zone, community events, parks, County office buildings, businesses, rural farms, multifamily dwellings and schools.

Good  
Progress

## RESOURCE RECOVERY

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The County contributed minimally towards achieving the 2020 Policy Plan objective for TCMA counties to convert 35 percent of MSW for resource recovery. In **2018, 10,782 tons of MSW were converted into energy at a resource recovery facility for a two percent resource recovery rate.** The actual amount of MSW processed at a resource recovery facility decreased by 42,751 tons (80 percent) from 2017 to 2018, primarily because of changes made at the Recycling & Energy Center (REC) in Newport. The REC did not accept residential or commercial MSW in 2018 from generators located outside of Ramsey or Washington counties. As a result, 88% less MSW was processed at REC compared to the previous year. Dakota County public entity waste was accepted at the REC in 2018, at \$94 per ton, resulting in 6,604 tons of MSW delivered to the facility. Other resource recovery facilities accepting waste generated in Dakota County included the Hennepin Energy & Recovery Center (HERC) (3,639 tons), the Red Wing Solid Waste Campus (1,670 tons) and the Elk River Resource Processing Plant (331 tons). Due to non-processible materials delivered to these facilities, 1,461 tons of MSW was diverted to local landfills.

Slow  
Progress

## MAXIMUM LAND DISPOSAL

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The County contributed minimally towards achieving the 2020 Policy Plan objective for TCMA counties to landfill a maximum of two percent of MSW by 2020. In 2018, 196,009 tons of MSW generated in the County was landfilled, or 42 percent of total waste generation, up from 194,226 tons landfilled in 2017. **The overall amount of waste landfilled increased by less than 1 percent between 2017 and 2018.** The County's land disposal rate is affected by the success of reduction,

Slow  
Progress

reuse, recycling, organics recovery and resource recovery efforts. However, as identified in the Master Plan, the County anticipates continued challenges in diverting waste from landfills. Without changes in the TCMA waste system, and given that two MSW landfills that serve the TCMA are located within Dakota County, the County will continue to face substantial barriers.

## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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The Policy Plan does not establish objectives for outreach and education, but strategies were included in the Master Plan to address public education requirements in State law ([MN Stat. §§ 115A.552](#) and [115A.96](#)). In 2018, outreach and education efforts continued to play an essential supportive role in programs and were a primary tool used by the County to influence how waste was managed. The County continued to work cooperatively with cities and partners on a large number of outreach strategies to shift more waste up the waste hierarchy. To encourage proper recycling and disposal, the County mailed a 16-page “Recycling At Home” mailer to all Dakota County households containing information on waste reduction, recycling, bulky waste disposal, organics recycling and other abatement programs offered by the County. In addition, the County’s online recycling directory, the “Green Guide” was updated allowing residents to find out how and where to properly reuse, recycle or compost their materials. The Green Guide saw 44,168 user sessions in 2018 with 23,748 first-time users.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND PROBLEM MATERIALS

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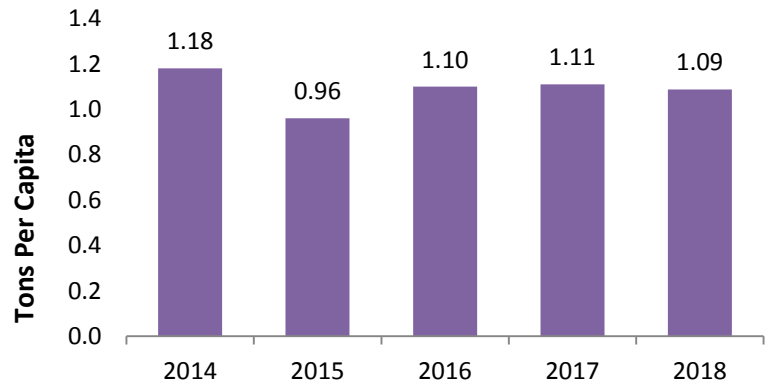
The Policy Plan does not include numeric objectives for household hazardous waste (HHW) and problem materials. However, the County included strategies in the Master Plan to support Policy Plan goals to protect the environment and public health and to address State law requirements ([MN Stat. § 115A.96](#)) for the County to implement a HHW management plan. The County continues to provide a HHW program at The Recycling Zone. In 2018, participation in HHW programs decreased 16 percent from 2017. The amount of usable products recovered from the reuse room at The Recycling Zone decreased six percent compared to the previous year.

## WASTE REDUCTION AND REUSE

Waste reduction and reuse efforts are difficult to quantify. Measuring changes in the total amount of MSW managed is not sufficient in tracking progress for source reduction efforts because it does not take into account increases in the County's population or trends in how much money American households spend on goods and services. Therefore, the County measures source reduction as waste per capita. In 2018, the amount of MSW managed per capita had a two percent decrease from 1.11 tons in 2017 to 1.09 tons in 2018, matching the County's five-year average of 1.09 tons.

**Summary of Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategies:** Over the course of 2018, waste reduction and reuse initiatives continued at The Recycling Zone, at monthly Fix-It Clinics, through education and outreach and the wasted food prevention campaign. New initiatives included an end-of-school "green-out," external container reuse, and a new policy for environmentally-preferable practices.

Table 3. Dakota County MSW Management per Person



### INCREASE REUSE OPPORTUNITIES

Master Plan Strategy: Increase reuse opportunities at The Recycling Zone or other public locations.

#### **Recycling Zone Reuse**

The Recycling Zone has a reuse area where residents can drop off and pick up paints and other household products for free. Over 368,000 pounds of latex paint, oil-based paint, and other chemicals were taken from The Recycling Zone's reuse area shelves in 2018. This saved Dakota County \$297,148 in avoided disposal costs.

#### **County Office Reuse**

Dakota County leveraged other public entity connections to use existing resources. Trash containers that were no longer being used in County facilities were given to schools and the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's office in Rosemount.



Reusing existing outdoor containers at County buildings.

Recycling opportunities were enhanced at each County government building. In doing so, 24 aggregate containers were reused at various facilities throughout the County. These containers were retrofitted to include best practices of color-coded lids, descriptive signs and restrictive openings. Through the Public Surplus website, the County sold items to 130 bidders including recycling/trash bins, chairs, file cabinets, bookshelves, hardware, desks, electronics and other surplus items that were no longer being used for County purposes. Over \$2,700 in proceeds were received by the County through these sales. In addition, the County recycled 20,047 pounds of electronics and donated 3,149 pounds of

miscellaneous electronics, including 70 computers and 20 printers, to PCs for People.



*Fixers working on vacuum at a Fix-It Clinic.*

### ***Fix-It Clinics***

Dakota County sponsored twelve Fix-It Clinics in 2018. At clinics, residents brought clothes, small electronics, and other household items that needed repair and received free guided assistance from skilled volunteers. Clinics build community connections and reduce the number of repairable objects that are thrown in the trash.

More than 475 residents participated in one of the twelve clinics held by the County in 2018. Nearly 850 items were fixed on location or residents were shown how to fix them at home. The 86 percent repair rate kept nearly 4,000 pounds of household goods from being tossed in the trash.

### ***End-of-School Green Out***

In a rush to leave school, students and staff end up throwing away materials that could be reused or recycled. To improve reuse behaviors, Pine Bend Elementary in Inver Grove Heights partnered with Dakota County for an end-of-school “Green Out.” School staff, the student Green Team and adult volunteers helped students sort unwanted materials from desks and lockers into separate bins for reuse, recycling or trash. Participating classes collected nearly 700 pounds of material with 25 percent saved for later use, 72 percent recycled, and only three percent thrown away. Reusable materials were provided to summer and after-school programs and will be used next year by teachers and for students in need.



*Green Team students weigh reusable materials collected.*

## **EXPAND PROMOTION OF REUSE OPPORTUNITIES**

Master Plan Strategy: Develop and provide an education and reuse outreach program.

### ***ReUse Guide***

Dakota County maintains a [ReUse Guide](#), which is available on Dakota County’s website for residents to download, print or access through an online map-based format. The Reuse Guide features local businesses and organizations that accept donations for reuse ranging from clothing and accessories to shoes, books, toys, bedding, furniture and other home goods. Many of the outlets have been added to the online directory, the [Green Guide](#), so residents can see a reuse option before they choose recycling or disposal.

### ***Reuse messaging in cities***

As part of the Community Funding Program, cities were asked to identify local reuse opportunities and events for residents. Each municipality compiled its own tailored list in 2018, and developed plans to promote these opportunities to residents in 2019. Dozens of resale and donation opportunities were identified, including



retail thrift stores and unique local options such as an antique mall in Hastings, an indoor toy sale in Inver Grove Heights, a store that sells used lawn and garden equipment in Rosemount, a party rental store in Rosemount, eyeglass collection centers in West St. Paul, and a costume donation opportunity in West St. Paul.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY-PREFERABLE PRACTICES

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Master Plan Strategies: Use environmentally-preferred practices (EPP) standards specification in County operations and encourage use by public entities and improve waste contracts to reduce waste and increase recycling in County operations.

The County's Procurement Policy includes provisions for buying environmentally-preferable products that go beyond state requirements, like requirements for acquiring products and services that result in:

- the reduction of waste,
- reduction of toxins and pollution,
- reuse,
- support strong recycling markets,
- reward manufacturer responsibility and
- reduce water and energy use.

A multi-department Green Initiative Team prioritizes products and services for EPP consideration. Standards for use of 100 percent recycled-content copy paper and compostable products in buildings that have organics recycling programs, and lists of environmentally-preferable office products are promoted.



*Dakota County given the Outstanding Case Study Award by the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council.*

Dakota County was honored with an Outstanding Case Study Award for innovative sustainable procurement practices at the annual Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council Summit in May 2018. The County's Case Study Award highlighted Financial Services and Environmental Resources Departments' sustainable purchasing program initiatives including: incorporating environmentally-preferable purchasing standards (i.e., reduce waste and toxicity, support the longevity of products and recycled markets) in County Procurement Policy 2740, implementing managed print services to reduce paper waste, and working with suppliers to provide cost-effective, environmentally-preferable alternatives. The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support and recognize purchasing leadership that accelerates the transition to a sustainable future.

## PREVENTING WASTED FOOD

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Master Plan Strategy: Expand reduction and reuse efforts in the Community.

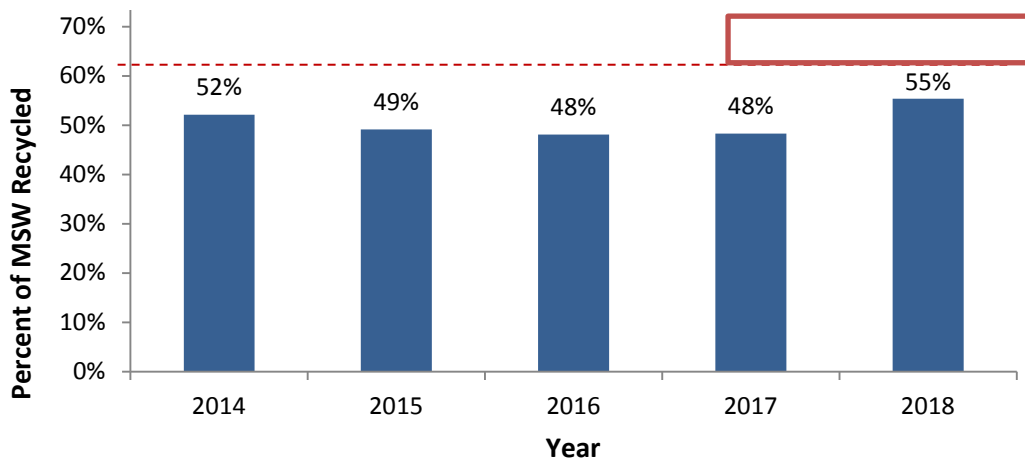
In 2018, Dakota County continued the Food Waste Prevention initiative with the goal to reduce wasted food in households. Print and digital ads were seen in several targeted communities. Residents were also able to learn about wasted food and resources at booths and presentations.

## RECYCLING

In 2018, a combined total (traditional recyclables plus organics recovery) of 256,195 tons of MSW was recycled for a 55 percent recycling rate in Dakota County. By weight, the overall amount recycled increased by 13 percent from 2017. Compared to 2017, paper recycling increased by 16 percent (11,959 tons); metal recycling decreased by 29 percent (3,010 tons); glass recycling increased by 27 percent (3,241 tons); and plastics recycling increased by 131 percent (4,404 tons). Other recyclable materials, such as appliances, tires, carpet, electronics, clothing, mattresses/box springs and household batteries decreased by 15 percent (3,314 tons). The amount of hazardous waste that can be recycled (such as used motor oil/filters, antifreeze, vehicle batteries, fluorescent bulbs and latex paint) increased 57 percent, up 2,428 tons from the previous year.

Of the 111,851 tons of organics recovered in 2018, an increase of 15 percent (14,322 tons) over the previous year, 3,282 tons of food went to food donation programs to help people in need (61 percent decrease); 19,458 tons were made into animal feed (7 percent decrease); 9,853 tons were managed through commercial source-separated organics composting programs (179 percent increase); and 79,258 tons of yard waste was composted (22 percent increase).

**Table 4. Dakota County Combined Recycling Rate (Traditional Recycling plus Organics Recovery)**



**Summary of Recycling Strategies:** The County continued its work to increase recycling and organics recovery rates by partnering with cities, townships, businesses, schools, and community events. The County continued to offer recyclables collection at The Recycling zone, improved recycling in public spaces, and its internal recycling and organics programs throughout the County's office buildings and parks. In addition, the County provided opportunities for residents to recycle organics from home and while camping in County parks. Over 2,500 subscribers receive monthly residential, business, or school recycling e-news. These publications provide tips, tricks, and other resources to improve and promote recycling programs in Dakota County.

## RECYCLING AT THE RECYCLING ZONE

Master Plan Strategy: Ensure and provide opportunities to recycle.

In addition to being a place for residents to dispose of and reuse household hazardous waste, residents and businesses can also bring other recyclable materials to the Recycling Zone. In 2018, the Recycling Zone collected over 874 tons of paper, cardboard, scrap metal, and mixed containers for recycling.



Residents bring large amounts of recycling to The Recycling Zone.

## EXPANDED RECYCLING AT COUNTY FACILITIES



New recycling and trash bins in front of all libraries and service centers.

Master Plan Strategy: Collaborate to improve recycling at public properties.

Dakota County has policies in place requiring staff to shred documents that contain confidential information. The County requires the shredding vendor to shred material and deliver the shredded paper to a paper mill for recycling. This protects privacy, while still diverting waste. In 2018, Dakota County recycled 223,527 pounds of shredded paper from its internal operations.

New waste and recycling bins were placed near the entrance doors at all County libraries, in front of Western Service Center, and near a staff entrance door at the Administration Center. These new containers are color-coded, have front openings and a slanted roof to keep the elements out and high-visibility graphics identifying acceptable streams.

## COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM CONTINUES

Master Plan Strategy: Collaborate to improve recycling at public properties.

The Community Funding program provides funding to municipalities to advance Master Plan objectives through programs and practices designed to meet waste abatement goals. The program addresses County priorities identified in the Master Plan. In 2018, County staff continued to work with municipal staff to gather input on the program, both for potential improvements in 2019 and for longer-term adjustments to align the program with anticipated new Master Plan strategies. The 2017-2018 transition years placed the County and municipalities in a better position to make implementation decisions related to the new Master Plan in 2020 and beyond. A broad range of waste abatement initiatives carried out by municipal partners through the Community Funding program in 2018 are described in more detail below.

### *Recycling Education in Municipal Buildings*

Through the Dakota County Community Funding Program, all city employees were educated about recycling in municipal buildings, including organics recycling if collected. Each city was able to design its own methods of

education, such as signage, workshops and email communications. For example, a presentation was given at city halls in West St. Paul, South St. Paul and Mendota Heights to train employees on recycling and organics collection at each building. Inver Grove Heights distributed recycling guides to all staff, and posted the recycling guides on internal and external bulletin boards. Lakeville employees were invited to an information session, and Burnsville created an informational handout for maintenance staff dealing with particular types of waste disposal.

### ***Municipal Facilities Recycling***

The Community Funding Program continued to provide resources to local cities and townships for recycling improvements in their facilities. To maximize effectiveness, Dakota County created multiple Recycling Best Practices Guides for municipal buildings, arenas, indoor athletic facilities, community centers, parks and outdoor complexes. Cities can now refer to these guides as a quick reference for best practices implementation steps, key contacts, and pre-planning considerations.

Dakota County and municipalities continued to enhance recycling in public spaces and parks. A new online GIS tool created by Dakota County made it easy for city employees to view each municipality-owned facility on an interactive map by computer, phone or tablet and mark each park or municipal building using a simple drop-down checklist to verify best practices like container pairing, color-coding and labeling are being used. Not only is the new tool more efficient for reporting; it also generates reports using real-time aggregated data to help County staff plan recycling programs for the future.

In 2018, more than 130 new city park recycling containers were added in Burnsville alone. Well-known Burnsville parks such as Alimagnet, Crystal Beach, Lac Lavon, and Nicollet Commons are just a few of the popular sites that were updated to meet recycling best practices. Each park now has trash and recycling containers that are paired and color-coded with labels showing which items to recycle, such as plastic bottles, cans, cardboard, and paper. The containers have been strategically placed in high-traffic areas that are convenient for the public to use.

As another example, Inver Grove Heights took steps to make recycling improvements at their municipal golf course, Inver Wood, a popular local destination with high visibility and public use. City staff examined outdoor spaces such as the putting area and patio area, along with the Clubhouse main entrance and café, to pair well-labeled recycling bins with trash containers in centralized locations. The city also added roll-out recycling and trash bins for use at golf course events and for emptying golf carts at night to maximize their success.



*New labeled bins added to South St. Paul parks.*



*New recycling bins added to the Inver Grove Heights municipal golf course.*

## City-sponsored Collections

City-sponsored collection events provided opportunities for residents to drop off bulky or hard-to-dispose items. A total of 29 collection events held in 2018 diverted an estimated 717 tons of recyclable materials, including:

- 60 tons of paper to shred and recycle
- 89 tons of appliances recycled
- 41 tons of scrap metal recycled
- 20 tons of tires recycled
- 24 tons of pumpkins composted
- 30 tons of mattresses recycled
- 6 tons of bikes reused or recycled
- 5 tons of carpet recycled



*Cities were required to recycle mattresses if collected at city clean-up events.*



*Residents enjoy dropping off pumpkins.*

Several cities contracted with waste haulers to set up pumpkin drop-offs after Halloween, allowing Dakota County residents to convert their jack-o-lanterns into compost instead of sending large amounts of organic material to the landfill. South St. Paul staff and volunteers collected 6,705 pounds of pumpkins at the high school football practice field, and Rosemount collected 9,855 pounds of pumpkins at their public works facility. Dakota Valley Recycling gathered 35,280 pounds of pumpkins from residents at two locations in Eagan and Lakeville.

## EXPANDED RECYCLING WITH PARTNERS

Master Plan Strategy: Provide support to public entities to improve recycling in their operations.

### School Recycling Program

Dakota County continued to provide free on-site technical assistance and training, containers, labels, compostable bags and educational resources to public and private schools through the School Recycling Program.

The 2017-2018 program year participants included two public schools, one district office and five private schools: Berea Lutheran School, Christian Heritage Academy, Community of Saints Regional Catholic School, ISD 200 District Office, Kennedy Elementary School, MAC School (Eagan campus), Pinecrest Elementary School and Visitation School. Common requests from the schools included the addition of recycling containers, assisting with staff and student education and exploring organics diversion. Overall,

*"I appreciate that your program adapted to our unique needs. The most exciting part was the cost savings - I had no idea this was possible!"*

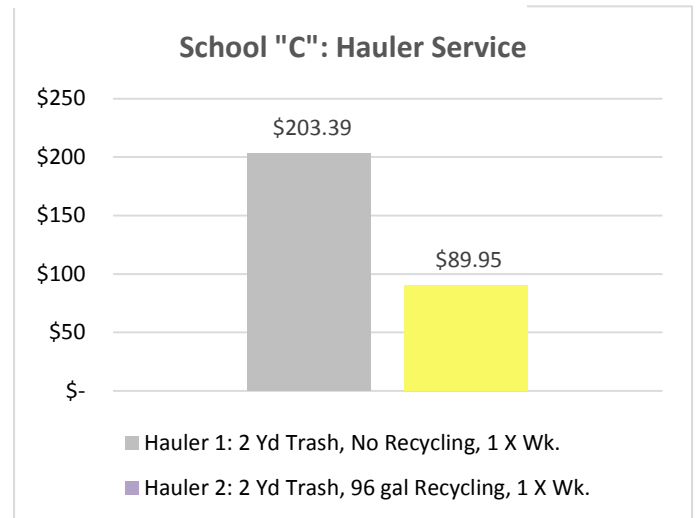
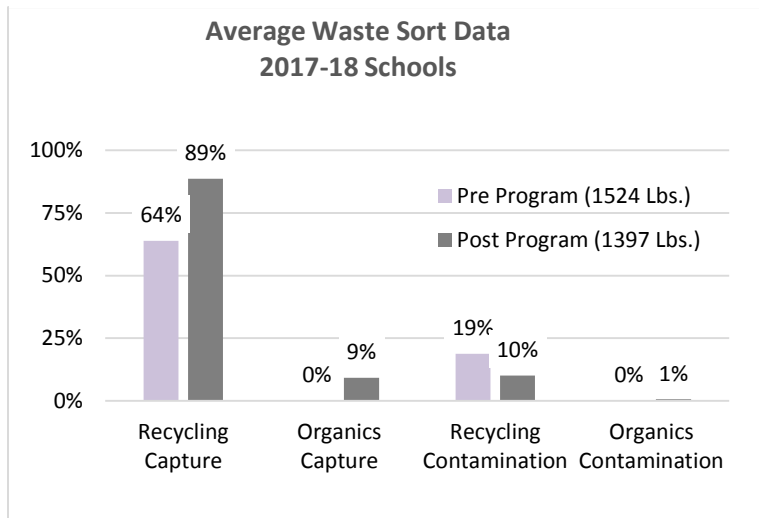
project improvements included:

- Increasing overall waste diversion, on average, by six percent in participating schools, **capturing 25 percent more recyclables and nearly 10 percent more organics.**
- Pairing over 700 trash containers with recycling containers, and labeling all new and existing containers.
- Setting up cafeterias with labeled, color-coded waste sorting stations to collect liquids, recycling, trash and organics.
- Decreasing recycling contamination in many schools, in one location by 65 percent.
- Adding recycling service and reducing hauling costs by over 50 percent through the request of hauler bids.
- Starting share tables at several schools to allow students to donate unopened food at lunch.
- Encouraging the replacement of disposable products for reusable alternatives, with one school replacing all foam bowls that were going in the trash.
- Providing waste education to teachers, kitchen staff and students at each school.
- Working with custodial staff to improve or implement best practices for waste diversion.
- Implementing an organics collection program at one school which increased waste diversion by 42 percent and captured 96 percent of all recyclables and 74 percent of all organics schoolwide.
- Recognizing participating schools with a certificate, electronic logo for their website, window decals and



*Visitation School Environmental Club helped educate their peers and increase diversion by 42 percent.*

**Table 5. Example of school recycling performance through School Recycling Program**



A survey following the program indicated 93 percent of participants felt recycling project improvements were valuable to their school or district and over 96 percent felt the project helped staff and students learn how to better recycle and/or reduce waste.

## Businesses Recycling Assistance

Master Plan Strategy: Help businesses develop recycling programs.



*Dakota Woodlands, a transitional housing organization, increased their recycling by 3,232 lbs each year.*

### Business Recycling Incentive Program

The Business Recycling Incentive Program focuses on businesses and organizations affected by the mandatory recycling requirement. The County allocates up to \$10,000 per business location to start or improve recycling or organics collection programs.

Participants are required to work with the County’s technical assistance consultant to implement improvements that follow best management practices and document pre- and post-program implementation for a final report. Program outreach focused on commercial generators with the most potential to divert materials (e.g., grocery stores, restaurants, etc.). In 2018, over 400 businesses were invited to join in the Business Recycling Program (Program) with 29 businesses participating and implementing projects. A reported 711,830 pounds of new material was diverted last year from the waste stream from participants. Since the program started in late 2016, nearly 90 businesses have participated resulting in more than 1.8 million pounds of materials diverted annually.

### Multiunit Pilot Project

Apartments, condominiums and other multiunit dwellings are home to one-third of Dakota County residents. In 2018, the County completed a pilot project to increase recycling in residential multiunit buildings, partnering with 10 properties in the cities of Burnsville, Eagan, Hastings, Lilydale, Mendota Heights and West St. Paul to test best practices. The County provided proper recycling equipment and in-person education at meetings, events and through door-to-door conversations with residents. The partnership reduced barriers such as a lack of sufficient containers and unclear information about why, what and how to recycle at each building. By implementing best practices, the 10 sites were able to increase their recycling rate by an average of 59 percent and saved up to \$2,460 per year on trash bills.

The Reserve at Mendota Village, a newly-opened apartment complex in Mendota Heights, received labeled recycling totes alongside welcome kits in each unit, containing a Home Recycling Guide, a kitchen cling for their fridge, and a note from the property manager explaining the building recycling system. Organics recycling was also implemented in the building — the first multiunit property in Dakota County to do so.



*Lakeville Pointe Apartments improved recycling and lowered hauling service fees.*

## EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECYCLING NON-TRADITIONAL MATERIALS

Master Plan Strategy: Add recycling for difficult materials.

### *Agricultural and Boat Wrap Film Plastic Project*

Starting in 2015, Dakota County has provided seasonal collection of agricultural film plastic for recycling of silage bags, bunker covers and bale wraps as an alternative to land disposal and as an incentive to stop illegal burning of farm waste. In 2018, the County partnered with the private company Revolution Plastics for more convenient and less costly collection of agricultural film plastic. Revolution Plastics provides year-around, on-farm collection of agricultural film plastic at no cost to producers. They collect the agricultural film plastic “ReCapture Bags”. Collected material is recycled into new plastic garbage bags. These bags are available on a State of Minnesota cooperative contract and are being used by area municipalities and schools. As part of the partnership, the County provides interested producers with a limited supply of the specialized collection bags. In 2018, 15 producers collected 24,000 pounds of plastic through this new partnership.

In addition, the County continued its highly successful boat wrap film collection for boat storage locations that do not already participate in recycling options. Boat wrap was collected at a centralized location in the spring when storage locations were removing the winterization wrap. In 2018, 4,180 pounds of boat wrap was collected and recycled at a special processor that can recycle the bulky plastic.

### *Rural Tire Recycling*

Waste tires are banned from entering landfills and waste processing facilities. They also provide a breeding habitat for mosquitos when not stored correctly. The Rural Solid Waste Commission (RSWC), which is funded through Dakota County’s Community Funding Program, partnered with Castle Rock Township and the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) to provide rural county residents with an opportunity to properly recycle their waste tires.

Nearly eight tons of tires were collected and recycling during a three hour event. This was the first year that the RSWC and MMCD partnered on a waste tire collection event, and plan to work together again.



CASTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP



## COMMUNITY FESTIVALS & THE DAKOTA COUNTY FAIR

Master Plan Strategies: Ensure and provide opportunities to recycle and build on public recycling program infrastructure to introduce organics diversion in County buildings, at County and city events, and in public schools.

### Municipality-Sponsored Events

Through the Community Funding Program, Dakota County continued to provide cities with financial resources to support traditional recycling and organics collection at municipality-sponsored events. At Food Truck Days, the City of Inver Grove Heights added organics collection for the first time and required food vendors to provide certified-compostable plates, cups and utensils to the public. By collaborating with food vendors, the overall recycling rate increased dramatically, from 12 percent the previous year to 47% percent in 2018.



*Organics and recycling were collected at the Food Truck Days in Inver Grove Heights.*

Below is a summary of municipal sponsored events that gathered waste generation data from their events:

Event or Festival	Recycling, Organics, or both?	Event location (city)	2018 REPORT	
			Weights (recycling, organics, trash), lbs	Waste diversion rate* ( percent)
Eagan Food Truck Festival	Both	Eagan	R= 952 lbs O= 339 lbs T= 808 lbs	62 %
Burnsville International Fest	Both	Burnsville	R = 606 lbs O = 254 lbs T = 714 lbs	55 %
Lakeville Heritage Waffle Breakfast	Both	Lakeville	R=303 lbs O= 339 lbs T= 179 lbs	78 %
Taste of Lakeville	Both	Lakeville	R=1952 lbs O=170 lbs T=1400 lbs.	56 %
Rosemount Fall Food Truck Festival	Both	Rosemount	R= 210 lbs T= 660 lbs	24 %
Farmington Dew Days	Recycling	Farmington	R = 1740 lbs T = 3181 lbs	35 %
Rivertown Days	Recycling	Hastings	R=860 lbs T=10,910 lbs	7 %
IGH Food Truck Days (four events)	Both	Inver Grove Heights	R=13.5 lbs O=34.25 lbs T=53.75 lbs <i>these weights represent an average over the four (4)</i>	47 %

			<i>events</i>	
Mendota Heights 5k Race	Both	Mendota Heights	R=15 lbs O=22 lbs	Unknown, no trash weight
Leprechaun Days	Both	Rosemount	R=1395 lbs O=982 lbs T=1869 lbs	56 %
Celebrate Empire	Both	Empire Township	R=30 lbs O=60 lbs T=44 lbs	67 %
Randolph/Hampton Fire Department Chicken & Corn BBQ	Both	Randolph Fire Department	R=580 lbs O=2920 lbs T=1260 lbs	74 %
Greenvale Community Picnic	Both	Greenvale Township	R=9 lbs O=24 lbs T=20 lbs	62 %
On the Road Again	Both	South St. Paul	R=522 lbs O=85 lbs T=119 lbs	84 %
West St Paul National Night Out	Both	West St. Paul	R=1 lbs O=20 lbs T=2 lbs	92 %
Totals			R=9214 lbs O=5330 lbs T=21,381 lbs	41 %

### Community Festivals and Events

Outside of city-sponsored events, Dakota County provided resources for 26 community events. Seven of these events introduced recycling for the first time, while eleven events incorporated organics collection for the first time. Of the 26 Community Events, 19 provided organics collection. Five events collected waste diversion data and reported 2,283 pounds of recyclables collected and 379 pounds of organics collected and diverted from landfills.

Community Event	Recycling, Organics, or both?	Event location (city)	2018 REPORT	
			Weights (recycling, organics, trash), lbs	Waste diversion rate* ( percent)
Ramble Jam	Recycling	Farmington	R=1,776 lbs.	50 % (estimate)
MN Scottish Fair & Highland Games	Both	Eagan	R=487 lbs O=319 lbs T=137 lbs	85 %
Crown of Life Church: Lent Event	Both	West St. Paul	R=15 lbs O=25 lbs	Unknown, trash weight not recorded
Carlson Campaign	Both	Eagan	R = 4.5 lbs O=3 lbs T = 1 lbs	88 %
Lakeville Neighborhood Rib Fest	Both	Lakeville	O=32 lbs	Unknown, no trash/recycling weight



*Volunteers make recycling work at the Dakota County Fair.*

### ***Dakota County Fair***

County staff coordinated with the Dakota County Fair Board to set up recycling and organics containers.

Organics collection was offered at the fairgrounds for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year; however, the number of organics containers for public use was significantly reduced because of the use of plastic-coated paper products from food vendors. Organics collection was offered to food vendors to collect inside their booths, and the majority of food vendors participated. Nearly three tons of recyclables were diverted from the trash, and a half ton of organics was collected for composting.

Over 60 Green Squad volunteers, including many Master Recycler/Composters focused their efforts on recycling and organics education to fairgoers, providing information on what goes where at waste stations and highlighting why these actions are important. Volunteers gave 229 hours of their time throughout fair week. A volunteer survey indicated 94 percent of volunteers felt they made a difference.

## **ENHANCED ORGANICS COLLECTION OPPORTUNITIES**

Master Plan Strategy: Build on public recycling program infrastructure to introduce organics diversion in County buildings, at County and city events, and in public schools.

### ***Improved County Building Organics Collection***

Dakota County has 15 buildings and park facilities diverting organics. In 2018, improvements were made to the internal organics program:

- Provided an “organics floater-bin” to be placed in meeting rooms or atriums if food is being served during a County-sponsored meeting or event.
- Eliminated non-BPI-certified service ware from County procurement options.
- Updated the County’s intranet to reflect the most recent list of acceptable products, all of which meet the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certification standards for compostable products.
- Relabeled organics collection containers at Northern Service Center in West St. Paul.
- Trained new employees on information about the County’s internal single-stream recycling and organics collection programs.
- Updated the Office Recycling Guide offered to new and existing staff as a quick desk reference for what items are collected for recycling, composting and trash.
- Researched the feasibility and effectiveness of collecting of paper towels as an organics waste stream in all County restrooms.



*Campers ready to recycle right.*

### **Organics at County Campgrounds**

For the third season, campers at Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby and White Tail Woods Campgrounds were able to collect organics while camping. Each visitor was given a Campground Recycling Kit with a blue bag for recyclables; a green, compostable bag for organics; a black bag for trash; and a card that describes where to put materials. Signs at the campground waste stations and on dumpsters told campers where to place each bag.

### **Organics Recycling in Municipal Buildings**

The Dakota County Community Funding Program provides resources to cities for strategic waste abatement activities, including organics recycling in municipality-owned buildings. The County coordinated a waste study of one municipal building in each city in 2017. The results were used to implement improved recycling education in 2018. Also, if results showed more than 30 percent of the trash was made of compostable materials, the County recommended adding organics recycling.

By the end of 2018, implementation efforts at the city level brought the total number of municipal facilities with organics recycling to 24:



*Organics added to Lakeville City Hall.*

- Apple Valley City Hall
- Apple Valley Community Center
- Apple Valley Hayes Arena
- Apple Valley Police Department
- Apple Valley Senior Center
- Burnsville Ames Performing Arts Center
- Burnsville City Hall and Police Department (shared building)
- Burnsville Ice Center
- Burnsville Maintenance Facility
- Eagan City Hall
- Eagan Civic Arena
- Eagan Community Center
- Eagan Fire Safety Center
- Eagan Police Department
- Farmington - Rambling River Center
- Farmington - Schmitz Maki Arena
- Farmington City Hall
- Hastings Civic Arena
- Lakeville Ames Arena
- Lakeville City Hall
- Mendota Heights City Hall
- South St. Paul City Hall, Police Department, and Fire Department (shared building)
- South St. Paul Public Library
- West St. Paul City Hall, Police Department, and Fire Department (shared building)

### ***Creative Organics collection in School Classrooms***

Food is often served outside of the cafeteria with a “to-go” mentality of bagged breakfast items and collection containers may not exist for liquids and organics in classrooms. Through the School Recycling Program, several schools piloted different solutions to capture this food waste and packaging. Visitation School expanded organics collection to their preschool rooms through the use of dishwasher-safe plastic totes on a cart that is returned to the kitchen with bulk service products. Several schools in Independent School District 197 (West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan) tried out collecting waste outside of the classroom in centralized locations that were rolled out after breakfast. To date, approximately 72 schools in Dakota County have organics collection, with five of the nine public school districts collecting organics district-wide.



*Totes used to collect organics in the classroom – no bags needed.*

### **SUPPORTED SOURCE-SEPARATED ORGANICS CAPACITY FOR THE TCMA**

Master Plan Strategy: Manage the lease on County-owned land in Empire Township to provide organics management capacity.

### ***Lease land to private sector***

The County continued to lease County-owned land in Empire Township to a private company that operates both source-separated organics composting and yard waste composting facilities. This is one of two permitted source-separated organics composting facilities that serve the TCMA.

### **RESEARCHED AND IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR ORGANICS DIVERSION**

Master Plan Strategy: Evaluate and improve County and city tools for improved organics management by residents, businesses, and public entities.

### ***Backyard Compost Bins for Residents***

Dakota County partnered with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to offer discounted prices on backyard compost bins and rain barrels. Dakota County residents received \$15 off backyard compost bins and \$20 off rain barrels. Residents purchased 55 discount compost bins to start their own backyard composting.

### ***Residential Organics Drop Sites***

Dakota County provides two residential organics drop off sites – one at Thompson Park in West St. Paul and another at Holland Lake in Eagan. Nearly 2,500 households have registered for the program and drop-off, on average, 2,800 pounds of organics weekly. The collected organics are delivered to The Mulch Store, a commercial compost facility located in Empire Township. In 2018, the County requested consideration of an interim use permit from the city of Apple Valley as part of the Western Service Center waste enclosure expansion. However, the request was withdrawn because of concerns raised by city staff. The city of Lakeville and The Mulch Store in Empire Township requested site considerations with shared



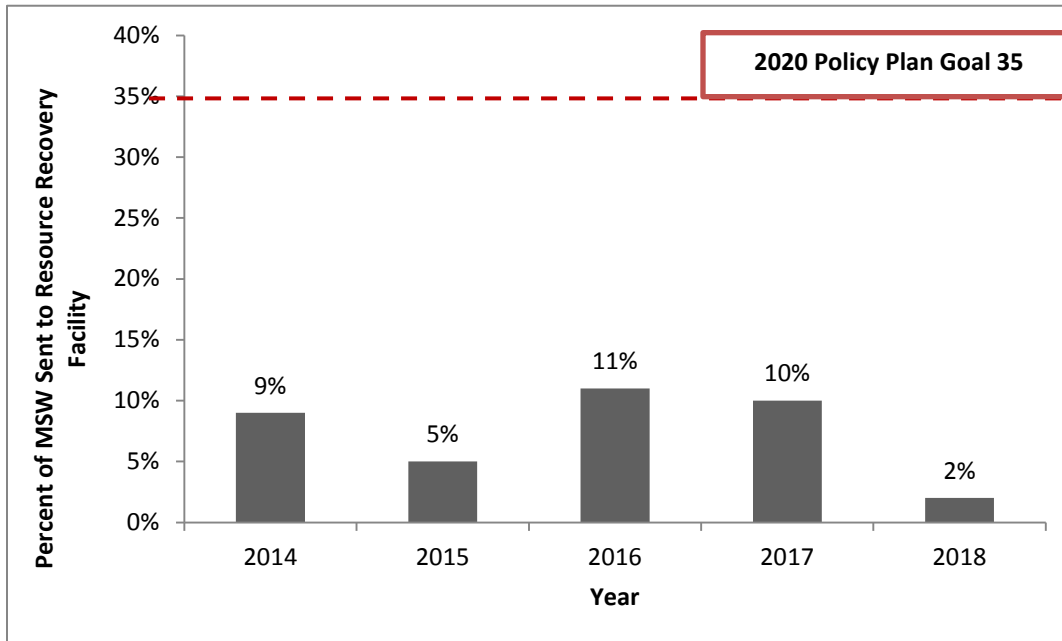
*Residents continue to use the organics drop-off locations.*

responsibilities and planning has begun for these two additional sites to open in 2019.

## RESOURCE RECOVERY (PROCESSING)

In 2018, 10,782 tons (two percent) of Dakota County-generated MSW was converted into energy at a resource recovery facility. This is 80 percent less waste recovery, by weight, than the previous year and provides minimal support to the TCMA’s resource recovery objective to divert 35 percent of solid waste for energy production by 2020. Of the recovered waste, 48 percent was recovered at the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center in Newport, Hennepin Energy Recovery Center received 34 percent, City of Red Wing Solid Waste Campus received 15 percent, and the Elk River Resource Processing Plant received 3 percent.

**Table 6. Dakota County Resource Recovery Rates**



**Summary of Resource Recovery Strategies:** The County’s Resource Management contract requires waste generated in County facilities to be delivered to a resource recovery facility. The County included resource recovery as part of its Community Funding Program, and continued to support resource recovery by leasing land in Empire Township to allow a transfer station to deliver MSW to a resource recovery facility.

### SUPPORTED STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Master Plan Strategy: Support statutory requirements that MSW from public entity operations is delivered to a resource recovery facility.

#### *Required Resource Recovery of Waste from County Operations*

All waste generated in the 28 County buildings and parks was reused, recycled, composted or delivered to a resource recovery facility. The County’s Resource Management contract requires the waste hauler to comply with State statute requirements for recycling and resource recovery ([MN Stat. §§ 115A.471](#) and [473.848](#)).

### ***Notified Public Entities of Resource Recovery Requirements***

The County notified 51 public entities of their obligation to comply with statutory requirements for resource recovery (MN Stat. §§ 115A.471 and 473.848). These public entities also received notification about requirements that public entities must recycle at least three broad materials (MN Stat. § 115A.151).

### ***Community Funding Program Notification for Cities and Townships***

The Community Funding Program funding application requires cities and townships to identify whether waste generated from their operations that is not reused or recycled is delivered to a resource recovery facility.

### ***Support MPCA's intent to enforce Minn. Stat. § 473.848, Restriction on Disposal***

To decrease landfill disposal, MN Stat. § 473.848 requires that MSW first be sent to a resource recovery facility. Only if facilities are at capacity or the MSW meets certain criteria (e.g., has been certified as unprocessable or the waste is being transferred from a resource recovery facility) can the MSW be disposed of at a landfill.

### **SUPPORTED RESOURCE RECOVERY CAPACITY FOR THE TCMA THROUGH LEASE**

Master Plan Strategy: Manage Empire Township lease to provide transfer to a resource recovery facility.

### ***Lease land to private sector***

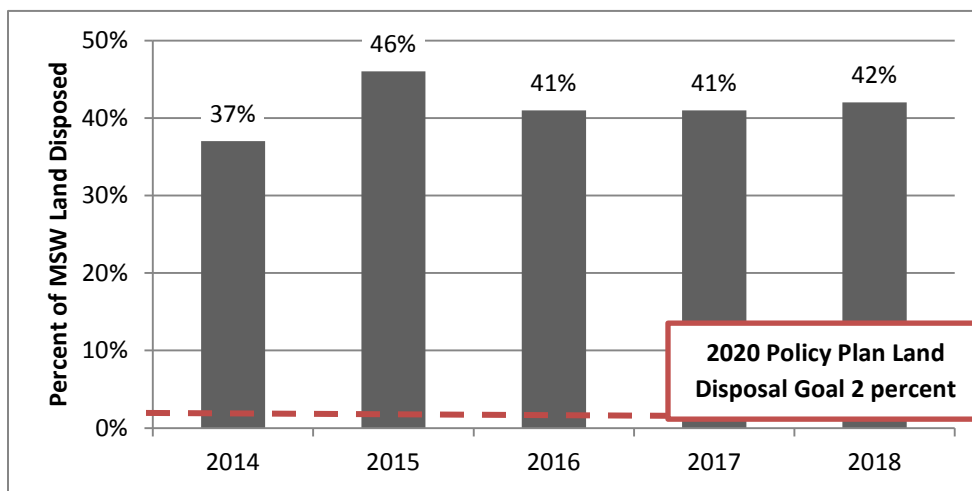
The County continued to lease land in Empire Township used as the Empire Transfer Station, a privately-owned and operated facility. This is the only transfer station in Dakota County that directly hauls MSW to the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center, a resource recovery facility in Newport, Minnesota which converts MSW into fuel for Xcel Energy's Red Wing and Mankato power plants.

## LAND DISPOSAL

The County continues to face obstacles for supporting the Policy Plan objective for TCMA counties to landfill a maximum of two percent of MSW by 2020. In 2018, 42 percent of the MSW generated from within the County was landfilled (196,009 tons).

Dakota County has two MSW landfills and no resource recovery facilities, making transportation and tip fees less expensive for haulers to take waste to a landfill. To decrease landfill disposal rates, the County needs to have successful reduction, recycling, organics diversion, and resource recovery efforts. The MPCA's strategy to enforce the Restriction on Disposal (which requires waste to be sent to a resource recovery facility if capacity exists) will facilitate the transportation of waste to proper facilities and assist the County's efforts to reduce landfill rates.

**Table 7. County Land Disposal Rate**



**SUMMARY OF MASTER PLAN STRATEGIES:** The County continued regulatory approaches to ensure proper management of solid waste and explored new efforts to divert waste from landfills.

### REGULATED FACILITIES THAT MANAGE SOLID WASTE

Master Plan Strategy: Regulate land disposal facilities to ensure compliance with [Dakota County Ordinance 110 \(Solid Waste Management\)](#) and license conditions.

County staff continued to enforce proper management of solid and hazardous wastes by regularly inspecting landfills, materials recovery facilities, and transfer stations to ensure compliance with Federal, State and local requirements, including material bans and prohibitions. In 2018, the County completed 114 compliance inspections of solid waste facilities.



## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Outreach and education do not have specific measurement goals in the Policy Plan, but strategies were included in the Master Plan to address public education requirements in State law (MN Stat. §§ 115A.552 and 115A.96).

**Summary of Outreach and Education Strategies:** In 2018, outreach and education continued to be a primary tool used by the County to influence how waste is managed. The County partnered with municipalities on a large number of outreach strategies to shift waste up the waste hierarchy by targeting audiences of greatest need with specific information. Outreach efforts included new printed resources, residential recycling tours and collaborative education through regional partnership.

### PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL TO CITIES AND TOWNSHIPS

Master Plan Strategy: Strengthen partnerships with cities and townships to provide outreach and education to the community.



Residents learned about recycling and more at the Eagan Community Connections event.

### Community Funding Program

The County develops pre-written articles and social media posts, and provides images to be used by municipal partners. These resources provide a consistent message to residents throughout the County. Cities and townships used County outreach resources on their websites, newsletters, and other communication channels, providing more than 1.05 million impressions of recycling messages to residents in 2018. Municipal staff engaged directly with 4,581 residents through 14 presentations, 31 booths at community events, and two door-knocking events at apartment buildings.

### ASSISTED EDUCATORS DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR WASTE REDUCTION

Master Plan Strategy: Identify sectors and recyclable materials most needing improvement and address findings.

### School Recycling Workshop

The fourth annual free School Recycling Workshop was designed to assist schools in improving their waste reduction, recycling and organics programs. Participants learned about new resources and discussed waste diversion opportunities, challenges and solutions. All school personnel, including administrators, building and grounds and food service staff, teachers and Green Team leaders were encouraged to attend the 3.5 hour training at the Republic Service recycling facility in Inver Grove Heights.

*"I picked up a lot of helpful ideas on a variety of topics and was able to network a little too. Valuable experience" – School Recycling Workshop Participant*

New panelists and topics are provided each year in an interactive setting. This year’s workshop focused on reducing breakfast-in-the-classroom waste, food share tables in the cafeteria, making organics collection successful at lunch and paper shredding solutions. A record 45 school personnel participated in the workshop and more than half of all participants attended the optional landfill and recycling facility tours. Survey results show that 100 percent of attendees felt the workshop was valuable and plan to change their actions or make improvements as a result of the discussions.

### ***School Educational Resources***

Free resources are available for all schools in Dakota County such as labels, posters and student activity guides. Educational materials are available online and shipped directly to the school. These resources serve as guides on how to recycle properly and reduce confusion by students, staff and patrons in schools. Resources mailed throughout 2018: 1,715 labels, 64 posters and 1,469 activity guides. Additional educational resources like recycling superhero handstamps, pencils made from recycled denim and wildflower seed bracelets were requested on occasion. The quarterly school recycling e-news was sent to 448 recipients, including school superintendents, principals, building and grounds staff, food service staff, teachers and other interested parties.

## **PROVIDED RECURRING AND EXPANDED LANDFILL ABATEMENT EDUCATION**

Master Plan Strategy: Provide recurring and consistent education using a variety of communication methods.

### ***Educational Experiences at The Recycling Zone***

Nineteen groups (211 people total) visited The Recycling Zone in 2018 to learn about proper disposal of household hazardous waste and why recycling is so important. Groups included schools, Scout troops, church groups, and Master Recycler/Composter participants. Post-visit surveys indicated that as a result of the tour participants had a better understanding of what items are accepted at The Recycling Zone and the importance of properly disposing of all materials. In addition, The Recycling Zone educator attended five community events and provided direct in-person education to 530 event attendees to increase awareness and answer questions about The Recycling Zone.

### ***Master Recycler/Composter Program celebrates 5 years***

In its fifth year, forty-five residents participated in the County’s Master Recycler/Composter (MRC) Program by attending one of two six-week courses – bringing the total number of MRCs to 231. Graduates agree to volunteer 30 hours putting their skills to work to help others learn how to reduce waste, recycle more, and compost. MRCs reported volunteering 957 hours (33 percent increase over the previous year) with 14 completing their obligatory 30 hours of volunteering.

### ***Tour de Trash***

The biannual Tour de Trash was held in May and September for two groups of County residents. In total, the adult field trips took 58 attendees to a recycling facility, landfill, compost site, and the



*Master Recycler/Composter educating residents at an event.*

County's hazardous waste facility – The Recycling Zone. Residents said they wanted to learn what can be recycled and where their recycling and trash go after it leaves their curb. A tour evaluation showed that participants learned a great deal, especially about what can and cannot be placed in home carts after seeing how the materials pass through a recycling facility.



*Display materials and a prize wheel were borrowed for the Planet Recycle event at the Robert Trail Library in Rosemount.*

### ***Educational Displays, Kits, and Activities***

Dakota County provided education resources for residents, community organizations, and schools to check-out. Materials included visual displays, self-guided instructions, and handouts that were used in 57 presentations at local elementary schools, city and community events, local churches, 4-H groups, city roadside clean-up events, and business events. Topics focused on household hazardous waste and toxicity, waste reduction, recycling, and organics.

### ***Online Green Guide for residents***

Dakota County launched an updated online recycling directory December 2017. The search feature allows residents to find out how to get rid of hundreds of items from confidential

papers to vacuum cleaners and even allows for suggestions. [The Green Guide](#) saw 44,168 user sessions in 2018 with 23,748 first-time users. The most searched for items were confidential papers, mattresses, furniture, microwaves, and dehumidifiers/humidifiers.

## ***EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES***

Dakota County's website includes information on state recycling requirements and County resources to help businesses comply with the requirements. More resources and tips were shared in the County's bimonthly e-news to 335 businesses. Businesses and organizations were able to order educational tools, such as a Recycle Right Guide (English and Spanish versions) and labels for recycling, organics and trash containers through the County website at no cost. In 2018, over 4,200 container labels were distributed to businesses.

The County's technical assistance contractor provides outreach and education as well. In 2018, the contractor conducted a strategic call campaign to inform 412 new commercial entities about program resources, resulting in 98 initial site visit evaluations and an additional 95 on-site meetings to help businesses improve recycling. The outreach effort focused on businesses that are known to produce large amounts of recyclables and organics, and included entities such as grocery stores, full service restaurants, hospitals and large clinics and assisted living facilities.

## ***NEW PROGRAM RESOURCES***

To support new and growing programs, Dakota County developed new outreach tools, including:

- **Multiunit Pieces.** Materials were created to support a multi-unit recycling pilot project. Chute signs, common area posters, kitchen recycling clings, kitchen organics clings, recycling tote



*Handing out new totes and resources to apartment residents.*

stickers, dumpster labels, a “tote note” introduction for residents, a container labeling guide, and sample lease language were tested and evaluated during the pilot. Effective pieces will be used when a full-scale program is implemented in 2019.

- **Municipal Resources.** Best practices guides were developed for municipal facilities and public events in collaboration with Local Solid Waste Staff. Dakota County also created measurement tools for visual waste assessments and volume-to-weight conversion to assist municipal staff with evaluating and documenting recycling rates in a mix of settings. In addition, an interactive online map was designed with County GIS staff to enable cities to monitor and report the status of recycling in all buildings and parks where recycling is required by state statute.
- **Recycling at Home Mailer.** A 16-page mailer was sent to all 170,000 households in Dakota County in February. It contained information on waste reduction, recycling, bulky waste disposal, The Recycling Zone, organics recycling and other programs offered by the county. The brochure was also used as a handout at many booths and presentations throughout the year.
- **Emergency Debris Management.** A new handout was created to guide residents after a major weather event to manage their waste. The handout will be used by the County Emergency Response Team.
- **VSQG Brochure.** An updated business hazardous waste handout was created to simplify the messaging of the Very Small Quantity Generator Program. The brochure is handed out at waste inspections.
- **Translation.** The residential Home Recycling cling and many popular business container labels were translated into Spanish to be used at multiunit buildings and commercial businesses.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND PROBLEM MATERIALS

The County implements a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Management Plan, as required by State law (MN Stat § 115A.96). The County’s strategies to address household hazardous waste and problem materials are detailed in the Master Plan and further protect the environment and public health.

**Summary of HHW and Problem Materials Strategies:** The County provides collection, storage, and proper management of hazardous waste and problem materials through collection services at The Recycling Zone and community collection events.

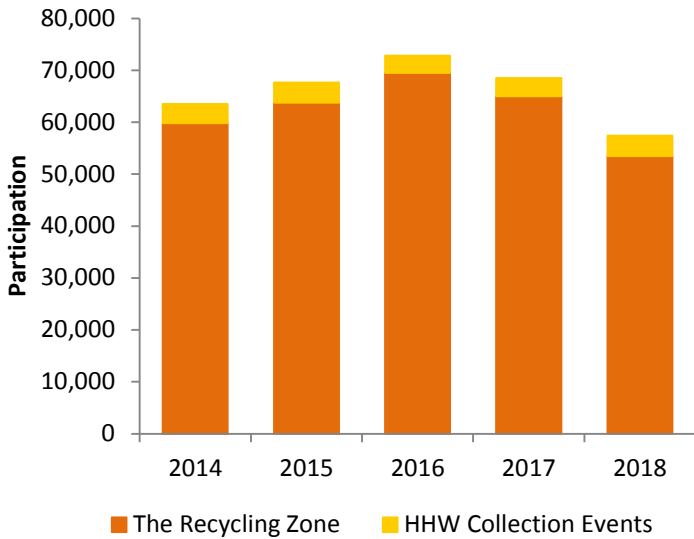
### THE RECYCLING ZONE

Master Plan Strategies: Provide for consistent and cost-effective services/Increase opportunities to manage problem materials and HHW.

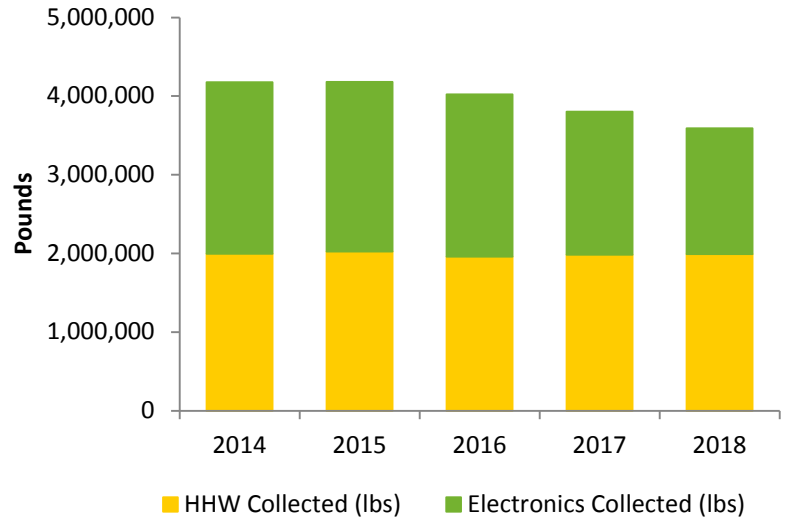
#### *Recycling Zone Usage*

In 2018, 53,467 residents dropped off hazardous waste, electronics and other items at the Recycling Zone, an 18 percent decrease in participation from the previous year. In 2018, nearly 3.6 million pounds of household hazardous waste and electronics were managed at the Recycling Zone.

**Table 6. Dakota County HHW Program Participation**



**Table 9. HHW and Electronics Managed at The Recycling Zone**



**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS**

Master Plan Strategy: Provide convenient opportunities to manage problem materials and HHW.

**HHW Collection Drop-offs**

Four household hazardous waste collection events were held in 2018. More than 3,900 residents attended a drop-off collection held in the cities of Hastings, Lakeville, Farmington and Burnsville.



*Volunteers helping unload cars at collection drop-offs.*

**PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP**

Master Plan Strategy: Support Product Stewardship Legislation

**Electronics**

Minnesota’s Electronics Recycling Act (MN Stat. §115A.1310) is a product stewardship approach that requires manufactures of video display devices to share financial responsibility for the collection and recycling of consumer electronics.

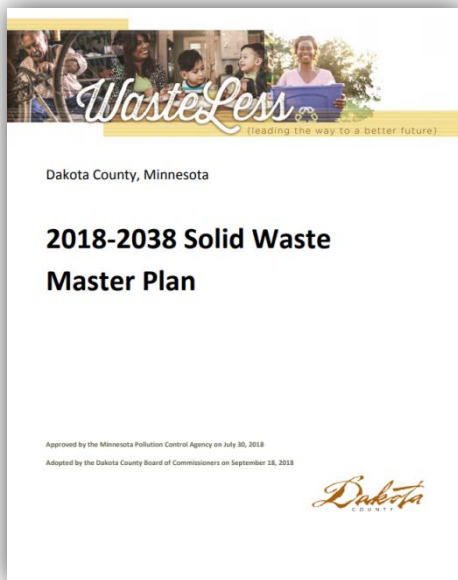
**Paint**

PaintCare, a non-profit organization created by paint manufactures, continues to administer and implement the paint product stewardship program Minnesota. Funds collected by PaintCare through a per-can fee on architectural paint are used to reimburse the County for costs associated with the transportation and recycling of paint collected at The Recycling Zone and collection drop-offs, along with paint taken by the public for reuse. Dakota County received \$330,145 from PaintCare for properly managing discarded paint products.

## DAKOTA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN REVISION

In April 2017, the MPCA adopted the 2016-2036 Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan (Policy Plan). The TCMA counties are required to revise their solid waste master plans to implement the new Policy Plan and submit to the MPCA Commissioner for review and approval.

Dakota County revised its Master Plan following an extensive stakeholder engagement and public review process (Nov. 2016 – Dec. 2017). Strategies were developed considering input from stakeholders, the Planning Commission and County Commissioners.



On March 27, 2018, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized submittal of the revised Master Plan to the MPCA for review and approval. The MPCA approved the Master Plan on July 30, 2018 and the County Board adopted it on September 18, 2018.

The Master Plan provides the framework for proper waste management over the next twenty years and includes strategies to divert waste from the landfill and comply with state mandates and the MPCA's Policy Plan. Current successful initiatives will be continued with additional use of regulatory, educational, and financial tools in areas where more progress is needed to achieve the 75 percent recycling goal by 2030.