

BUSINESS RECYCLING

Partnering for a better environment



Flowerama

Business type: Retail

Apple Valley, MN

www.floweramaapplevalley.com

Flowerama is a floral shop in Apple Valley.

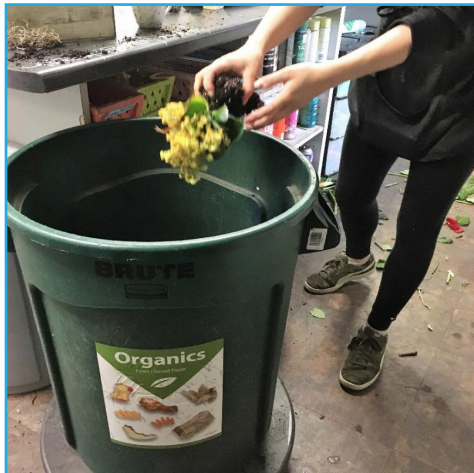
Challenge

Flowerama was ahead of the curve by collecting their floral waste for composting. However, there were opportunities to implement best management practices to make the recycling program easier for employees to use. The building had a dumpster for cardboard only while an employee brought mixed containers and paper home for recycling.

How we helped

The County's consultant met with the owner of Flowerama to assess how the floral shop was recycling and where they could potentially make improvements. The consultant suggested Flowerama implement best practices, such as color-coding containers to distinguish waste streams and using labels to display what can go in each container. Flowerama took advantage of Dakota County's Business Recycling Incentive to purchase color-coded containers (green for organics, blue for recycling and gray for trash) and matching standardized, color-coded labels for each container.

The owner also connected with their waste hauler to switch from cardboard-only collection to single stream recycling so that containers and paper could be mixed with the cardboard.



Outcome

Through these minor adjustments, Flowerama is now recycling an estimated 2,288 pounds of additional material each year.

"By sorting things out appropriately, we no longer have weekly overflow in our trash dumpster," said the shop's owner. The owner has also noticed a difference in how he and his employees think about recycling. "One positive result is making others knowledgeable in what can and can't be recycling, and how it is recycled or composted, so it can be used on a normal basis outside of work."

Highlights

Goal Standardized recycling and organics programs, switch cardboard recycling to single stream recycling

Why To make recycling programs more user-friendly

How Eliminated the need for staff to bring recycling home by changing cardboard-only collection to single stream recycling program and add color-coded containers and labels

Results An additiestimated 2,288 lbs of additional recycling collected annually