

BUSINESS RECYCLING

Partnering for a better environment



River Country Cooperative

Business type: Retail, Gas & convenience store

Eagan, MN

www.rivercountry.coop

River Country Cooperative has four SuperAmerica gas stations in Dakota County.

Challenge

Olaf Johnson, Director of C-Stores at River Country Cooperative, contacted Dakota County to receive guidance and funding to improve recycling programs at River Country's four SuperAmerica stores in Dakota County. River Country had already set up a successful recycling program in Anoka County and wanted to replicate this success across all its stores.

Highlights

Goal Implemented or improved recycling programs across four locations

Why To increase the amount of recycling collected and ensure compliance with the 2016 state recycling mandate

How Paired recycling bins with outdoor trash containers, added recycling bins to employee areas

Results Between four stores, an increase of 35,256 lbs. in recyclables collected

How we helped

After meeting with the manager at each SuperAmerica, the Director applied for funding to purchase indoor and outdoor recycling bins for employees and customers to use. The County's consultant helped each store determine bin needs and recommended pairing each trash can, inside and outside, with a well-labeled recycling container.

Outcome

With these improvements, all four stores saw an increase in the amount of recyclables collected. Additionally, each is now compliant with the state's commercial recycling mandate that requires certain businesses in the metro area to collect at least three materials for recycling.



The biggest increase was realized at the South St. Paul location, which went from no recycling to 13,728 pounds of recycling collected annually. While the stores in Apple Valley, Inver Grove Heights and Lakeville were already recycling cardboard prior to the rollout, they also saw an uptick in recyclables. Collectively, the four stores are recycling an additional 35,256 pounds of material annually.

River Country has seen other benefits beyond recycling more, including cleaner dumpster areas and positive reception from customers and employees. "The single sort recycling is a lot easier than when we just had a dumpster for cardboard. Our dumpster area is a lot cleaner now that we've adjusted our service levels," said the manager of the Inver Grove Heights store.