



**Dakota County Solid Waste Master Planning  
Haulers, Facilities, and Resource Recovery Input  
Round 1 Compilation and Summaries  
November 28, 2016 through February 28, 2017**

**Table of Contents**

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Background.....	2
Contents and Navigation.....	2
For More Information.....	2
<b>1. Waste and Toxicity Reduction and Reuse</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Summary.....	3
Compilation .....	3
<b>2. Resource recovery</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Summary.....	6
Compilation .....	6
<b>3. Emerging Technologies</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Summary.....	8
Compilation .....	8
<b>4. Recyclables market</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Summary.....	10
Compilation .....	10
<b>5. Public-private Partnerships</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Summary.....	12
Compilation .....	12
<b>6. Data Accuracy</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Summary.....	14
Compilation .....	14
<b>7. Contract Hauling</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Summary.....	16
Compilation .....	16
<b>8. Organics</b> .....	<b>18</b>

## Introduction

This section provides an overview of the Master Planning revision process, information about this report, and project contacts. Following this are summaries and detailed compilations by question.

## Background

Dakota County is currently revising its [2012-2030 County Solid Waste Master Plan](#). The revised Master Plan will guide proper waste management within Dakota County for 2017-2037, and include strategies to divert waste from the landfill and comply with state mandates and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Policy Plan.

Everyone in Dakota County produces waste, which is why all stakeholders should be involved in the Master Plan revision process. The revisions will impact residents, businesses, haulers, and waste facilities. The County's promise is to work with all stakeholders to ensure that concerns and aspirations are reflected in the strategies developed and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced the decisions. See phases at right.

- **Phase 1 – Gather stakeholder input** on solid waste issues, barriers, and solutions (Oct 2016-Feb 2017)
- **Phase 2 – Draft Solid Waste Master Plan strategies and gather stakeholder feedback** (Mar-May 2017)
- **Phase 3 – Draft and revise Solid Waste Master Plan** (June-Oct 2017)
- **Phase 4 – Finalize and approve Solid Waste Master Plan** (Oct-Dec 2017)

## Contents and Navigation

This is a complete compilation and summaries of the Round 1 input from haulers and facilities from November 28, 2016 through February 17, 2017. All licensed haulers and facilities doing business in Dakota County were invited to participate either in an online survey or at an in-person workshop on November 29, 2016 at Dakota County; almost all the input was via the workshop with 26 participants. Obvious misspellings and punctuation errors were corrected, some acronyms were spelled out, and any vulgar content was deleted; note that frequent mentions of MSW refer to mixed municipal solid waste (trash).

In the sections below, following the summaries, responses are generally organized alphabetically by question. To navigate, note the following:

- The Table of Contents includes hyperlinks to jump to any section
- The footer on each page includes the name of the section
- Each section has navigation links similar to that shown at right

- [Jump to the next section](#)
- [Return to the top](#)

## For More Information

For more information about the project or this compilation, see the project [website](#), [sign up](#) for project updates, or contact Dakota County project manager Gena Gerard, Dakota County Environmental Resources Department, [gena.gerard@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:gena.gerard@co.dakota.mn.us) or 952-891-7021.

## 1. Waste and Toxicity Reduction and Reuse

Reducing waste is the starting point for any solid waste management effort. This might include reusing furniture, donating goods that can be used again, using non-hazardous chemicals, going paperless, etc. What ideas do you have to support or encourage residents, businesses, public entities, and industries to reduce the amount of waste generated in the first place?

- [Jump to the next section](#)
- [Return to the top](#)

### Summary

While perspectives varied on some topics, there was widespread agreement on the need for better education for everyone through various mechanisms including partnering with haulers. Given this specific question, participants highlighted various source-reduction and reuse options. Most ideas fell into the following clusters:

- **Education**
  - Provide one *common* public site with education and information on what, how, when, and where to recycle, reuse, compost, or dispose; include residents, businesses, industries, etc.
  - Find ways to reach people in rural areas
  - Highlight food to people/food to animals
  - Public sector should collaborate with haulers to provide information to residents and businesses
  - Note economic benefits of reducing waste (smaller bins)
  - Inform businesses about e-waste disposal
- **Reuse, swap, donation**
  - City/county-hosted website to reuse, swap, donate, etc.
  - Encourage reuse and sharing with low/no-fee options for business exchanges
  - Provide safe places for swaps/exchanges
  - Include swaps as part of city cleanups
- **Collection, disposal**
  - Safe sharps disposal/handling
  - Secure document destruction
  - Affordable business e-waste disposal
  - More dropoff sites so they're convenient for people everywhere in the County
- **Systems, structures**
  - Make reduction, donation, reuse, and recycling easy and convenient
  - Enact countywide tax to support solid waste management or reduction *or do not* tax for such purposes
  - Provide financial incentives *or do not* subsidize specific items (such as bulky) – disrupts free market
  - Help reduce packaging
  - Help reduce product toxicity
  - Support retail take-back program

### Compilation

- \$ savings push to keep out of waste -- pull out of trash and recycle
- A robust and ongoing public education system is necessary for all waste efforts
- address municipality donation liability
- An example was given on how the Tri-County HHW program recycles paint waste
- bad idea for government to subsidize specific items (i.e., pay \$50 for each couch/bed) because that disrupts free market for commodities in SW system
- City free website or county free reuse website (what people have to give away or are looking for)
- convenience
- cost
- County program collection for

- reuse
- County SW tax on municipal solid waste -- BAD idea
- County tax (haulers and facilities oppose)
- county tax similar to Washington (35% all) or Ramsey (28% residential and 53% commercial)
- County tax to promote non-generation (municipal solid waste tax) - Like Ramsey and Hennepin
- Create "One Stop" compilation of what to do with all items
- Create online marketplace for scrap items
- Don't upset marketplace - value of certain waste being subsidized
- Ease/easy to do
- economic benefit of not tossing
- Education for reuse: Goodwill, Bridging, etc.
- education, tell residents and everyone the donation opportunities
- Food Waste is normal, we should be stressing food to people and food to animals
- get out info - facilities & options
- haulers promote businesses/residents save money with smaller container (i.e., less waste)
- info benefits
- it's not really up to us what people toss out. People feel the need to buy new stuff to make them feel good.
- Look at food to people opportunities - Second Harvest
- make e-waste disposal more affordable (subsidies, product stewardship), refurbishing -educate and promote local businesses on those opportunities
- make sure greater Dakota is aware of programs
- manufacturers reduce packaging to proper size necessary
- more locations for reuse that residents can drop things off at
- One specific reusable / recyclable medical waste item are the reusable sharps containers. Stericycle is already doing this in area hospitals, e.g., HCMC. They have over 1,200 containers in place already.
- Partner with Goodwill/Salvation Army and others to promote reuse
- promote County's existing dropoff site for free items
- Promote reuse information
- proper sizing for manufacturing -- i.e., why does an Amazon package need to be larger than necessary? Lots of wasted cardboard and all that space is then filled by plastic bags -- so wasteful!
- Raise the rate of disposal, will also promote digestion and compost, the increment needs to be high enough to encourage reduction, unit-based prices
- Reduce manufacturer packaging to what is really needed
- Reduce stigma of reuse
- Reducing waste saves \$ -> Reduce container size
- residents can switch to smaller containers, businesses have less hauls
- Reuse is often discouraged because some items require a disposal/recycling fee, especially for businesses. It would be better if more reusables could be dropped off at no charge, even for commercial businesses.
- safe and well-lit exchange locations (Craigslist)
- Safe location for exchange - (free market type idea) County promotion of exchange ideas - Donation Sites
- safe/public drop off/exchange sites
- Secure document destruction
- (along with office paper recycling) has become a lucrative business niche. The County could do more to promote education for businesses to recycle.
- Sharps are a huge work hazard for the MRFs and other sorting operations. There should be more promotion of safe sharps disposal and make it easier to reuse containers.
- Some haulers would oppose tax - hurts people
- Some of the reuse stores (e.g., the ReUse Store) do not accept used items. They are getting pickier and want new or "nearly new" items only.
- The City clean-up collection events should provide opportunities for drop-off of reusable items. Then, the municipalities (and County) should use financial and other incentives to encourage reuse and not just recycling or disposal.
- The County needs more convenient drop-offs locations (e.g., on the west side of Dakota County).
- The County needs more convenient drop-offs locations (e.g., on the west side of Dakota County).
- The Dakota County "Recycling Zone" facility should take in more items for reuse.
- The key is to provide opportunities to participate in waste reduction – education and incentives are necessary
- There are a lot of items that could be reused that are currently being disposed. For example, carpet, mattresses, furniture, steel scrap, bikes, etc.
- toxicity reduction - limit burn barrels, Department of Public Health chemicals of emerging concern, get those out of products.
- Toxicity: residential exemption not

good

## 2. Resource recovery

Given the 2016 Restriction on Disposal law, for solid waste generated in Dakota County, what ideas do you have to maximize the amount of waste that goes to a resource recovery facility rather than a landfill?

- [Jump to the next section](#)
- [Return to the top](#)

### Summary

Several participants affirmed that everything they haul goes to a resource recovery facility, while at the same time many noted a variety of current challenges – that may be best addressed by solved by the state, counties, haulers, and all facilities working together. System and structure ideas included the following:

- Inequities across “waste shed”: access/distance traveled, tipping fees, payments per ton, inconsistent hauler compliance (and enforcement)
- Capacity limitations at current processing facilities, and potential need for transfer stations
- Insufficient solutions for construction and demolition materials
- Public opposition to some technologies, and how modern landfills fit into solid waste management

### Compilation

- 100% of our trash as a hauler goes to a resource recovery facility, so unsure; maybe a rebate for haulers dumping at specified recovery facilities?
- A “blended fee” system should be put in place to make tip fees consistent across the entire waste shed
- All haulers participate in sending waste to processing
- But some of these technologies have public opposition and pushback.
- create a fair/level playing field for all haulers -- amend hauling license to require \*all haulers\* to bring MSW to processing
- Dakota county can subsidize waste to RR
- Dakota County could develop their own resource recovery facility options (e.g., SKB/Enerkem proposal).
- DC tough spot - Elk River ~capable efficiency + cost effective
- Drop off locations to make processing more accessible - or if the market need a transfer facility - business will build it
- Enforce the ROD - can't just be landfills, needs to be haulers held accountable
- Every bit of MSW we haul goes to RRT in Newport
- facility money/ ton not equivalent
- fill facilities with waste close
- For this to be fair and efficient, a credit system needs to be created so a hauler that is near a processing facility can bring more than their share and sell the credits to a hauler that is distant to the facility
- General consensus that modern landfills are perceived as just as bad for the environment as historical dumps – not true
- hauler driving excess distances
- how to make money in that
- How/why should we maximize delivery to resource recovery facilities that are already at or over capacity (e.g., Ramsey/ Washington “Newport” facility; Hennepin County’s HERC facility)?
- If regulation is only at the landfill, only landfill gets punished and waste goes to WI
- Include all haulers - add processing requirement to license
- Increase capacity at waste processing facilities
- It needs to be recognized that some haulers are already sending more than their fair share and as a result, they are paying more
- landfills do offer significant value in Dakota County: professionally and scientifically operated; they provide good jobs, including union jobs; they provide renewable energy powering thousands of homes every day; they are good partners with host cities and Dakota County, including providing significant revenue
- lobby for state change
- make all haulers do their fair share
- More Dakota County waste to Red Wing
- more effective dropoff
- MPCA needs to work closer with all parties involved to produce a solution
- MSW going into a landfill isn't the end of the world
- need equity in the system - all facilities and haulers need to be involved in system (market share)

- Need to dispel the illusion that processing facilities do not send waste to the landfill
- only punishes landfill owner -- all haulers
- Part of the problem is the Hennepin County tiered (“buffered”) contract disposal tipping fee for tonnages over specified maximums. They charge this buffered contract waste at higher tipping fees.
- Processing facilities are not in the correct places
- Processing facilities should be working together to manage shortages and overages
- Provide assistance and infrastructure for new, private processing facility construction
- ROD law must be enforced fairly and equitably
- Should the same type of disposal restriction (i.e., similar to M.S. 473.848) be placed on construction & demolition (C&D) materials? Should recyclable C&D materials be banned from landfills?
- Some landfills feel they do a good job and create benefits of their own
- some participate, some don't
- Standard disposal rate for all facilities -- no winners and losers based on location
- Stericycle as should be viewed as a waste to energy facility. Currently Stericycle can either autoclave or incinerate their medical wastes.
- tax landfills or other economic incentives
- The counties and State should consider changes in policies such as “designation”. These mandates won't help all businesses (e.g., landfills).
- The counties could develop clean fuel/biomass and other wood recovery options.
- The existing facilities and infrastructure is inefficient
- The resource recovery facilities should do more to encourage C&D recycling. For example, why shouldn't the “fluff” or other high BTU residuals (e.g., plastic, wood, etc.) from C&D processors be an eligible feedstock for an RDF plant? But the full tipping fee at the resource recovery facilities is too high. It's as if their tipping fees don't discriminate by the fuel value of the potential feedstocks. Could the counties look at rebates for clean, high BTU materials as an incentive to get more waste delivered to the resource recovery facilities?
- There is not enough capacity to manage existing waste
- through hauler licenses
- Tip fees at facilities are unfair and discourage processing, i.e. Newport tip fee is lower for Ramsey/Washington waste than Dakota waste
- Tough to keep up with regulations - especially for small businesses
- transfer station to bring waste to RR - western Dakota County
- transfer stations -- going out of state danger
- treat landfills as natural resources (i.e., they have limited capacity and value that)
- understanding 473.848 is the law, we still need to support our local landfills
- What are the options for sorting out C&D materials from regular mixed MSW?
- what's incentive for facility to get it
- what's value?
- You could make the county run rrt in Newport not have such outrageous prices!

### 3. Emerging Technologies

Recent studies indicate that recyclables are still being included in trash and disposed of in landfills. One idea is to separate the recyclables from the trash using new technology prior to or at a landfill or resource recovery facility. What are some benefits of this approach? What are some of the challenges and how might those challenges be overcome?

- [Jump to the next section](#)
- [Return to the top](#)

#### Summary

Benefits included user and hauler efficiencies along with environmental benefits, while flagging practical questions about implementation and the cost-effectiveness of required investments. Challenges included financial viability without long-term public support; unintended consequences such as increasing volume beyond market capacity, reducing consumer engagement with recycling efforts, or conflicts with current measures or requirements – all of which would have to be carefully considered in advance.

#### Compilation

##### Benefits

- Anything is possible - cost is the issue - if you pay enough you can get a lot done
- benefit -- may not be marketable
- Benefits of the dirty MRF concept is that it would be easier for the consumer. This type of separation from mixed MSW could be especially useful for trash from special events and other away-from-home venues. It could be implemented at a landfill and may help make land disposal more cost effective.
- better education on recyclables
- big leap - a whole new
- commodities can be used locally
- convenient for consumer
- costs drive -- how much are people willing to pay?
- Dirty MRF? Fewer trucks - one cost -- recover more material
- Emerging technologies like MSW to ethanol and anaerobic digestion need to be encouraged
- how much does government need to say - have options though
- If such a dirty MRF system is implemented, there would need to be clear objectives and measurement standards (e.g., contamination limits, etc.).
- Leave 2 carts, recycle and waste
- Less material at landfill
- less need for virgin materials
- Saves landfill airspace; how to fully account for this value
- Look at Houston
- Lower number of trucks on the road
- Much cleaner and more economical than current processing options
- One truck per house is astronomical efficiency savings, with a dirty MRF concept
- preserves landfill capacity
- pulling recycling out of trash...
- recycling rate goes up
- rejectables are too high
- There needs to be more extended producer responsibility. The product and packaging manufacturers need to design for recyclability.

##### Challenges and how to overcome

- chain of events and unintended consequences
- Challenge of dirty cardboard, paper, etc.
- contamination maybe up - maybe even hazardous waste thrown in
- Cost per ton is very expensive
- cost- facility/run it
- Dick's Sanitation (formerly Knutson's Rubbish) tried to develop a dirty MRF 25 years ago but it didn't last beyond seven weeks. The trash was too dirty and the recovered materials did not pay enough.
- Dirty MRF might not work
- Dirty MRF recyclables are too low in value; that is why the facilities are not being built
- Employee retention can be challenging.
- environmental standpoint to upfront cost (energy) doesn't outweigh the benefits
- Everyone said they could increase the amount of recyclables recovered after collection, but

what is the cost and who is going to pay for it

- general public loses touch with how to properly recycle and how waste is managed
- government more involved -LT outcome unless incentives for private
- harder to market -- dirtier
- Houston uses a dirty MRF; check into how successful that is
- invest in regulation, must have F/U - weakens bid
- It cost too much to do this. In the past you wanted everyone to sort out the recycling. Then you tell them to single sort it. Make up your minds
- It is necessary to dramatically improve the recyclables collected at the curbside – education is critical
- Local and state permitting
- Location of facility
- Manufacturer rejects are high already-train generators better
- most market swings ~ all shift plus change

- No market for dirty recyclables
- Nothing has been proven to work at this point
- Nothing I can see; you will increase the cost to us for sorting everything
- Operations and maintenance costs are high
- Providing any new, cost-effective technology is difficult
- put fee on land disposal to overcome this
- Recyclables need to be separated at the source; recyclables separated after collection with MSW have too low a value to make the system cost effective
- still need to deliver separate streams
- The amount of recycling that's captured at a dirty MRF is significantly less than with the current separated recycling system
- The current state goals for diversion discourages anyone to invest in a dirty MRF
- The dirty MRF could be

detrimental to the source separation recycling goals.

- The economics only work if the value of the recyclables is high enough.
- There are many challenges with the “dirty MRF” technology concept. For example, the Montgomery County, Alabama project is a case study of a failed dirty MRF (mixed waste processing facility).
- There was worry about the mixed message if we have curbside recycling and separate recyclable from the MSW waste stream
- These dirty MRFs can be a health hazard.
- they do not operate as expected
- This dirty MRF concept “gives a pass” to the consumers and businesses on source separating their recyclables.
- We only do rolloff on call type dumpsters. People don't separate recycling with these
- who will operate public/private – combo?

## 4. Recyclables market

The market for some recyclables is inconsistent. What methods should the County consider to reduce the impact of these market swings on you or businesses like yours?

- [Jump to the next section](#)
- [Return to the top](#)

### Summary

Ideas included public financial incentives or supports for users to recycle more or for businesses to weather down markets, commitments to using recycled materials in public construction projects, collaborative development of national and international markets

### Compilation

- Better education, standardized list of what is acceptable, or require cities to have that list from present haulers
- can county incentivize worldwide markets
- can incentivize (e.g., dropped 1/2)
- charged higher fees plus bonus money for those who hit targets
- Co-operative market, volume based to large scale, create stable markets, paid via user fee
- County money for front loader trucks (small businesses)
- County promotes recyclables to be used in more construction projects
- credit on bill for X lbs they had and hauler gets credit
- Dakota County should consider how its own purchasing power can be used to buy recycled products when constructing roads and other pavements. Many commodities (including shingles, concrete, glass) could use this type of local end use market stimulus. The County could “pave the way” for enhanced demand for these aggregate commodities.
- don't focus on materials that have a minimal greenhouse gas impact
- Enforce State mandate for commercial recycling
- Fiber is OK as a commodity. So why is fiber so successful? Can other commodities learn from the fiber markets
- find alternative markets for materials -- glass, etc.
- global market system
- hard to influence customers - responsibility at all level
- Hard to make money recycling
- incentive - cheaper/easier
- Landfill \$ -> government fund to do this - rearrange with \$ goes per 1 degree a) keep out of landfill, b) or not
- link city and county websites
- mandates – e.g., permits construction, any rolloff wouldn't cost too much
- mandatory commercial regulations
- manufacturer controls market by creating clean recyclables (education)
- market high - take all out and get paid out
- markets are not controllable
- need local markets - more options for materials
- not over police - not too much reporting
- One idea is to help Anchor Glass grow and thrive. The region could use a second intermediate glass processing facility (in addition to the Strategic Materials - St. Paul plant).
- own hauling company does not equal money if don't
- Per ton variability is felt
- private needs to be stable
- Processing fee -- paid to facility (cover cost of handling) and split profit when prices are good
- Put list recyclables by hauler on city website
- put lists of products that are recycled
- Q says county
- Recyclable materials in new construction
- regulate facilities in DC/ all counties
- remember the market is global; there is only so much government can do to increase value of commodities
- reports where we haul
- require counties to use recyclable material (i.e., glass in road construction, recycled paper for county purchasing)
- Require minimum amounts of recycled material for construction and manufacturing
- Set price for each recyclable and county cover losses (minimal price)
- State and county governments should increase incentives for businesses, residents, and local governments to “buy recycled”

- content products.
- Stay out of it
- Still market-dependent
- Target materials in sustainable materials management mindset - ones that will have greenhouse gas reduction
- technology to weigh on arm (hard for rear loaders)
- The County could assist with end use markets, i.e., glass in road construction or used at landfills
- The County needs to “walk the talk” and use more recycled products like glass and compost

- The County should find more end users and/or subsidize the end products
- The facilities plan for market fluctuation, so the County doesn't need to do anything
- The only thing the County can do is subsidize processing
- The problem with recycling is that it is part of a vast global market that is open, volatile, and subject to numerous geopolitical changes. Building strong markets for recyclables is not so much a county issue. The State of

- Minnesota and national governments need to help develop domestic markets. Local communities will have little influence on this type of market development for the commodities that have end users around the world.
- We need more local processing facilities to reduce transportation costs
  - when low - just landfill it
  - when markets hit a certain level - subsidize

## 5. Public-private Partnerships

The County is committed to a collaborative approach to solid waste management. In what ways might you and organizations like yours partner with the County to accomplish this?

- [Jump to the next section](#)
- [Return to the top](#)

### Summary

Participants offered a variety of ideas, including the following clusters:

- Leverage the common priorities across the public and private sectors to collect more recycling and handle it properly from the source to the end
- Create simple and easily accessible educational information, work across the public and private sectors to educate residents and businesses, host educational workshops and facility tours, help residents get started with recycling or composting by providing bins/containers, etc.
- Jointly advocate for reduced packaging, retail buy-backs, in-store recycling for customers, and similar
- Align incentives and disincentives for all parts of the solid waste management system

### Compilation

- already with host fees and PUDs
- As a leader, Dakota County should help connect the dots through education and outreach. The County should expand its use of web sites, with links for residents and businesses. Education is key to making the system work.
- balance environmental policy with the real world.
- both public and private sector have same goal -- more recycling collected and right stuff goes in right bin
- Collaborate on educational materials
- Commitment to 1x or 2x / year education flyers sent out
- Common, simple educational messaging
- Cost
- Could the County amend its solid waste ordinance to regulate if not require C&D recycling?
- Counties needs to listen to the private sector – Dakota County is doing a good job of this
- Create County "academy" for residents/citizens to see firsthand how system works
- cumbersome and scary to work
- Doing it now – events like this prove it
- education of everyone involved -- all parties have standardized collection of recyclables -- need to go beyond the #s on plastic bottles
- education regarding recycling is low-hanging fruit and is the best bang for buck
- education updates on any changes
- EG ROD MPCA
- Electronics recycling with stores like Best Buy or Walmart
- expand education - same terminology, symbols, etc.
- government subsidy
- hard to collaborate when all metro being served (all metro counties)
- Help with promotions of different events
- if government wants to help - help where there are discussions with state before laws are made
- LEED is very expensive, but some developers use LEED-type processes without the expense of registering for LEED certification. Some examples include the Star Building and State of MN "B3" programs.
- More frequent tours of facilities with opportunities to exchange ideas and understandings
- More meetings like this with brainstorming from all parties
- more user friendly
- not aware of changes
- Partner on education material
- Private industry is the experts. We should rely on and support the experts
- recycling cost more time, labor
- Residential and commercial recycling and reduction education
- Some grants programs have too many restrictions to make it worthwhile for businesses to sign up.
- start combined effort to manufacture only recyclables and packaging
- The County and State could work with large retailers (e.g., Kohls, Cub Foods) and push for more recycling and education opportunities for items such as: plastic bags, electronics, batteries, etc.
- The County must always promote

and enhance worker and public safety.

- The County provide compostable bags for organics recycling (e.g. starter kits for residents just beginning to recycle their household organic materials).
- The County should help connect national and local resources.
- The County should look at enhancing its grants program (e.g. R/W \$10K starter grants to businesses).
- The County's "Recycling Zone" is a customer of Stericycle; How can this relationship be enhanced?
- The role of the County is to support residents to be environmentally conscious.

County should assist private business to achieve this goal

- The sharps drop-box idea could be an example of an educational opportunity, even if some of the sharps and containers go to waste-to-energy facilities.
- this is law / on the ground experience does not equal reality
- Tax Increment Financing money -- e.g., facility and not feasible; why not help new trucks/ efficiency
- use same terms and symbols for recycling as County
- use terminology the customer understands
- We need to allow private markets to produce solution
- I would never partner with the

County. Why would we; We do 98% construction material. Only lic as a MSW hauler for two accounts

- We're already doing it
- With so many inputs (MPCA, county, schools, haulers), messages can get confused
- work with all public and private orgs to make sure material is correct
- work with business to choose better packaging
- work with electronics and appliances to take back products - also county options
- work with schools to distribute info and expose them to recycling

## 6. Data Accuracy

Dakota County is required to report the amount of municipal solid waste, recycling, and organics collected in each city within the County. When these reports are analyzed and compared to facility reports, there are often differences between the facility data and the hauler data. There are also differences between the number of households in a city and the combined number of customers reported by haulers. We are aware that haulers use varying strategies and calculations to provide this data. What suggestions do you have for resolving this so that the County has more accurate data?

- [Jump to the next section](#)
- [Return to the top](#)

### Summary

This elicited a fair amount of frustration, in some cases due to the issues highlighted in the question, and because these data aren't *their* priority. Some suggested moving to a more consistent and accurate e-based system, while others don't have that technical capacity. A number offered specific technical solutions that would be more fair, consistent, and accurate – and must be easy and safe to implement.

### Compilation

- #1 goal of drivers is safety - not data
- 300 steps - tons MRF
- Also bricks may be in MSW
- By city too
- Consensus that the new MPCA hauler/facility reporting will only add another layer of reporting, it will not save anyone time or improve the accuracy of the data.
- county can hold facilities and haulers accountable because we get data
- Crossing boundaries is a problem
- Dale sends in a format that doesn't work - non tech savvy
- Data from the haulers could be reported and analyzed on a pounds per household basis. The data from the facilities will be based on materials from all routes (all cities) without so much regard to the location.
- Determine how to break down weights in a similar way for each hauler
- Discussions with haulers to standardize how the data is determined
- Do the count (maybe not need tons maybe)
- Do you need every month if you just need to gauge the market?
- Does not affect us
- Don't use facility data
- Estimated percentage changes frequently
- Everyone does it and can be about consistent even if not accurate
- find item (organics, trash, recycling, etc.) that is not accurate, if only one item focus on that
- fine
- first find out if there is a problem - find out how prevalent this is (statistically)
- GPS unit location
- Hard to use facility data -- haulers service more than one county; mixed loads
- Haulers say 10% or more of households do not have service
- Have haulers give input on what to report
- In addition, the actual weights per capita of many commodities are coming down (e.g., printed newspapers, cans, bottles, plastic containers, etc.) due to light-weighting and down-sizing.
- Make sure industrial solid waste is IS and not MSW classified as IS
- match hauler data with facility data
- maybe calculate on a website - still a paper form - why?
- new hauler reporting system will...
- newer trucks vs old trucks have different abilities
- number of accounts and addresses are proprietary information and haulers are very protective of this info
- Number of households is constantly changing when reported week to week, month to month
- Overlapping hauler routes is OK and can be accounted for in any data reporting system. If there are requirements for "straight loads" (e.g., of recyclables from only one city), there will be higher costs due to collection operation inefficiencies. It is more important that there are consistent definitions and measurement standards throughout the County and throughout the region.

- Record pick up
- regulate haulers and make them report it
- retrace -print- scan-send
- Some data is confidential or at least proprietary and needs to be protected.
- Some participation studies do not account for extended vacations (i.e., snow birds), etc.
- Split loads are hard to quantify
- still need to hire people to organize data
- Technology to weigh
- The best scenario would be where each hauler uses the same methods to determine their data; that way the data is as close to uniform as possible
- The facility data and the hauler data will probably never match. The facilities get location data from the driver while the hauler uses an allocation calculation to determine the amount of waste from a particular jurisdiction
- The household count vs. the customer count is different because there are a lot of shared services. Neighbors share waste disposal or people bring their waste to work.
- The MPCA Hauler Reporting Requirements removed participation (e.g., set out counts) from the forms. Dakota County should also take out participation from any required hauler data forms.
- The recyclables are getting lighter by larger in volume. We need to be looking at our density data and standardized volume to weight conversion factors. But weight should remain the key indicator of program performance; not volume. But keep in mind that weights and corresponding densities can be influenced by moisture levels in the trash or recycling.
- The State, counties and cities should require reporting of total tons of recyclables and then divide by all households served and then prorate back to the city level based on their household counts.
- The volume of recyclables has gone up while the weight has gone down. This is because most recyclables contain less material than they used to. This might be causing some of the data to look misleading.
- There is very little controlled, rigorous measurement benefits and impacts of waste reduction.
- thousands
- tracking - solar farms - 1000 posts/ sec
- we also don't want drivers tracking participation rates of residents because it takes their eyes off the road and threatens safety
- We need to determine how accurate the data really needs to be vs. the cost of gathering that data. We could use RFID tagged containers with truck mounted scales to get very accurate data, but it is expensive to set up and expensive to keep calibrated. Is it worth it?
- we're probably about as good as we're going to get
- website

## 7. Contract Hauling

The draft MPCA Policy Plan requires that cities contract with one or more haulers for residential organics and recycling, and recommends such contracts for trash. What help might the County provide to support this change?

- [Jump to the next section](#)
- [Return to the top](#)

### Summary

Responses to this varied widely, from strong objections to any such requirements to active support for organized collection as the only way to handle organics or significantly improve efficiencies across the solid waste system. Some offered specific suggestions for a collaborative process to ensure multiple perspectives and fairness for consumers, cities, and haulers; lots of public education on the issues; and a hard look at costs and impacts for everyone.

### Compilation

- Call it organized collection
- change state law - not require the cities, why would county support one way or another - Q says "support"
- The County shouldn't support this
- contracted hauling is the only way to make sure organics collection works (if it is collected separately)
- contracted hauling is the only way to make sure organics collection works (if it is collected separately)
- Counties should be wary
- County drop sites
- County should provide pros and cons and answer questions about organized collection
- County should push back at MPCA trying to force cities to organize trash collection, especially if the city/residents do not want organized collection
- Create resources and municipalities to use if trying to organize collection
- Data from the haulers could be reported and analyzed on a pounds-per-household basis. The data from the facilities will be based on materials from all routes (all cities) without so much regard to the location.
- Decide how to pay for organics, if you have an everyone pays system (high participation) then you need contracted hauling
- Do not mandate residential organics collection (make people do it)
- Don't support it; organization is not fun and a huge pain
- don't unionize the hauler
- For example, Ramsey must haul there
- give SCORE money to cities and contracts
- give SCORE money to communities with curbside
- help write RFPs
- Host fee openness -- public information -- more transparent
- I believe this is the worst idea ever. We only do rollofs so this does not affect us
- If organized collection happens, there cannot be labor contract (union) requirements in the RFP – they won't bid on those
- If organized collection is mandated, the County should be educated in the facts of organized collection and assist the cities with clear and concise RFP's
- implement county ordinance
- language to support this
- instead of organized collection for organics, instead focus on commercial accounts (restaurants, grocery stores, schools, etc.)
- It should not be the State's position to mandate organized collection
- make sure haulers are involved in process with cities
- Make sure that it really is a priority strategy first
- monopolize not recommended
- more education on organics; start with businesses and expand to residents
- Most hauling companies are opposed to organized collection
- Move away from weight based metric system to volume based
- multiple haulers
- One hauler or multiple haulers per zone
- one hauler would not allow shipping for (room for growth there), if inevitable maybe county could oversee, ordinance to make it fair to all, ~ a more detailed organized collection
- organized collection -- designation?
- organized collection leads to state

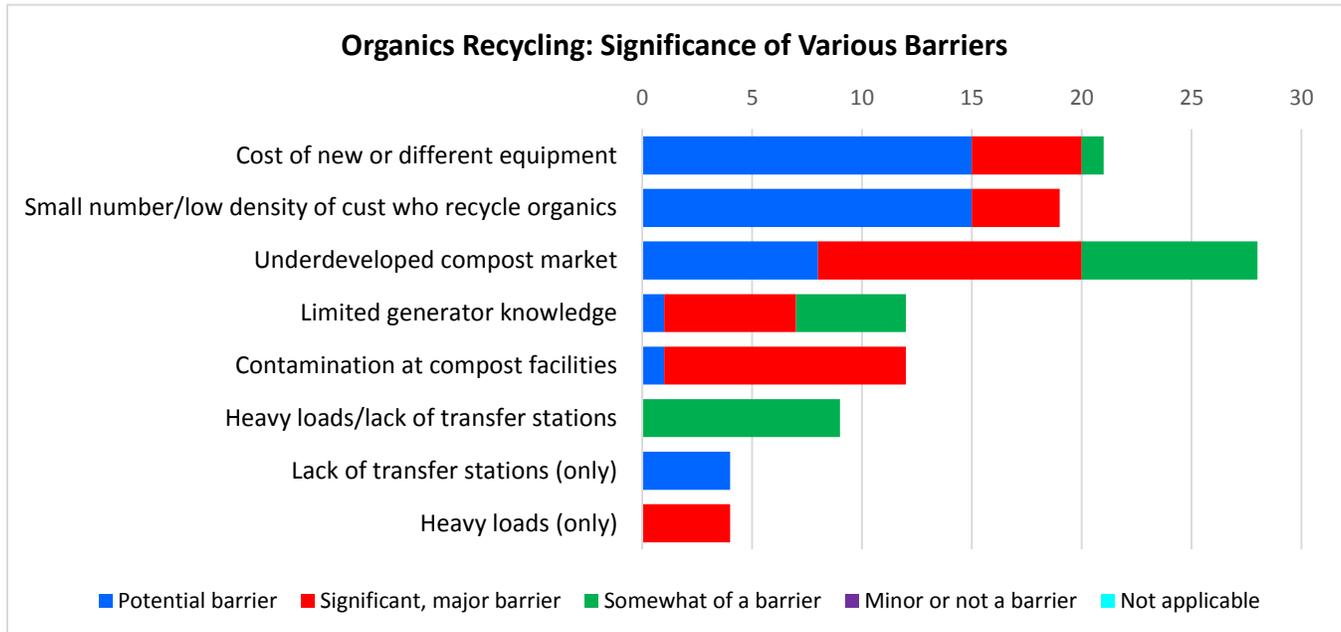
- meddling with the system
- organized recycling collection makes more sense than MSW collection
- Overlapping hauler routes is OK and can be accounted for in any data reporting system. If there are requirements for “straight loads” (e.g., of recyclables from only one city), there will be higher costs due to collection operation inefficiencies. It is more important that there are consistent definitions and measurement standards throughout the County and throughout the region.
- people can't choose
- probably will have to work at a city level
- raised prices
- set goals for recovery
- Some data is confidential or at least proprietary and needs to be protected.
- Some participation studies do not account for extended vacations (i.e., snow birds), etc.
- St Paul is trial of widespread organics collection
- start with businesses - restaurants
- The actual weights per capita of many commodities are coming down (e.g., printed newspapers, cans, bottles, plastic containers, etc.) due to light-weighting and down-sizing.
- The MPCA Hauler Reporting Requirements removed participation (e.g., set out counts) from the forms. Dakota County should also take out participation from any required hauler data forms.
- The recyclables are getting lighter by larger in volume. We need to be looking at our density data and standardized volume to weight conversion factors. But weight should remain the key indicator of program performance; not volume. But keep in mind that weights and corresponding densities can be influenced by moisture levels in the trash or recycling.
- The State, counties and cities should require reporting of total tons of recyclables and then divide by all households served and then prorate back to the city level based on their household counts.
- There is very little controlled, rigorous measurement benefits and impacts of waste reduction.
- Will drive small haulers out of business
- Will hurt prices in the long run
- will require a lot more education
- Work with each city and township
- write model contract language

## 8. Organics

Dakota County has been told there are numerous barriers to recycling organics. For the examples below and any other barriers you face, indicate how big of a problem this is and your ideas for a solution.

• [Return to the top](#)

Participants scored the barriers by significance, as shown below. Note that the first option was potential barrier (blue in chart), and then significant, somewhat, minor, and not applicable. None of the barriers were deemed by participants to be minor or not applicable.



Below are comments for each of the barriers.

### Cost of new or different equipment

- At scale, costs become reasonable
- Cannot have a system that requires an extra truck
- Chicken and egg
- County tax to encourage/make not recycling or using organics
- generators \$/3 separations
- Grants and subsidies
- Grants and subsidies for restaurants, haulers
- Less frequent trash collection
- Need to develop more compost end markets
- Need to reduce contaminants in the organics waste stream
- New waste stream = new truck -- significant; how to pay without new revenue? Great idea if costs increase, but customers don't want to pay for it
- non-taxable waste stream
- State holds the responsibility to change the law and allow co-collection of organics with yard waste
- Subsidized grants, or rebates to offset new collection costs; grants are OK if long-term and not just one-time, but can help w/ start-up costs.

### Small number or low density of customers who recycle organics

- a lot of people who separate are already composting at home; requires more education
- Allow commingled yard waste and food waste
- Blue Bag separation?
- commingle with yard waste
- Concentrate on commercial to start
- Contamination of organics is a big barrier.
- Contract out entire organics collection service.
- Drop-off facilities can be a great bridge towards development of

residential curbside recycling of organics.

- Education
- Education
- education - consumers told to compost
- Education is key. Low route density is a major barrier. Try to target potential customers to increase route density.
- Education must overcome the barrier to having additional container for food waste
- Incentivize

### **Underdeveloped compost market**

- advertise/educate more
- All levels of government should buy compost for use in construction, parks and other projects.
- Can be used locally
- Counties and MnDOT must buy more compost
- County and other local governments should use organics – derived compost.
- County should consider providing incentives and technical assistance to local governments and

### **Heavy loads/lack of transfer stations**

- Collaborate with existing transfer stations and operators.
- County needs to support/incentivize the infrastructure
- Different equipment because of heavy loads -- expensive

### **Limited generator knowledge**

- Education of consumers/customers
- Education, education, education. Do more online with web-based information/education. Do more

### **Contamination at compost facilities**

- Inefficient routing is not cost effective
- More education is needed.
- More route density is needed to make residential curbside organics recycling viable.
- Must mandate payment for organics collection, cannot be voluntary
- Need a uniform system
- Need to focus on large commercial generators
- Organics collection services ideally would be “free” for consumers.

landscapers + nurseries to use compost.

- Doesn't seem like it should be a barrier
- Education
- Fewer compost delivery facilities
- government use compost in road construction/landscaping
- Material needs to be less contaminated
- More facilities to accept organics
- No idea
- plenty of ag markets
- production of compost should not

- Examine / mitigate barriers to County organics transfer station licenses (e.g., consider a modified MSW license)
- food waste will actually compact better
- Grants to build transfer stations

with public drop-off sites (including siting/developing additional facilities). Mailings.

- People are lazy and hesitant to change; takes time to break old

- Organics recycling may need to be mandatory to gain the economics of scale needed.
- Recognize that all of these strategies may not work to lower the rates.
- Start commercial and residential will follow
- Too few customers -- are they willing to pay more and/or self-compost?
- Use “Blue Bag” type of system.

drive the organics systems

- promote development of new compost sites
- Provide compost “for free” to residents, schools and community gardens.
- public projects
- Subsidies to purchase equipment to remove contaminants
- The County and State need to help promote development of organics transfer stations and additional composting facilities.

- more compost sites
- Provide more composting and organics transfer facilities.
- Subsidizing tip fee might work but subsidizing infrastructure costs are preferred

- habits and develop new ones
- significant residentially; somewhat for business
- We need a lot more education

- Better education
- Education of consumers/customers
- End market of compost complains about contamination; need more education
- keep it out at the generator site
- Knowledge and education are key. Help promote clear, consistent (e.g., County-wide) specifications.
- Need to work on what is acceptable contamination by the end customer. For example, compostable utensils might not completely break down in the initial compost process but should still be fine in the finished compost.
- Perhaps offer a voucher to redeem at local businesses.
- Provide more of the correct, BPI-certified compostable bags.
- Reducing contamination needs to happen at each site, pre-pickup; separating once dumped very difficult
- to get answers, ask facility operators
- Undo the past education efforts

### **Other barriers**

- Current laws and regulation that don't allow commingling of yard waste and organics
- Laws/regulations
- Current laws and regulations
- Odor issue, NIMBY issues; cultural aspect -- promote organics at all events...who is going to promote it? (significant barrier)
- Regulatory barriers -- for County -- flexibility -- take anything (somewhat of a barrier)
- Lack of facilities (significant barrier)
- Odors at transfer stations (somewhat of a barrier)
- Lack of capacity (significant barrier)