



**Dakota County Solid Waste Master Planning
Municipal and School District Input
Round 1 Compilation and Summaries
December 2016 through February 23, 2017**

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Introduction

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

Dakota County reached out to all the municipalities, school districts, and consortia in the county to participate in Round 1 as shown on the table. Engagement occurred from December 2016 through February 22, 2017. All 11 school districts were interviewed, a number of the smaller municipalities/townships were represented online or at a February in-person workshop by the Rural Solid Waste Commission, and 15 municipalities participated online or at the workshop. The consortia are the Rural Solid Waste Commission, a joint powers agreement between the 13 townships and six rural cities in Dakota County that works to increase awareness and opportunities to improve recycling and reducing waste, as well as implement efforts that preserve valuable landfill space; and Dakota Valley Recycling, a partnership among the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Lakeville that connects residents and businesses to recycling, composting, and waste disposal information. The list of all invitees and participants is in the [Contact](#) section at the very end.

Public Entity	Online survey	In-person Workshop	Phone interview
Municipalities	X	X	
School Districts		X	X
Consortia	X	X	

This input along with that from all other stakeholders will be shared and used to inform the Phase 2 draft strategies; stakeholder feedback will be sought on those draft strategies in spring 2017.

Obvious misspellings and punctuation errors were corrected and obscure abbreviations were spelled out. In the sections below, responses are organized by question; below each is a summary and then a compilation of responses. The source of each response is not identified, but they are generally organized by district and then municipality.

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

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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 or 952-891-7021.

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.

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Summary

Municipalities and school districts are actively working to reduce waste, often fully integrating this into their commitment to efficiency and responsibly managing public funds, as well as educating and engaging their community and school district families. Examples include environmentally preferable purchasing; ongoing internal and external education campaigns and pilots; going paperless; reusing, sharing, or swapping whatever they can, and shifting away from items that produce waste at all, such as air dryers vs. paper towels. As school districts have big food service operations, they are all working on reducing waste in their purchasing, food, and ware. And as public entities, all are complying with various requirements while also moving ahead in various ways to help their communities do the same.

At the same time, they want to do better for themselves and their communities/districts, and are already or planning to collaborate more among municipalities, among districts, between municipalities and districts, and all with the County to support and encourage waste reduction.

Municipalities: 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?

School districts: What is your school district doing right now to support and encourage waste reduction in your schools or other district buildings?

- Recycle comingled paper, glass, etc.
- Have organics recycling in place in all schools; does better in some buildings than others
- District puts lots of unused items on public surplus website -- primarily to keep stuff out of landfill; we sell a lot of items that way
- Initiatives with cafeteria recycling; have containers, signage in cafeterias; encourage recycling; schools have gotten pretty good at it -- kids separate items on way out of cafeteria -- has been an education process for students and staff -- ongoing program
- The district composts yard waste.
- Participates in an organics program through Foodservice. I think we use Blue Bag.
- Moving towards less paper, doubts that they will ever be able to go totally paperless. Also undergoing going a 1:1 integration that will mean less workbooks and textbooks. We have bins throughout the building and feel we do a pretty good job.
- All hazardous chemicals are bring disposed of properly
- Really don't have any bulk items; any carpet recycling is handled by the contracted installer.
- Co-mingled recycled
- Different color garbage bins for ease in recycling
- Moving away from paper (to Chromebooks)
- Composting yard waste
- A program detailing how to deal and dispose of hazardous and nonhazardous materials is loaded on all classroom/staff desktop computers. Instructions include how to dispose and clean up for spill or accident (through Minnesota State University system)
- Bins for different types of recycling
- Paperless efforts, digital communications, shared documents
- Sort by type of waste (paper, plastic)

Municipalities: 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?

School districts: What is your school district doing right now to support and encourage waste reduction in your schools or other district buildings?

- Hauler uses the resource recycling center
- Recycle co-mingled paper, glass, etc.
- Moving to paperless system
- Encourage recycling
- Districtwide, try and reuse furniture, auction/sell it, or recycle what we can
- For hazardous chemicals, we've moved to greener products; and instead of ordering individual plastic bottles for custodians, etc., we order larger containers, premixed, and they just refill their bottles as needed -- so we're not throwing out as many chemicals
- District does the majority of our administrative work on Google Drive, so from routing slips to HR forms, everything is an online form so we are nearly paperless -- very limited printing districtwide
- We put all our extra equipment and furniture inventory online within the district, and have everyone go there first, which has significantly increased our reuse and reduced our purchasing (we don't have a central warehouse, so this functions as such); then auction or recycle the rest; as a growing district, we were able to very quickly build out new Kindergartens using this list
- Encourage less printing
- Participating in composting program,
- We comingle recycling, anything that doesn't "fit" goes in regular trash
- Paper and plastic recycling
- Reduced paper usage (ordering less)
- Water-based paint for septic use
- Conducted a survey of what's in trash containers in classrooms and found that almost everything is recyclable, so now we recycle all that; used to recycle c. 20%, now recycle 35% of what we produce and compost 6%
- Put furniture up on internal district exchange but if not taken it goes up on statewide exchange; if not taken, the district seeks to donate more widely nationally or internationally; otherwise, it's trashed
- Food sharing program, so kids who don't drink their milk, for example -- it's saved, refrigerated, and given to other kids like in after-school or evening programs
- Placing recycling containers in high visibility areas
- Elem have "Green warriors teams" that educate staff and students
- Both elementary schools have a organics recycling programs
- HS/MS in process of implementing now adding organics recycling and county is helping
- Working with county staff are doing waste audit and assessments
- Composting yard waste 100% with help from City
- All hazardous waste is generated in science labs. Annual disposal is done brought down to county site recycling zone. Waste oil brought down to nearby gas stations. Stockpile until hazardous waste until haulers picks up
- multifamily bulky collection for items when residents move out
- My focus is on getting things in the right bin -- we do that with help from Dakota County plus ourselves -- we have labels on the bins, recycling bins by all trash bins and sometimes organics
- Obvious applications in cafeteria, but adding signage and bins in bathrooms also for towels
- Environmental magnets are doing trash, recycling, and organics bins
- Live Green is the name of our overall program; every other month or so we do events around special issues -- such as recently we worked on purging Styrofoam from our buildings -- we don't buy anything with it, but

Municipalities: 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?

School districts: What is your school district doing right now to support and encourage waste reduction in your schools or other district buildings?

people still bring in things, so we did an educational event around that. Did a week-long event with each on a different topic related to recycling, energy conservation, water quality, etc. We also work on things like zero-waste day in the cafeteria

- We have a public compost sale around Earth Day as part of an awareness campaign (6 months ago this was a hamburger and now it's great soil to help your tomatoes grow!)
- We don't do many specific efforts that reach into families -- just what kids share with their families
- business grants – environmentally preferable purchasing, reusables
- reuse workshops -- how to live with less stuff
- support for schools to use reusable-ware
- better clothes that can then be donated
- focus-fast food/casual restaurants -- recycle!
- less single-serving, packaged food (e.g., chip bags, crackers, "lunch box" items)
- more composting
- using recyclable and reusable products
- curbside organics
- change County ordinance to require weekly curbside recycling option
- focused effort on recycling in fast, casual restaurants (Chipotle, Potbelly, Solo's, etc.)--huge opportunity with all of their paper!
- Online exchange program (through Craigslist Free Stuff?)
- Easy drop off spots for these items
- Large county fines for illegal dumping and better ability to prosecute
- I know that in the past, there has been garage sales. Reuse!
- bottle filler station in high-use areas
- curbside organics collection for residents
- grants for businesses to reduce/reuse
- swap paper towels for hand dryers
- use recyclable paper in the office 30% or more
- purchase materials made from reused items
- have multiple housing units host a swap event where residents can exchange items that they are no longer using
- continued education through main stream media directed by the state or county.
- Some type of coordination with haulers to have a system to pick up furniture/goods from residents a couple of times a year maybe organized by local government at no cost to resident. Funded by state or county. Some type of modified system to help businesses.
- sponsor events
- target education with kids and households first
- Cost savings highlighted
- Make it easier for public entities to donate items no longer of use
- Donating goods
- Recycling hazardous chemicals

Municipalities: 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?

School districts: What is your school district doing right now to support and encourage waste reduction in your schools or other district buildings?

- Making sure to recycle
- Already done to the extent practicable
- curbside organics collection
- easier ways to recycle mattresses, car seats, tires, etc.
- education around no-burn laws
- education/enforcement regarding hazardous waste -- educate entire communities and do it frequently
- funding to public entities and businesses to swap paper towels for hand dryers, encourage purchase of reusable bottles, recycle toner cartridges, and generally purchase in a more environmentally friendly way
- large/giant boxes in apartments for people moving out to leave stuff to be reused
- move this education and practice from cafeterias into classrooms
- sanctioned neighborhood-based reuse events -- curbside
- school districts using reusable ware and compostables in food service
- focus on food waste prevention
- government do a better job of prioritizing activities based on greenhouse gas/full life cycle accounting; better information sharing
- focus on environmentally preferable procurement/set and standardize expectations

Recycling Barriers and Supports

This asks you to think about how your municipality’s policies, practices, and requirements may influence recycling success at residences, businesses, organizations, and institutions in your community.

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The following two questions were asked for each of the categories below:

- **Barriers:** What prevents them from recycling the following (or doing more)?
- **Supports:** What would encourage them to recycle (or do more)?

Use the hyperlinks below to jump to specific topics:

- [General: barriers and supports](#)
- [Composting yard waste: barriers and supports](#)
- [Composting food scraps: barriers and supports](#)
- [Recycling paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastics: barriers and supports](#)
- [Properly disposing of hazardous waste: barriers and supports](#)
- [Recycling bulky items such as carpeting, furniture, mattresses, etc. : barriers and supports](#)
- [Other: barriers and supports](#)

Summary

For all these categories, the key barriers – and related supports – revolved around the following:

- Everyone wants to know more for themselves *and to share* with their stakeholders what to do and how to do it, so information, education, group activities, collaborations, and long-term commitments are essential
- Funding for pilots and similar start-up initiatives would help, along with staff support to help develop and implement new or expanded programs in buildings, at outside public spaces, and where there’s been resistance or less investment such as high schools, multifamily buildings, businesses, etc.
- As public entities, they already have effective internal processes in place to reduce waste, recycle or compost, and properly dispose as required, and most are working at a scale that involves trained internal staff and as needed outside contractors with recycling/disposal requirements built into their contracts such as for carpeting, yard waste, hazardous materials, and so on.
- For recycling, composting, or disposal of some items, respondents are willing and able to learn about *and teach their constituents* about better, more cost-effective, and more convenient options; for those that use drop sites, they should be easily accessible, affordable, and with flexible hours; they want help organizing large groups of people to consistently compost food scraps, and some need information on what to do then; many need help with bins/containers, bags, signage, and processes; and all are seeking affordable, accessible, and convenient solutions for their community members/families.

General Barriers	General Supports
	considering additional teachings and training and offering rebates for costs incurred by districts. Also, what if the County could offer an audit that wasn’t punitive? What if they visited schools and business to help them do a better job by pointing out things are being incorrectly? That would be beneficial.
	Education, attitude and habit for all
not enough drop sites	
no organized curbside pickup	

convenience	
cost	
education	
time	
funding	consequences
space	develop mindset
resources	incentives
inconveniences	knowledge of long-term impacts
for-profit business model	rewards and recognition
	educate about where picked up yard waste goes
	enforce rules about where haulers take recyclables, yard waste, etc.
Yard waste: Barriers	Yard waste: Supports
We mulch all our yard waste and let it stay in place	
	Education for students, but understanding that education doesn't always lead to action. How do we get them to action?
Aesthetics and space.	Providing containers
We do wood chips with the city; we mulch	
availability of program	Increase public awareness of programs availability
They currently leave clippings on the grass	
Nothing; we mulch, wood is chipped/shredded and reused	
lack of dropoff sites	more education
Nothing; district composts all yard waste -- we have no barriers	
concern for winter	
lack of vehicle to transport	
volume	
not convenient, cost of yard waste cart from hauler	reduced fee for yard waste cart; promotion of Gerten's and other options in area
No need to go off property with lot sizes in our township	Free composting bin
people may not have vehicles to drop off yard waste	
	education
May not have room for compost pile	Financial incentives. Convenience. Providing tools to make it easy. Offer pilot programs.
Costs extra	include in cost of garbage hauling
Need more information on how to do this	Having containers available to dump their yard waste
extra costs are passed on to customers of haulers	educate people about drop sites
	education on importance of composting for the environment
labor costs for school district to collect and transport	make drop sites more accessible
people without own vehicles to transport	on-site mulching
	enforce against entities that burn yard waste

Composting food scraps: Barriers	Composting food scraps: Supports
Use the Blue Bag system to control odors especially in the warm months, and the cost of those may become an issue over time -- already quite expensive	
We contract out our food service program. Compost as much as we can.	
	More education, address issues such as smell, fruit flies and bees
Awareness, time spent in bins, cleanliness (flies in warm weather)	Additional awareness and containers ease frequency of pick ups
Nothing, except that compostable bags are expensive	We use a compostable bag system (green bags), and have taught staff how to use bags more efficiently and also now are sizing bins better
School participates in that at school and trying to do in community but too many obstacles in a city-wide effort	changing the simplicity of doing it. Perception of difficulty. Messy, smelly, flies...
Staffing, knowledge	Having the staff to implement and monitor
Pretty good composting program for the elementary school food, put in compostable bag, and Dick's Sanitation composts it; County staff Renee Burman worked with Rosemount to build a district-wide composting program with Republic/BFI -- within just a few months this collapsed at the high school because kids were so disrespectful, and we've found that these habits do not continue from elementary through middle schools and high schools; we'd need a lot of help to advance this district-wide and be successful. There was some initial help from secondary adults, but even that faded after a while; no secondary adult leadership for SW at this point.	Help from County, volunteers monitoring and supporting composting at the secondary buildings; would like to learn more recycling bathrooms waste paper, etc. (thought those weren't recyclable; will talk with hauler about that)
	We had to show people that there would be no smell (or the same smell as it organics were in a dumpster), so more education about the dispelling myths of such a program
Though we have compost bins everywhere, of course we still miss stuff. Elementary and middle school students do this really well; high school students are much tougher -- in some cases it's a language barrier, some "don't care," and others don't know; Master Recyclers have volunteered at times and that's been successful, but when they're not there it doesn't happen at all as well. We're working as a district to get rid of everything that's actually trash (can't be recycled) to eliminate the problem entirely.	We have a homeowner close to one of our schools who asked to add organics from the neighborhood to the school's organics bin -- this kind of idea, partnering with neighborhoods-- might be a great way for everyone to benefit
lack of dropoff sites	compost bin sales
	support for Blue Bag pilot project
getting composted scraps for gardening	
bag cost for cities	
no space at home	financial incentives for businesses, including restaurants, to recycle more -- cost-benefit/ROI is not there right now

winter (volume)	
Dakota County bins for large organization	
value of time	
too labor intensive, lack of knowledge as to why food doesn't decompose in landfill, cost of composting bin	free compost bins; curbside organics
Draws unwanted animals	Free, secure composting bin
	funding for pilot studies
	would like to have a study done by contractor to determine feasibility of organics collection
availability of food scraps-appropriate bags or containers	
most haulers are not set up to take food scraps for composting organics	
site availability, access, knowledge about	
cost of organics bins/bags	
No organics collection program from hauler	a program available
Not enough room for all these recycling bins. May not have ability to provide safe keeping area away from pets, children.	Financial incentives. Convenience. Providing tools to make it easy. Offer pilot programs.
availability	make available
need more information on how to do this	Learning more about the benefits of composting
	educate residents and businesses about this
haulers aren't set up to pick up organics	
provide bins/bags/collection for large generators	bags break and aren't durable/short shelf life
slow winter compost breakdown	for large generators, odors after even 1 day in the summer
	focus on large users and educate them
dropoff sites not accessible and people don't know about them	educate people about dropoff sites
	educate residents about hauling savings if they do organics/composting
provide bins to households	lack of funding/availability of bags
	for large generators, concerns about rodents
	provide incentives to large generators
	fund pilot projects for curbside organics
	more education; cheaper access to compost bins
<u>Recycling paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastics: Barriers</u>	<u>Recycling paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastics: Supports</u>
No major barriers, but it's an ongoing education effort -- there isn't specific curriculum, so it's an effort of the service clubs at schools and custodial staff, which is difficult	Embedding this in the curriculum vs. relying solely on volunteer service clubs and custodial staff; sent the County's e-letter off to curriculum team that's working on the science curriculum right now, so looking at where it best fits; have an active group of kids in elementary and hoping it will just continue up into the middle and high schools as they age. For us to move forward, this has to be a priority for the administrators and staff/teachers in our buildings, who then infuse it into the school

	climate -- make it normative. The proper containers and dumpsters are in place already to handle this.
Staying on top of current and changing guidelines and changing habits of use. For example, we were putting milk cartons in composting pile but were told during a visit by an official that milk cartons were now to be rinsed and recycled. We didn't know that and don't have the time or manpower to make keeping up-to-date with changes one person's job.	We often rent facilities to community groups for weekend tournaments and those groups often do not compost or recycle. Educating them would be helpful. Overall, maybe ask people what people need to do more recycling/composting, donations, etc.
Kids throwing away everything instead of recycling. Age is a factor and more adherence elementary/middle schools. For instance, recycling milk cartons in MS means rinsing and they had a hard time getting students to do that	use different color bins to make it for easier for people, comingling has helped a lot. Different color dumpsters for custodial staff
lack of awareness, education and convenience (multi-bins). How to know what goes where. Staffing for custodial and cleaning. Limited time must to-do versus nice to-do	
Staff and custodians aren't always on board or aren't clearly supported by principals and deans; In summer 2015, with DC and Dick's Sanitation to create a professional development opportunity to visit with DC and Dick's Sanitation -- very well received and valuable. Middle schools and high schools don't do as well, likely because administration doesn't emphasize it	Active support by principals and deans; special projects by teachers/students in buildings; all pre-K kids (in one building) are learning about and doing recycling, so they're coming in to K with these skills and expectations -- and those kids are teaching their parents; would like to identify a champion for each building beyond the custodian; internal positive reinforcement and publicity
	Making bins visible, accessible, convenient
	Making it part of the school climate and culture
No barriers to prevention. Area is strong areas of the district's efforts.	nothing, People are aware and doing it. Its been long enough that people know
recycle a lot. Staffing (someone to physically do the work)	
our districtwide comingling is successful and pays for itself	We're doing nearly all of this already; every once in awhile we overfill our trash before the hauler arrives, so trash gets put in with recycling and contaminates it
have containers out in high visibility areas, recently with county support did an audit of that process.	More education is needed. Go to point of decision to interrupt wrong choice.
Less supportive administrations in some school buildings; for example, when kids bring food into classrooms -- better if there were some accountability for that waste	
	financial incentives for businesses, including restaurants, to recycle more -- cost-benefit/ROI is not there right now
lack of space in recycling bin if already full from every other week recycling; convenience at multi family apartments; language barrier in educating new residents	weekly recycling (surveys show 50%+ throw away recyclables when their bin is full)
Places to store; every-other-week pickup	More frequent pick up. Can take anything!
	location of drop off areas
Continued education.	Financial incentives. Convenience. Providing tools

	to make it easy. Offer pilot programs.
lack of motivation, possibly need more education, focus on lack of space in landfills	education on importance - personalize it as much as possible
Most people in our neighborhood do this	We have containers for this, and it works
no funding or pickup options for outdoor public gathering spaces	provide better residential education about this
	educate generators about how to prepare their recycling for proper pickup
	Ensure haulers are taking and handling recycling the way they are supposed to
	provide business incentives to recycle more
lack of knowledge on what can be recycled	weekly collection of recycling; require large business to recycle and enforce it
<u>Properly disposing of household hazardous waste: Barriers</u>	<u>Properly disposing of household hazardous waste: Supports</u>
Use outside companies to pick this up; staff must contact Operations to dispose of this -- Ops keeps the manifest for this to track and report it annually; this works well right now	
As far as we know, we are doing a good job, but if there is a change in process or how certain things should be disposed of, we may not know about it.	
Has a company come in pick up hazardous waste 1x a year	Eliminate having to take it somewhere and pay for it- maybe subsidize?
Lack of knowledge of where is best place to dispose	
Access and awareness. Cost in some cases	awareness / access to ecosite 1x a year, lower or no fees
We arrange with vendors for hazardous waste recycling in the spring and summer; beyond that, there's confusion about things like batteries	We need more detailed information about what is hazardous and what's not, and how to recycle lots of specific things that "seem" like they're hazardous but aren't, and specifically what to do with them (like latex paint)
districts work with recycling for ballast and florescent tubes, other stuff works with environmental consultants	public awareness and having a hazmat drop off day one every day (more frequent)
If it's not being done properly - it's due to a lack of knowledge.	
nothing; many years ago we went green with all chemicals; for leftovers and other items like fluorescent lamps we work with specialized firms who provide certificates of recycling	NA; we've gone to more bulk purchasing and solid chemicals vs. liquid
Nothing; we take care of it all in our receiving department -- everything is handled responsibly	
electronics	
lack of knowledge, inconvenience, limited Recycling Zone hours	education of options
Hassle of driving to one spot. Have distributed drop off points	easy light bulb drops; battery collection; curbside pickup
locations	
	Hastings has clean-up day in April
only one city wide household hazardous waste drop off day	more drop off days then just spring

in the spring	
unaware of impact of HHW on themselves and environment - education needed	education on importance
People are lazy and don't take the time to do this	making everyone aware of where to bring their hazardous waste
dropoff costs for certain items	educate people about hazardous waste and what/how to do
	capitalize on / promote / provide information on metals, etc., that are recovered from recycled electronics
	dropoff sites for both residents and businesses: more, closer, longer hours, more days
	education about impacts of pouring poisons down stormsewer drains
	incentives for business buy-backs
long distance to disposal location	closer drop off centers
<u>Recycling bulky items such as carpeting, furniture, mattresses, etc.: Barriers</u>	<u>Recycling bulky items such as carpeting, furniture, mattresses, etc.: Supports</u>
Carpet contractors remove old carpet, but not all contracts include a recycling requirements; District puts lots of unused items on public surplus website; other bulky items just get hauled by Dick's Sanitation, and presume that's landfilled vs. recycled (don't know what's in contract regarding recycling these items)	Knowing more about options, including this in contract
	if things are too broken or unusable to donate, what do we do with them?
Unaware of the option	Additional education
knowing more about where and vendors who would pick them up and what do they do with them. Convenience - not aware of recycling options.	
No major issues; do internal reuse database, auction some, and recycle some	For carpet, going to carpet tiles vs. broad looms for more efficient replacement, and also working with new carpet vendor who will recycle old carpet back to original carpet plant. They still have some leftover furniture parts -- like wood tops for tables/desks -- that are still being landfilled; they talked with Dick's Sanitation but they couldn't help; would recycle them if we could figure out how...
Access to sites, disposal fees. Often just left / dumped outside, especially in rental areas	
logistics of having to figure out how to about it.	I don't think enough people know who to call how to do it. (Garbage hauler?)
Any of this is handled by the coy contracted to do the work.	
Work with company that recycles carpet; don't recycle more furniture because when we had a dumpster for metal the city (Apple Valley) at that time told us we couldn't have that	
	Offering additional education about how and

	when. If you make it easy for people to participate they are more apt to do it.
costs	weekly or monthly reduced-fee curbside pickup (ex: City of Minneapolis)
We recycle parts of these to the extent possible; rest is trashed. Carpet replacement company recycles old carpet. Don't know of other options.	We're part of a group of school district facilities and we share/reuse as much as we can.
	retailer buy-back programs
lack of knowledge on options	education of donation options (promote private and non profit options too)
Not having a vehicle to transport it	curb side pickup
	county now lets us use grant dollars for mattress recycling
many places require payment for disposal	
Need free and easy pick up solutions for residents. Require haulers to pick up any item(s) once a month as part of regular trash pick up.	Financial incentives. Free hauling to residential customers.
accessibility to locations to drop off materials	
Most people do this, by calling their waste companies	Information on what to do with this stuff
no current market for wood furniture recycling	curbside pickup at reasonable cost
people can't transport many of these items	incentives for businesses buy-backs
costs that haulers charge	more frequent community-wide cleanup days
no known, accessible, affordable place for small-volume carpet recycling	organized, cost-effective, pickups for bulky items
	provide more education about carpet-installer take-away programs
lack of knowledge of where to take these; access to recycling locations - too far to drive; cost to dispose is cheaper and more convenient than recycling	more options; making it cheaper to recycle than trash these things
Other: Barriers	Other: Supports
lack of physical space in home for both trash and recycling bins--it needs to be convenient!	enforcement of new recycling laws in businesses--get restaurants to do it!
Some people hire people to take their old stuff when getting new stuff	
No restrictive ordinances	I think that if Dakota County could provide a City clean up day, Residents would take advantage of it.

Emerging Technologies

Recent studies indicate that significant amounts of recyclables are still being included in trash and disposed of in landfills. One idea is to separate these recyclables from the trash using new technology prior to or at a landfill or resource recovery facility. An example is to remove recyclables from trash at a mixed-waste processing facility (dirty MRF). Another is the Blue Bag Organics® recycling program that collects separated organics with trash. These new technologies would be planned and designed to complement, not replace, traditional source-separated recycling programs.

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Summary

Public entities are committed to doing a better job with this, and open to exploring various ways of accomplishing this. They want to ensure the solutions are affordable, practical, and done in conjunction with continued or expanded education and participation efforts among their communities and families.

<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Challenges and how to overcome</u>
If it takes away some (or all) of the work from district staff that's a benefit	
More is recycled	Potential for additional costs if this were to discourage source separation...might raise costs for everyone --- or perhaps lower them...not sure
Make it easier. If people don't have to think, then they are more likely to follow through	Not know what or how is always a barrier.
Make it as simple and easy as possible.	Cost (if more than currently paying)
Makes it easier on schools	
Better sorted at the source help improve the quality to the environment. But any additional efforts, such as Blue bag - are helpful.	Make it seamless and convenient
Continue to talk about the importance of environment and its connection to water quality	Drive down to source / user level so there is less need for additional resources
Last piece of oversight. As consumers are not perfect, many public facilities that are (rentals) all goes in the garbage, Last step provided, to those with a ecological/environmental conscience, that is a comfort	Wasting time sorting instead of doing other custodial tasks
	Prospective political climate (anti-environmental)
Could make it a lot easier for us for things like furniture that have lots of different components, some currently recyclable and some not...	
Good to remove all recycling from trash to reduce what goes to the landfill	Additional costs?
Anything that makes it easier is good. Lessing individual involvement and automation makes it more efficient.	Facilities: hand sorting and humans digging through the trash and picking out recyclables is not a job many want.
Anything that benefits the environment is good.	Staffing, additional cost for Blue Bag
If current system is working well they why add new layers that might break it? That said, if there are items	Cost might be a challenge. Can it subsidized?

Benefits	Challenges and how to overcome
that are falling between the cracks then additional assistance offered through technology is appreciated.	
	Perception of additional work that needs to be done by already busy staff
One more opportunity to capture what's missed -- and this will always be the case because there will be a percentage of people who don't get it right; it's been amazing talking with people from some other countries who take this so seriously	Technical difficulties
blue bag--allows those wanting to do it a way to do so without forcing others to follow	will the cost result in higher trash hauling bills? any incentive options to overcome the cost?
takes the burden off of residents if their recyclables are separated for them	by having dirty MRFs, are we reducing incentives to recycle (i.e., are we encouraging laziness)?
blue bag would be an awesome way to introduce curbside organics without the need for another bin when space is already tight in garages	
no thought has to go into it	do you want people to not think about what they are wasting?
a lot of waste from gatherings, public spaces, offices, would handle that	get them to buy less
Provide jobs in the Community	Items will still slip by, I'm sure
options available	additional cost of program offered to residents/businesses
continues to reduce the amount of unnecessary items going into the landfill	cost. Space and challenge of locating these new facilities.
Way more would be caught as people are lazy	Personal responsibility is lost, education continues
Much easier to use.	cost of facilities to operate, offset costs with increased recyclable material use
less containers at curb + less trucks on road	
people would know what to do with their trash	
having a place to put their recyclables is easy for them to understand	Some people get lazy and don't understand
	Having information about how to recycle and separate helps
The rest of the nation separates material for recycling	Government would need to research the true effectiveness of these approaches at diverting waste vs. environmental benefit

Resource Recovery

The State of Minnesota “Restriction on Disposal” law requires all waste to be sent to a resource recovery facility rather than a landfill, and a different law requires public entities to send their waste to a resource recovery facility. For the solid waste your district generates, what ideas do you have to maximize the amount of waste that goes to a resource recovery facility rather than a landfill?

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Summary

Almost all were very knowledgeable about these requirements and committed to the outcomes, although this question raised some issues. Some weren't sure what was or wasn't written into their hauling contracts, or not confident about compliance; a few of the very small or rural municipalities were concerned about scale issues. Many continued to stress the importance of finding ways to make these efforts work for them and their communities.

Ideas to maximize amount of waste to resource recovery facility vs. landfill

- Trash is brought to the incinerator and recycling center so nothing from their district is going to landfill
- Expand scope of law to apply to more entities
- Every once in awhile we'll get an email from Dick's Sanitation about contamination in our organics -- mostly when the public dumps something in our organics dumpster that doesn't belong there
- We could improve how we handle recycling/trash for our school/public events
- A city-organized annual pickup for bulky or hazardous materials that *includes* our schools and district facilities; our city doesn't do any of that right now -- even better, a multi-city or county-wide effort, which would get support from *lots* of people
- Not enough information to comment; we use Dick's but don't know anything about what happens after it leaves our district
- Having it sorted well at schools, pulling out everything that they can. Try to send only stuff that can't be used elsewhere
- Education about how to sort, convenient way to store until picked up.
- Current hauler is using RRF
- Awareness and understanding and ease of doing
- Address fact that it is more work for staff to comply
- Put this in our hauling contract
- Talked with hauler; great that it's being processed, but learned that c. 10% doesn't get to Empire because of scheduling problems or missed routes, etc. When we bid it, we *expect* 100% to be processed and now finding out it's not 100%, will follow up with hauler
- Reduce the cost of hauling it away. Get teachers involvement to get student involvement.
- Age is a factor. Younger kids are gung-ho. Older ones are less interested in participating
- Make it easy
- Make it simple
- Make it affordable
- Be done on the front end, need to pay for staffing. Staff is stretched thin.
- Education, signage, bins/containers
- find a way to get organic material out of the waste stream--make organics a priority!
- incentive programs and marketing for businesses that do a good job recycling

Ideas to maximize amount of waste to resource recovery facility vs. landfill

- recycling at parks and outdoor public spaces
- offer a pilot organics program
- costs need to be less
- it's an odd law but see the purpose
- I always put in our quarterly newsletters, how and where to recycle
- Having people pay attention to their garbage and recycling bins
- To understand which bin to use and what goes in each container
- sort it there
- do not target extremely small generators like townships that have very little trash; not cost effective. There should be a threshold on the amount of waste generated before it is required for processing.
- Use a waste shed approach (target waste closest to resource recovery facility) to reduce transportation wear on roads and maximize environmental benefit
- Spend more time and energy (\$) on waste reduction and recycling, less focus on disposal

Waste Management (School Districts Only)

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft Policy Plan includes a number of key strategies to improve solid waste management. Please share your perspectives on those below.

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- Reduce food waste by changing practices and habits, and donating excess food
- Require organics diversion by large generators of organic materials by 2022

Summary

Most districts are making significant efforts to reduce food waste and compost organics, and meeting with success. Those moving forward proactively may struggle with moving to scale, engaging high school adults and students, the need for unrelenting education and support, conflicting regulations or priorities, or sustaining programs over time. Others need more information about processes and options, educational materials, and supports to get going or expand.

<u>Barriers to implementing this requirement</u>	<u>Ideas for overcoming barriers</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organics diversion: no significant barriers, as we have infrastructure and containers • For donating excess food: our schools have a sharing table, but don't believe there's provision to donate • Don't participate in the food to hogs program -- don't know anything about it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started all this about 4 years ago in all buildings, so hoping that as kids go from elementary to MS to HS they carry these commitments with them and it becomes a part of the culture • Could do more work with the adults in our buildings • Could look for cost-effective ways to monitor what's happening in buildings and better track our overall progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The healthy food initiative is challenging. We are required to put food on kid's plates that we know they won't eat and will throw away. Yet the district only gets reimbursed if we offer a complete meal. • Food donations are difficult due to health issues. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throw away more food since healthy choices because we force kids to take what we know they won't eat. Maybe kids can get more exercise instead of forced food choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate the forcing of "healthy" food on kids and let them eat what they want.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food waste, offer portion control, staff and students awareness of taking what you'll eat. Lack of training resources for serving staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person power to make that happen, training kids and staff, frequency, storage, not overly complicated 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No problems with organics diversion • For food waste, trying to provide food kids will eat and order more precisely to reduce waste; have sharing tables at elementary and secondary schools; haven't explored donation at all yet, but district staff knows about food to hogs program 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws impact present donating food. (MDH) • Being diligent serving students what they will eat. Reviewing menus, balancing healthy foods with stuff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having it monitored peer standing at barrels and instructing

<u>Barriers to implementing this requirement</u>	<u>Ideas for overcoming barriers</u>
<p>they'll eat. Watch closely what is thrown away.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation issue, Changing mindset. Good in younger kids, but high school years are tough. How do we help them understand to be ecologically responsible? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition guidelines would have to change. Law tell us we have to put it out there. • Once it gets it on a plate can't be donated • Unfunded mandates are an issue. May be substantial so we need funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition guidelines would have to change. • Let districts know about programs or opportunities to donate that don't violate health codes and laws
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year there was a company willing to pick up unused food for donation, but it became a challenge this year because we're outside the metro core • Here in Rosemount, there's a food recovery organization (Rosemount Resources?) that provides support services and a food shelf, but only a small amount of certain foods (packaged, whole fruit, etc.) • So barrier is finding an organization to take donated school food • Inability to motivate secondary staff and students to participate in composting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding organizations to take excess food • Active support for food composting in secondary buildings -- so there is active buy-in from the school board through all the school administrators and staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools are required to give certain food. Can't recycle unused healthy foods. Some food is donated if not used. Unsure where it is donated but a charity gathers. • Second strategy is not applicable as they already do that but others might have a fiscal impact. People thought it was extra work and smelly but has been generally well acceptable. Bags are expensive and extra dumpster both cost money. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to learn more about what donation options are possible (and meet Health and other legal requirements), as well as things like food to hogs program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics barrier to donating extra food is getting it where it needs to go (and also following health rules like around milk); with varying amounts per school/day, we haven't come up with a sustainable solution and also that doesn't overly burden food service staff; there also aren't lots of leftovers -- and in general I don't have the authority to do much more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a share table at many schools • Would love to do more with any kind of waste; UM did a study on our district and found we have very small quantities of food waste right now

Public Limitations and Opportunities

This question asks for information about the following three topics:

1. [Tools or mechanisms currently available](#) to reduce waste and increase recycling in your community or school district
2. [Current limitations](#) to reducing waste or increasing recycling in your community or school district
3. [New or enhanced opportunities](#) to reduce waste or increase recycling in your community or school district

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Summary

As might be expected, there is significant variation among public entities. Looking across all of these responses, however, a number of overarching themes emerge:

- They are willing and able to do more to reduce waste and increase recycling, and in most cases are actively working on ways to do so
- All recognize they have leverage, but public tools and mechanisms vary by the entity's size and scale, and by whether an entity is a municipality or a school district
- They both need and want to learn from each other – within and between municipalities, districts, and the County – and believe that doing so will significantly improve both processes and outcomes
- They believe the only pathway forward is as whole communities and districts, with everyone working together and with neighboring public entities, and with clear and ongoing County support in various forms
- Education, information, and collective efforts are essential within and between communities and districts, and must continue in perpetuity even as the content shifts over time
- The new “normal” of recycling paper, glass, and metal gives them a great deal of hope
- The significant differences in opportunities, services, and access across the County are major barriers now and more so in the future, and they need to know more, collaborate, and get help from the County to work with haulers, facilities, and decision makers to resolve these
- Access, convenience, ease, affordability, clarity, and similar priorities are consistent and essential to success
- The County is positioned to serve in an important role to support public entities with education, information, options and ideas, funding, and staff; to be a convener for them to learn from each other and best practices; and to support work across multiple municipalities and districts and throughout the County to help ensure residents, businesses, institutions, and others are part of this long-term effort on everyone's behalf

1. Tools or mechanisms currently available to reduce waste and increase recycling in your community or school district

Survey Responses, Uncategorized

- Eagan has added a condition of development for all new retail developments requiring recycling in the common/public areas--all cities in the County could use this language so it becomes common practice to have recycling at retail centers
- ordinance changes could happen to promote weekly recycling and organics, but there are political realities too--it is better if the County could consider standard language for consistency across cities
- policy to require compostable paper products at City/County events (Mpls and St. Paul have these policies, but we do not in Dakota County)
- Dakota Valley Recycling partnership is fabulous--we could grow that organization further if other cities joined the JPA
- city sponsored clean up days.
- education through website, newsletters
- educational/outreach

1. Tools or mechanisms currently available to reduce waste and increase recycling in your community or school district

- development review
- minimum in ordinance
- I always put in our newsletter about recycling
- I try to be repetitive and make sure the residents know what to do
- We have a post office where information could be posted.
- We are a rural township. This has not been an emphasis for us.
- education programs to residents

1. Requirement for weekly recycling

- Group discussion: try to make the trash bin smaller and recycling bin larger. People are more likely to recycle more if it's built into the cost, like "dessert part of the menu."
- Need sample provisions for ordinances for cities to use, sample document. Should add provision for bulky items
- Haulers are barriers to this; Highland will do this
- Hastings has requirement (almost sure). Apple Valley bi-weekly. Douglas no ordinance for hauling - haulers governed by county ordinance
- Weekly business, biweekly residential
- All 4 cities: no; want a hauler that can do that; organized neighborhood collection (neighborhood block rate program); Burnsville has bulky items in contract
- Has not been discussed
- Surveyed residents for thoughts/interest
Individual neighborhoods have negotiated to get weekly recycling
- Weekly - business? Biweekly - residents?
- It's offered
- No/Voluntary
- Might be biweekly
- Requirements in place via ordinances
- Two times per month, typically
- Not sure if weekly is required

2. Development reviews/requirements for recycling in common/public spaces

- In our RFP process
- Burnsville has sustainable infrastructure policy; Apple Valley? Lakeville?
- Group Discussion: could be multi-housing, businesses, outdoor space. Part of development contract, but also needs to be codified. If not in ordinance, could be part of PUD -- condition of development permitting. Look at City SOPs for plan reviews
- Looking at recycling plans or minimum requirements for construction and demolition
- Look into a county-wide requirement for organics recycling to protect cities from having to do these things individually
- Community development department requires outdoor structure that's enclosed (Hastings) and has certain standards for businesses. Apple Valley also has a community development department. Douglas only has one county park, don't allow businesses to build
- Has not been discussed
- We have model development condition language that others could follow for new business development
- Have to check with community development
- Not even discussed

1. Tools or mechanisms currently available to reduce waste and increase recycling in your community or school district

- Not in our ordinance
- No
- Code modification for plan review

3. Agreements across municipalities to share solid waste staff

- Interested in cooperative purchasing ideas and similar
- Douglas shares with Rural Solid Waste Commission. Apple Valley shares with DVR. Hastings aware of Local Solid Waste Staff but no other agreements than with County.
- Rural Solid Waste Commission and Dakota County Township Officers Association
- Via DVR
- Greenvale Township was not aware they had this
- Would be fantastic for city of Hastings to have a staff specifically for Recycling Coordinator
- May engage with landfill owners to support a staff person
- Group: Could be expanded in unlimited ways -- with dropoff facilities and staffing. Park staff pick up recycling and trash in Inver Grove Heights parks now -- extra work
- Can be expanded with additional opportunities
- With South St Paul and West St Paul for recycling
- impractical
- JPA recycling coordinator, dropoff-recycling days=partner

4. Model contract language for requiring trash to be transported to resource recovery facility vs. landfill

- contract language from county; exception(?) county
- Group: Do recovery facilities have capacity? Not sure they can require it. What can and can't they do? Cities want to learn more -- can city require that it be local flow designation for public waste -- can't tell haulers where if we don't have the facilities
- Technically required, but believe have language (Apple Valley and Hastings). At Douglas, no services for township building at all (residents would fill in) - bring home with them.
- County gave us RFP language (we used contract language) to meet law
- We host the landfill and get free pickup for all city facilities
- Difficult to initiate at this time
- What statutory/ordinance language would be enforceable
- Not sure if these cities take to recovery facility first

5. County-provided containers, signage, educational information, etc.

- signs, park containers; great resources!
- Group Discussion: Printed materials for events, bin label, metrics on right-sizing bins, games, banners
- Part of County funding now
- Has not been discussed
- For organics recycling; great resource!
- They mainly use signage from the County. Love the master recycler program
- Info at town hall
- Currently use grant dollars
- Working on updating bin labels
- Metrics supporting trash reduction, costs by recycling
- I know these are available and plan to utilize as much as possible

1. Tools or mechanisms currently available to reduce waste and increase recycling in your community or school district

6. Policy on compostable paper products at public entity-hosted events

- Our events are run by booster clubs
- researching language to create permits in all 4 cities; nothing created yet
- Part of Hastings Arena project, but not a technical "policy." \$165 per pickup - use arena funds to pay for this, part of general arena expenses. If made policy through City Council, might encourage to make budget line item. Apple Valley using up supply, looking to add compostable products (would look at this policy potentially) - currently just getting started. Douglas no policies on this.
- Has not been discussed
- Have never had these; not considered; no
- A lot of ideas but no time or money
- Not yet
- Policy in place by city council? something to talk about
- Don't have
- Used compostables at Summer Festival - expensive
- No but have provided at past events: Waffle breakfast (Pan-O-Prog) and earth day events

7. Education through e-newsletters, social media, cable TV, special events, etc.

- Could use more resources
- Need more resources
- E-guide, newsletters, Twitter, Facebook, special events...
- All do
- Has not been discussed
- Now that we have organics, we organized across departments to buy compostables; running events; challenge with nonprofits; goal to have a "green" article in every city newsletter
- Not enough money for videos
- Businesses need more information on how they can save - she specifically mentioned the 17% solid waste tax
- Website, newsletters (bi-monthly), social media -- FB and Twitter
- Facebook, bimonthly newsletters, city website
- Cable TV shows
- Heights Highlights, Quarterly, Facebook, website
- Quarterly newsletter
- Quarterly
- Quarterly newsletters, bi-weekly news for staff, Facebook and Twitter posts

8. City-sponsored cleanup events

- would like these events to be open to school districts
- Apple Valley, Burnsville (2 events); Lakeville, Eagan shred event
- All do. Rural Solid Waste Commission ag plastic program
- Tire recycling in conjunction with Rural Solid Waste and Dakota County
- Pumpkin and shoe recycling and shredding events; use Recycling Zone rather than citywide event
- HHW-drop-offs - Curbside
- Will be adding more events with new township hall
- Interested but not yet, will plan in the near future
- Will add Sunfish Lake
- work with neighboring cities

1. Tools or mechanisms currently available to reduce waste and increase recycling in your community or school district

- Watershed clean-up day, earth day, HHW
- Dropoff, not curbside
- with Inver Grove Heights
- Spring cleanup, shred events, fall pumpkin recycling, appliance curbside
- Helps bring the message into homes

2. Current limitations to reducing waste or increasing recycling in your community or school district

Survey Responses, Uncategorized

- open hauling system makes changes difficult, but organized collection efforts are too costly for the cities from a ROI perspective
- limited personnel and communication/marketing budgets
- lack of funding to help cities hire personnel with proper expertise.
- More collaboration with haulers, cities and county
- lack of staff time
- variations in requirements across cities
- ordinances
- The only thing I can think of is that people are not aware or understand what to do and they are lazy
- We are always discussing ways to recycle
- Garbage and recycling pick-up is expensive for some rural homeowners.
- lack of staff expertise in waste issues

1. Elected officials resist or don't prioritize recycling, or hesitate to collaborate with other public entities

- All cities very agreeable; able to do all programs
- Hastings - feels always curious, willing to listen. Apple Valley - along lines of what City of Eagan stating, political figures not starting this just responding to. Douglas - hasn't been issue in township, hasn't come up - would rules still apply?
- Disagree; our elected officials are very supportive (e.g., park recycling)
- We are willing to help and listen and are supportive
- Lack of resources are a problem
- Education/Relevance - Benefit to city, long term impacts
- Budget - not budgeted
- New ground -- TBD
- City communications director told me they don't like to "advertise" for other cities because they're "competitors."
- Low priority, resources limited

2. Political or administrative resistance

- resistance comes a little with environmentally preferably purchasing and compostables (very little)
- Resident pushback/concerns - just following constituents
- Group Discussion: Inver Grove Heights has a strong council and wants competition among 19 haulers. If you set up the ordinance requirements for haulers, some will drop out
- Small haulers pressure City Council
- Disagree; environmentally preferable purchasing resistance but overall support
- Lack of understanding
- Always supportive and interested to learn
- TO organized hauling, political will
- New ground -- TBD
- unsure

3. Not an emphasis/priority for small, rural communities

- Yes

4. School districts have limited authority

- Disagree with this
- Disagree; we recycle

2. Current limitations to reducing waste or increasing recycling in your community or school district

- Schools are great example and can use kids to advocate the importance/compliance

5. Staff unfamiliar with legal requirements, options, and resources

- Some clarification needed with MPCA rules and regulations
- A lot of employees don't live in Dakota County, don't always know what's going on (Police officers out of office a lot, etc.) -
- Yes this is true. Consistency would help a lot.
- Group discussion: Waste is just one thing typically among other duties for staff
- Could use more information on what is required or available
- Understanding state (MPCA) requirements
- Working on recycling education
- Work plan includes education

6. Lack of staff time, funding, or other resources

- Limited funding for larger-scale programs (organics collection, parks, recycling; difficulty controlling programs due to County requirements
- Always - for everything. Would like to prioritize - how can lower price of compostable bags? As a rural community, are these issues pertaining to us? No way to know as governing body what residents or haulers are doing. Douglas - can begin to get pickup #'s from haulers. Douglas would like to see these trash/recycling numbers for their community. Douglas - what is county doing with retailers? Douglas - Have to go a long way for hazardous waste drop-off (Egan) - can add hazardous waste collection to the collection? Have to send township staff to pick up waste in ditches. Cities pay a lot money for hazardous waste days - how to make cost equitable? Buyback programs help with this - wouldn't want to buy from retailer if refuse to take your old one (mattresses, TVs).
- Could use funding for things like organics, enclosures, bins, special projects like in parks, etc.
- Need a dedicated staff person
- Amount of time dedicated to solid waste has increased tremendously over the last 5 years
- Limited funding/competing funds for recycling efforts; strict regulations we have to follow with County-initiated projects each year takes away our autonomy/local control
- Always need additional time and resources
- Assist w/ ? acquisition
- Work plan includes education

7. Complaints from haulers that each community has different solid waste regulations

- Apple Valley - employees from different area come into play again here. Hastings - sometimes residents not familiar with, not choosing. Hastings says benefits and data.
- Haven't heard this
- Not aware of anything

Other

- Legislative initiatives this session may try to limit what cities can and cannot do and control.
- Need to figure out how to make people take the long view when it comes to recycling
- Still a problem but getting better, younger people are changing this practice
- Need more education and to show metrics that demonstrate cost/benefits. Still need more education to avoid contamination.
- When haulers pick-up recycling and solid waste, they damage the unpaved shoulder requiring repair from the township

3. New or enhanced opportunities to reduce waste or increase recycling in your community or school district

Uncategorized Survey Responses

- curbside organics
- public space recycling
- retail/restaurant recycling
- clothes recycling opportunities
- focused recycling campaigns in partnership with cities and DVR
- I think posters in our post office would help. Everyone goes to get their mail there since we do not have home delivery.
- Our community is only population 206 so there is not too many place to have tools
- We always promote recycling on our one big day Mendota Days We have recycling containers and talk to people then too.
- A county-sponsored rather than private program???
- model language/codes
- standardized list of what can be recycled
- requirement for haulers to provide recycling education to customers

1. Model ordinances, policies, best practices

- how to use ordinance to get businesses to do it; lack of enforcement
- Apple Valley - yes, these would be helpful - how to encourage and educate different groups of people (police, parks). How to give residents an ethical standard to make changes? Hastings - complaint about size openings! Both at city and arena.
- Dakota County needs to identify best practices that should be in contracts, although that depends what the State regulations will be...
- How can we use ordinances to get businesses to recycle; enforcement?
- Would like help from DC, i.e., checklists and development reviews
- DC develop
- County enforcement of ordinances
- Ordinances are more enforceable than best practices, County support in enforcement, incentives to haulers when they offer big item recycling -- furniture, mattresses, etc.
- Cleanup days and containers in parks

2. Agreements across municipalities/districts for collective solid waste contracting (coop. purchasing)

- purchasing, yes; hauling service, no
- Would like more cooperation
- Interested. Apple Valley - would be nice if pooled together. Don't have funds for compactor alone, but shared perhaps, or share a truck.
- Rural Waste
- Cooperative purchasing (bins, supplies, etc.), yes; joint service, no
- Dakota County should assign a staff point person for each City -- a go-to for each city.
- Dakota County gives coop purchasing for bins and compostable products

3. Standards and requirements for hauling/recycling contracts

- Each hauler should have 4 days a year of free mattress collection. Could have a quarterly RFP for haulers to bid for bulky items -- more would have opportunity.
- Use county-provided language if available; no standards beyond requirement to pick up recycling
- Not enough political support and not enough money
- Assistance with organics

3. New or enhanced opportunities to reduce waste or increase recycling in your community or school district

4. Require recycling in all public spaces and for public events, etc. (buildings, grounds, parks, etc.)

- We have this for indoor events but not for outdoor events
- Not at outdoor events
- no requirements; do suggest/try to do this in parks and public space
- Hastings - Paired in all priority high use parks (20 of 35 parks). Anything to remind park visitors in contract? Might be nice to have template to add to checklist. Highly encourage at events in Hastings. Douglas - town hall is only building. Apple Valley - nothing.
- Enforcement? have now in buildings, but not outdoors
- Currently in parks and public spaces in priority spaces/parks - paired/labeled
- County reports are already too onerous
- Have this now in a limited capacity, working to expand
- DC needs to prioritize types of public events (city sponsored vs. in public spaces); labor-intensive and enforcement difficult
- Some successes here

5. Annual county review of local recycling programs and progress to help us do a better job

- Group: Maybe... Consider how to better engage elected officials/city policy staff in progress reporting
- Douglas - would like more of this, more information. Apple Valley - DVR provides these updates.
- Would like information on garbage pick-up and recycling in Douglas
- DVR scorecard for funding

6. Financial support for innovative recycling programs

- Used to have LNIF funds, which ended
- Hastings - County grant helps, big support
- Let us compete for innovation funds
- Unlikely...

7. Contract recycling (vs. open hauling) in single municipality or across several

- Burnsville, Eagan don't have it; cities don't want to pursue it; County technical assistance would be helpful
- how do you separate waste and recycling (MPCA); could explain how doing recycling in organized fashion could be different than all-out waste organized collection
- county ordinance to require haulers to offer organics--the current free market system doesn't give cities teeth to enforce. We want consistency across counties (and ideally the state) so each city doesn't have to create ordinances requiring organics
- Perhaps the County could supply this service instead of individual cities
- Currently have contract hauling with Tennis
- Provide locations for haulers to bring organics and incentives from county/state to assist haulers in collecting these items.
- signs and brochures.
- Will be political issue
- information on how to implement this

8. Multiple/distributed drop-off sites for organics, hazardous waste, bulky items, etc.

- Eagan - Recycling Zone; would like organics drop-off in another city
- Have Recycling Zone
- Do not have drop off for organics, hazardous in Hastings
- Tough to do with fully developed northern Dakota County

3. New or enhanced opportunities to reduce waste or increase recycling in your community or school district

If county-wide. County-wide sites provided by capacity

9. Curbside organics pickup

- Would love help implementing this! cost and technical assistance; require haulers to do this; Blue Bag program
- Get haulers to do it! Can County use ordinance to require haulers to offer it? We want it
- Our hauler doesn't have organics as an option

10. Promotional and educational informational and resources

- have some; could use more
- We have it; would always like/could use more
- With electronic and social media

Other

- In addition to doing many recycling vendors at clean-up day, have the City issue RFPs for a quarterly pickup of large, bulky items
- Need education to encourage the use of finished compost
- Need field trips to facilities to help understand the management system
- Need to formally recognize good deeds or successes in recycling
- Main interest in rural area and townships is agricultural plastics, film, oil containers, chemical containers
- Need to be in schools as part of the curriculum

Public-Public Partnerships

The County is committed to a collaborative approach to solid waste management.

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Summary

These responses reflect a clear and strong commitment among these public entities to work together with each other and with the County to reduce waste, compost, recycle, and ensure proper disposal. They *want* to be more sustainable, “be tenacious” as well as creative, and find solutions that they can launch, take to scale, and maintain over time. They are ready to learn from each other and best practices, and collaborate to offer opportunities to their residents and families that benefit from such larger-scale efforts. To support many of these ideas, they need information, education, convening help, funding, volunteers, staff support, and ideas on policies, practices, and politics to build and sustain local awareness, understanding, and the commitments necessary to ensure long-term success.

How could the County best support long-term partnerships with public entities like yours to reduce waste and increase recycling?

- County has helped district launch their recycling efforts -- containers, signage; that’s been great
- If Blue Bag cost became an issue, some financial assistance could help
- Help set the standards and requirements for all hauling/recycling contracts, so each district doesn’t have to make this up on our own or face uniquely higher costs -- takes that entire issue out of the bidding mix
- Help create more transparency about what happens to waste after it leaves district facilities, so each district-hauler combination doesn’t have to deal with this individually
- We would love an annual audit to help us do a better job.
- The county could provide a website where they could have regular tips and tricks emails sent out regularly, share best practices and provide support (answer questions)
- Provide stickers for recycling / organics bins for easier identification.
- Training and instructions for training of kids (give teachers curriculum)
- Better awareness of what services and resources the country has available and how to integrate it into their everyday action
- Want to be involved, but figure out how to get away from random levels of interest and involvement. and day-to-day to get it done
- Our county is much more proactive with recycling efforts than others.
- Consistent contact. When support wanes the process wanes at the same. Check and balance by contacts
- Would like the County to provide links to lots more info about things like the *details* of how to recycle lots of different things
- County helping bring together districts to learn from each other and do some things together
- County to help bring together County, municipalities, and school districts so we can all work together much better, learn from each other, share information with each other to learn ourselves and help educate our kids/families/staff and residents
- County to provide information we can share with our students, staff, and families
- Not sure. Financial incentives to pay more attention. Feels pretty good about what they are doing at the district. Diligent at their level. Pretty ingrained in their processes
- Organics is tough. Figure it out.
- Financial support
- Training

How could the County best support long-term partnerships with public entities like yours to reduce waste and increase recycling?

- We'd love to do better/do more. But our staff is stretched thin already so we just don't have the resources for additional work.
- If we're to make composting a high priority, we need funding or people to teach, model, and monitor this daily
- Convenient, local collection spots for bulky things like metals, wood, etc., we could pick it up and haul it there ourselves rather than having to store it, schedule special hauling runs -- would benefit a lot by municipal support for things like metal recycling
- Opportunity to partner with other districts, cities, or even the whole county for collective solid waste contracting; we're all public entities, it seems it would benefit us all to do this together, better, more efficiently, and more cost-effectively
- Program we have going with Dakota County's staff members is helping a lot. Keep that up. Good at marketing the program. Tenacious. Expand to other entities if it is only being done for schools.
- County helping coordinate clean-up days to contract better prices
- Continue providing infrastructure (bins, labels, supports to get them into place); we started in 2009 and got the word out; composting was Lisa's idea and so she's done all that; we're continuing to expand this into staff lounges, bathrooms, etc. There's also staff turnover and some of the recycling rules are confusing.
- It would be helpful to have more training/retraining provided to all our staff on a more regular basis, beyond what she can do on her own
- Districts could partner with our cities to jointly educate with shared messages, serve as collection sites, etc.
- Would be great for district, city, and county staff working on these topics to get together and share ideas/build partnerships
- County staff come out to meet with cities -- administrators as well as solid waste staff
- County offering guidance on operations, model language for contracts, and other resources
- County offering development standards; physical space issues
- County providing info on best management practices to deal with things like events, parks, Styrofoam, etc.
- Financial support for compost bags, supervising food waste collection operations in schools
- County-wide volunteer pool
- Help districts connect with and learn from each other about things like classroom-level composting of paper towels, etc. (191 and 196, for example)
- Regularly convene local solid waste staff from throughout the County for peer-to-peer sharing and learning opportunities; more frequent meetings of the Association of Recycling Managers
- Engage chambers, faith communities; look at business incentive programs; provide business training and education
- Help everyone work with haulers on pilots, following through on what they say they'll do, etc.
- Help reconcile conflict between what some district staff understand as Federal guidelines requiring kids take a balanced meal, vs. that creating excess food waste
- Share more info via social media on food waste reduction -- and provide content to cities/districts so they can also share those same messages
- would be interested to know how much this MPCA plan would apply to rural communities
- Visit the Dakota County Township Officers Association.
- information on data for our (rural township) area
- communicate more with cities directly so we can be true partners

How could the County best support long-term partnerships with public entities like yours to reduce waste and increase recycling?

- organized social media campaigns in partnership between the County and Cities--we reach thousands in one Facebook Live video, so let's work together to get the word out on recycling opportunities and education
- limit the focus on specific recycling goals within municipal operations, and instead focus on the masses in the residential and businesses within our communities
- doesn't work with an open hauling system (we don't have contracts for residential hauling)
- cost barrier for city to implement organics collection
- MPCA needs to take ownership and mandate it, rather than push it down to cities to do this
- County or state could require organized collection for this purpose
- political infeasibility/risk
- work with haulers to incentivize curbside organics
- Neighborhood-level organizing for weekly recycling and lower rates is far less political and gives people choice
- Cross-promote county and city social media efforts
- focus on businesses (large share) and not municipal operations (small share)
- get County staff engaged with cities so we can work together
- County presence with Chamber business councils to bring recycling resources to businesses (connect with community development staff from cities)
- Support city/school partnerships on organics recycling
- Provide educational materials
- Sponsor events
- Provide funding
- Share staff resources
- Staff and resources to host public education events in rural townships to get the word out
- Educating local solid waste staff on what's available - know what's out there but don't always know what's going on with county. Is email the best way of communicating? Best way might be to stop by in person.
- More staff or funding for personnel at the local level to administer these required programs.
- be available to address the public and elected officials, attend meetings, present information
- Connect schools and cities resources
- cross-promote recycling events in schools and cities via social media and other
- County could help leverage pricing for multiple events
- County could assign staff to each city
- County should include cities in discussions with haulers so that all parties get the same information
- Could host clean-up days together -- 3 events in 3 cities (not simultaneous but in similar period). County could contract with individual recyclers and get a better price for doing several locations over the period.
- Coordinating with event host cities and contracting with the different material recycling firms, like Junk Genie
- Share workload or county take on as much as possible
- pay for waste sorts
- organize field trips for elected officials, businesses, and residents to see first-hand both short- and long-term impacts and consequences -- visual learners
- Partnering on events like paper shredding and cleanup days; provide resources, coordination, and volunteers

How could the County best support long-term partnerships with public entities like yours to reduce waste and increase recycling?

- keep the public informed about recycling and the rules to successfully recycle
- Offer classes on recycling, (I went to one it was very interesting and I learned a lot)
- Teach it in schools, community centers, grocery stores.
- have best practices and sample contract provisions for city to establish by ordinance, including minimum contract requirements
- Hazardous waste is an issue -- staff should partner to develop better information to educate the public on use and disposal of materials. Yard chemicals are a problem, as are the containers.
- Provide bulk item recycling infrastructure so communities can coordinate and share collection and transportation costs
- Have city forester, engineers provide joint hazardous waste education and best practices
- We have a big problem with illegal dumping in our township. We spent double our budget cleaning couches, tires, mattresses, etc. from our ditches. Recycling is apparently more inconvenient than throwing something off the back of a truck or too expensive.
- Please consider this expensive problem in your solutions
- Community funding
- Help organize bulky item drop-off days so there are 3-4 per year in an area of the county, but they rotate which city is hosting (e.g., West St Paul hosts April day, South St Paul SP hosts July, Inver Grove Heights hosts Sept) but each one is open to all residents
- Shared solid waste education staff (e.g. new position for city recycling coordinator for West St Paul/South St Paul/Mendota Heights)
- Assign a specific County person to each city so that is the only person the city contacts.
- help cities whose residents want "competition"
- help cities negotiate contracts with multiple haulers that include best management practice requirements
- educate residents about the need for best management practice requirements in hauler contracts
- county-organized meetings with haulers + elected officials + staff on this topic so everyone gets the same messages and information
- County staff to attend public meetings on this topic and work with elected officials, staff, residents, and businesses
- County should mandate this by ordinance to reduce local fears, potential risks, and costs -- as well as potential legislative pushback against municipalities that take such action
- educate residents about the benefits of organized collection
- clarify the purpose, use, benefits, and issues around this topic
- Provide funding to municipalities for recycling activities
- Identify model code language (to support consistency; divert waste)
- financial support to research and guide through the contract process (experts to argue with any industry pushback)
- funding and technical expertise to research how this will impact costs to our residents

Other Comments and Ideas

These responses are from the online survey only.

Great job on this survey and the cover letter introducing it. I really appreciate the reach-out from the County this year to cities. In my 15 years, this is the most communication I've seen between the County and cities regarding recycling, so well done and keep it up!

The township had hundreds of tires that were illegally disposed of in our ditches. One pile had 61 tires in it. the others seemed to be rolled out of a moving truck. Please have the sheriff follow up on this and take legal action to stop.

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Municipal and School District Contacts, Participants

Below are the lists of all municipal, school district, and consortium contacts invited to participate in Round 1 engagement. Bold indicates entities and individuals who participated in the online survey, in-person workshop, or interview (school districts only).

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<u>City/Town/Township</u>	Admin Name	Recycling Coordinator	Contact for Solid Waste	Workshop Attendee
Apple Valley	Tom Lawell	Dakota Valley Recycling	Charles Grawe	
Burnsville	Heather Johnson	Dakota Valley Recycling	Ryan Peterson & Daryl Jacobson	
Castle Rock Township	Barbara Lang	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Coates	Sherri Leflay	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Douglas Township	Peggy Varien	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Eagan	Dave Osberg	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dianne Miller	
Empire Township	Kathleen Krippner	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Eureka Township	Mira Broyles	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	Carrie Jennings
Farmington	David McKnight	Lena Larson	Todd Reiten	
Greenvale Township	Linus Langer	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	Greg Langer
Hampton	Wendy Carpenter	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Hampton Township	Molly Weber	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Hastings	Melanie Mesko Lee	Paige Marschall		
Inver Grove Heights	Joe Lynch	Allan Hunting	Mayor George Tourville	Heather Botten, Shelley Calvert
Lakeville	Justin Miller	Dakota Valley Recycling	Ann Messerschmidt	Zach Johnson
Lilydale	Mary Schultz	Mary Schultz		
Marshan Township	Marjory Snyder	Renee Burman	See Consortium table below	
Mendota	Kathy Krotter	Kathy Krotter		
Mendota Heights	Mark McNeill	Ryan Ruzek	Ryan Ruzek	
Miesville	Terri McCarthy	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
New Trier	Hannah Regensheid	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Nininger Township	Judith Krupich	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	Karen Bremer
Randolph	Mary Haro	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Randolph Township	Brenda Taylor	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Ravenna Township	Caroline Spurgeon	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Rosemount	Dwight Johnson	Tom Schuster	Kyle Klatt	

Sciota Township	Heidi VanDeSteege	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
South St. Paul	Stephen P. King	Christy Wilcox		
Sunfish Lake	Cathy Iago	Cathy Iago	Mayor Richard Williams	
Vermillion	Renee Vought	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Vermillion Township	Maryann Stoffel	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
Waterford Township	Elizabeth Wheeler	Renee Burman	RSWC representative	
West St. Paul	Matt Fulton	Cassandra Schueller		

School District	Name	Title
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage ISD 191	Joseph M Gothard	Superintendent
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage ISD 191	Lisa Rider	Director of Business Services
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage ISD 191	Glenn Simon, Ed Ziemet	Director of Operations
Farmington Area Public Schools	Jay Haugen	Superintendent
Farmington Area Public Schools	Jane Houska	Buildings & Grounds
Farmington Area Public Schools	Jim Ozman	Buildings & Grounds
Hastings Public Schools	Tim Collins	Superintendent
Hastings Public Schools	Jim Huberty	Director of Buildings & Maintenance
Intermediate School District 917	Dr. John Christiansen	Superintendent
Inver Grove Heights Community Schools	Dave Bernhardson	Superintendent
Inver Grove Heights Community Schools	Kevin McNamara	Director of Buildings & Grounds
Lakeville Area Public Schools	Dr. Lisa L. Snyder	Superintendent
Lakeville Area Public Schools	Sara Guyette	Director of Facilities and Planning
Northfield Public Schools	Matt Hillmann	Superintendent
Northfield Public Schools	Jim Kulseth	Director of Grounds and Buildings
Randolph Public Schools	Michael Kelley	Superintendent
Randolph Public Schools	Lori Underdahl	Food and Nutrition Services Coordinator
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools	Jane K. Berenz	Superintendent
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools	Mike Schwanke	Facilities & Grounds
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools	Jeff Solomon	Finance and Operations
South St. Paul Public Schools	Dave Webb	Superintendent
South St. Paul Public Schools	Dave Slomkowski	Health and Safety Coordinator
West St. Paul-Mendota Hts.-Eagan Area Schools	Dr. Nancy Allen-Mastro	Superintendent
West St. Paul-Mendota Hts.-Eagan Area Schools	Lisa Johnson	Sustainability Manager

<u>Consortium</u>	Name	Title
Rural Solid Waste Commission	Kevin Chamberlain	District I representative
Rural Solid Waste Commission	Donald Marthaler	District II representative
Rural Solid Waste Commission	Barbara Lang	District III representative
Rural Solid Waste Commission	Robert Applegren, Jr	District IV representative
Rural Solid Waste Commission	Tim Skog	District VI representative
Rural Solid Waste Commission	Renee Burman	County staff
Dakota Valley Recycling	Sue Bast	Environmental Specialist
Dakota Valley Recycling	Jackson Becker	Recycling Technician
Dakota Valley Recycling	Ellie Orrick	Recycling Technician