



**Dakota County Solid Waste Master Planning
Hauler/Facilities Feedback on Draft Strategies
Round 2 Compilation and Summaries
 May 2017**

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Introduction

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

Background

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

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

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

Contents and Navigation

This complete compilation and summaries of the Round 2 *hauler and facility* feedback includes results from May 2017. This feedback will help shape the final draft strategies for the Solid Waste Master Plan.

There were 22 participants in this process, representing a wide variety of haulers and facilities serving Dakota County.

Obvious misspellings and punctuation errors were corrected and any vulgar content was deleted; no other content changes were made.

In the sections below, responses are generally organized alphabetically by question, with demographic results at the end. Questions 1-6 were for haulers *and* facilities; questions 7-8 were answered by haulers only; and questions 9-11 were answered by facilities only.

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.

1. Consistent Collection

Question: Waste haulers accept different materials for recycling and stakeholders have said this causes confusion. Stakeholders have asked that all haulers in the County collect the same recyclable materials (e.g., paper, cardboard, cans, glass, plastic, and cartons). Results are summarized below.

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Summary and Compilations

Respondents overwhelmingly stressed the critical value and importance of being able to educate people and what and how to recycle, resulting in much higher compliance and less contamination. Concerns and questions included how to handle changing markets, possible reduced competition or innovation, and the potential for the drive for consistency actually reducing the recycling options available.

What are some of the benefits to having all haulers collect the same recyclables?	What are your questions or concerns about having all haulers collect the same recyclables?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As hauler that didn't operate a MRF, it would help to have consistent messaging. • Consistency – same waste everywhere • Consistent education – you can't even put a value on that. • Easier for consumers – same list at home as at work • Education is simplified • Education on what can be recycled is still an opportunity, for example people see the recycling logo on the back of a polystyrene container and think it should be recyclable even if they have been educated on recycling since they were kids. People don't connect what is recyclable to actual markets being available and so they just see the logo and assume it is recyclable. Education is viewed as more important than having to collect the same recyclable materials. • Generate a common message for promotion • It's the niche areas that might be a problem • Key is education, since most of the haulers in the room are collecting the same materials. • People just assume that the more materials they put into the recycling container the more will be recycled. People are disconnected from understanding the impacts of contamination in recyclables, such as plastic bags. It is amazing what people think they can recycle and put in their bins – sharps, guns, animal carcasses, propane tanks, bowling balls, etc. • Recycling Ed committee at MPCA is working on this. • Reduced contamination • Regional messaging recognized as good for consistency, the example was provided of the labels with images. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the market and technology change, the mix of recyclables can change. • Consistent messaging not necessarily an issue, since the markets drive what can be recycled. • Currently there are market issues with glass and 3-7 plastics, which are driven by import & export markets, this could be a challenge to collecting the same materials. • Education would have to change to match • Everyone is doing their own messaging and education right now and there could be a competitive downside to having the same message. • Goes to the lowest common denominator • Hard to insert new materials into the process or remove an old one. • If haulers want to exceed standardized list – shouldn't restrict them (works against the goal) • If you are a company that wants to move ahead, there's a disincentive to do more. • Might be better to have an at minimum list so that people can expand what they do. • Quality of material received, especially organics – costly to clean up post collection – especially if there is glass contamination • Relies on a consistent/reliable market for recyclables • Should be market driven • Single sort gets you quantity over quality and does the technology allow for good sorting • There are some differences between residential vs. commercial, but again, all doing pretty much the same materials probably about a 1% variance unless there is a specialty material that we would help to find a market.

- Should benefit haulers-reduced education for new customers
- The main categories will capture almost everything.
- Uniformity, consistent education should help reduce the contamination level to within 6-10%.

- What does it matter – the goal is to get to 75 percent. The more haulers collect, the better.
- Who sets the standard – the county or the facility? (should be based on market)

Comments

- Depends on what type of truck is being used - harder with commercial (use dumpsters)
- Provide education to new customers and postcards for billing every so often
- Use social media – every effort helps
- We give residents feedback if not put in the right thing (have semi-automated system for collection); feedback doesn't really work for an automated system
- We provide info on website; put info on cart lids

2. Commercial Organics Separation, Diversion

Question: To achieve state goals, organics diversion must significantly improve in the next few years. Haulers are key to advancing commercial organics diversion in expanded roles as "materials managers." One of the strategies included in the state's Policy Plan that the County must consider is a requirement for organics diversion by larger generators by 2022. In the two questions below, please comment what is appealing and what is concerning about the various options.

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Compilations by Option

Reduced tipping fees at composting facilities:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any time there is a reduction in disposal costs it is positive • Currently not higher than landfill • For large generators of organics, many of them are already be doing it, because the tax savings is significant and is a driver to manage the organics separate; and if a large generator is not doing it right now they are at least asking about it. • Possibly look at rebates or score money to get the infrastructure off the ground vs. regulating. • This is one of our biggest expenses right after labor. A reduction would allow our rates to lessen slightly depending on the weight of the customer • Tipping fee is a small concern – more of a question is routing density and other issues. • Tipping fees are already about as low as possible. Some kind of long term subsidy might be required. It needs to be sustainable. • To offset the additional costs – we need to show it is a cost savings (3rd truck) to our customers or they don't participate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the number of facilities available that can manage the organic stream. • Doesn't it add a trip – will still have trash + recycling; there is another truck on the road which is going to cost more • Don't think that the focus on large generators will drive down the tipping fees, since there is not enough infrastructure to manage the organics. The cost to build more infrastructure to accommodate the increased organics will get passed down to customers through increased tipping fees. • How do you price it out if you deliver to different facilities? • Only at certain sites? Only for certain customers? • SSOM composting facilities in the metro are full and there are no transfer stations – so if this is forced it would rapidly cause fees to sky rocket and the facilities won't be able to take it because they have no remaining capacity. • The government process to increase the infrastructure needs to be improved and can be confusing to work through. Private infrastructure preferred for development. • This is one of our biggest expenses right after labor. A reduction would allow our rates to lessen slightly depending on the weight of the customer • Who is going to pay for it

Phased-in approach based on the geographic density of generators:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitely be more cost effective if help build route density • It's a chicken and egg situation • Might not make sense in all areas • Phased-in approach based on the geographic density of generators • Phasing in is always a better approach for both the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hauler is not going to run all over the place, so the hauler is generally going to sell services where they have density and the distance to discharge (unload) will dictate. • Geographically isolated generators can be a problem. Might have to be customer specific. • Government should stay out of prescribing an

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<p>customer and the hauler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling had to phase in. It makes sense that organics would be similar. • Route efficiencies are good 	<p>approach, because it is already happening due to taxes which are making it appealing – naturally haulers are going to do it where there is density which naturally influences price.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important for haulers/doesn't matter for facilities • Large generators could be all over the county. • Residential will be the hardest.

Commercial organics collection fees included in base trash fee for all customers:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you charge it to a hardware store? • Like the idea for residential – more simplified because consistency in collection frequency and type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another form of government intervention – NO • Billing is harder for the haulers (a new line item) • How would you embed if based on volume; harder for commercial/more complicated • If a business doesn't have much organics, why should they have to pay? Not fair. • If it was included, haulers would have to figure it as a percentage of the fee because it is not fair to all commercial customers. • Make sure this is a separate line item so it doesn't get taxed • Might be more logical for residential • No, because if it was included in the trash it would be taxed. • This would be detrimental to others and the system • Too difficult to implement • Unfair if you don't collect trash as a hauler • We don't offer trash, so we would be left out of this if this were to happen which does not seem fair

Increased County education and technical assistance for generators:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best for places that produce a lot of organics • Big benefit • Can be used to minimize contamination. • Can't always rely on the haulers. • Coming from county gives it consistency • How can this save me money in solid waste tax or other ways. • Important • Include what can be composted but what can it be used for • Increased education and technical assistance from the County would be a good thing; and some County folks have already come out to assist with customers with organics. • The more the customers know the better off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal facilities need to be engaged because they change material acceptance which impacts program rollout and education • It is important that customers don't feel like they could be penalized or regulated when the County provides education and technical assistance. • Make sure it's not tax • Would this work similar to MN Waste Wise and their agreement with other counties?

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is necessary • We've partnered with Ramsey, Washington, and Anoka counties and their education is great! The more the county can help with signage and education to the customer the better it seems to go as they have more time and dedication than most haulers do • Will help with contamination – contamination has a significant cost to the facilities • Yes, especially large generators 	

Short-term financial assistance for generators to help with startup costs (bins, compostable bags, organics pickup, etc.):

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awesome • Grants are great, especially if they tie the customer to the program for an extended period of time to get up and running. Most customers don't want the up front expense to start a program • Is helpful – needs to be expanded from current system • The pre-consumer probably a bit better quality and will probably generate more; but feel that you still need to have both back and customer area. • This seems to work well; the example given was Hennepin County's program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure there is follow-up to ensure the recipients are participating and following guidelines • Make sure to work with the hauler, and collaborate with the hauler and the customer, before going in an starting a program; an example was planning for the enclosure construction so a hauler's truck can access it – it's like a 3-legged stool (financial assistance program, hauler & customer) • Need to address the long term costs of the bags • Short term isn't good enough. • What percent actually continues on their own after county funding; nobody wants to pay for it; there is a cost to providing organics service • You really need commitment other than financial.

Focus on pre-consumer organic waste (e.g., back- of-house or kitchen prep areas):

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do prevention first and foremost (food to people) • Example: Xcel Energy Center – they are doing a great job of both (pre and post) so use them as an example • Focus on both areas; can't control contamination if only focus in one area • Focus on prevention first, then disposal • Higher quality • Highly focused food area is easier to manage • Less contaminated • One of the best places with education. • Tech assistance will come in. • This is an easy place to start as their is more control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the market changes, are you going to change the pictures and re-label? This is expensive. • Different places say a different thing, which is confusing. • I have been the trash business for 20 years and I still struggle with what goes into each bin. • Lower volume than post-consumer • New FDA requirements for FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act Dec 2017) will make it more difficult for farmers to take food for animals • No room for another can. • Public spaces are the worst for contamination, just look in the bins at community events or a stadium. • Zoning, etc. can be a problem.

Focus on post-consumer organic waste (e.g., containers for customers:

What do you find attractive or appealing?	What are your questions or concerns?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A corporate cafeteria can do a good job. • Ed is even more important • Focus on both areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to setting up materials so that they are compostable or you get too much contamination • Harder than pre-consumer • If you have twenty pictures on the can, no one is going to read or look at them all. • More potential for contamination • Need more capacity • This is more difficult, and do this on a large scale the compost facilities must be on board as contamination is typical from what we've seen, and the education level at a higher mark

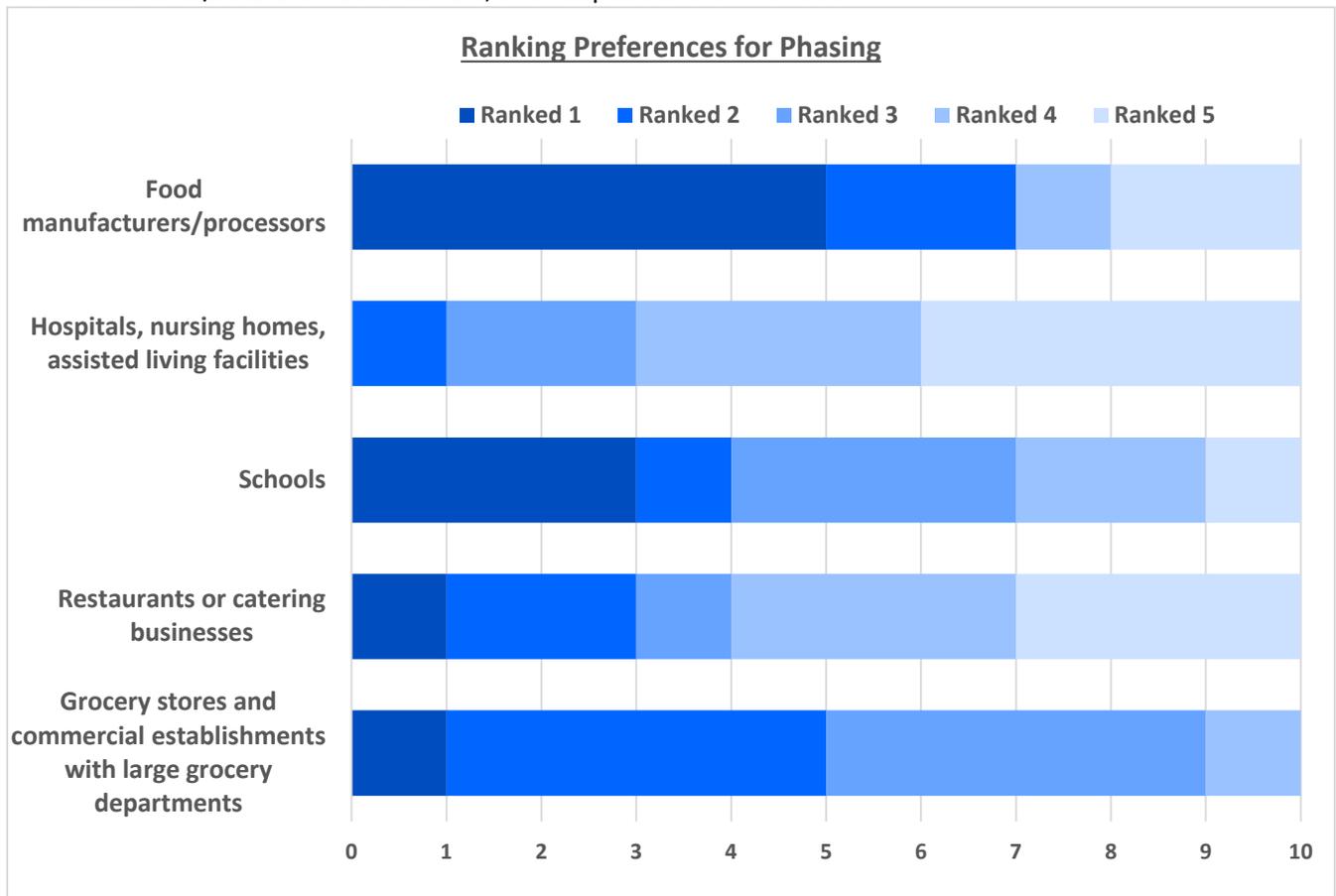
3. Commercial Organics Diversion, Phased by Type

Question: The state Policy Plan cites the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District ordinance definition of large generators, and the requirement for them to divert pre-consumer organic waste (e.g., food scraps from kitchen prep). If the County were to consider a phased requirement for large generators by type, what should the order be? Rank the following in implementation order, with 1 being the type you think should go first. Results are summarized and compiled below.

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Results

In the chart below, the options ranked highest are darker. That means that the most respondents recommended a phased process begin with food manufacturers/processors, then grocery stores and similar along with schools, then restaurants/caterers would be next, and hospitals and similar last.



Compilation of Comments

- Best long-term impact – education
- But we should do research to figure where most material is found if can easily be removed
- Public schools, then private schools. More leverage with public schools.

4. Commercial Organics Diversion, Phased by Type – other ideas

Question: What are your ideas on the following for large generators to divert pre-consumer organic waste:

- Other ways of phasing such a requirement?
- Other categories of large generators?
- Suggestions other than diversion phasing?

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Results are summarized and compiled below.

Summary and Compilations by Option

Other ways of phasing such a requirement?

While comments ranged widely, ideas included going from the easiest to pick up to the hardest; the importance of educating complex groups of users (school staff and children, contract cleaning crew members who may have language barriers, etc.); using incentives rather than mandates; the challenges of mixed commercial and residential routes, and recognizing the time it takes for haulers to invest in the equipment, route changes, and their own training.

- Allow choice for service
- Bagging helps/double tying the bags reduces odors
- Based on volume instead of institution type
- Concern with front of house for restaurants due to the high contamination.
- Custodians hate it – it smells
- Easy to indoctrinate the young kids (schools) – start there
- Feel this is already happening and does not need to be phased in.
- Get the easy stuff first, need to figure out what that is
- Haulers end up paying for it - businesses put stuff in the wrong bin so it costs more to industry
- How close to a processing facility. Closer should participate first.
- If you mandate businesses will be reluctant – businesses will be frustrated
- Location
- Look at the full life cycle analysis of organics collection and adding another truck to the road to determine environmental benefit.
- Look more broadly at the whole metro area and not by County.
- Manufacturing easier to keep the feedstock clean, since there are existing controls in the process.
- Need to address cost – more containers, more trucks
- Order of effectiveness was viewed by quality and lack of contamination, not by quantity.
- Phase by time. You all have to do it, but you have so much time to get there.
- Phased from the easiest grab (pickup) to the hardest; industry, schools, grocery, restaurants and hospitals – hospitals problem is 3rd party cleaning crews where there can be language barriers, communication barriers and training issues
- Phased in by amount of material and access to processing
- Provide assistance for specialized equipment – self-contained containers for larger businesses, compactors to deal/reduce with smell
- Provide incentives – cost savings that go back to the business
- Rear vs. front load equipment – haulers need to invest in both and there is a cost; makes routes inefficient if commercial has both types (e.g., Grocery stores use carts, retail uses dumpsters – then require two different trucks)
- Residents don't like it - it smells
- Schools are relatively easy once you get the schools and students to buy in
- Schools do a good job at the younger years and they take the message home to parents. Kids will have grown up with it and will continue the behavior.
- Should not ever be a requirement – make it appealing then businesses will join
- SIC codes
- Start with who needs the most education, because educating customers is the most challenging.
- The communication gap with the diversity in any of the situations, which is why the photos on labels are good and to include both written description and pictures.
- The hardest part about organics programs (based on feedback from businesses) is employee training (time to attend training) + act of sorting (ongoing)
- The infrastructure has to exist.
- Thought restaurants had and

incentive to do it – primarily back of house due to financial incentive, but there can be language barriers with staff.

- Tonnage rebate for large

generators – like MPCA EA grants have to fill out reports and then MPCA provides a rebate

- When we worked with the schools did not make it mandatory, need

to show there was savings; did not make it requirement; all schools are doing it not because it was a requirement but because the county offered incentives

Other categories of large generators?

- Agriculture
- As simple of a process as possible is needed.
- Government including cities
- Hotels and apartments, but hotels can be challenging from both back of the house staff and customers and apartments can have high contamination
- It is challenging with apartments because tenants tend to put recycling and trash everywhere. If the lids are on the dumpster, people just toss the trash on top, beside and everywhere vs. opening the lid.
- Jails
- Recalled food
- Stadiums, concert halls, etc.

Suggestions other than diversion phasing?

- Cannot take food waste that is intended for animal consumption (at SSOM compost sites)
- Concern – less than 15% contaminants is an issue with processing/recycling packaged waste
- Haulers don't want to be in the business of policing.
- Large food manufacturers are already processing
- Need an audit to make sure the programs are successful
- Not needed, since it is already happening
- Should be some kind of incentive for achieving goals
- We need to understand where the largest component of organics are being generated and go after that first add to that as we are successful

5. Recycling Education

Question: Stakeholders reported that varied messages on recycling can be confusing and a barrier to improved recycling. Residents and businesses have indicated a need for more, specific, and standardized recycling information. The County would work with haulers to develop educational information. What are your questions or concerns about each of the following options?

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With the small number of responses there is no summary; see compilations by option below.

Compilations by Option

Haulers provide a standardized list of accepted recyclables to all customers.

- Already done
- Can the county provide that list
- Haulers provide information on website
- The County would have to work with the facilities, since this is market driven, and this would have to be communicated down to the haulers.
- The first thing you need is a standardized list.
- This could be part of the SOP for new customers with the intro packet as to what is acceptable or not. Commercial is more specific.
- We provide a list and website; update website once a year or as markets decide to change the accepting

Haulers provide feedback to customers when non-accepted materials are placed in recycling

- Already provided for
- Generally it is easier to track back from the facility after you dump vs. at the pickup location – the waste and the contamination tell a story.
- Haulers could leave a tag, but the problem is with automated collection trucks you don't see in each container and you can't expect the driver to get out and look in each container. A driver may only see the tail end when the container is dumped or on the camera when it goes into the hopper, but this it goes so fast. This is the same with commercial front load collection.
- Haulers don't want to be the recycling police, could cost them customers
- Haulers don't want to police the customers
- Issues with illegal dumping. What works? Locking dumpsters (effective but extra time for drivers), cameras, police officers, enclosures
- Some people just don't care
- Someone needs to do enforcement of residents or businesses that illegally dump – this would make a big difference
- They can try, but it might compromise safety depending on what is required. Don't let the driver get away from his mirrors.
- We leave it there
- We make our drivers look in dumpster first before pick up in known contamination areas (certain neighborhoods)
- We provide a slip or tag - dog dropping, Styrofoam
- We talk to customers
- When really contaminated; we need to put in garbage

All recycling carts display a list of accepted recyclable materials.

- Can't hurt
- If something changes, it's a problem.

- It is expensive to keep relabeling and it can be challenging in this climate with cold/wet weather.
- Just started a new style of label with Recyclable Only
- Labels work for bi-lingual business communities (need to have pictures)
- Our commercial dumpsters have a label with a list of accepted and not accepted materials
- Over time the labels wear off.
- Waste companies can go to great lengths to get the right message.
- We already label “recycle” on carts/dumpsters
- Who will pay the cost of label and pictures Generally re-label containers when the containers are brought in for repurposing when they are cleaned and relabeled – could re-label with images at that time.

Recycling classes and tours for residents and businesses

- Allied provides tours at recyclery – school, cities, towns, larger customers – no cost
- Can you do a live web stream does it have the same impact.
- Doing it already – takes up a lot of staff time
- Groups could tour organic recycling facilities to learn operational procedures
- Insurance liability for tours is a problem
- Master classes are a huge benefit
- School groups are great for tours
- Start them young (preschool to older)
- Tennis Sanitation provides tours to cubs and girl scouts, show them fun things
- Tours can really change minds if done well.
- We do have both residential and commercial customers come for tours. We like this cause the more we can get the message out the better. An example from a conversation from a tour was a guy that was trying to save space for the hauler by putting his glass bottles in the cat litter container, but then when he was shown what happened at the MRF he realized that this was not helpful and changed his behavior.
- Work with schools
- You need to catch people when they’re a good audience – not necessarily when they are paying bills.

County provides free standard recycling photos, graphics, terms, and messages to haulers

County and haulers collaborate on messaging to residents and businesses

- Free and standardized are always good. – If you are working with the providers.
- Good idea on first thought, but may conflict with specific hauler messaging. Requires all haulers to have consistent message
- If county wants to buy start buying stickers for haulers, OK
- We use county labels and images; find the uniformity helpful
- Yes, collaborating vs. just providing the message.

What other ideas do you have to improve education to residents and businesses?

- Challenge for haulers to keep up with social media communication technologies which are constantly changing – requires a fulltime staff person – but it is a great means for outreach and education.
- Commitment from companies gives a better response. 3M recycles!!!!
- Communicate the goal, public probably doesn’t understand why we need to increase recycling.
- Conduct a free seminar; invite haulers to help talk to residents and businesses
- County collaborate on education items – we have branding concerns but willing to collaborate
- Education has to be on going and using all types of methods.
- Need to use different ways to communicate and educate, such as Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, other social media, billboards, etc. – can be a great way to communicate quick short messages such as caps on vs. caps off
- The more cooperative the better – cities, county, businesses, etc.
- With the various and different social media, you have to keep changing your message for that platform and it reaches different audiences

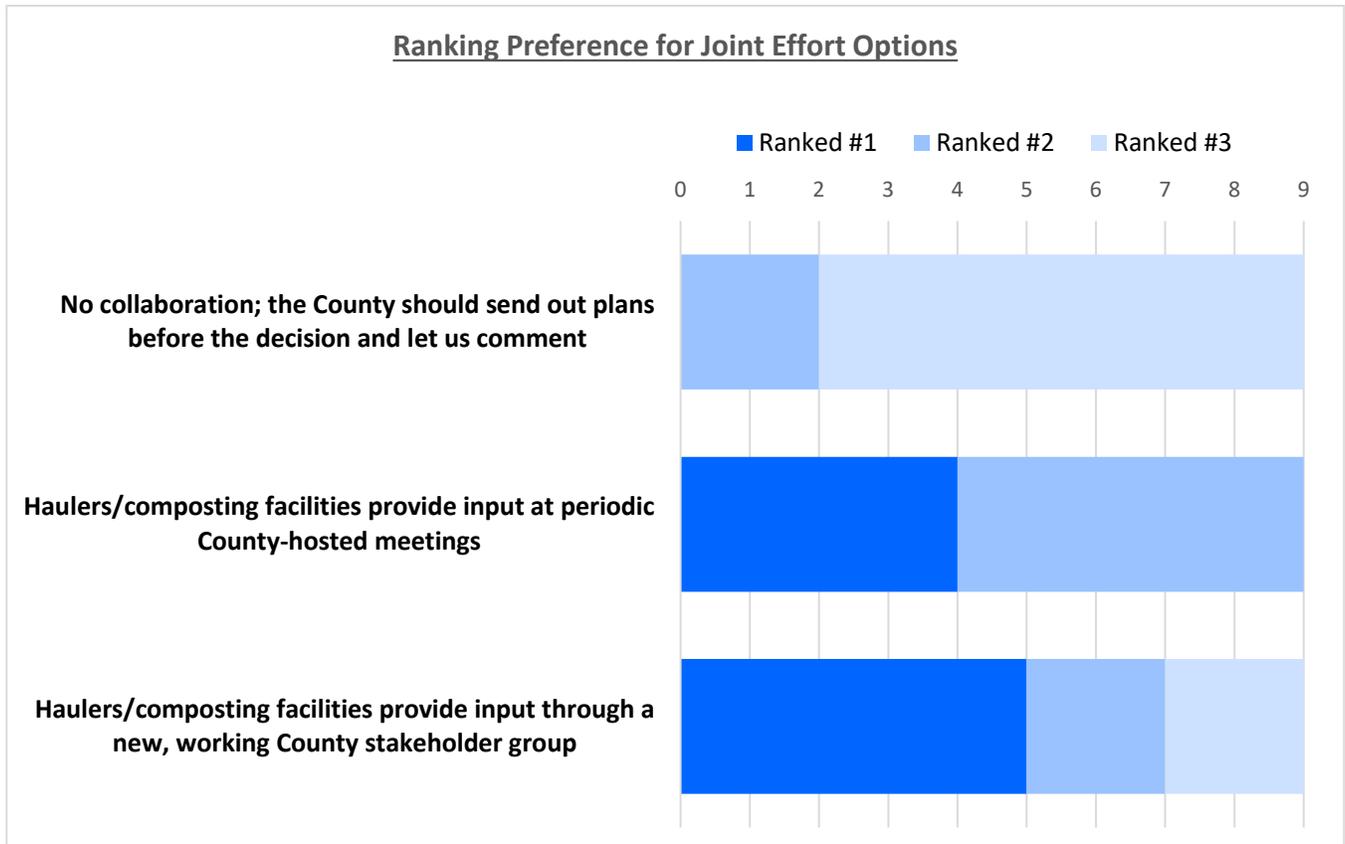
6. Process to Advance Residential Organics Diversion, Collection

Question: The County will need to consider various approaches to advance residential organics diversion and collection, such as phased-in options. Rank the following options for the County to work with haulers and composting facilities to support this strategy, with 1 being your preferred choice. Following that, offer your ideas on *other* supports and incentives that would advance County-wide curbside organics collection.

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Results

In the chart below, the options ranked highest are darker. That means that the most respondents recommended a new, working County stakeholder group, and the fewest recommended no collaboration at all.



Summary and Compilation: What other supports and incentives would advance County-wide curbside organics collection?

A number of respondents suggested specific programs such as Blue Bag, allowing organics and yard waste to be co-collected, County subsidized collection and tipping fees, ensuring it is consistent and funded across the entire county to have economically viable density, and support education and investment from generators to processors. They also stressed the value of pilots, customized approaches, and flexibility to address implementation issues smoothly and successfully.

- A few residents ask for it
- Add more drop sites for residents throughout county
- Already have trucks on the road; yard waste trucks already on the road – should be able to use them to co-collect
- Be flexible. Is Blue bag the answer or curbside collection or something else.
- Bill them and rebate for actual use. – would need to measure.
- Blue bag program, but still need additional capacity and facilities to handle that

- Blue bags – added costs at facility to sort them out
- Comingling yard waste and organics – need a facility that can accept this or change the regulations to make it easier for facilities to accept comingled SSOM/yard waste or develop different types of facilities that can handle that a comingled yard waste/organics stream. Currently the compost facility gets overloaded when have the comingled yard waste and organics mixture because it has to go on the pad. Less regulation would be helpful.
- County subsidizes collection and tip fees (Henn Co subsidized commercial at \$20/ton)
- Do a pilot to see what works
- Don't collect organics ("blue bag") with recycling, collect with trash in case bags break or are not tied off
- Don't think government folks understand that there is not existing capacity. There are lots of people wanting to do organics, but we do not have the end disposal capacity to manage it.
- Focus on backyard composting as a first step
- Focus on communities with organized collection
- Give more flexibility on compost facility to allow yard waste + SSOM (but need to recognize it changes the facility's compost recipe and increases their operational costs too)
- Good luck having somebody pay for it
- If you are going to do this (organics), it needs to be everybody vs. subscription. Subscription doesn't support it because you need density. So to get density for picking up organics, possibly by the city to say all must pay organics and then sign up for organics collection – do not want to go down the slippery slope of organized. Do not organize collection, but the city should mandate all organics or nothing.
- If you do it at home, you expect to see it when you are out and about. More long term change.
- If you pull the organics out, won't need as frequent garbage collection
- Increase cost at landfill for bringing in organics?
- It is bigger than just the county; needs to be looked at on a statewide level. State said you cannot mix yard waste + SSOM. State needs to look at how important on list of priorities and how to reduce carbon footprint to pull out another stream out of trash.
- Make it very convenient and easy.
- Must make it financially viable for the haulers and facilities
- Need more organic composting facilities
- Need to address concerns on health issues, such as increased rodents when you segregate food/organics.
- Need to utilize yard trucks; not another truck on the road (that is the easy fix)
- Only residents asking for organics if they are coming from other counties/cities that offered it
- People don't have space for 4 carts (yard waste, trash, recycling, organics)
- Push the responsibility to the cities
- Residents concerned about smell and number of containers 3 to 4 – no more space for containers in the alley – so this makes comingling yard waste and organics or Blue Bag more attractive.
- Start with communities that already have organized collection. There is less contamination when people want to do it.
- There isn't a one size fits all.
- Use subsidy as a temporary gap between startup and viable system
- Wayzata went to blue bag for cost reasons, but there aren't a lot of people using it. Done through Randy's. Very easy and can divert a lot of stuff.
- We did a study: 40 percent of trash is organics
- Will have customers that don't want to participate in organics – they will still need weekly trash collection

7. Organized Trash Hauling Options (Question for Haulers Only)

Question: To meet the state requirements to reduce trash going to landfills, one state suggestion is for counties to mandate contracted trash hauling. Haulers have expressed concerns about such a mandate. If there were no mandate, what ideas do you have to encourage or support your residential customers to recycle more and generate less trash? Results are summarized and compiled below.

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Summary and Compilation

Haulers offered a variety of ideas to increase recycling and reduce trash, especially increasing education especially with children. Others included adding more items accepted at County facilities, offering incentives for haulers to innovate within a competitive environment, instituting volume rates for trash, and ensuring that everything that's currently being recycled is actually being counted correctly.

- Add carpet, used oil, LED light bulbs – at Recycling Zone; need a county facility
- Any synergistic opportunities
- As a consumer I want to be able to select
- Back to schools and educating the kids, and getting people interested in the process.
- Build processing capacity; have designation to a processing facility like Washington and Ramsey county
- Burn barrels are not an issue.
- By having diversity in the hauling market it encourages competition to come up with more creative ways to increase recycling.
- Consider adding weight by including diversion from things such as C&D, etc. this may affect the numbers.
- Do not think that organized collection would affect recycling rate.
- Don't need it
- Each year we see less and less being landfilled. Not accounting for all volumes (other landfills out of county, processing). Look at improving waste data and calculations.
- Educate the residents as they move in as to the requirements for recycling.
- Education is a huge part to increase recycling, it doesn't matter if there are 1 or 5 haulers, if customer isn't sorting things out it doesn't matter.
- Goes back to education – guess 50% do a good job recycling, 25% don't care that much, and then the other remaining don't recycle – still need to change behaviors through education. Educating kids, the example of their kids forcing the adults to wear their seatbelts and to change their behavior.
- Government should give us the goals and then let us haulers find a way to hit the goals – a less prescriptive process.
- How is that mandate going to affect what is going to landfills?
- How is this is different than the Restriction on Disposal?
- Maybe the County could give incentives, even temporarily, as a discount to start organics at the residential level.
- More education on recycling is needed to increase recycling and to get the organics collection started.
- Need to look closer at data that is not being collected, such as measuring self-haul.
- Residentially blending yard waste and organics.
- State mandating does not get us to our goal
- Subsidize cost of bulky items – such as mattresses (more expensive to recycle than dispose); carpet not in shape to recycle – not stable markets and no value
- The market has changed for recycling, now have more 95 gallon recycling carts vs. 65 gallon carts – feel that the numbers do not accurately reflect what is really happening. Packaging has gone down, light weighting has increase, more options to reuse – do not look at the whole picture for what is happening.
- Totally against it
- Volume rates on trash, it is an economic driver.
- Ways to force people to do it, but it you can't regulate someone into caring. By forcing people to do something you may end up with more weight and more contamination. Education is the most important way to increase recycling – it doesn't give a carrot or hammer – but it gets the message out.
- We support organized collection

8. Residential Curbside Recycling, Organics Collection (Haulers)

Question: The state Policy Plan strategies that the County must consider include implementing contracted residential curbside recycling and organics collection by 2025. For the options below to make progress toward the 75% recycling requirement: What do you find attractive or appealing? What are your questions and concerns? Results are compiled below by option.

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Compilations by Option

Weekly curbside recycling and organics pickup; no change to trash pickup:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No preference; provide residential recycling weekly now • Offer weekly recycling now (in some or most markets) • We give customers a second cart now if collect EOW and customer requests • Weekly recycling we are already doing, except organics, and if could co-mingle organics with yard waste it would be good. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we determine if we need it weekly for recycling? • Containers could be sized so it doesn't need weekly collection. • Costly – collection for recycling or trash the same will drive up price. • More trucks, more road wear, increased carbon footprint. Want all the extra services, but now need to blame for the road wear, etc. from additional trucks from all the various collection – excuse to control • Need to consider additional equipment and personnel, this would affect the cost point that customers would subscribe to the service. •

Weekly recycling and organics pickup; every- other-week trash pickup:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already going that direction • Recycling facilities have capacity so can increase recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that customers will put trash in recycling. • Estimate 30 percent of customers have yard waste service • f people want it then it would be ok, but not there yet. • Need to have all customers participating in organics otherwise will still need to have weekly collection of trash • Think customers won't like it due to odor. • Where do we take it? Need capacity for yard waste + SSOM • Would be a better idea to collect SSOM with yard waste • Not a service promoted, but occasionally trash is collected every-other-week which is not common and there is no demand.

Same-day recycling, organics, and trash pickup:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already do this for recycling + trash; some communities have requirements for same day • Bigger factor here is safety • Easy to educate the customers • Having on same day reduces customer confusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If multiple companies, all the trucks needing to collect on the same day with three different trucks per stream, it will jam up the roads – then if organics are included it would be 4 trucks, if can't comingle with yard waste – see nothing but problems.

Required "pay-as-you- throw" fee schedule that mandates more significant rate differences by container size/service level:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't fix something that is working well • Tax (Ramsey and Washington) does impact consumer behavior; haulers get the calls on bills costs • Volume based pricing is working – proportional to volume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination may increase in recycling, due to customers having to pay more for trash. • May get small container for lower price and just pile outside the container. • Need to facilitate purchase and the cost of the bags • No known pay as you throw known here – but in Chicago recycling is free and you purchase a sticker per trash bag. The collection is automated, so not checking cans for contamination, but the recycling rate is high • Tough to manage bags – where are they keeping bags • Volume rates have been in place for 20 years, haulers have figured out that it costs the same amount to pick up small vs. large container – mandate a price separation may drive more recycling – but knowing costs helps haulers to be creative to gain more customers. • Weight may not change because people will just jam more into container. • What you collect is not the largest expense; cost is in the route • Who would determine the cost – cost for collection is more expense than disposal

Recycling and organics collection fees included in base trash fee for all customers:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be a marketing thing for hauler – tax incentive for downsizing. • If it would be mandated that have to collect, then rollout fee in the bill – would work • Makes more sense for all residents to pay for recycling and organics, which you could mandate, but keep an open collection system. • Pay for it whether you use it or not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If everyone pays, could be unfair for it varies on what you generate. • Needs to still be itemized on trash so taxes could be applied to trash; not applied to recycling + organics • Residential input needed on how they would feel on a mandated fee – would people want to pay for it? • •

County requirement that multi-unit property owners/landlords provide organics collection services to all their tenants:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination • Renter do not care • Size of enclosures

Disposal ban on organics:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can't enforce • Not in favor of bans

9. Non-traditional Items (Question for Facilities Only)

Question: The state would like the County to work with partners to divert more non-traditional household items from the landfill, such as mattresses and carpet. What ideas do you have that would advance diversion of non-traditional household items with recycling markets? Results are compiled below.

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Compilation

What ideas do you have that would advance diversion of non-traditional household items with recycling markets?

- Brotex seems to be the only option for carpet. They usually want truckload quantities.
- Cut open mattresses, take out the springs for metal, grind the fluff for fuel –four or five minutes to do the jobs. They charge 20 bucks for each piece. Redwing has been doing it for about five years. They use an angle grinder. It cuts the fabric really well.
- Educate haulers to give recycling info/options to their customers
- Educate retailers that recycling options exist
- Ensure recycling options actually do exist
- Product stewardship might be required – mattresses and carpet
- Work with carpet installers to ensure they are recycling
- Work with large generators (hotels) to ensure recycling
- Work with mattress retailers to have them recycle

10. Residential Organics Diversion and Collection (Facilities)

Question: The state Policy Plan strategies that the County must consider include implementing contracted residential curbside recycling and organics collection by 2025. What do you find attractive or appealing, and what are your questions and concerns about the various options to improve organics separation/diversion and make progress toward the 75% recycling requirement? Results are compiled below by option.

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Compilations by Option

Trash fees that vary significantly by volume (lower fees for smaller bins):

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's hard to say what is significant • Redwing already does it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to price since hauling is a big component of collection. • Price needs to reflect true cost and artificial pricing will negatively impact haulers

Disposal bans on recyclable materials (organics):

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities have to be available and reasonably convenient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination issues, especially from required collection instead of voluntary collection • It has to be enforceable. • It usually gets enforced on the wrong people. The landfill or facility. • Learning curve on contamination issues • Then it ends up in the city park.

County requirement for residents to divert organics:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another enforcement nightmare. • Would only increase contamination.

County requirement that multiunit property owners/landlords provide organics collection services to their tenants:

What do you find <u>attractive or appealing</u> ?	What are your <u>questions or concerns</u> ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better than recycling bans – allows voluntary participation from generators • Will capture more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do you put the container?

Compilation of Other Ideas to Advance Residential Organics

- Education
- Economics
- Convenience
- More facilities
- Increase drop-off locations (all parks) – will allow for voluntary participation
- Have cities provide drop-offs
- More education and communications
- Provide processing sites to separate blue bags
- Make sure infrastructure development gets into the master plan. This is critical. MPCA policy plan doesn't address this well enough
- Upfront chg. when new mattresses are purchased to be used for end of life recycling. Same w/ carpet

11. Hauler and Facility Participants

Below are the haulers and facility representatives who either attended the May workshop or participated in the online survey with the same content.

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Facility/Hauler/Organization	Contact
Advanced Disposal Services - Vasko Solid	Marco Dukic
Advanced Disposal Services - Vasko Solid	Brad Hegwer
City of Farmington	Lena Larson
Dick's Sanitation Service	Mike Robinson
Endres Processing - Rosemount	Richard Cook
Gertens RES	Tracy Meyer
HERC	Randy Kiser
Inver Grove Sanitation	Audrey Illetschko Jr
Inver Grove Sanitation	Joe Illetschko Jr
Mac's Roll-Off Service Inc	Erica McMullen
Nitti Sanitation	David Domack
Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill	Aaron Janusz
Recycle Minnesota, LLC	Brett Anderson
Redwing RR	Jeff Schneider
Republic Services	John Berns
Republic Services	Dan Jirik
Republic Services	Romack Franklin
Sanimax	Andy Barnaal
SET, Inc. Empire SSOM Compost	Ken Tritz
SET, Inc. Empire Yardwaste Compost	Anne Ludvik
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Organics Recycling Facility	Allen Friedges
Tennis Sanitation	Willie Tennis