



Dakota County Solid Waste Master Planning
Municipal 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 *municipal* feedback includes results from May 2017. This feedback will help shape the final draft strategies for the Solid Waste Master Plan.

There were 35 participants in either the in-person workshop or the online survey, representing various cities, towns, and townships in Dakota County. All responses are compiled and summarized below.

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. Sections with a substantial number of results include a summary in addition to the compilation. 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

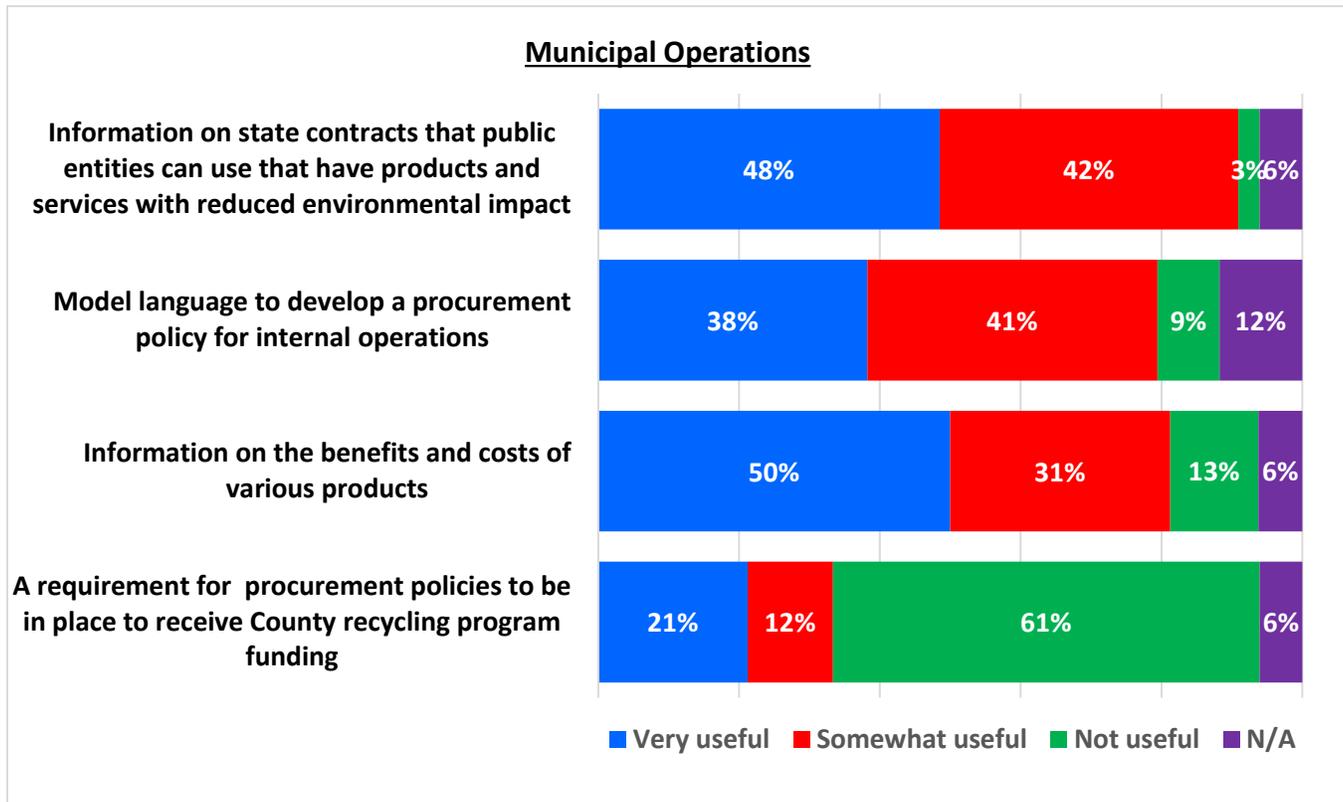
For more information about the project or this compilation, see the project [website](#), [sign up](#) for project updates, or contact Dakota County project manager Gena Gerard, Dakota County Environmental Resources Department, gena.gerard@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7021.

1. Municipal Operations/Source Reduction

The state is encouraging all public entities to address source reduction in municipal operations and within the community through a variety of tactics. One tactic is for municipalities to adopt procurement standards that reduce environmental impact (e.g., reduce office waste, increase recycling). How useful would the following be for your municipality? Results are presented below.

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Results



Options	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	N/A
Information on state contracts that public entities can use that have products and services with reduced environmental impact	48%	42%	3%	6%
Model language to develop a procurement policy for internal operations	38%	41%	9%	12%
Information on the benefits and costs of various products	50%	31%	13%	6%
A requirement for procurement policies to be in place to receive County recycling program funding	21%	12%	61%	6%

Compilation of Comments

- All related to purchasing, cost and benefits need to be there

Municipal Operations/Source Reduction

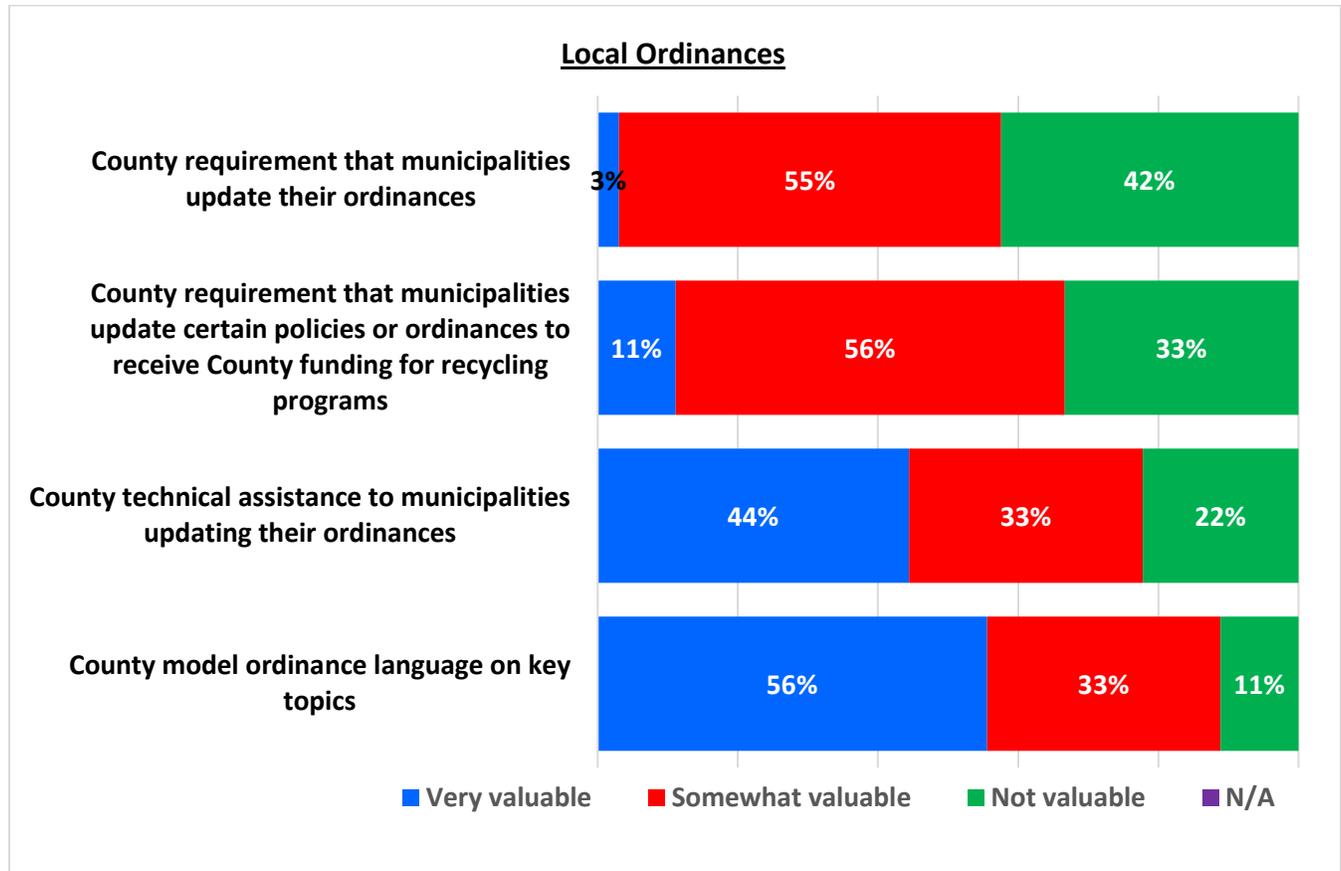
- Burnsville has policies on green purchasing and sustainability
- Challenge to the county; and this is extremely challenging to maintain at the City, such as in the parks we will not be sending operators out to clean organics. Example - Lots of dog waste in parks and it is organic, not taking out of plastic bag
- Cities could consider handling cooperative purchasing together
- Clarification of the enforcement entity and ability
- Currently, catering locations do already collect organics
- Doesn't really apply to townships, too few staff
- Green Step cities might be another avenue
- Hurting the cause any time you are removing funding – it will only reduce what they can do
- Make it easier for small cities to get recycling funding; currently too hard; too much to do and not the ROI like in bigger municipalities
- Provide information on benefits and costs – we need to be careful with taxpayer dollars – show that switching to green cleaners is affordable
- Provide model language for process design, process checklist – not recreating the wheel
- Small townships don't procure much of anything. Very small budget
- State contract info is useful
- The biggest impact would be if the state contract built in environmental standards
- The more options to access information in one location, the better we can all operate with customers! Directing people to ONE location is MUCH better, and then maintaining ONE site is more efficient.
- There are limits to what we will do towards long range goals; expensive and impractical as proposed in this plan.

2. Local Ordinances

Question: The state has indicated that inconsistencies in local ordinances inhibit recycling. For consistency and to better support recycling and waste diversion, the state would like the County to work with municipalities to update local ordinances. Examples of areas for local ordinance consistency include code definitions, hauler licensing and collection frequency, adequate exterior and waste enclosure space at commercial properties, and recycling at special events/large gatherings. How helpful or valuable might the following be to your community? Results are presented below.

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Results



Options	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	N/A
County requirement that municipalities update their ordinances	3%	55%	42%	0%
County requirement that municipalities update certain policies or ordinances to receive County funding for recycling programs	11%	56%	33%	0%
County technical assistance to municipalities updating their ordinances	44%	33%	22%	0%
County model ordinance language on key topics	56%	33%	11%	0%

Summary and Compilation of Comments

Paralleling the results above, the comments reflect concerns about County-wide ordinances or mandates that don't differentiate between municipalities' unique needs and capabilities. There was support for additional funding and technical assistance, and more consistency across the County.

- All cities will minimally recycle the same things.
- Challenge with these mandates; have to change the local ordinances and that result in being sued locally. The State issues the mandates; then change the law and enforce at that level.
- Check with other cities such as Burnsville; some cities could have some insight to help, like model language or design
- County great partners, but local governments don't have additional funding to afford all of these items.
- County provides great technical assistance but need MORE help; we have few FTEs dedicated to landfill abatement
- Currently Hampton Township has no waste management ordinance section
- Don't give money to cities; just have county do it
- Enforcement of existing ordinances is already a problem
- Hauler licensing would be interesting to look into, such as having language or a process for renewing the license to meet city needs related to recycling
- How did the state come up with inconsistencies? IGH states that their 17 haulers have not reported issues with inconsistencies in recycling nor have they heard anything from the public
- If decide to work on city ordinances must prioritize (in collaboration with cities) and select one for each city to implement
- It is difficult for Sunfish Lake as the city has no licensing of haulers so unable to enforce. Ordinances may not apply to small cities with no municipal operations. Funding requirements should be different for smaller communities.
- It would be helpful for the County to provide model language we can take to city administrators. This would help us make sure we aren't missing anything
- Lack city enforcement staff -so ordinances better at county level
- Local politics play a big role, so all cities agreeing on a standard ordinance will be impossible; this is where can the county assist and take the lead
- Making funding dependent on it is not a good idea; every location can be different. Doesn't make a lot of sense to have it jammed down at us and have to deal with it.
- Mandates are not helpful without funding. State should change law to reflect the goals! Need more staff to help with this work
- Some ordinances may fit larger cities; make sure that they represent all cities; valuable for model language for cities to adapt to their needs
- Sunfish lake has no hauler licensing so they can't require haulers to do anything lack licensing tool
- The problem with a model ordinance is that cities selectively enforce code; better to have county ordinance or too easy to have city ordinance and not enforce at the city level
- The problem with the county requirement above is that it looks too much like big brother. There are too many mandates. I prefer the carrot approach such as the second option above.
- Townships need assistance with ordinance enforcement
- Unfunded mandate and costly to implement when you break it down by line item, example was with number of containers in park, employees and equipment to collect, etc.

Compilation of comments for specific options

County requirement that municipalities update their ordinances:

- Best if there is no overlap. Let the cities regulate their residents. County has outlying residents
- Encourage not require
- Guidance needed, language
- No more mandates
- Not sure when the Mendota Heights ordinance was last updated
- This would need to be consistent with our community versus a larger one

- While not frequently a fan of mandates, perhaps a strong encouragement (carrot v. Stick) could achieve similar results

County requirement that municipalities update certain policies or ordinances to receive County funding for recycling programs:

- Heavy hammer. Would cause conflict between County and Cities.

County technical assistance to municipalities updating their ordinances:

- Most helpful.

County model ordinance language on key topics:

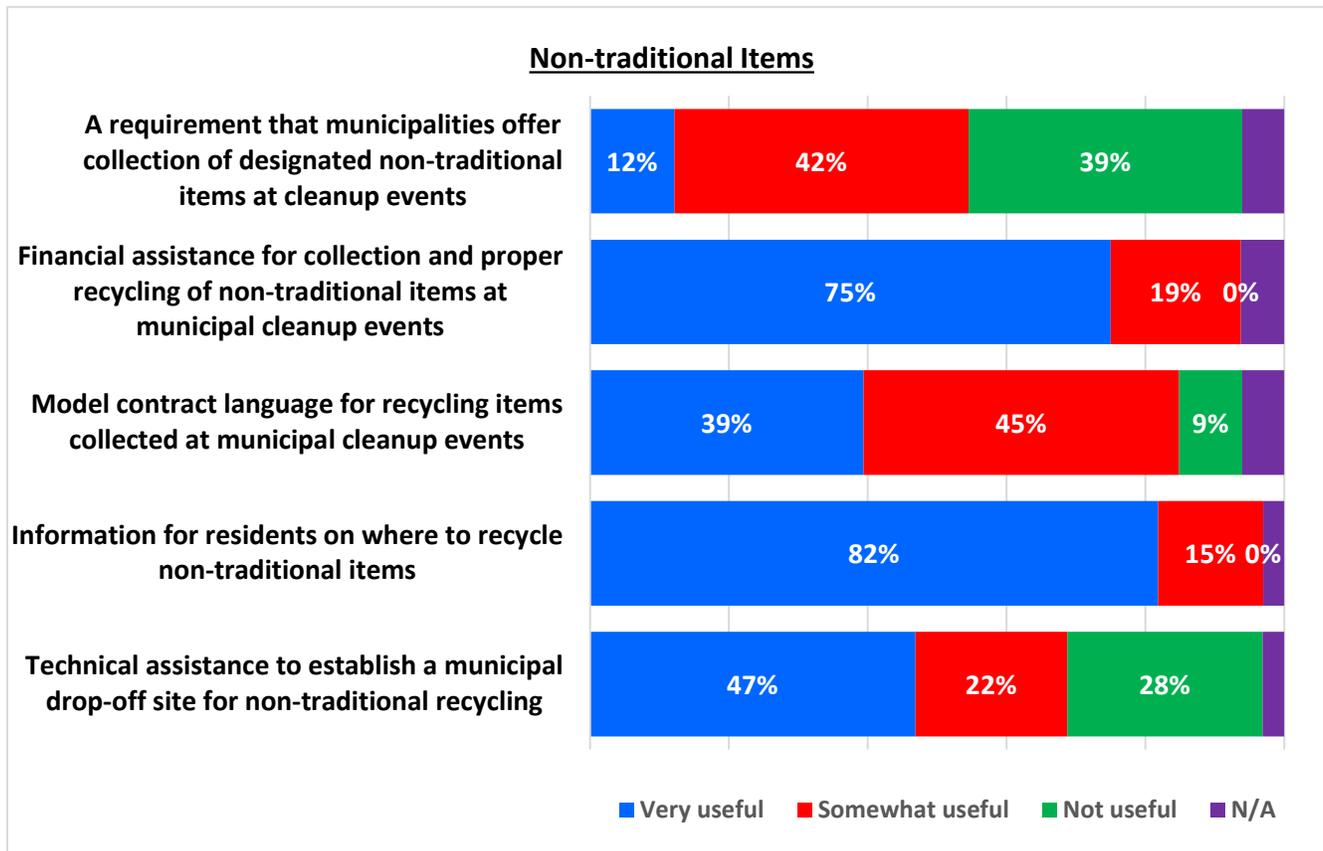
- Again, who will enforce?
- County assistance to work with commercial industrial to educate and provide programs for participation.
- Don't believe our township has any local ordinances of this type.

3. Non-traditional Items

Question: The state would like the County to work with municipalities to divert more non-traditional household items from the landfill, such as mattresses and carpet. Unlike other parts of the country, there are markets in the Twin Cities for mattress and carpet recycling. How useful might the following be to your community? Results are summarized below.

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Results



Options	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	N/A
A requirement that municipalities offer collection of designated non-traditional items at cleanup events	12%	42%	39%	6%
Financial assistance for collection and proper recycling of non-traditional items at municipal cleanup events	75%	19%	0%	6%
Model contract language for recycling items collected at municipal cleanup events	39%	45%	9%	6%
Information for residents on where to recycle non-traditional items	82%	15%	0%	3%
Technical assistance to establish a municipal drop-off site for non-traditional recycling	47%	22%	28%	3%

Summary and Compilation of Comments

Respondents were concerned about illegal dumping, thought community members would be more likely to participate if it were free, supported consistent practices across communities, and wanted more dates/time and convenient locations for drop offs. They support more County financial support, and expanded solutions to recycling these and other challenging items.

- A lot of us have alleys, and alleys are easy to dump in.
- Cities pick this up at our clean-up event (Rosemount); collaborate with retailers to collect (e.g., Hardware Hank)
- Collection events (mobile) much more prevalent use than facility for non-traditional items. Provide funding for more tires events, mattress events
- Commonly find these items along roadside or in places where there is “no light” or anywhere there is a dumpster, so if there was a place or places to bring it that would be great.
- Could require cities to recycle IF they already plan to collect them at clean up days
- Could the Recycling Zone help with bulky waste collection?
- County does a good job of publicizing recycling zone
- County needs to take into effect whether each city township has the same recycling set up as all counties, difficult in establishing a regional message if not consistent throughout.
- County participation (\$) in clean-up days would help
- County should coordinate collection; city could assist and provide a collection site
- Create designated locations of non-traditional items
- Don't require if you are not funding.
- Drop-off site would be helpful
- Financial assistance – if county/state wants increase non-traditional recycling, funding to support these activities should be supported by county/state
- Have county hold events for non-traditional and rotate to different cities
- I get calls from elderly people and they don't have the means to handle these in terms of transportation or financial means
- If you ask people to collect non-traditional materials at clean up events, but give no funding, they may stop the cleanup events
- It would be helpful to provide support to the business community. They haven't dealt with this before.
- Maybe there could be a partnership with Salvation Army or others for pickups
- Non-traditional items seem to have multiple rules and residents don't handle it correctly
- Not aware of mattress recycling (promote to city) or special recycling opportunities
- Offer consistent drop off days or drop off locations.
- Possibly start collecting non-traditional items on the city's recycling day event – also there needs to be a place to take poly foam
- Provide a public drop site or collect at The Recycling Zone – then advertise
- Requiring non-traditional items should come with extra funding
- Rosemount tried; but rained and materials got wet so now may not be recycled
- Surprised by mattress recycling options
- The Recycling Zone should include these non-traditional items for collection and recycling; and open another facility within the County
- This generally comes from apartments, and they pay a lot to remove these items.
- Utilize LSWS to disseminate non-traditional recycling ideas
- Vague term not sure who the responsibility will fall upon (city of county or state)
- Want to make sure that non-traditional recyclables are being counted towards recycling rate – pumpkins, shoes, Christmas lights, mattresses, etc.
- We need to have financial assistance for this.
- When organics was started at the arena, the County needed a better solution prior to collecting organics and sort through, the idea of storing and sorting organics in a locker room was not 'ok'....needed think through process prior to implementation.

What other suggestions do you have to divert more non-traditional household items?

- Assistance to the aged
- County place to drop couches, chairs, etc. found about town
- Create a new facility farther south that takes more materials. Add to current Recycling Zone

Non-traditional Items

- Our small city does not hold clean up events
- Work with apartments as a lot of large items are dropped off close to them on private property

4. Recyclable Materials – Consistency across Haulers

Question: Waste haulers accept different materials for recycling and this causes confusion. Stakeholders have asked that all haulers in the County collect the same recyclable materials (such as paper, cardboard, cans, glass, plastic, and cartons). Please provide your responses to the following two questions: What are some of the benefits to having all haulers collect the same recyclables? What questions and concerns do you have about having all haulers collect the same recyclables?

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Summary

Respondents appreciated the fairness and ease of a consistent approach for consumers and municipalities, which would simplify education efforts and could increase participation. The concerns were around enforcement, parity, the potential for *reducing* the number or types of recyclables collected (or stifling innovation), implementation, and possible cost increases.

What are some of the benefits to having all haulers collect the same recyclables?	What questions and concerns do you have about having all haulers collect the same recyclables?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear message no matter what city you live in – everyone has the same understanding • Anything created by the County could be used by any city - interchangeable • Benefit to have all haulers do the same • Consistency • Continuity • Cost • Do the same from home to home (uniformity) • Easier for cities to disseminate information • Easier for residents • Government needs to standardize labeling, provide uniform symbols to know what to recycle – IT is not clear now • Have manufactures only <u>use</u> recyclable materials • Less confusion • Less confusion as to what is required, which will allow the City to better address questions when those are asked. • Less intermingling of materials • Less recycling to garbage • Levels the playing field – similar costs • Make all facilities accept the same things. • Makes competition amongst haulers fair • Noted - Still have variations • One participant doesn't think there are any drawbacks to uniform recycling • Possible streamline the licensing process amongst cities • Reduces complexity. More consistent charges/fees for the various haulers. • Residents become accustomed to what is to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By having a specific list it might keep haulers from going beyond • Could miss some of the niche markets • Could possibly be expense to haulers, if there wasn't flexibility in the system • Don't want to hurt independents; make sure you don't require them to collect items they currently do not. • Enforcement of all haulers to collect same materials, which might require cities to keep track of whose following the rules • Example was with the change to residential single sort, that there was flexibility for this to take place • How can we require this if is some hauler can't market a certain recyclable they have to collect? • How to make it practical and achievable • If everyone is doing the same thing, will a business want to do something they could get more money for – rather than other items? • If one MRF decided to add a piece of equipment, would all MRFs have to add the same equipment? How would that work? • Let the haulers make their own choices for business advantage • Let them compete for business by offering choices • NO competitive advantage for hauler to require uniform recycling (takes away a selling point for haulers) • Shooting too low – lowest common denominator • Should the number of haulers be limited to minimize damage to local streets? • Some haulers may have the ability to collect

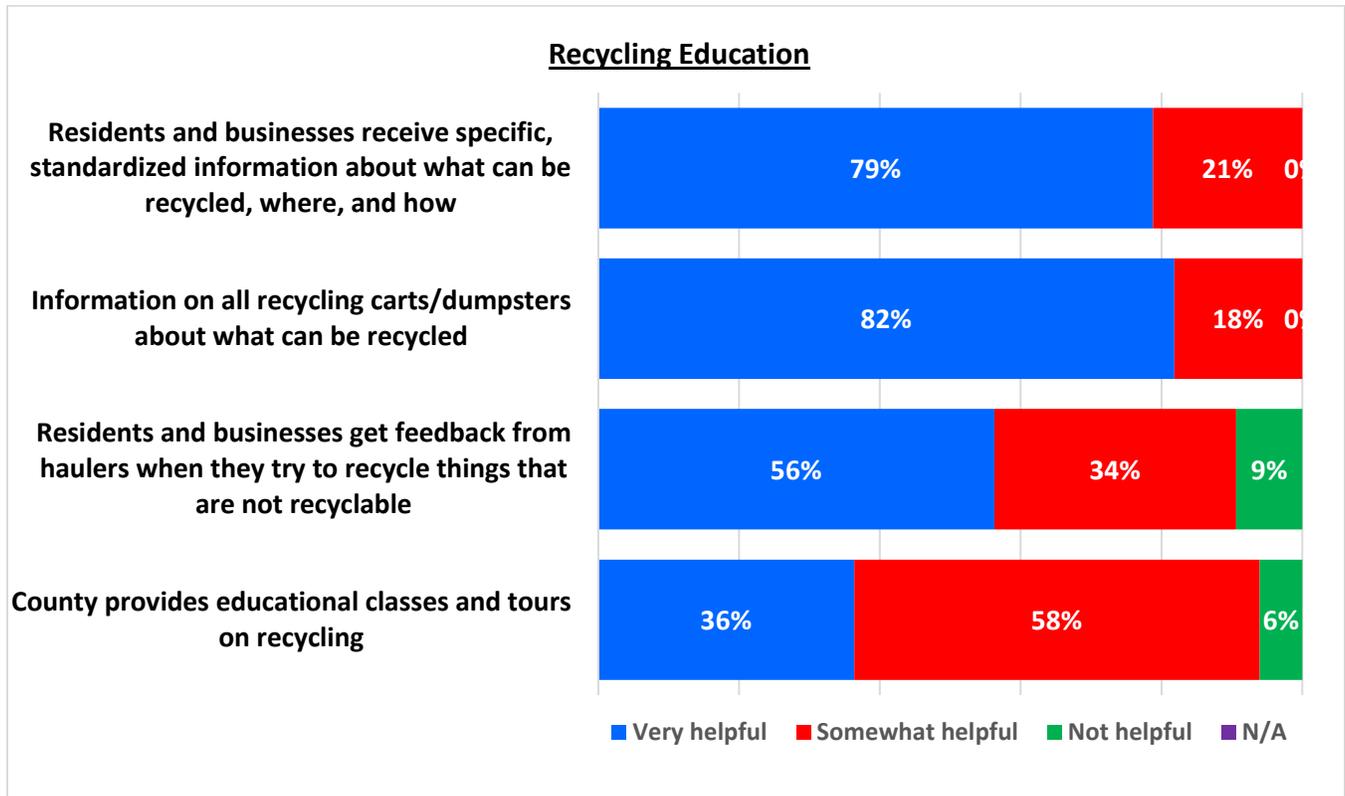
What are some of the benefits to having all haulers collect the same recyclables?	What questions and concerns do you have about having all haulers collect the same recyclables?
<p>recycled and are more likely to participate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplicity • The rules should be clear. Can I put any kind of scrap metal in my recycling or only cans? • There should be less contamination • This would be easier for residents. • Volumes go up • When people move around makes it easier to remember what is accepted • Without a standard definition, there will be more contamination because people will be confused • Would help city do messaging – hard to communicate now 	<p>additional items, and might be discouraged from doing that if others are not doing those items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What if one hauler wants new technology • Would have to be some requirement through licensing, but need the flexibility to add in additional items, easily updated/changed • Would have to work with recycling centers not just haulers. • Would it cost more to some haulers if they didn't collect now? • Would it stifle innovation?

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 specific, standardized recycling information. It is a local government responsibility to provide education, which is done as a County/municipal partnership. How helpful would the following be in supporting residents (including at multi-unit properties) and businesses to recycle everything that can be recycled?

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Results



Options	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	N/A
Residents and businesses receive specific, standardized information about what can be recycled, where, and how	79%	21%	0%	0%
Information on all recycling carts/dumpsters about what can be recycled	82%	18%	0%	0%
Residents and businesses get feedback from haulers when they try to recycle things that are not recyclable	56%	34%	9%	0%
County provides educational classes and tours on recycling	36%	58%	6%	0%

Summary and Compilation of Comments

Respondents voiced frustration about the challenges of educating the public on all the topics, especially with haulers accepting different items and varying frequencies. Suggestions included more feedback from haulers to residents, better labels/signage, consistency across haulers, and similar.

- Advertising in partnership with haulers to residents; but it is difficult to get information out of haulers including what they collect or don't collect
- Better education about the harms related to backyard burning
- Bring the experts in to educate people
- Can't get residents enough information; need to provide a lot of education
- City Council and Planning Member should take tours of facilities (hands on)
- Confusion about what is and what isn't recycling
- Dakota County website is useful – advertise better
- Different haulers have different requirements = mission impossible
- Difficult for haulers to be educators – do not want to leave stuff and alienate their customers
- Difficult to have standardization because haulers always changing what they accept
- Everything is automated
- For Hastings, it is convenient that we have only one hauler. In terms of communication, that connection is one piece of contracted hauling.
- Good when hauler leaves electronics behind
- Hauler feedback – do they have the capability; and have to send to everyone that picked up that day
- Haulers leave note about item that isn't recycling but aren't providing actual recycling or disposal options
- Helpful for people who take tours and students, but most people do not know have time
- I don't understand brown carts. I want the garbage carts to be black or grey.
- I like the idea of feedback from haulers – having them more involved – giving them more of a stake and getting their feedback.
- I like what Columbia Heights did for apartment property managers by creating resident packets with information about getting rid of bulky items and resources for reuse, to cut down on dumping. If Dakota County could provide this by zone – northern county, southern county – that would be helpful.
- If haulers can be a source for communicating information, that can be helpful.
- If people have resources right in front of them, they will do it. People want to do good.
- If you could call a number for pickup, that would be helpful.
- If you tell me my township has to do something, I'm unhappy with that.
- Inconsistent messages from haulers - single stream recycling available but haulers are providing dumpsters that state "Cardboard Only"
- It would be nice if a hauler would communicate by providing feedback if there was lots of recycling consistently coming out of certain loads
- It's a marketing device for the haulers to keep carts different colors.
- Mandating that all changes have to occur on the same date – make sure you have an "end date" for when haulers have to say they collect things that they don't actually recycle; mandate as the industry changes to or away but not immediately
- More and more consistent labels on containers.
- Needs to be current – signs, labels, education; when things are "on" the list or "off" the list
- Nobody wants people to dig through their garbage, but almost need it – tell people what they have
- Option to get a tag on their recycling or trash container if have contaminants, but not sure how you would get a hauler to do this in an open system. City of Minneapolis was brought up as an example.
- Organized collection is a sensitive issue and continues to get shot down since people prefer choice with their garbage hauler; but also complain about multiple trucks on the road, road wear & tear, etc.
- Partnerships on marketing clean up events
- Personally don't get any information from my hauler – had for 8 years
- Photos aren't enough to tell what is recyclable. The problems are more complex and require more education or knowledge.
- Public service videos
- There are big differences depending on the size of the city/township
- To require a hauler to have

messages is something the through County licensing.
County could compel them to do • Wishcycling is a problem;

wondering if people even believe
what their hauler says

Other suggestions for education

- Columbia Heights resources
- Labels, labels, labels. Will help, help, help.
- Partnerships with haulers on advertising for events.
- Rural waste meeting. Education on emissions on one person burning waste vs. municipal burning.

6. Contracted Collection: Residential Recycling and Organics

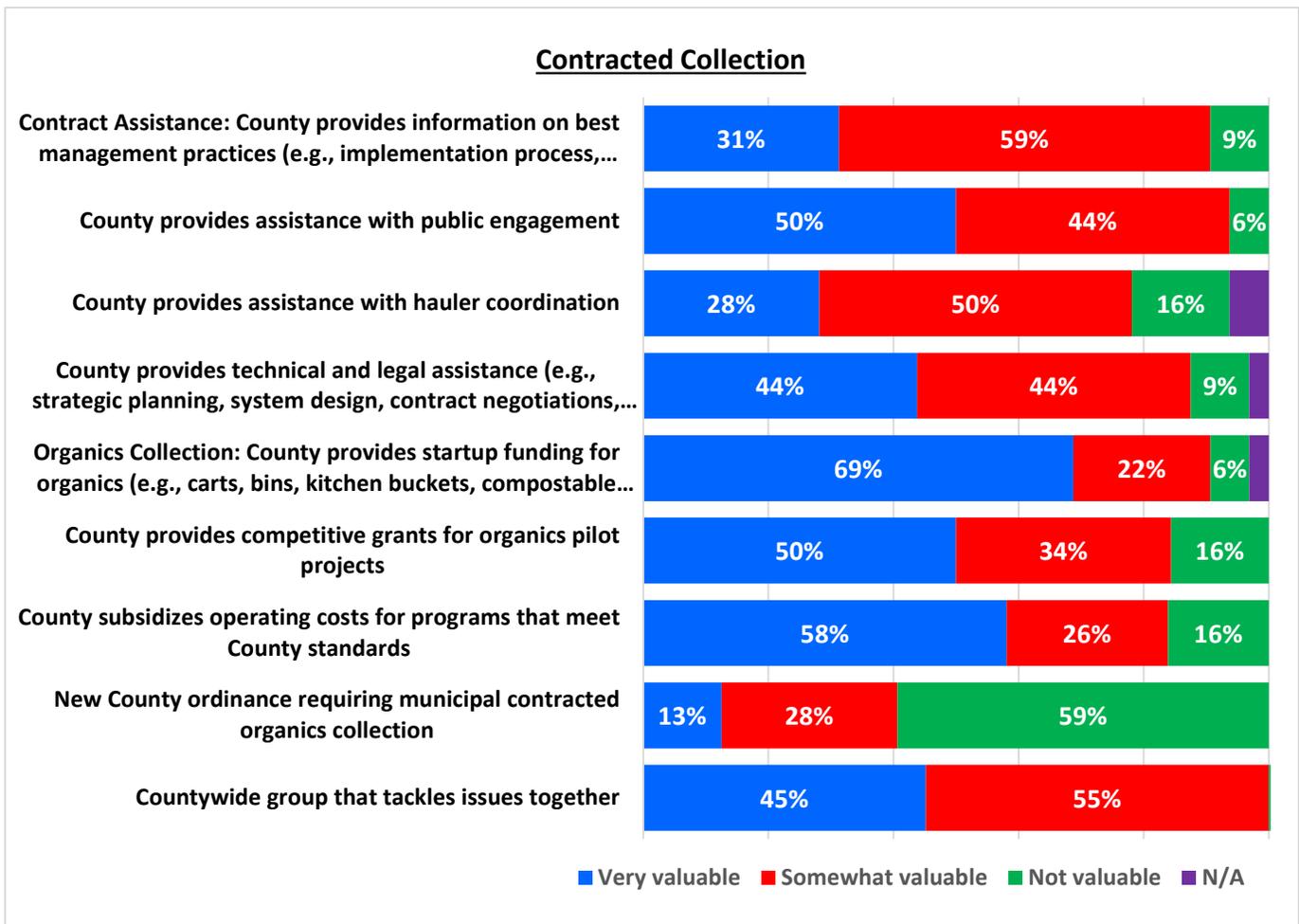
Question: To achieve state goals, recycling and organics (e.g., food waste and compostable paper) diversion must significantly improve in the next few years. The state identified best management strategies in their Policy Plan that the County must consider, including municipal-contracted residential curbside recycling and organics collection by 2025. Municipal contracts could be with a single hauler or a consortium of multiple haulers.

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MPCA research indicates that municipal contracts offer economic benefits, including reduced road wear and lower residential service rates, as well as environmental benefits such as higher recycling rates (due to more standardized messaging and more control over materials collected, collection days, and frequency) and collection system efficiencies that reduce fuel consumption and emissions. In addition, such contracts can be set up to provide better performance reporting and value-added services such as collection of more materials from residents. How helpful or valuable would the following be to your community?

Results are summarized below. **Note:** Response options were categorized into two groups; the first 4 are under “Contract Assistance” and the final 5 are under “Organics Collection.” See the data table on the next page for further information.

Results



See data table on next page.

Options	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	N/A
Contract Assistance: County provides information on best management practices (e.g., implementation process, resident education, contract terms, etc.)	31%	59%	9%	0%
County provides assistance with public engagement	50%	44%	6%	0%
County provides assistance with hauler coordination	28%	50%	16%	6%
County provides technical and legal assistance (e.g., strategic planning, system design, contract negotiations, implementation, etc.)	44%	44%	9%	3%
Organics Collection County provides startup funding for organics (e.g., carts, bins, kitchen buckets, compostable bags, etc.)	69%	22%	6%	3%
County provides competitive grants for organics pilot projects	50%	34%	16%	0%
County subsidizes operating costs for programs that meet County standards	58%	26%	16%	0%
New County ordinance requiring municipal contracted organics collection	13%	28%	59%	0%
Countywide group that tackles issues together	45%	55%	3%	0%

Summary and Compilation of Comments

Respondents stressed the critical need to recognize various/unique issues in each community, which generally doesn't happen with mandates. Several suggested building consensus toward change by highlighting the roadway damage from so many different haulers. They appreciated the possibility of various kinds of financial and technical assistance such as for start-up initiatives, to build community understanding and support, or to help implement any future mandates. Participants also wanted help to pressure haulers to consistently provide curbside pick up of the same materials.

- Another option might be a bio-digester sealed system for methane capture.
- Apple Valley residents want to keep the choice
- Associations have had the ability to keep the organized collection in place.
- At least for larger cities, if there is money for mandates, the mandates are more palatable.
- Burnsville city council did not want to mandate one hauler for the city but worked with multiple haulers
- to create zones, and the city manages those contracts. The impetus was the impact on roads.
- Bypass grants and fund on performance of tonnage
- Can the county make every hauler provide curbside organics
- Community demographics (small lots vs big lots - I can compost in my backyard (my lot is big enough). Demonstrate that you can meet composting ability on your property (minimum-sized lots)
- Compost bins – if stinky we will not promote
- Conservative members – even they are NOT vocally opposed
- Council encourages neighborhoods with private roads to do it on their own
- Council wants to talk about contracted but need more information, council realizes impact to roads with open hauling system
- County should design and provide stickers to haulers. Require them

- to put them on. We don't have staff to inspect
- Currently provide information on organizing a neighborhood and a few have done it; but when a neighborhood organizes, then the competitors come in and undercut the price. Then someone falls off for the lower rate and eventually the organized neighborhood falls apart
- Difficult in Dakota because of variability of each city
- Do get complaints about number of trucks down street, but the link is not made
- Do not have community support but IF required, all these options would be helpful to staff
- Don't want to be the ones taking the heat for the State on mandates.
- Each community is unique
- Each community is vastly different (urban, suburban, rural)
- Even though lots of positive on contract collection there are still Fights with haulers and city councils
- Everything currently relies on hauler participation and they will only do it if its financial advantages
- Grants could be good depending on how set up, such as pilot project
- Has to be monetary incentive for haulers to participate – lots of biz say they are "green" until it costs more money
- Hauler subsidies for offering organics, otherwise they won't do it
- Have haulers involved in in a county wide group - won't work without haulers
- I know so little about this topic that I would need a lot of assistance with this.
- I like that there were businesses that signed up for organics service with the Dakota County program. I visited one of the businesses that participated, and they did not continue. Maybe the cost is prohibitive.
- I'm not sure if the market is there to haul organics.
- In a rural area it's pretty rare that someone doesn't have a compost bin or pile. Organics isn't necessary.
- It would be great if large generators could have their own digester on site.
- Left a lot of N/A because I don't have council or community interest
- Mandates result in hurt feelings and political wars
- More money and fewer mandates.
- Multi-family easier to pick up organics; and if there was some incentive for multi-family units it could have a big impact.
- Need to educate council, residents -need to know how to start the discussion and how can the county help with implementation
- No interest in organized collection. Turned down 3 times by residents
- No outside education (for or against) has been provided to council or staff
- Organics is huge and the big piece is cost, whether a drop site or available curbside for residents.
- People believe they can negotiate better prices
- People would not want organized collection even if it was cheaper – don't want to lose choice will lose individual bargaining
- Politically challenging
- Previous council not an option; one new council member that is interest. Need education.
- Public Education and good argument for needs to be prepared before it goes to the city council (it being an organized plan)
- Rural – keep choice
- Shouldn't require all haulers provide; not all households generate enough (elderly, etc.)
- The city could have one day designated for collection, and that would be helpful.
- There would need to be open house meetings and that would be so much for one recycling person to deal with
- We really need to split the cities and the townships. The townships really don't have the resources.

Compilation of comments for specific options

Contract Assistance

1. County provides information on best management practices (e.g., implementation process, resident education, contract terms, etc.):
 - All help from County is valuable!
 - Bypass grants for performance
 - Examples are always helpful, also case studies and additional research
 - Our community hasn't been interested.

Contracted Collection: Residential Recycling and Organics

- Provided to cities – examples
 - We already have exclusive residential contract, but any BMP's are always helpful!
 - Would be valuable if there was community interest.
2. County provides assistance with public engagement
 - At events, during high attended events
 - Local lead of communication, with County assistance, may be the most effective approach
 3. County provides assistance with hauler coordination:
 - Hastings has organized hauler
 - Too many haulers on our roads causes issues with road grading and snow plowing as recycle and trash bins are left at the end of the driveways
 - Would want more information on this
 4. County provides technical and legal assistance (e.g., strategic planning, system design, contract negotiations, implementation, etc.):
 - Would need additional language for organics

Organics Collection

1. County provides startup funding for organics (e.g., carts, bins, kitchen buckets, compostable bags, etc.):
 - In open systems, organics relies on hauler participation
 - This program would be difficult to enforce in rural agricultural area with low population
 - This would need to be a hauler requirement first
 - Very helpful - pilot program drop off or all residents?
2. County provides competitive grants for organics pilot projects:
 - Knowing costs, having a guide to follow
3. New County ordinance requiring municipal contracted organics collection:
 - At municipal buildings or community wide?
 - But at what charge? Some homeowners are stretched to the max on expenses, and this may be a requirement that is too much for one family to bear.
 - Is this necessary in rural townships where residents compost on a more regular basis
 - Need to consider individual composting!
 - Suggested not required.
 - This may feel heavy handed
4. Countywide group that tackles issues together:
 - Already have this
 - Cities vs townships?
 - Divide into 2 groups, small and large cities
 - Haulers should be included
 - Mandated Organics recycling is going to be a tough sell!
 - Would like clarification on this (MRC's, city staff...?)

7. Contracted Collection, Organics Options

Question: One state suggestion is for counties to mandate city-contracted residential curbside organics collection. Some municipalities have expressed concerns about such a mandate. If there were no mandate, what are your ideas for implementing residential curbside organics collection using an open-hauling system? Results are summarized and compiled below.

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Summary and Compilation of Comments

Respondents listed a variety of specific programs (Blue Bag, etc.) to support residential organics collection. Some were unsure of the overall consumer demand / desire for organics collection. Respondents noted the importance of a robust education effort and perhaps a staged approach such as first adding more organics drop-off locations or focusing on high-density areas, and that making organics collection affordable, easy, and convenient for everyone.

- \$ incentives for haulers and residents
- A pilot project in an area or one hauler to start
- Bag into regular garbage
- Blue bag program
- Blue Bags helps cities spread the message (eliminate third bin) and
- Blue Bags option (is SET taking them?)
- Blue Bags, easy for cities to help. Doesn't require route density for hauler
- Blue Bags
- Build a dirty MRF – have them figure out how to sort it out
- By requiring municipalities to use compost, you could increase its value
- Collect organics weekly. People think, “my garbage is going to stink.” That’s a concern if it is collected once every two weeks instead of weekly
- Collect with yard waste
- Collection credits
- Costs are getting higher – what are all those fees for on hauler bills?
- Could provide discounts to haulers who bring less to a landfill by actually diverting organics – influencing the end disposal of waste from customers
- Could there be a County-provided organics collection service? That would provide uniformity.
- County requirement that haulers provide it
- Create more demand for finished compost
- Curbside pilot program with a neighborhood association to see what kind of participation to see if there is an interest
- Everything has been driven by the backend (trash); need to change how they are managing and seeing things further upstream vs. always at residential level.
- Fee to users
- Figure out what systems could work together for organics, to collect from large generators and work out synergies to get people on board.
- Grants for pilot projects, evaluate participation rates
- Great idea to meet goals
- Have open system for trash and recycling, organize for organics
- Homeowner agreements with draft language from county that would allow for organics within a neighborhood
- If it is not convenient, people will chose not to do and even if it is convenient people will chose not do it. An example was given that someone they knew in Minneapolis sent back their curbside organics cart and chose not to sort organics.
- If there were more organics drop off locations for residents to use; that would be a good start
- If you could reduce fees with a smaller bin, people might compost more
- In Burnsville, a lot of people would like to have organics possibility
- In rural areas organics makes less sense. As it gets more rural, it becomes less so.
- It will be another vehicle down the road
- It would be a huge conversation for Hastings to discuss an open-hauling system because we are already organized
- It would be interesting to compare drop site and curbside collection – is one used more than the other, does one have more contamination than the other? Dakota County’s one drop site is getting more use than expected – would we be able to do a lot more with three or four more?
- Less opposition than organized traditional collection because not currently offered by haulers

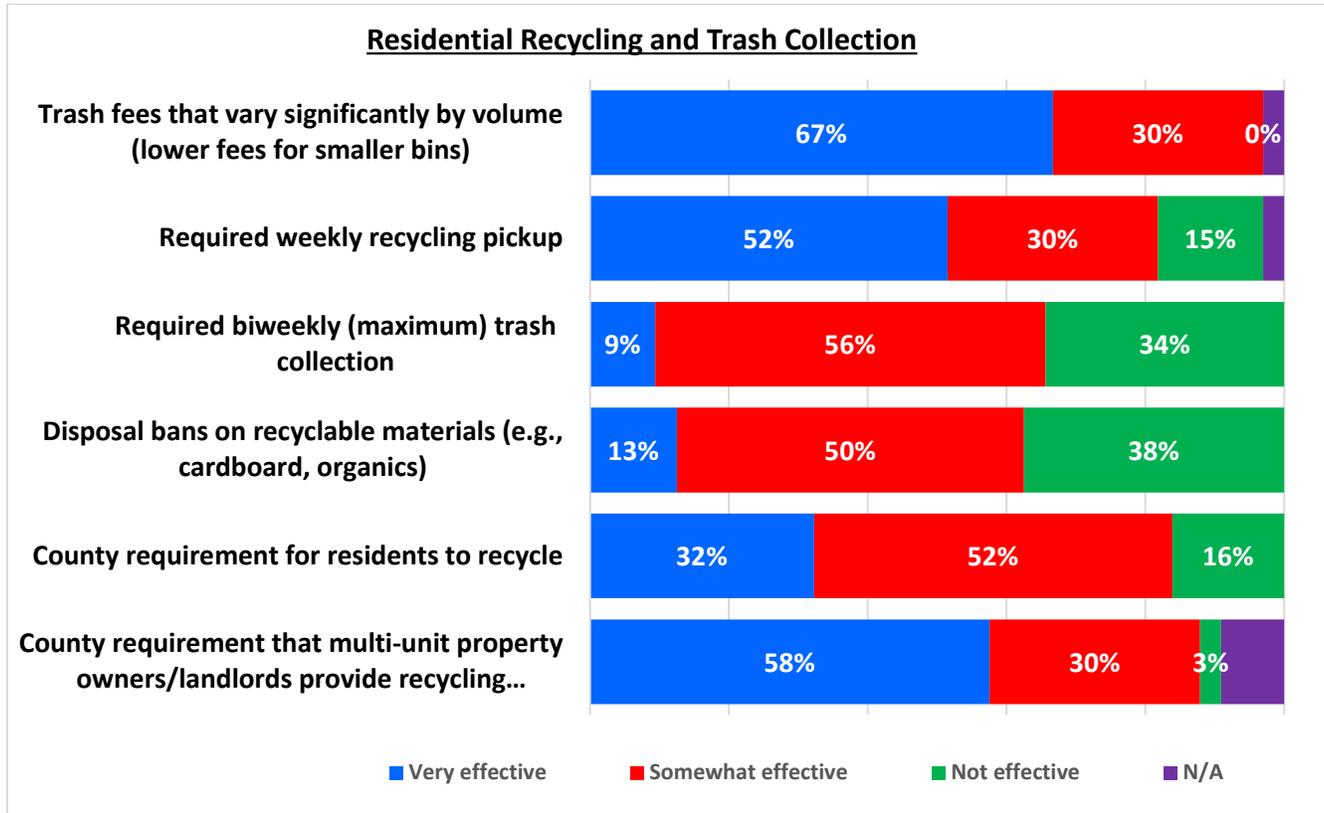
- Make it a County provided service or assistance
- Make it free for organics collection; leaves and grass clippings are a problem because now the city charges for it (end up in the ditch because people want to avoid paying a fee)
- Make map of biz in Dakota that are currently collecting organics, good tool to garner route density
- Mandating is always difficult
- Mixing with yard waste
- More drop sites
- Need some sort of record-keeping; coupons for finished compost for low cost or free
- No one is willing to raise property tax for this
- Pick-up with yard waste year round.
- Promotion
- Provide incentives to residents for how well they are actually doing (doesn't have to be big), but currently do not have house-by-house data to do that and incentives can be challenging to manage and prove
- Reach out to homeowners associations to see if there is route densities
- Required organics collection nullifies the use of compost piles. Not reasonable for rural areas.
- Route densities - create pilot programs with large users such as shopping center, hospital, nursing homes, etc.
- Route maps, encourage based on current commercial routes
- Separate bin/separate truck
- Some rural self-composting
- Something convenient
- Survey residents to see if they want curbside organics, would the residents be willing to pay a fee for it
- Target groups that are already organized (apartments, homeowner association)
- Target multifamily properties (higher densities)
- The challenge gets to be how many containers you want on the curb – we already have containers for trash, recycling, and yard waste. Do people have space for one more?
- We could do what the Shakopee facility is doing in Scott County for organics. They are collecting from the casino and hotel.
- Why not put the blue bag with the recyclables.
- Yard waste included.
- You can charge a fee for something that you are requiring people to do – people don't like that.
- You could have natural groupings of organics containers like mailboxes in one location – add a collection area for the neighborhood.

8. Residential Recycling and Trash Collection

Question: Multiple tactics to increase recycling will need to be considered. How effective would the following be to help residents reduce trash and increase recycling?

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Results



Answer Options	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Not effective	N/A
Trash fees that vary significantly by volume (lower fees for smaller bins)	67%	30%	0%	3%
Required weekly recycling pickup	52%	30%	15%	3%
Required biweekly (maximum) trash collection	9%	56%	34%	0%
Disposal bans on recyclable materials (e.g., cardboard, organics)	13%	50%	38%	0%
County requirement for residents to recycle	32%	52%	16%	0%
County requirement that multi-unit property owners/landlords provide recycling collection services to their tenants	58%	30%	3%	9%

Summary and Compilation of Comments

Respondents focused on the advantages of incentives over mandates, because mandates don't address particular local circumstances, are difficult to implement and enforce, and may not accomplish the objectives. They noted the challenges of different haulers or communities having widely varied approaches, and were concerned about practical issues – to which they offered a variety of suggestions and ideas.

- A disposal ban is an interesting idea
- Ban on materials is great if organized but doesn't work in open system
- Bi-weekly trash collection – only work if organics collected too; would need a GIANT bin or extra bin for recycling if EOW; only reason to collect trash weekly is because of smell
- Could city halls serve as a collection point? Some cities are taking items to Recycling Zone anyway. My city has film plastic bins filled every week and I have to take it to the Recycling Zone. We could collect light bulbs, etc.
- County collection centers should be located within a reasonable distance of residents. Sometimes it is too far for people to travel.
- Disposal bans are not enforceable; and again who would enforce?
- Drop sites for trash would be helpful for elderly; use fees/pay for rental of dumpster that anyone can use
- Education is the most important thing; clearly state what the benefits are; provide them feedback
- Every other week trash won't work because of parties, holidays, etc. PR nightmare
- Hauler should provide rebates to good recyclers
- How do you determine if something is truly recyclable? Is the cardboard too greasy.
- How do you enforce disposal bans, etc.
- If residents actually saved money for organics and recycling, it may influence how much is in the garbage.
- If there is a mandate for recycling, put it on the same day as waste collection.
- If there was an incentive for less garbage, it would be beneficial to entice people to participate in recycling and organics.
- It needs to affect the bottom line
- It would be good for the County to have the requirement that multi-units recycle; many cities already have this as a requirement – but, who is policing and it encourages neighbors against neighbors – if County wanted to enforce that would be “ok”.
- It would be helpful to have the Recycling Zone open more days, and later hours.
- More significant fee scale
- Most encouraging item is related to their wallet -- prove that recycling can save people money
- Only offer the smallest size trash container (people's behavior will adapt) (McDonalds syndrome)
- Or if a neighborhood organizes with one hauler, how do you enforce volume rates.
- People are able to barter with the haulers, so how do you enforce volume rates.
- People may not need recycling picked up every week
- Provide for multi-unit recycling
- Recycling and trash should be on same schedule (weekly or biweekly both) perception that if recycling EOW then
- Recycling and trash should be same day (so doesn't set out all week)
- Requiring weekly recycling pickup is too much
- The above ideas are hoping that residents are doing the right things
- There is difference in how much each resident generates, may want to have more flexibility for choice between weekly and bi-weekly collection based on the resident's needs. Example was given with a single person vs. a larger family.
- There needs to be more enforcement so that apartment buildings offer the opportunity to recycle. At least put in the county ordinance.
- Trash every two weeks could cause issues if people were not separated their organics
- Trash fees should vary significantly by volume.
- Volume based trash – one participant wondered if there was an actual savings from downsizing, response at table was an un-motivating price different
- We acknowledge people who are good recyclers. Mention them at a council meeting or give them a small gift. Some people are motivated by that. Our city council talks about good news and things coming up – it would be a good time to talk about good recyclers.
- We are considering this with our next exclusive residential contractor license process
- We need to create a disincentive for people to have a giant trashcan.
- Weekly recycling is better than bi-weekly collection.

Residential Recycling and Trash Collection

- Weekly recycling is good idea, but biweekly trash is not
- Weight based instead of volume based if it can be implemented.
- Why cardboard ban? Because of volume?

Other ideas do you have to encourage residents to reduce trash and increase recycling

- Have County recycling facilities open longer hours - more days/evenings per week.
- If items are not picked up on a regular basis, people may start dumping items more along the roads in rural areas
- Larger recycling bins and weekly pick up
- More county wide labeling so they know what can be recycled.
- Promote tours to MRFs, more info on reducing trash/packaging.
- Rebate from haulers for good recyclers.
- Requirement can sometimes have the opposite effect; I like the idea but requirement may be the wrong way
- The Minnesota State Building Code REQUIRES space be dedicated for recycling; however, as soon as the businesses open, that dedicated space is taken over for trash collection. Perhaps requiring segregation of trash and recyclables into separated spaces would preserve the recycling space for its intended purpose

9. Contracted Trash Collection, Options

Question: One state suggestion is for counties to mandate city-contracted residential trash collection. Municipalities have expressed concerns about such a mandate. If there were no mandate, what ideas do you have to encourage or support your residents to generate less trash?

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Summary and Compilation of Comments

While these respondents continue to object to mandates, there was solid support for making serious headway in reducing the amount of trash generated. Ideas included continued and more specific education about how to do that with a particular emphasis on organics, and then providing a cost-effective and practical structure and process accomplish it. Suggestions included both incentives for recycling and organics *and* disincentives for trash, typically and not exclusively financial. Some also mentioned the importance of continued larger efforts to reduce packaging, retail take-back programs, and similar.

- A lot of residents would be so angry.
- A lot of waste is packaging, it is difficult for individuals to do anything about it. Needs to be done at a city/county/state level
- Are there any studies out there that residents generate less trash with organized collection?
- Award program.
- Buy quality; get rid of dollar stores
- Cities would be blaming the county – go to the county meeting not the city meeting
- Continued education and web presence to inform residents about recycling
- Cost credits.
- Cost savings (or penalty for not recycling)
- Could this go hand in hand with organics? For example, if they sign up for organics, they get two months free.
- Develop more education on compostable service ware and organics disposal option.
- Distribute information in newsletters or special mailings to residents.
- Do a pilot program – do not offer bags at retail stores if don't need it (if one or two items)
- Does city collected trash collection generate less trash?
- Educate more
- Educating kids at an early age – long term commitment
- Education (3x)
- Education is good (emotional aspect) but is not as much of a driving force as money/savings
- Encourage people to do “experience giving” in place of “gift giving.” But this is a lifestyle choice.
- Everything is geared towards residents, residents bear the brunt of managing the trash – why isn't waste focused up the chain with businesses, manufacturers and packaging requirements?
- Financial incentive to recycle more (pay as you throw is good option) (purchase bags
- Financial incentives.
- Give them more information about reducing packaging. I would love to see more classes at libraries from zero waste people.
- Have more local places for residents to drop off trash and/or recycle items instead of having haulers pick up
- Help to update/build enclosures.
- Higher promotion of business grant program and additional funding for enclosures which often cost more than \$10,000
- Ideas to cut down on waste before it is generated. Need to created systems for entire process. Growing food/producing product. Direct shipments of foods to large facilities - reduce waste and then compost etc.
- Identify and award "good" recyclers - local newspapers, small dollars or other award; could acknowledge at council meetings
- If the state is setting the mandates, they should also provide incentives. Most useful incentives are financial but could give award to high performing businesses and properties.
- If the state mandates goals, it should mandate the contracted trash collector.
- If you push too hard, you'll get piles of trash hidden in the townships
- In very small areas there wouldn't be much benefit
- Incentives for business to produce greener packaging.
- Incentives to reduce size of can

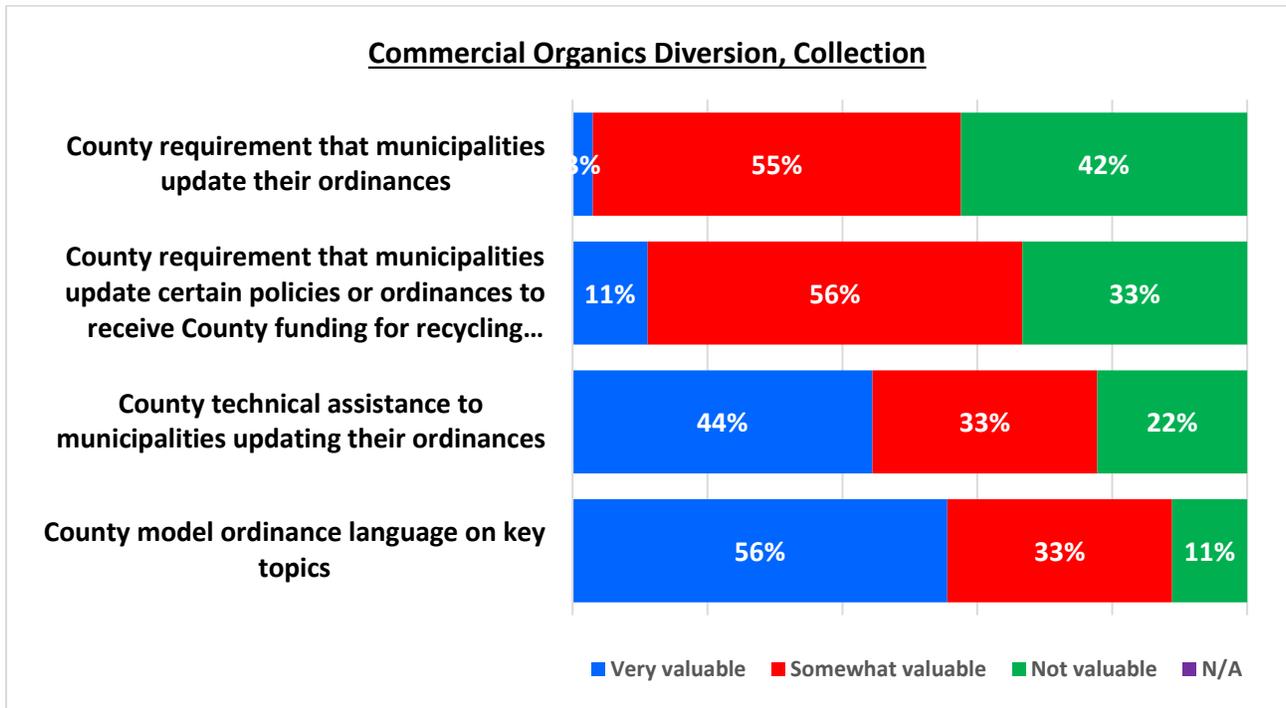
- Incentives. Discounts for haulers or residents. Positive incentives and \$\$\$ award to commercial businesses. Make the incentives challenging and publicly acknowledge through awards.
- Incentives/promotions to commercial entities.
- Increase cost of trash; make it expensive to incentivize reduction
- It might save some fuel, but no benefits in the rural areas
- It needs to affect the bottom line.
- Less packaging (product stewardship)
- Less planned obsolescence.
- Money is always the way to get to people. If there is some savings they can realize, that's the biggest motivator.
- Offer classes showing how to reduce trash.
- PAYT.
- Physical space constraints.
- Pricing mechanisms are important
- Pricing of trashing activities
- Product stewardship - taking back old products for new products. Tires, appliances.
- Product stewardship – stores and manufactures should be responsible for managing waste, especially the larger items
- Promote more to Goodwill, pick up services, etc.
- Promote tours to MRFs
- Promotion.
- Provide education - informing kids at an early age.
- Provide fix it clinics
- Push corporations to have this to start once started will likely continue
- Push MPCA or state to push corporations.
- Recognition of commercial properties that have reduced their waste considerable.
- Recognition of grocery stores/markets that sell goods package - free to encourage less packaging waste.
- Recruit business that would use the collected waste streams. Economic development target.
- Reducing packaging, offering incentives (cash or other) and having an approach that is not "one-size-fits-all" were common themes in respondent's comments.
- Reducing trash relates to how you live, your lifestyle, how big your household is. I don't know how you educate about that and what kind of products to buy.
- Req. on packaging/businesses.
- Savings has to be real - more than a buck or two, reward those who voluntary recycle – disincentive to those who don't
- Technical assistance w/funding.
- The message can be simpler
- The State should bear full responsibility if it is mandating to have organized collection.
- There are other advantages
- Tiered rate structure
- Want the question to phrased different – it should be residents, businesses, etc. – call it the community for generating less trash – to define it as a community.
- Waste sorts.
- We need to do something about people's expectations of how things are packaged to be able to reduce packaging
- Weekly collection of recyclables - frequency makes it easier to always habit
- Would need more staffing
- You won't generate less trash through organized collection

10. Commercial Organics Diversion, Collection

Question: To achieve state goals, organics separation and diversion must significantly improve in the next few years. One strategy in the state’s Policy Plan that the County must consider is to require organics diversion by 2022 by large commercial generators, such as grocery stores, large restaurants, hospitals, and schools. How useful would the following be to advance commercial organics diversion in your community? Results are summarized and compiled below.

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Results



Answer Options	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	N/A
Guidance to municipalities (e.g., waste enclosure space/size, codes, etc.)	33%	55%	6%	6%
Requirement for haulers to provide organics collection service to commercial entities	36%	39%	18%	6%
Phasing based on the type and size of the commercial entity	30%	52%	12%	6%
Phasing based on the geographic density of commercial entities	36%	48%	9%	6%
County technical assistance and training to commercial entities to help set up organics diversion programs	58%	36%	0%	6%
County funding to commercial entities to help start up costs (e.g., compostable bags, enclosure space expansions, etc.)	76%	18%	0%	6%
County recognition program for commercial entities diverting their organics	55%	36%	3%	6%

Summary and Compilation of Comments

Respondents offered a variety of practical ideas: Promote through education and support, employ financial and other incentives, partner with commercial entities to build capacity and address specific issues and needs, help businesses serve as role models and supports for each other

- Cities or counties could pass the ordinances to require companies to have compostable cups, wrappers, etc., but the state could do this better.
- Coordinate recognition at not city council and county board
- Could allow exemptions; would be a challenge on businesses/landlords because of cost for enclosure space expansions
- Do lawn care facilities use compost for their services? Partner with them to create the end market for food waste. Put it on the County website, "AAA Lawn Care Company uses yard waste/compost from the County."
- Don't start with a requirement for haulers, but lead them to that. Starting with that will start a war right away.
- Educate that there are funds out there for businesses to implement recycling/organics improvements/program – not everyone was familiar with this program and really thought this should be communicated
- Emphasize tax savings because recycling/organics is not taxed. It's all about money
- Financial help to build and update enclosures
- Financial incentive (not just a recognition plaque)
- Focus on restaurants, schools and institutions, grocery stores, any business that provides food/produce
- Haulers required to offer organics
- Having mandates on city codes for waste requirements, need to still realize that cities need to be allowed to write codes for their needs/requirements based on health and welfare, rodents, etc. – the example was brought up on the need for codes on waste enclosures.
- If the County gives x dollars to x company for a program and then the company doesn't follow through, is there a penalty for this?
- If we knew what other businesses were doing, it could influence consumer's choice.
- Incentivize large generators which will influence smaller generators.
- Incentivize ways for businesses to buy less so there is less to throw away
- Make it easy.
- Makes sense to start with the big guys
- Need funding to help expand waste enclosure spaces
- Needs to be a way to increase the number of haulers that will collect organics. And for haulers, if there is money in it then they will do it.
- Partner with greenhouses to use the compost produced in Dakota County.
- Phase in based on business type (large commercial generators of organics)
- Promote and educate, which is a good way to inform others of programs.
- Promote current incentive programs more
- Properties vs. business, for example a strip mall, provide an incentive for the property owner or possibly all businesses
- Provide startup funding
- Provide them with an example of how another commercial entity went about this and how they reduced their cost. Make these examples very visible
- Provide training
- Recognition program is a great idea - business care about their public image and being seen as a green business
- Reduced enclosure requirements
- Regional phasing-in seems practical. If parts of the system don't work that can be a problem. This County has density pockets to support that.
- Require grocery stores to leave "day old" produce out for a day and discount it; "ugly fruit" is ok to eat
- Require haulers to do a waste sort or audit to their customers; report findings to MPCA
- Requirements to offer organics, provide incentives
- Residents in their city more interested in biz in their city, don't care about other city biz (break it out by city)
- Some business don't want to recognition because their clients may view their increased recycling/organics as a perception that their products are more expensive
- Some restaurants/institutions don't know where to start if they wanted to start organics, Some facilities think it may be more daunting that it really is
- Space is an issue (indoors and outdoors), especially at restaurants; if new restaurant then ok but harder if older and

- have
- Structure your economic development strategies to recruit businesses that are natural collectors of waste being produced. Like a heavy user of cardboard – encourage them to locate in Dakota County.
- Technical assistance and funding is good way to get organics
- started – only a few businesses have an organics program and there are lots of businesses with organics available – a big step is to get people interested
- The state needs to step in to work with big companies like McDonalds or other large generators.
- Use the County newsletter to
- highlight a business, there is a value in that for businesses – free advertising and visibility. City multimedia platforms could be used for communicating and highlighting effective programs.
- Work with cities on exemptions for enclosure spaces

Other ideas do you have to encourage commercial entities to divert organics?

- Passive language like “The state encourages” or “The state would like” means nothing, in reality. I believe a mandate is necessary in order to achieve any reasonable success. The down side of a mandate, however, is that someone must enforce the mandate. In this instance, that means either the county or the city will need to staff those enforcement position(s). That means real budget dollars and FTE's. That means the County Board and/or City Council's need to be fully on board regarding the intended and unintended consequences of any mandate.

11. Municipal Participants

Below are the municipalities and consortium members who participated in the Round 2 engagement either at the May in-person workshop or via the online survey with the same content.

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City/Town/Township	Participant	Title
Apple Valley	Barry Bernstein	Director, Parks and Recreation
	Kathy Bodmer	Planner
Burnsville	Heather Johnson	City Manager
	Ryan Peterson	Burnsville Natural Resources Director
	Daryl Jacobson	Natural Resources Manager
	Deb Garross	Planner
Castle Rock Township	Barbara Lang	Clerk
Douglas Township	Peggy Varien	Clerk
Dakota Valley Recycling (consortium)	Sue Bast	Environmental Specialist/DVR recycling supv
	Jackson Becker	Environmental Technician/DVR recycling
	Ellie Orrick	ARROW coordinator
Eagan	Dave Osberg	City Administrator
	Michael J. Ridley	City Planner
Farmington	David McKnight	City Administrator
Greenvale Township	Greg Langer	Chairman
Hampton Township	Jim Sipe	Supervisor
Hastings	Paige Marschall Bigler	Recycling coordinator
	Melanie Mesko Lee	City Administrator
Inver Grove Heights	Joe Lynch	City Administrator
	Ally Hillstrom	Intern
	Franklin Martin	Chief Building Official
	Allan Hunting	City Planner
Lakeville	Allyn Kuennen	Assistant City Administrator
	Ann Messerschmidt	Environmental resources specialist
	Justin Miller	City Administrator
Lilydale	Mary Schultz	City Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator
Mendota Heights	Ryan Ruzek	Public works director
	Mark McNeill	City Administrator
Ravenna Township	Caroline Spurgeon	Clerk/Treasurer
Rosemount	Tom Schuster	Parks and recreation
	Anthony Nemcek	Planner
South St. Paul	Stephen P. King	City Administrator
	Cassandra Schuller	Recycling coordinator
Sunfish Lake	Cathy Iago	City Clerk Administrator
West St. Paul	Ben Boike	Asst Community Devel Dir/City planner