

Dakota County Solid Waste Master Plan Revision Update

August 18, 2017

Dakota County is revising its [2012-2030 Solid Waste Master Plan](#). The revised Master Plan will guide proper waste management within Dakota County for the next twenty years, and include strategies to divert waste from the landfill and comply with state requirements, including the state's aggressive goal to achieve a 75% recycling rate by 2030.

From October 2016 – February 2017, County staff conducted public surveys and workshops with stakeholder groups to obtain input on solid waste issues. From March – May 2017, additional surveys and workshops were conducted to solicit feedback on proposed new strategies that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) required the County to consider. Feedback was used to influence and refine proposed strategies.

On August 1, 2017, strategy recommendations were presented to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners (see table below). The MPCA requires the County to identify timing for strategy implementation. Proposed timing has been developed and is based on stakeholder response (e.g., increased standardized messages), Commissioner priorities (e.g., a focus on food waste prevention and multi-unit dwellings), and meets the implementation timeline in the [Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan](#) (Appendix G).

A public review period for the Draft Master Plan is anticipated in late 2017. The draft will have more details on the strategies including tactics and approaches (partner collaboration, phased strategies over multiple years, etc.) to achieve state requirements. The project [website](#) will continue to be updated and project updates will also continue to be provided to interested parties that [sign up](#).

A final Master Plan will be reviewed by the Dakota County Planning Commission, the County Board, and submitted for MPCA approval (anticipated 2018). Implementation of any and all strategies will require coordination between County staff and stakeholder groups, and some will require authorization by the County Board. It is anticipated that collaborative efforts will begin in 2018 to develop time-phased approaches, to refine existing programs and to develop new programs.

Potential Draft Solid Waste Master Plan Strategies and Timing

The DRAFT Solid Waste Master Plan content is currently under review by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners	
REGIONAL SOLUTIONS: Strategies address metropolitan county (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington) efforts identified by the MPCA to improve consistency in program requirements, service delivery and when addressing barriers to recycling.	
Proposed Strategies	Proposed Timing
Continue to standardize hauler licensing and reporting requirements across the metropolitan area.	2018
Provide standardized recycling messages through multiple partners (e.g., cities, haulers).	2019
Remove commercial recycling barriers in state, County and city ordinances/codes (e.g., space for waste and recycling containers).	2022

SOURCE REDUCTION AND REUSE: To reduce the amount of trash that is generated, the MPCA wants Dakota County to influence material reduction and reuse.	
Proposed Strategies	Proposed Timing
Continue to use and promote environmentally-preferable practices (e.g., purchasing) to public entities*.	2018
Continue to develop and promote reuse options for household items in good condition.	2018
Continue to develop and promote reduce/reuse options in the community and within government, businesses and schools.	2018
COLLECTION BEST PRACTICES: The MPCA wants Dakota County to consider collection strategies that have been identified as best management practices.	
Proposed Strategies	Proposed Timing
Collect residential recycling on a weekly basis.	2019
All haulers collect the same recyclable materials for recycling. <i>NOTE: This would be a standard list of materials collected by all haulers and allow haulers to collect additional materials that have recycling markets.</i>	2019
Improve financial mechanisms to reduce waste (e.g., lower fees for smaller carts).	2022
RECYCLING MANAGEMENT: The MPCA recognized the need for counties to continue efforts supported by state law and to address recycling gaps to achieve a 75% recycling rate by 2030.	
Proposed Strategies	Proposed Timing
Continue to assist public entities* so they can meet state law requirements.	2018
Continue to assist generators that produce large quantities of recyclables so they can meet state law requirements.	2018
Develop a program for multi-unit dwellings (e.g., apartments, condos) to ensure building managers and tenants improve recycling.	2019
Implement generator requirements to improve recycling.	2019
Provide additional residential drop-off opportunities for non-traditional items (e.g., mattresses) and household hazardous waste (e.g., paint, chemicals).	2020
ORGANICS MANAGEMENT: The MPCA requires Dakota County to implement actions that prevent and capture a larger portion of organic material (e.g., food waste, soiled paper) to achieve state objectives.	
Proposed Strategies	Proposed Timing
Continue to inform residents on ways to reduce the amount of food that is wasted.	2018
Provide technical assistance and resources to reduce food waste from commercial establishments (e.g., focus on food purchasing and preparation).	2019
Provide technical assistance and resources to increase food donation (e.g., safe storage and transportation of surplus edible food to hunger relief agencies).	2019
Require large generators of organic waste (e.g., grocery stores) to separate organics from the trash.	2022
Require public entities* and large community events (serving food) to separate organics from the trash.	2022
Make residential curbside organics collection available countywide.	2025

NON- MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (Non-MSW): For the first time, the MPCA is requiring a focus on Non-MSW (i.e., construction and demolition debris) because of the significant amount of materials being landfilled.	
Proposed Strategies	Proposed Timing
Conduct recurring waste composition studies at all disposal facilities to learn how much recyclable material is improperly disposed.	2025
ORGANICS MARKET DEVELOPMENT: To increase market demand for compost, the MPCA is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to develop specifications for compost use.	
Proposed Strategy	Proposed Timing
Use MnDOT specifications for compost in County and city transportation projects, such as for erosion control or as a soil amendment.	2022

*Public entities include the County, cities, townships and public schools.