



# Update on Required County Solid Waste Plan Revision

Dakota County Planning Commission

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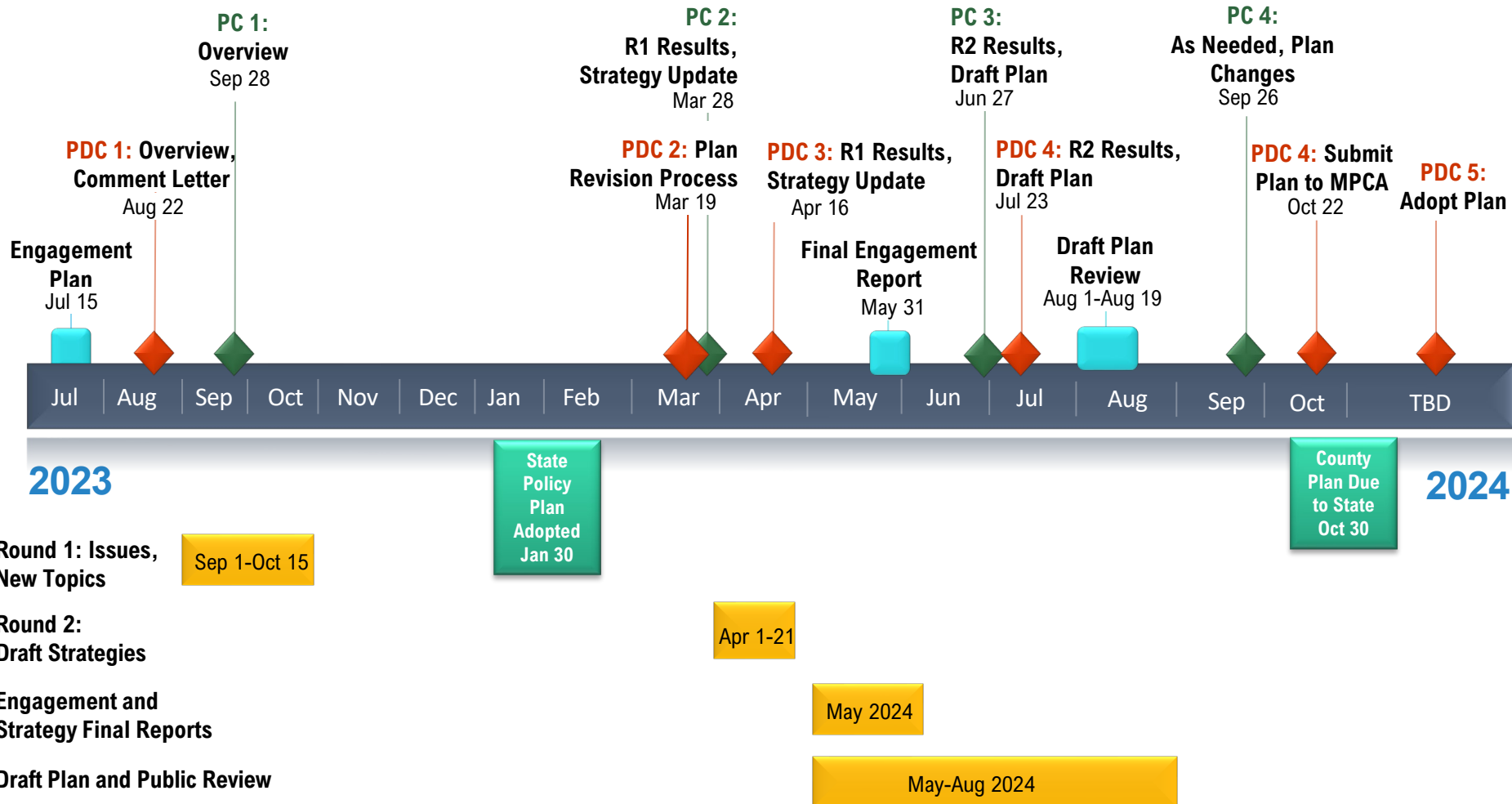
March 28, 2024

# Tonight's Presentation



1. Project Recap
2. Findings from the Fall 2023 of Public Engagement
3. Adopted State 2022-2024 Policy Plan Strategies
4. Proposed Draft Plan Policy Framework and Strategies  
based on State Plan and Public Engagement
5. Next Steps

# Recap: County Revision Timeline



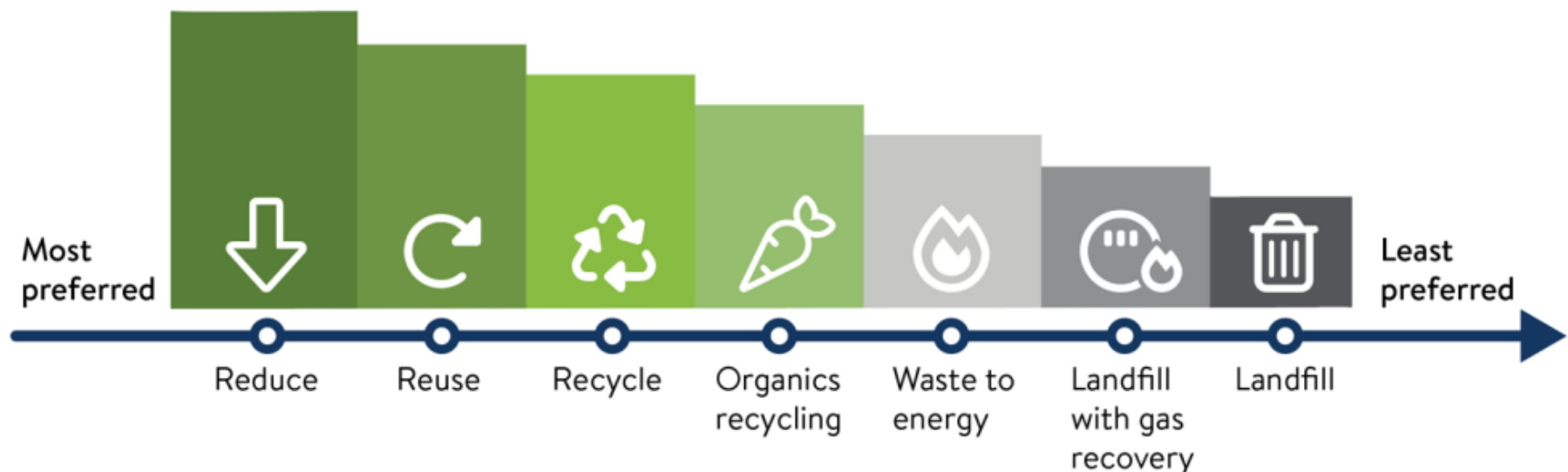
Round 1 and Round 2 will engage the waste industry, residents, business, schools, public entities, and specialty groups (tree/wood waste managers, reuse organizations, food rescue groups, and construction and demolition businesses). A revised draft Policy Plan was released for public comment on June 5, 2023. The MPCA adopted a final Policy Plan on January 30, 2024. The new County Plan must be completed nine months after the MPCA Commissioner adopts the Policy Plan, by October 30, 2024.

# Recap: Solid Waste Management



- Minnesota Waste Management Act protects natural resources and public health (Minn. Stat. §115A.02)
- Waste hierarchy establishes preference for waste management
- Counties responsible for managing waste to meet state goals

## Minnesota's waste hierarchy



# Fall 2023 Public Engagement: Methods

## Online Surveys:

- Residential, commercial, specialty, public entities, waste industry

## Meetings:

- Waste Industry Meeting: in-person
- Public Entities meeting: virtual

## In-Person Intercepts:

- Burnsville Farmers Market
- Dakota County Parks Outdoor Gear Swap

## Unstaffed Intercepts (dot boards):

- Burnhaven Library
- Inver Glen Library
- Wentworth Library



# Fall 2023 Public Engagement: Audiences



Waste Plan Topics	Residents	Businesses and Schools	Public Entities	Waste Industry	Food Rescue Organizations	Deconstruction Businesses	Reuse Organizations	Tree Waste Companies
Recycling	X	X	X	X				
Household Hazardous Waste	X							
Waste Reduction and Reuse	X	X	X	X			X	
Organics (Food Scrap) Management	X	X	X	X	X			
Tree Waste Management	X	X	X	X				X
Building Material Management	X	X	X	X		X		
Sustainable Purchasing		X	X					



# Fall 2023 Public Engagement: Participation

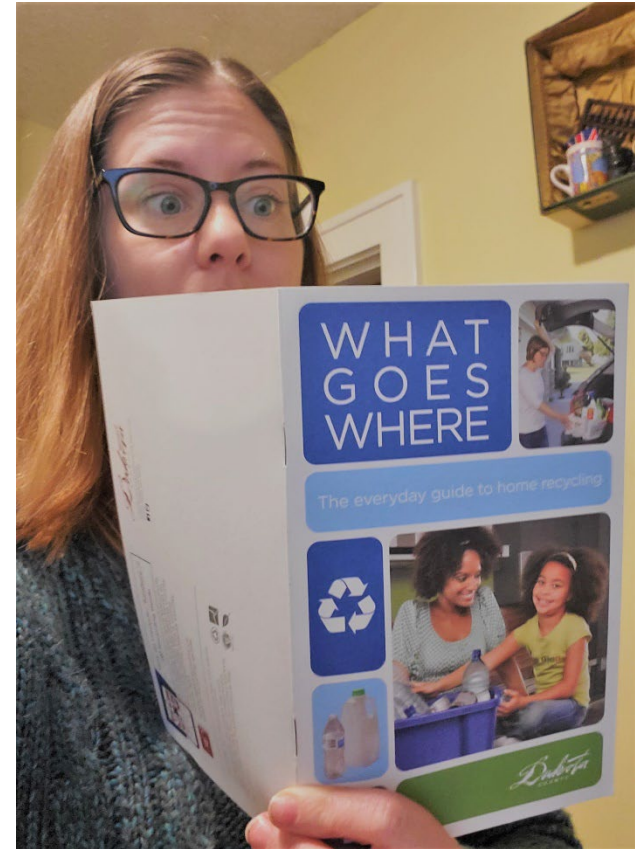


Audience	Participants	Online Survey	Intercepts	Meetings
Residents	897	◆	◆	
Businesses and Schools	15	◆		
Public Entities	23	◆		◆
Waste Industry	11	◆		◆
Specialty Groups	9	◆		Offered

# Public Engagement: Findings

## Recycling

- More education is desired, especially on challenging/confusing materials
- More convenient recycling options are desired for materials that can't go in curbside recycling bins
- Greater manufacturer responsibility is desired for products and packaging





# Public Engagement: Findings



## Household Hazardous Waste

Top opportunities for improving proper disposal include:

- Extended operating hours at the Recycling Zone
- Facilities that are closer to residents
- Enhanced education on materials accepted for drop-off



# Public Engagement: Findings

## Waste Reduction and Reuse

Top solutions include:

- Information for repair, local resale and donation, sustainable purchasing, curbside collection, and drop off locations
- Convenient options for donating or selling furniture, electronics, and household goods
- Activities to support reuse such as swaps, rentals, training on repair
- Other: model language, funding



# Public Engagement: Findings

## Organics Management (Food Scraps)

Findings include:

- Weekly trash preferred with weekly recycling and organics collection
- Information about which food scraps to separate
- Information needed for cities about using finished compost in projects
- Residents: pests/odors concerns
- Waste industry: labor/cost concerns





# Public Engagement: Findings

## Tree Waste Management

- More education needed
- Cost-effective options needed
- Storage capacity needed

## Building Material Management

- Information needed on what, where, and how to reuse building materials

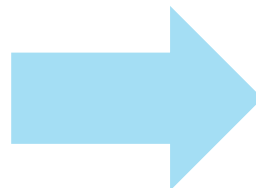


Does the Commission have comments  
or questions on public engagement?

What stands out from the first round?

# Metro Policy Plan: County Plan Requirements

- **MN Stat. §473.149** – Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan adopted January 30, 2024
  - Prepared by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
  - Sets framework all metropolitan counties must follow
- **MN Stat. §473.803** – County Plan revision, submittal by October 30, 2024





# Metro Policy Plan Waste Objectives



## Regional Waste Management System Objectives

Management Method	Metro Counties (2022)	Dakota County (2022)	2025 Goal	2030 Goal	2036 Goal	2042 Goal
Waste Reduction	-	-	2.9%	6.4%	10.7%	15%
Recycling	28.6%	24%	36.9%	47.6%	47.4%	47.4%
Organics	16.6%	30%	21.5%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
Waste to Energy	21.4%	2%	24%	20%	20%	20%
Landfill	33.4%	43%	17.6%	5%	5%	5%

# Metro Policy Plan Framework



## Key Themes

Sustainable  
Materials  
Management

Greenhouse Gas  
Emission  
reductions

Equal benefit and  
burden

Product  
stewardship

## Goals

Protect and  
Conserve

Accountability

Regional  
Approach

## Policies

Grow reuse & recycling markets

Reduce waste and toxicity

Properly manage all waste

Encourage organized collection

Pursue product stewardship

Hold all waste generators  
accountable

Streamline ordinances

Promote sustainable materials  
management

## Strategies

State-led

County  
required

County  
optional

# Metro Policy Plan: New Structure



## 1. Expanded/new focus areas

- Waste reduction
- Organics and wood waste management
- Building material management

## 2. Plan structure, point system

- Required strategies
- Optional strategies – *must reach 75 points*
  - Support for waste hierarchy
  - Difficulty to implement

Required Strategies (32): County Plans **must** include

## Examples:

- Residential curbside organics in cities greater than 5,000 by 2030
- Pre-processing at disposal facilities by 2030 (remove metals)
- Develop plan to prevent and manage wood waste
- Implement a building materials management plan in county operations

Optional Strategies (28): counties **must select 75 points of 194** to include in their Plans:

Examples:

- Educate restaurants on opportunities to donate food (7)
- Establish a Repair Program (7)
- Host a building material swap (8)
- Establish additional organics drop-off sites (7)

# County Status on Policy Plan Strategies



Policy Plan Strategy Type	# Strategies or Points to Pick From	Minimum Required in County Plan	Current County Status (Complete or Partially Implemented)
Required Strategies	32	32	<del>21</del> 24
Optional Strategies	194	75	38





# Draft County Plan

Proposed Policy Framework  
and Initial Set of Strategies

## County Solid Waste Vision

Defines the desired solid waste management system to be implemented by the public and private sectors:

*“A comprehensive waste management system that protects, preserves, and enhances the environment and public health.”*

# Proposed Changes to Policies



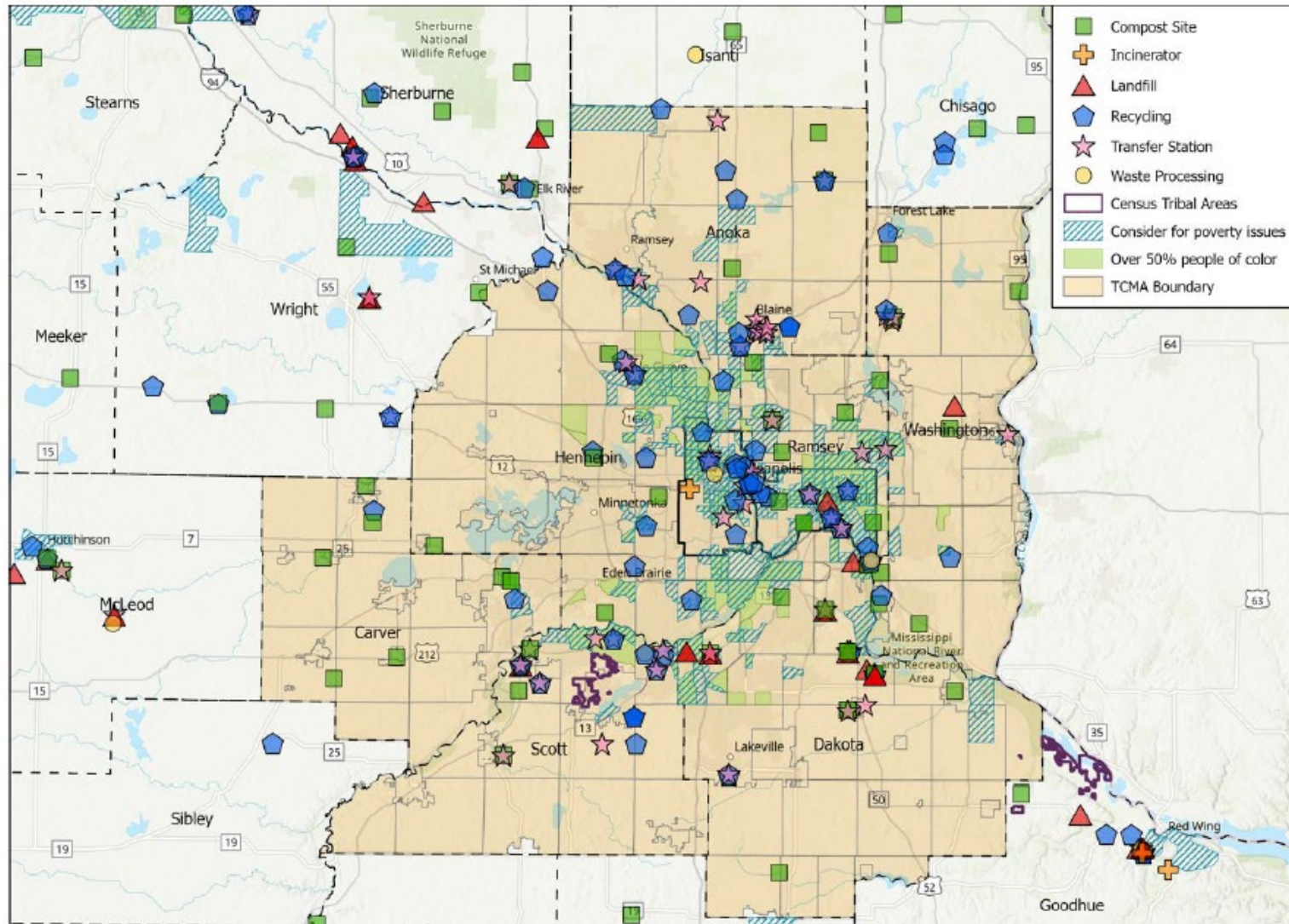
## County Plan Policies: Suggested Revisions

The following policies define the County's position on specific issues and roles or actions that the County generally will take:

- 7) Advocate for practical state and federal product stewardship laws that create effective, producer-led toxicity and source reduction, reuse, and recycling. ~~with and emphasis on products that pose a public health or safety risk.~~
- 9) Engage the public in decisions that impact their communities with special emphasis on state-identified Environmental Justice Areas of Concern.

# Proposed Policy: Public Participation

Figure 14. Map of solid waste facilities and EJ boundaries located within the TCMA



# Proposed Initial Set of Strategies



- Required Strategies – propose:
  - Include all 32 strategies
- Optional Strategies – propose:
  - Include strategies currently working on
  - Include strategies align with Fall 2023 public engagement findings
  - Total: 46 points (29 below 75 points needed)



# Proposed Optional Strategies



## Proposed Optional Strategies: working on, public support

Optional Strategy	Point Value
Improve recycling data collection at businesses within the county.	7
Participate in a reuse network, like Reuse Minnesota, for county and city staff to broaden their reuse expertise.	6
Collect recycling weekly by 2030.	7
Establish additional organics recycling drop off sites.	7
Implement fees to better account for the externalities of land disposal.	4
Provide deconstruction training.	8
Establish a reuse location for residential drop-off and pick-up.	7
<b>Total Points (of 75 needed)</b>	<b>46</b>



# Additional Optional Strategies



## Seeking Input on in Future Public Engagement

Optional Strategy	Points
Pair the option of bi-weekly trash collection with weekly recycling and organics collection.	7
Establish a Repair Ambassador program, like the Recycler/Composters (RCAs) Ambassador programs.	7
Host a building material collection event or swap.	8
Provide financial assistance to offset the additional cost of building deconstruction, used building material installation, and/or structural moving.	8
Annually host or aid with home and building repair and refurbishment trainings.	8
Work with health inspectors to educate restaurants and other establishments that have excess prepared food to donate.	7
Develop and distribute EAB tree care education programs for privately owned land.	8
Expand composting and mulching capacity beyond existing markets.	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>

# Additional Optional Strategies



## Not Seeking Input on in Future Public Engagement

Optional Strategy	Point Value
Implement county policy encouraging all county and city-led events and food providers use reusable food and beverage service ware.	6
Adopt an ordinance with a mandatory consumer charge for take-out single-use items.	9
Establish a curbside set-out day to allow residents to set out used items for reuse.	7
Contract for residential recycling and organics by 2030.	7
Contract for residential MMSW collection by 2030.	7
Update ordinances that address wood burning.	4
Incentivize tree treatment as a cost-effective strategy to extend the life of ash trees and to reduce the volume of wood waste generated over the next 20 years.	8
Allow assessments on property taxes to spread the cost of tree care over a multi-year timeframe.	9
Support development of systems that use wood fuel.	4
Find new outlets to increase food to animal operations.	7
Prior to a demolition of county-owned buildings, require that sustainable material management strategies are considered.	7
Use purchasing guidelines to require environmental product declaration (EPD) for concrete.	7

Does the Commission have comments, questions on the proposed policy framework or strategies?

# Next Steps



- April 1-21      Round two of public engagement on strategies
  - Feedback on optional strategies (58 points)
- May-June      Complete draft plan
- June 27      Present draft plan for Commission recommendation on public release

Thank you