

Solid Waste Management Incentives

The Minnesota Legislature should provide financial incentives to counties that exceed objectives for landfill diversion.

Issue At-A Glance

- Washington County supports additional state funding or financing to counties to equitably fund goals and mandates in state statute for solid waste management. This includes waste processing and emerging technologies to create a stronger and more circular Minnesota economy. Counties in the Twin Cities Metro Area are required to manage waste higher on the Minnesota Waste Management Hierarchy and achieve objectives of the Metropolitan Solid Waste Policy Plan. Current state funds through SCORE grants and local recycling development grants are based on population, and not on performance. The county supports directing state funding or financing to serve as incentives to counties that implement integrated systems that exceed waste diversion goals.
- Washington County has been committed to developing and implementing an integrated waste management system targeting waste reduction and recycling efforts to works towards achieving the state's metro-wide 75% recycling goal. Washington County jointly owns and operates the Recycling & Energy Center, a waste-to-energy processing facility in Newport, Minnesota, with Ramsey County through the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board, thus renewing the county's commitment to these longstanding efforts.



Support

Ramsey County and Hennepin County would likely support this initiative.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE), Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA), Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Minnesota Inter County Association (MICA), Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRRA)

No Action

A lack of financial equity, which does not create incentives for action, among county solid waste management programs and services will continue to exist.

Financial Implications

Washington County will contribute \$8.1 million in 2022 to move wastes upstream from waste processing and landfill into waste reduction and recycling, including organics recovery, as well as management of household hazardous waste. In 2022, Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center operations is budgeted at \$42.4 million paid by a tip fee from haulers to deliver to the waste processing facility which, in turn, is charged to residents and businesses.

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