

Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group: Selected Recommendations (2008)

Front-End Waste Management Technologies

- Reduce the volume of wastes from residential, commercial, and government sectors through programs that reduce overall disposal.
 - Create voluntary initiatives, including increasing consumer education about waste and working with manufacturers and retailers to change packaging types and reduce overall packaging.
 - Expand “Green Building” programs.
 - Significantly increase disposal fees, through such options as increased volume- or weight based pricing or disposal surcharges, with funding directed toward development of increased reduction (and recycling) programs.
- Reduce methane emissions associated with landfilling by reducing the biodegradable fraction of waste placed in landfills.
 - Expand composting programs to include community- and home-based organics composting.
 - Implement pilot projects, particularly community-based projects with opportunities for energy use.
- Increase reuse and recycling to limit GHG emissions associated with landfill methane generation, waste combustion, WTE combustion processes, and the extraction of raw materials and energy consumption during the manufacturing process.
 - Fully fund and expand existing reuse and recycling programs, targeting programs with maximum GHG benefits.
 - Increase average participation/recovery rates for all existing recycling programs. This could be done via such methods as pay-as-you-throw programs (PAYT).
 - Develop recycling requirements for schools and public entities.
 - Significantly expand the types of materials collected, increasing from traditional materials to include a number of new materials (more types of plastics, mattresses, demolition and construction materials, industrial wastes, etc.) with associated funding for changes in collection infrastructure.

End-of-Life Waste Management Practices

- For all waste entering landfills in 2020, capture 90% of the methane generated over the life span of the facility.
- Ensure that any organics not directed to organics management (e.g. composting) would not be landfilled, but would be sent to WTE for energy recovery.
- By 2020, preprocess all waste entering WTE facilities to remove recoverable materials and enhance energy recovery.

Minneapolis-St. Paul Urban CO₂ Project Plan: Selected Recommendations (1993)

Promote solid waste reduction as the first step in the solid waste plan.

- Reach agreements with local businesses to reduce packaging and other waste. Incentives and competitions could be used to promote this end.

Expand the percentage of currently recycled materials recovered as well as collecting new materials.

Expand recycling to reduce industrial and commercial energy intensity.

- Consider establishing a small grant/loan program to encourage small-scale recycling industries.
- Consider establishing recycling market development zones to attract recycling operations.
- Advocate that the State establish a cooperative marketing program to encourage cooperative marketing of locally collected recycled materials among municipalities in the state.