

Strategies for Discussion

Waste & Recycling Working Group

May 24, 2012

Achieve a 5% reduction in the total waste stream by 2025

1. Identify consumer products and packaging that are neither recyclable nor compostable and engage companies, consumers and retailers in a campaign to reduce the disposal of such products and packaging through reuse efforts or switching to alternative materials.
2. Identify “reuse zones” which can connect the disposal of used goods with industries and users that can use that waste product.
3. Work with Hennepin County and other partner organizations to encourage businesses and residents to purchase reusable goods (Choose to Reuse campaign).
4. Expand Green Building programs (such as a requirement for city-financed projects) to promote a reduction in construction and demolition waste.
5. Expand neighborhood and household organic composting through community initiatives and advocate for updated composting rules at a state level.
6. Develop innovative marketing and behavioral strategies. For example, clearly label residential garbage carts “Trash for Incineration.”
7. Explore developing a Food Packaging Ordinance designed to reduce GHG emissions associated with non-recyclable containers (e.g. polystyrene).

Recycle 50% of the waste stream (commercial and residential) in Minneapolis by 2025

1. Implement a single-sort recycling program for curbside pickup.
2. Continue to expand the types of materials accepted by the City’s recycling program.
3. Enforce the commercial recycling ordinance and undertake an educational campaign to expand recycling options in multi-family housing.
4. Explore manufacturer take-back of packaging and other “extended producer responsibility” options.
5. Identify financial and other barriers to recycling in multi-family buildings (different priorities between property management company and tenants, lack of knowledge of costs, etc)

Increase organics collection to 15% of the waste stream by 2025

1. Based on the results of pilot programs, consider expanding the residential organics collection program to more Minneapolis neighborhoods each year.
2. Identify major organic waste producers (food service, schools, hospitals, etc) and conduct a targeted campaign to increase organics recycling.

Increase awareness of the lifecycle impacts of products to address GHGs occurring outside the community

1. Work with Homegrown Minneapolis to incorporate more information on food choice impacts.
2. Develop educational materials that illustrate the emissions impacts of common products or behaviors, and include these materials in city utility bills.

Support Metropolitan Council Environmental Service's goal to reduce energy use by 25% below 2006 levels by 2015.

1. Work with the Metropolitan Council to achieve their energy use goals and track associated impacts on GHG emissions from Minneapolis contribution to wastewater flows.
2. Achieve a 75% participation rate in the Community Energy Services program for eligible Minneapolis properties, which includes low-flow water fixture information and installations.