

MEMO

To: Waste & Recycling Working Group Members, Minneapolis Climate Action Plan
From: Brendon Slotterback, Minneapolis Climate Action Plan project manager
Re: Changing the Source Reduction goal to include an annual growth assumption baseline
Date: 6/29/12

This memo outlines the greenhouse gas emissions implications of a change from a goal of a 5% reduction in the total waste stream by 2025 from a 2010 baseline and a goal of a 5% reduction in the total waste stream by 2025 using an annual growth assumption baseline. *This memo assumes that the other goals (dealing with recycling, organics collection and Metropolitan Council's energy efficiency improvements) are kept the same.* Understanding this change is important to identifying goals and strategies that will achieve the overall City goal of reducing emissions from waste by 15% by 2015 and 30% by 2025. **Staff recommends the Working Group adopt the goal that includes a reduction based on an annual growth baseline assumption as it is consistent with Hennepin County's Solid Waste Master Plan, allows for an assumption of waste stream growth due to population growth, and still meets the adopted targets for emissions reduction.**

At the June 28th meeting of the Waste & Recycling Working Group meeting, group members discussed the possibility of changing the overall goal for source reduction from a straight reduction from a baseline year to a reduction from some assumed annual level of growth in waste generation rates based on population and economic growth. In their adopted Solid Waste Master Plan, Hennepin County uses a 1.2% rate of annual growth in the waste stream. Population growth accounts for roughly half of that change. Minneapolis may experience a slightly lower rate of growth than the county as a whole.

Figure 1 shows the difference between projected total waste stream tonnages of these two goal scenarios (keeping other goals, like increasing recycling, constant).

Greenhouse Gas Projections

These two goals produce different projections of greenhouse gas emissions for the future. A goal of reducing the waste stream 5% from 2010, if achieved along with the other goals, would reduce greenhouse gas emissions approximately 72,000 mt (46%) below 2006 levels. Achieving a goal of reducing the waste stream 5% below a 1.2% annual growth baseline would reduce emissions 62,000 mt (40%) below 2006 levels. Figure 2 shows the difference between the total emissions from the waste sector when using these two goals.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends basing the goal on an annual growth baseline aligned with the adopted Hennepin County Solid Waste Master Plan. This type of goal also allows for the assumption of some future growth in population and economic activity in Minneapolis, which is desired and likely. Adopting a goal of reducing the waste stream 5% below an annual growth baseline will likely still allow the city to meet the adopted greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for the waste sector. For these reasons, staff recommends using a goal that includes a reduction from a growth baseline, with a recommendation to use 1.2% as the annual growth rate.

Figure 1 – Total waste stream tonnage based on different future goals

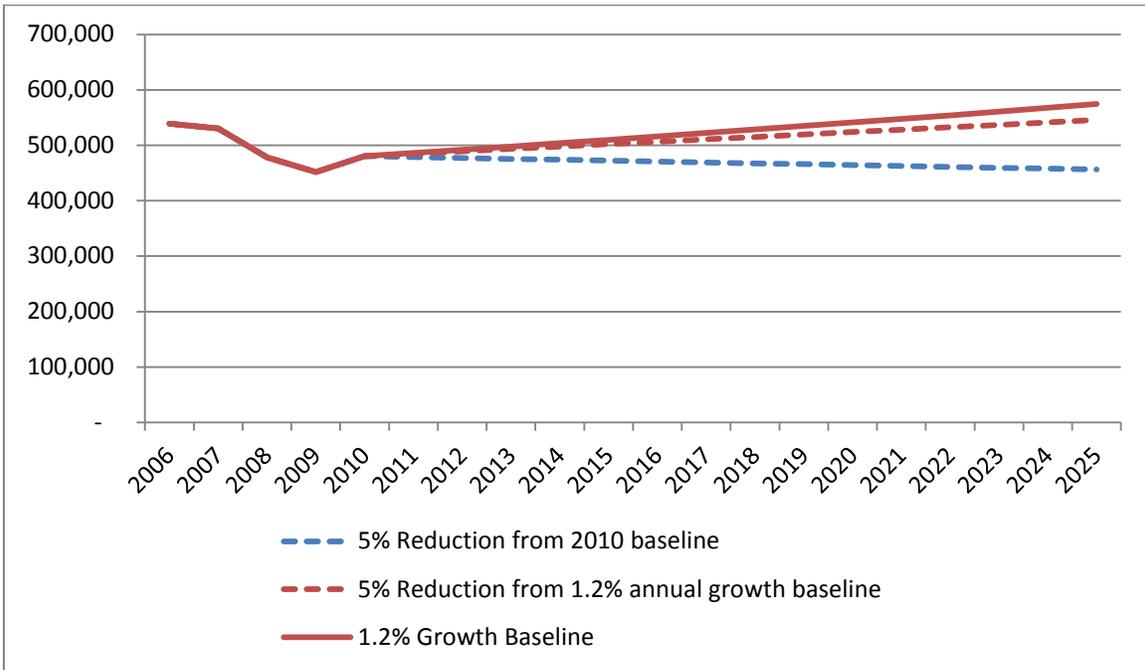


Figure 2 – Greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector based on different source reduction goals

