



RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY

Minnesota Resource Management Draft Report

Ramsey County Board Workshop
Tuesday, July 7, 2026

About Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E)

- Governed via joint powers agreement (JPA)
- Three Ramsey County and two Washington County commissioners
- Ex officio members: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and City of Newport
- Two main budgets:
 - **Programs Budget**
 - Funds waste reduction/recycling programming
 - Funded by counties with County Environmental Charge (CEC) funds
 - **Facility Budget**
 - Funds waste processing/resource recovery
 - Funded by R&E Center tipping fees paid by garbage haulers



2026/2027 R&E Budgets



2026/2027 R&E Programs Budget

R&E Programs	2024 Approved Budget	2025 Approved Budget	2026 Approved Budget	2027 Approved Budget
APPROPRIATIONS:				
Program Operations	3,506,000	3,559,000	5,255,357	5,621,669
Commercial & Residential Recycling	4,425,000	4,425,000	3,750,000	3,750,000
Community Waste Solution	830,000	786,000	840,000	840,000
Food Scrap Recycling	1,105,000	1,455,000	3,004,000	4,317,000
Education, Communications & Outreach	925,000	925,000	2,326,000	2,490,000
Policy Evaluation	1,190,000	1,190,000	1,204,700	1,219,841
Total Appropriations	11,981,000	12,340,000	16,380,057	18,238,510
REVENUE:				
Washington County	3,234,870	3,331,800	4,761,835	5,653,938
Ramsey County	8,746,130	9,008,200	10,598,922	12,584,572
Board Authorized use of Fund Balance and 2025 Carryover	-	-	1,019,300	-
Total Revenue	11,981,000	12,340,000	16,380,057	18,238,510
TOTAL				
Appropriations	11,981,000	12,340,000	16,380,057	18,238,510
Revenue	11,981,000	12,340,000	16,380,057	18,238,510
Surplus/(Deficit)				



2026/2027 Facility Budget

R&E CENTER	2026 Proposed Budget	2027 Proposed Budget
APPROPRIATIONS:		
Personnel Costs	13,351,833	14,030,874
Fuel Supply Agreements	-	-
RDF	7,144,760	7,206,792
Organics	861,771	3,266,349
Landfill	7,180,752	7,396,175
Compost	-	-
Transportation	9,734,296	10,065,132
Transload	3,126,359	3,220,150
Sortation	5,434,724	8,799,218
Facility Operations	11,264,947	11,602,145
Contingency	878,164	949,509
Enterprise Reserve Fund	1,500,000	1,500,000
Debt Services	4,870,695	4,868,876
Transfer to Equipment/Maintenance Fund:		
Additional Transfer -Approved/Proposed	300,000	300,000
Total Appropriations	65,648,301	73,205,219

Year	Budget	Tipping Fee
2026	\$65,648,301	\$142/ton
2027	\$73,205,219	\$159/ton



Resource Management System



Drivers of Resource Management Efforts

State statutes, regulations, rules & goals

- **Ongoing:** Waste Management Act
- **2030:** Metro 75% recycling goal
- **2030:** Metro pre-sortation requirement
- **2035:** Food scraps recycling mandate
- **2040:** Carbon free energy standard
- **2050:** Net zero carbon emissions

Ambitious county priorities

- County Solid Waste Management Plans
- R&E Scope of Resource Management (Est. 2015 by R&E Board)

Proactive efforts on emerging issues

- PFAS management
- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging and other materials
- Waste processing technologies
- Future issues yet to be discovered



Upcoming Need for Public Comment

Resource Management Report – MPCA

- *Directed by Minnesota (MN) legislature: Laws 2023, Chapter 60, Article 3, Sec. 35*
- "The report must include: (1) an overview of how municipal solid waste is currently managed, including how much material is generated in the state and is reused, recycled, composted, digested, or disposed of; (2) a summary of infrastructure, programs, policies, and resources needed to reduce the amount of materials disposed of in landfills or incinerators statewide by more than 90 percent over a 2021 baseline."
- *Comment period ends August 10, 2026*

Packaging Waste & Cost Reduction Act Rulemaking – MPCA

- *2025 Minnesota Statutes, sections 115A.144 to 115A.1463*
- "The MPCA is considering new rules to implement the PWCRA, which places new requirements on producers, registered producer responsibility organizations, markets for covered materials, public and private waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting service providers and facilities."
- *Comment period ends July 24, 2026*



Other Legislative Reports and Efforts

Critical Materials Report – MPCA

- *Directed by MN legislature: Laws 2024, Chapter 116, Article 2, Sec 28*
- “The task force must advise the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency with respect to policy and program options designed to increase the recovery of critical materials from end-of-life products [and] submit a written report containing its findings and recommendations for administrative and legislative action [...].”

Carbon-Free Standard – MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

- *2025 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.1691; PUC docket 23-151 and 24-352*
- Minnesota’s Renewable Energy Objectives generally directs the state’s electric utilities to acquire their energy from sources that pollute less, and to demonstrate compliance by acquiring and retiring tradable credits. In 2023, Minnesota modified this statute to add a Carbon-Free Standard. The revised statute directs the PUC to establish criteria for measuring an electric utility’s efforts to meet the statutory standards.
- *Past comment periods: March 19, June 5 and September 17, 2025*



Resource Management Report

Requires MPCA to prepare report that includes:

1. How waste is currently managed
2. What is needed to reduce landfilling and incineration by 90% from 2021 baseline by 2045
3. Analysis of waste prevention opportunities, diversion/processing capacity, collaboration, infrastructure and funding needs to get to 90%
4. Programs, regulations & policies needed to get to 90%
5. Environmental and human health impact reduction recommendations, including environmental justice outcomes
6. Feasibility, assumptions, cost and timeline review
7. Community outreach, input and public comments

Report will be submitted to chairs and ranking minority members of the **Senate and House committees** with jurisdiction over **environmental policy** and **finance and energy policy**



Importance of Responding

Report's audience is state elected officials

- In 2027, at least 33 new legislators and new governor's administration
- May be their first impression of MN solid waste management – accuracy is critical

Significant public interest

- Draft report is already being quoted and used as evidence despite draft status
- While report is not a planning document, indications that groups will use it as such
- Report inaccuracies and misrepresentations create misperceptions around waste system and viability of proposed tactics



Concerns & Why It Matters to Counties

Concerns Overview

- Regional **collaboration** and public/private partnerships not discussed
- Vastly understates significant capital and programmatic **investments**
- Value of **energy recovery** from waste-to-energy (WTE) omitted – landfilling/WTE combined despite distinction in waste hierarchy
- Insufficient **assessment** of feasibility, realistic timelines, funding needs and behavior changes

Why It Matters

- **Omits collaborative element** that has been key to Ramsey/Washington progress
- Puts **crushing financial burden** on counties
- **Dismisses important tools** we currently use to divert waste from landfills
- Creates **unreasonable expectations** of system transformation misaligned with 40+ years of real observations and data
- If used for policy-making, **jeopardizes 50+ years of county investments** to minimize landfill use



Current State of Waste

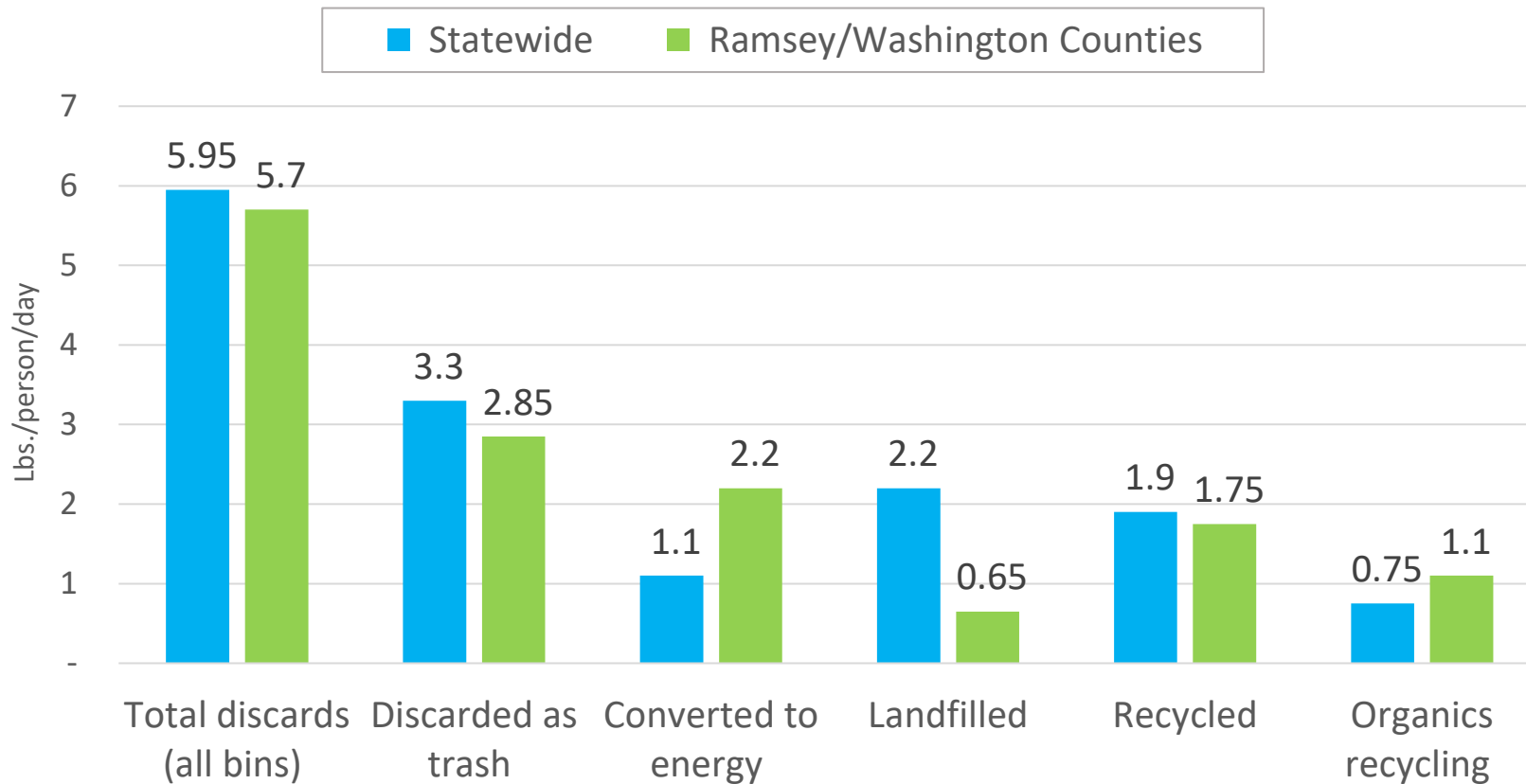
In 2024, each Ramsey/Washington County resident, on average, discarded **5.7 pounds (lbs)** of total materials **per day**

- 2.85 lbs put in the trash
 - 2.2 lbs converted to electricity by Xcel
 - 0.65 lbs went to a landfill
- 1.75 lbs recycled
 - 1.65 lbs put into recycling bin
 - 0.1 lbs recovered at R&E Center
- 1.1 lbs composted



Current State of Waste Compared to Statewide

Pounds per Person per Day, 2024



Compared to the state as a whole, Ramsey and Washington Counties:

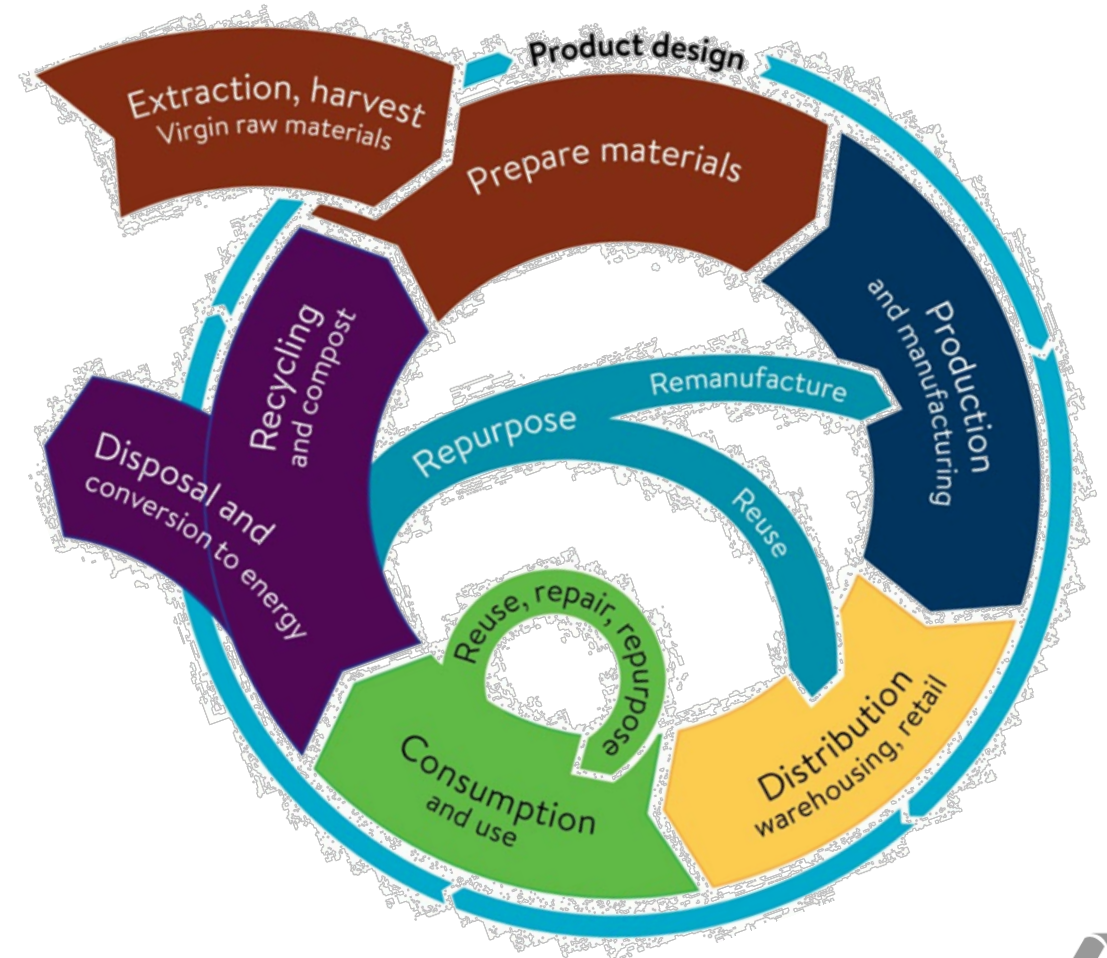
- reduce more,
- discard less,
- generate more energy,
- *landfill much less,*
- recycle similarly and
- recycle more organics.

(2024 MPCA SCORE data)



A Vision for a Circular Economy

- Reduction and reuse is the priority
- Circularity minimizes waste and recovers value of discarded materials, keeping them in the cycle
- Recycling + energy systems are connected: harness synergies
- Energy recovery is “backstop” to capture value otherwise lost in landfills
 - Reduced reliance on landfills and fossil fuels
 - Fewer greenhouse gas emissions/pollutants
- Landfill diversion mitigates major environmental threats to counties



Comment Letter Recommendations

Form a 90% diversion task force (like Critical Materials Task Force)

- More effectively glean expertise from and foster collaborative solution-building among waste system stakeholders that include counties and local governments, solid waste industry experts, environmental advocacy coalitions

Distinguish WTE from landfill

- Recognize energy recovery as valuable and preferred over landfilling, consistent with the Minnesota waste hierarchy, to serve as a necessary transition tool to reduce landfilling while moving more up hierarchy

Build a realistic roadmap with a phased, milestone-based approach

- Use historical, evidence-based data to realistically account for costs, system capacity, infrastructure development and human behavior
- Create framework of policy changes, dedicated funding structures, risk evaluation and phased execution with frequent assumption validation



Next Steps

- Submit comment letter(s)
- Educate elected officials
- Defend the waste hierarchy
- Invest in innovation
- Support food rescue
- Expand organics diversion
- Strengthen recycling
- Protect critical processing infrastructure

Our responsibility is to create value from waste.

To protect our environment.

To strengthen our communities.

To leave future generations a better Minnesota than the one we inherited.



Thank You!

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