



# Solid Waste Management Plan

July 9, 2024



# Agenda

- Provide background on Solid Waste Management Plan process
- Give status update on Plan revisions
- Share community engagement process and learnings
- Get feedback and direction from Ramsey County Board

# Presenters

Rae Eden Frank, Public Health Deputy Director

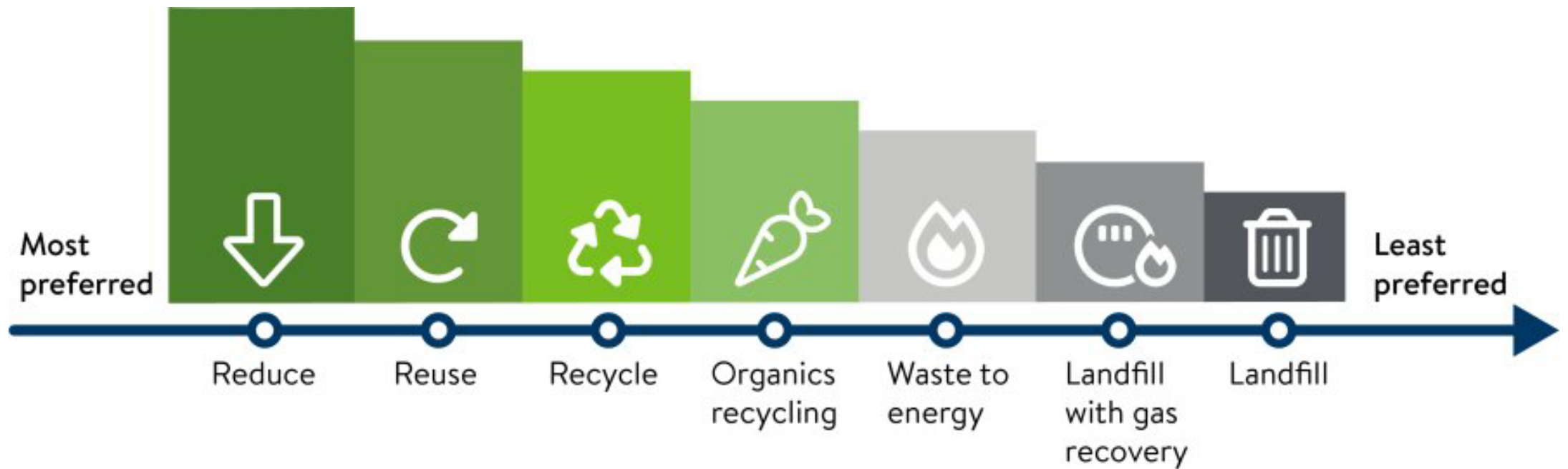
Daniel Schmidt, Interim Environmental Health Division Manager

## Solid Waste?

- **Trash** put in cart/dumpster at home/work
- **Recycling** put in cart/dumpster at home/work
- **Yard waste** picked up at the curb or taken to a drop-off site
- **Food scraps** taken to a drop-off site or collected curbside
- **Household hazardous waste** taken to a collection facility
- **Unwanted medicine** taken to a collection site
- **Electronics** taken to a collection location
- **Mattresses and furniture** bring to a facility or hire someone to collect



# Waste Hierarchy



# Solid Waste Management Plan Process

- Required by State Law
- Revised every six years, with a 20-year horizon
- Specific goals and mandates by the Mn Pollution Control Agency
- Triggered by revision of the MPCA 's Metro Solid Waste Management Policy Plan (released January 2024)

## Solid Waste Management Master Plan 2018 – 2038



 **RAMSEY COUNTY**  
*Working with you to enhance our quality of life*

# Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Plan

- Addresses all waste generated in county
- Written with a 20-year vision and updated every six years
- Guides our work and ensures funding



# Example: Environmental Service Center





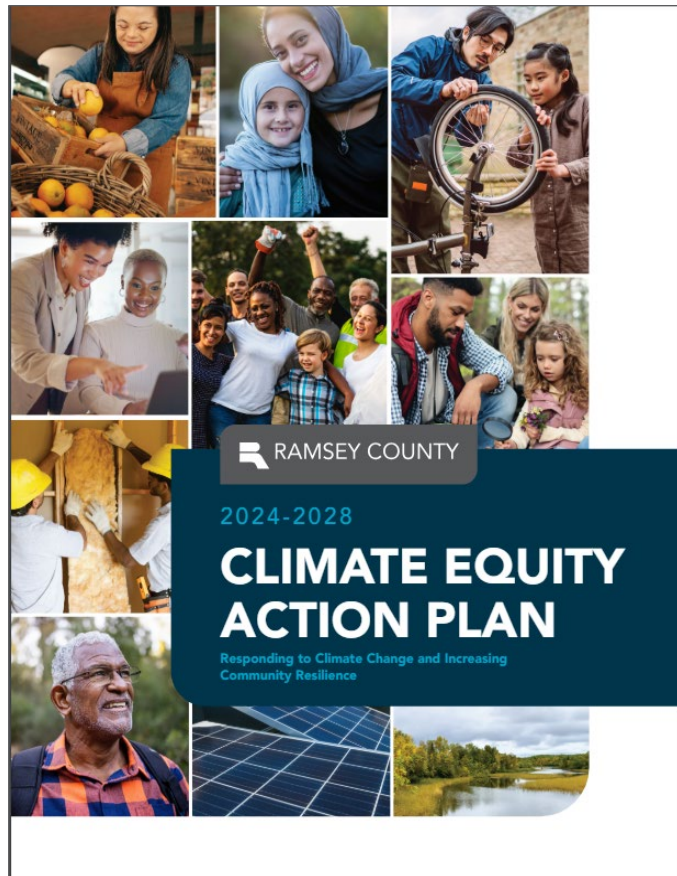


## Partnership with Washington County

- Ramsey and Washington counties have worked together since the 1980s to manage waste responsibly
- Today, work together through Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy
- Drafting aligned plans to facilitate collaboration



# Multifaceted Approach to Protecting Health and Environment



## Connections to County Goals

- Well-Being

*Strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being*



WELL-BEING



PROSPERITY



OPPORTUNITY



ACCOUNTABILITY

# County Strategic Priorities

- Residents first: effective, efficient and accessible operations
- Advancing racial and health equity and shared community power
- Responding to climate change and increasing community resilience





# Key Themes

- Reducing risk to environment and public health
- Advancing racial and health equity
- Environmental justice
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Manufactures responsible for products they produce
- Waste as a resource
- Market development
- Business support for programs



Environmental Justice



Waste As A Resource



Risk Reduction

## 2024 MPCA Policy Plan: General Trends

MORE FOCUS on	Waste reduction Reuse
INCREASED	Recycling Food scraps collection
CONTINUED management of	Household hazardous waste Problem materials (e.g. mattresses, electronics, batteries) Yard waste
EXPLORATION of	New technology to manage waste



## 2024 MPCA Policy Plan: Specific Areas of Focus

- Improved measurement
  - More accurate and consistent data
  - Measuring more than tons (for example, waste reduction/reuse and climate impacts)
- Regional coordination
- Addressing wood waste
- Sustainable building and deconstruction





## Engagement

- Advisory committee
- Pop-up engagement in community
- Resident survey
- Municipalities
- Waste haulers
- Staff
- Internal partners

## What We Heard: Advisory Committee

- Desire for expanded public education
- Strong interest in policy solutions such as bans/restrictions/fees for single-use items (grocery bags, takeout containers/utensils)
- Interest in hyper-local solutions and building community capacity to address challenges
- Support for extended producer responsibility and right-to-repair legislation
- Desire for curbside/community collection of challenging materials (bulky materials, household hazardous waste)
- Support for the development of recycling markets



## What We Heard: Residents

Priorities

Challenges

Find these items most challenging to dispose of:

- Bulky items (mattresses, furniture)
- Household hazardous waste
- Electronics



## What We Heard: Municipalities

- Want help addressing wood waste
- Prefer weekly recycling pickup to be a city decision
- Interested in curbside setout day for unwanted items
- Interested in working with the county to support/promote deconstruction

## What We Heard: Waste Haulers

- Strong support for the Food Scraps Pickup Program as a way to bring service to residents in all housing types without need for additional carts/trucks/drivers
- Concerns about collecting recycling weekly due to need for additional trucks and drivers
- Prefer organized trash/recycling collection to be a city decision, rather than a county decision



## Next Steps

- Sept 3: Board Policy Discussion
  - Preview of plan
- Oct 8: RBA
  - Final approval of plan
  - Will submit to MPCA for approval following board action



The background of the slide features a scenic landscape. On the left, a dense forest of trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage covers a hillside. On the right, a wide river flows, reflecting the bright sunlight. The sky is a pale blue with wispy white clouds. A large, semi-transparent white rectangle is centered on the slide, containing the word "Discussion".

# Discussion