
Sponsor: Public Health

Meeting Date: 10/8/2024

Title: Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Plan 2024-2042

File Number: 2024-454

Background and Rationale:

Ramsey County is required by state statute to revise the Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Plan every six years. The county's plan has a 20-year horizon and guides county activities related to waste management.

Solid Waste Management Plan revision is guided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan, which includes objectives for abating the need for land disposal of mixed municipal solid waste. The county's plan describes how the county will implement the Policy Plan. The policies and strategies in the county's plan should not be viewed only through the lens of MPCA goals but are designed to align with Ramsey County's goals of well-being, prosperity, opportunity, and accountability.

The Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Plan reflects the strong partnership with Washington County and Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy in managing waste. The Ramsey County plan and Washington County plan are written in close alignment to facilitate this collaboration.

Plan objectives relate to waste reduction, recycling, organics recovery, resource recovery and landfilling. Areas of particular focus in this plan include:

- Reuse
- Measurement
- Deconstruction (taking buildings apart instead of demolishing them so that materials can be reused)
- Food scraps collection
- Exploration of new technologies for recovering value from waste

The plan is organized into 15 chapters with seven appendices. The topical chapters include policies and strategies. Policies are statements of principle: the "why" of the plan. Strategies are statements of action: the "how" of the plan. The appendices include supporting documents such as a description of the existing solid waste management system, relevant ordinances, environmental justice review, acronyms, and definitions.

Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health presented on the revised plan to the Ramsey County Board at a board workshop on July 9, 2024. The Ramsey County Board held a policy discussion of the revised plan on September 4, 2024. Upon board approval, The Solid Waste Management Plan will be submitted to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for review and approval.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Adopt the Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Plan 2024-2042.
2. Authorize Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health to submit the Solid Waste Management Plan to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for review and approval.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Xiong, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Frethem, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board