



Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

June 4, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.

Courthouse Room 220

WORKSHOP

1. **Recycling and Energy Board Joint Activities Budget**

[2024-207](#)

Sponsors: Public Health



Board Workshop / Discussion

Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
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Item Number: 2024-207

Meeting Date: 6/4/2024

Sponsor: Public Health

Title

Recycling and Energy Board Joint Activities Budget

Attachment

1. Presentation

Recycling & Energy (R&E): Joint Activities Budget

June 4, 2024

Agenda

I. Introduction

- Diane Holmgren, Interim Director, Public Health Department

II. Presentation

- Michael Reed, Division Manager, Recycling & Energy
- Daniel Schmidt, Interim Division Manager, Environmental Health

III. Questions and Discussion

Land Acknowledgement

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference.

We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Dakota People. We want to acknowledge the Ojibwe, the Ho Chunk and the other nations of people who also called this place home. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the treaties made by the tribal nations that entitle non-Native people to live and work on traditional Native lands. Consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

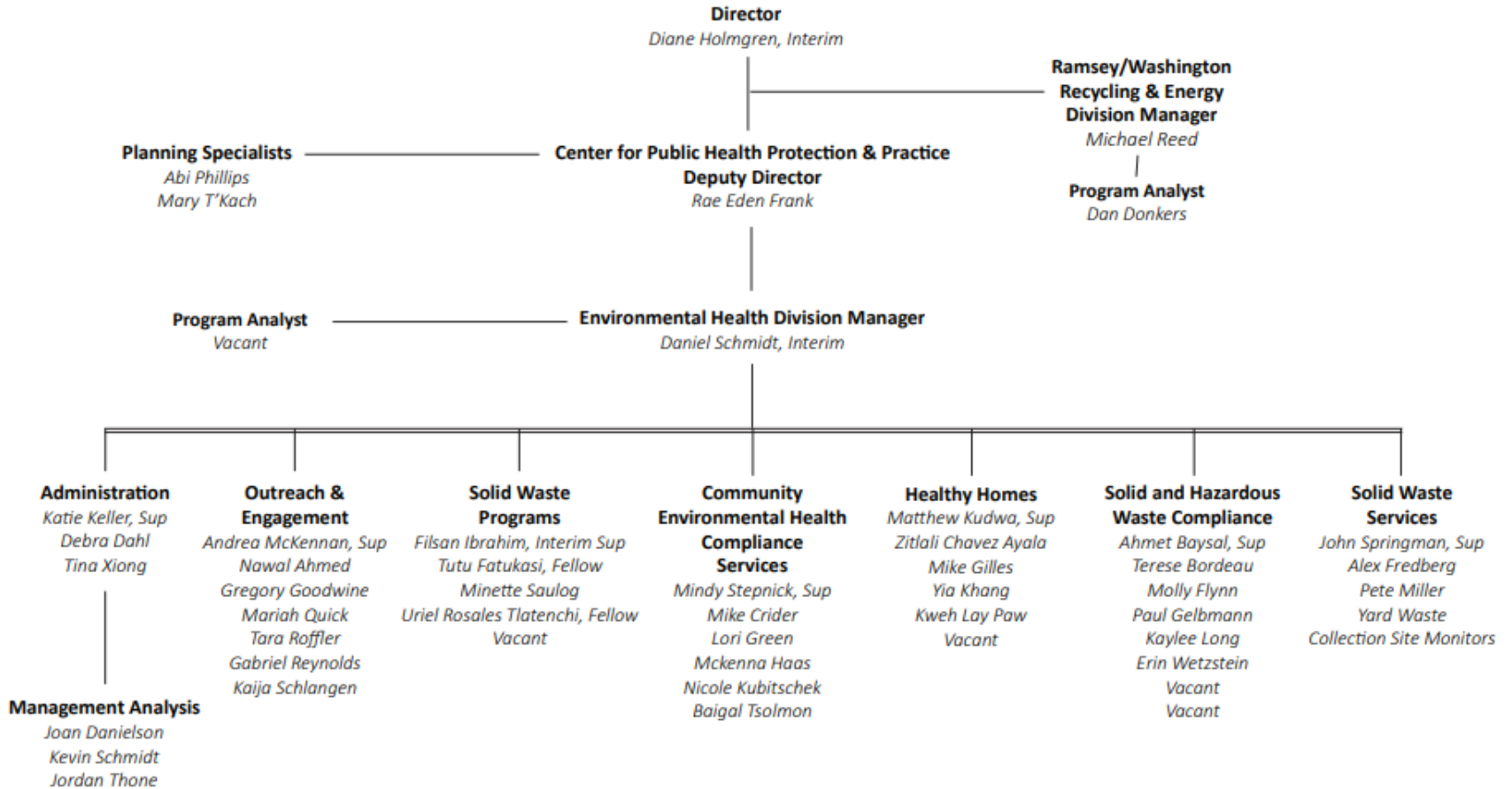
The acknowledgment given in the USDAC Honor Native Land Guide - edited to reflect Minnesota tribes.

In review with SIA and endorsed by Shannon Geshick, Executive Director Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

Workshop Objectives

- Review proposed organizational structure recommendations
- Provide an overview of the 2025 R&E budget timeline
- Review the proposed joint activities budget, impact analysis, and organizational changes including additional staff requests
- Review the budgets alignment with the Ramsey County goals including environmental, racial and health equity
- Discuss the board's direction and preference on Joint Activities funding levels

Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Environmental Health Division Org Chart



Joint Activities Budget & Programming

- 2025 budget timeline
- 73% contribution by Ramsey County; 27% by Washington County
- Collaboration between Ramsey and Washington Counties, and R&E staff aligning with the partnership

Ramsey/Washington County Recycling & Energy Proposed Organizational Structure Changes

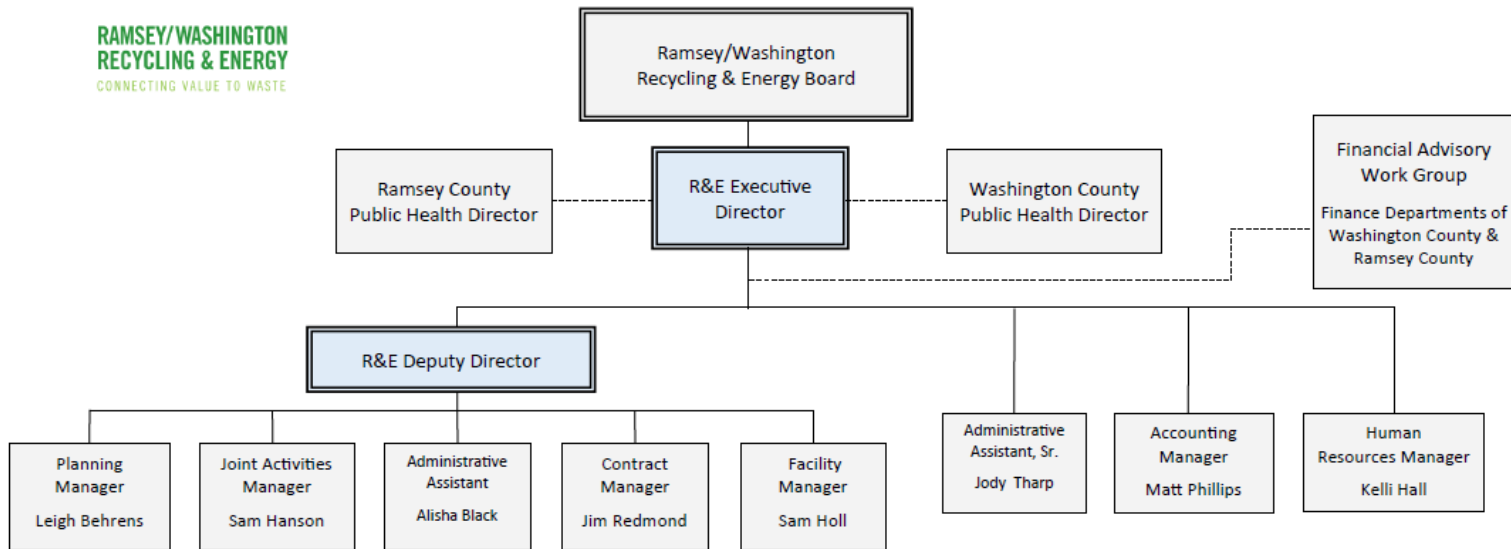
Update on Executive Director Hiring Process

- Recruitment process earlier this year was not successful
- Position reposted in early May
- Position closed on Monday, May 27
- Applications under review
- Interviews mid-June
- Intending to bring contract to R&E Board July 25

R&E Leadership Structure Under New Model

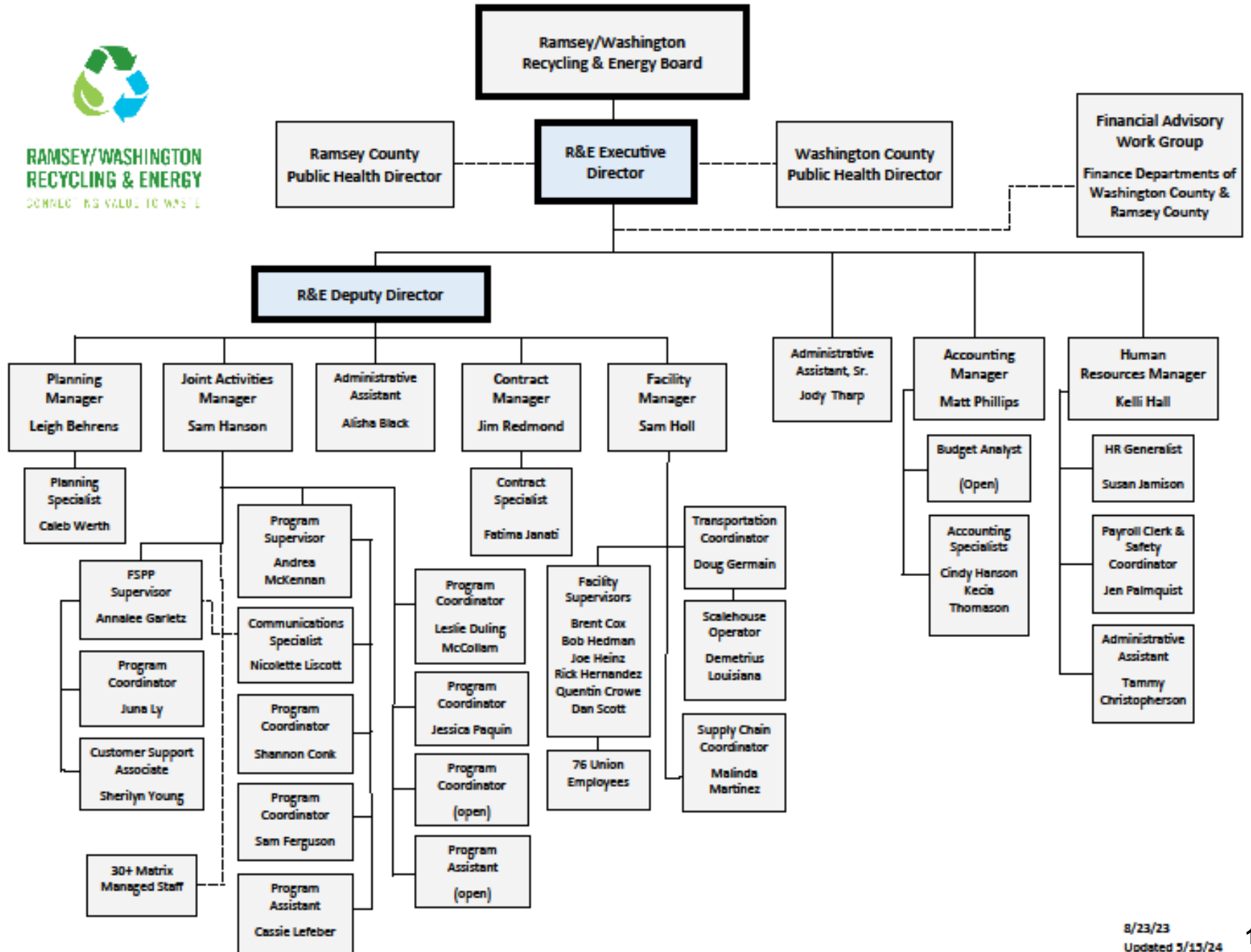


**RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY**
CONNECTING VALUE TO WASTE

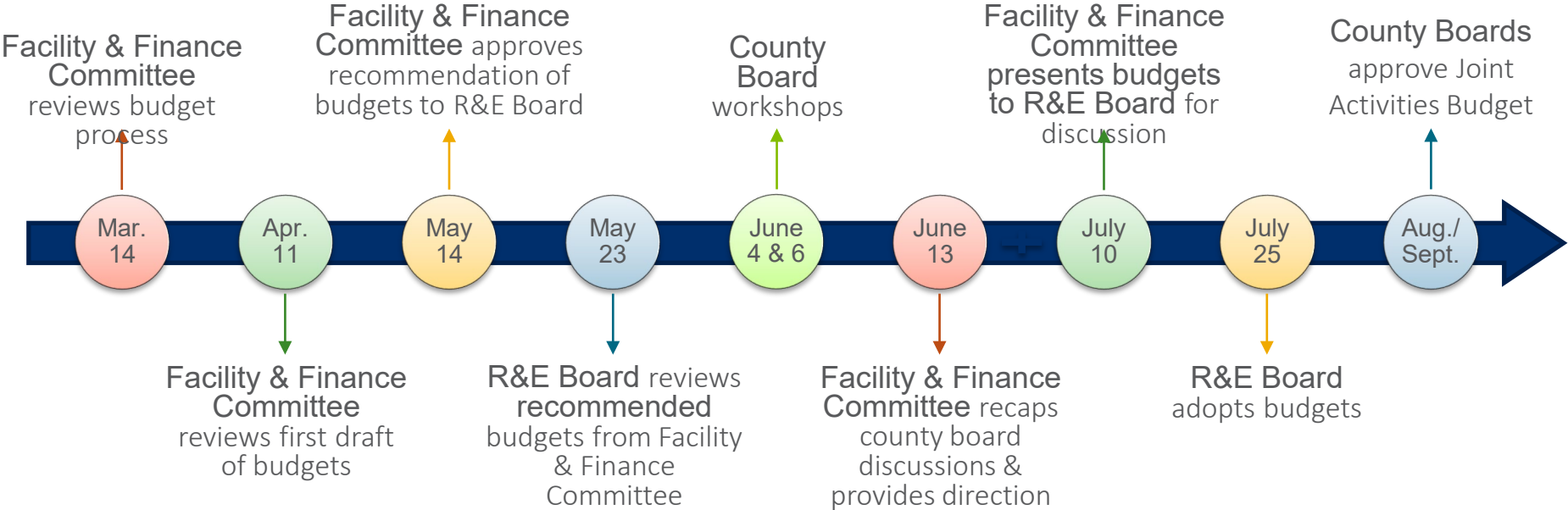




**RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY**
CONNECTING VALUE TO WASTE

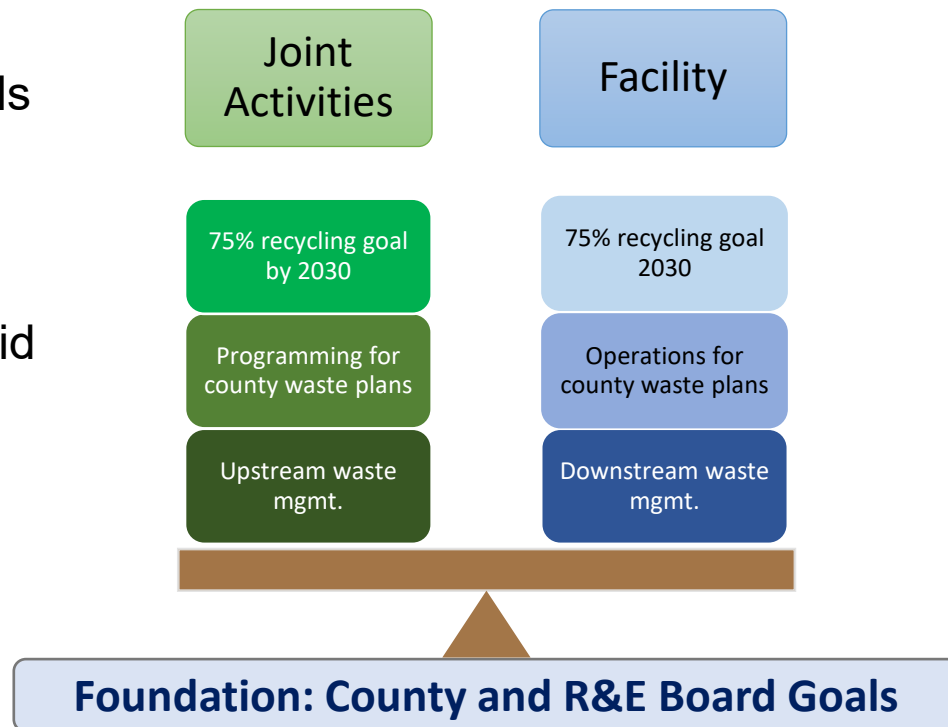


2025 Budget Timeline



Balance of Joint Activities and Facility

- Two approaches to achieve one set of goals
- Flexibility and connectedness to find best solutions
- Working across the solid waste hierarchy
- Commitment to collaboration with Ramsey & Washington counties

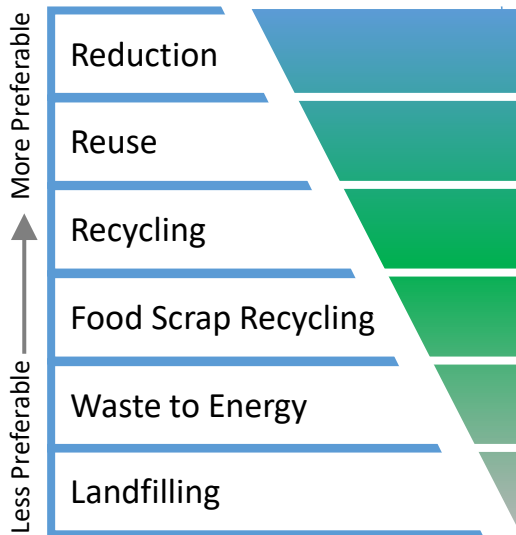


Joint Activities Budget

2025 Joint Activities Budget

- Funded by county contributions (Ramsey County 73%, Washington County 27%)
- R&E Board's Bylaws provide that the Facility & Finance Committee prepare a two-year budget for Joint Activities for R&E Board to approve and recommend for approval by the counties for their respective contributions
- Programs align with both county's waste management plans, which provide policy direction
- Driven by R&E's vision and mission with upstream approach
- Joint work to meet state and county waste goals – 75% recycling goal by 2030

Ramsey & Washington County Solid Waste Priorities



Top Priority – Upstream – Joint Activities

- Prioritize waste reduction, reuse, repair
- Source-separated recycling – residential, multi-unit, commercial, schools, food scraps, etc.
- Extensive outreach and education - behavior change is continuous work

75%
Recycling
Goal =
Reduction,
Reuse &
Recycling

Last Option – Downstream

- RDF processing and resource recovery
- Landfilling as last resort

County Plans as Basis for R&E Joint Activities

The Counties' Vision

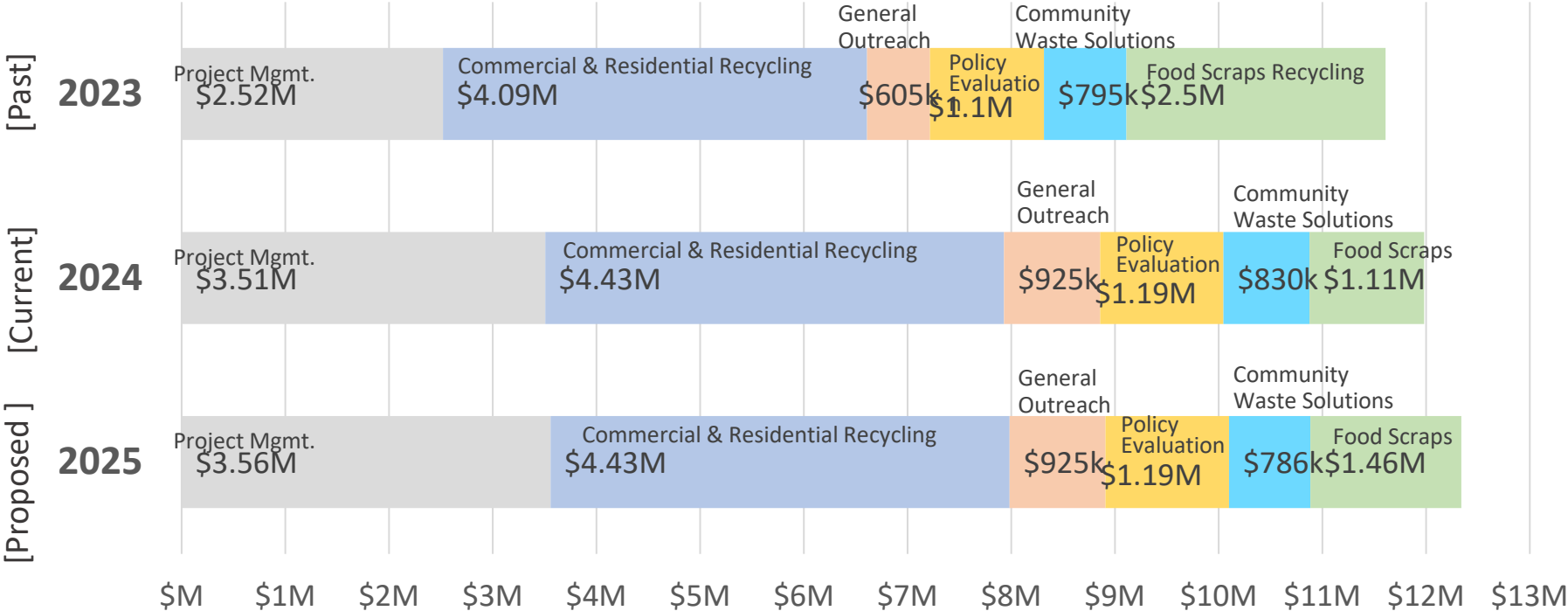
- Counties made strategic decision to increase work together on solid waste & created R&E in 2016 to foster collaboration
- County waste plans intentionally developed with aligned strategies
 - Basis for R&E Joint Activities
- Multiple areas with aligned strategies = intention to grow joint work over time
- Delivering more value together than the counties could separately
- ¹⁵Work on the 2024 plan underway



Considerations for 2025 JA Budget

- Joint Activities are how we can reduce the impact of higher tipping fees
- Target problem materials in waste stream that are costly for facility to manage
- Prioritize waste hierarchy and managing materials at the source – most cost effective & most environmental benefits
- Ramsey/Washington/R&E evaluated Joint Activities in 2022 and determined:
 - Counties value Joint Activities and want to continue collaboration
 - Staff capacity constraints preventing full implementation of Joint Activities
 - Matrix management system is not the best solution for all Joint Activities
 - Counties see added R&E staff capacity as most effective and efficient way to collaborate and fully implement Joint Activities programming across the two counties
- Revised county solid waste management plans may impact Joint Activities – improved staff structure for better adaptability

Joint Activities Budget by Category, 2023-2025



Joint Activities: Programmatic Budget Areas

Commercial & Residential Recycling

- Grants, technical assistance, & resources for businesses and multi-unit properties to reduce waste, improve recycling, and prevent pollution
- Food recovery and food waste prevention
- Increasing demand for compost

Community Waste Solutions

- Recycling problematic bulky waste materials like mattresses and furniture
- Provide community-based recycling resources
- Grants and resources for deconstruction and C&D recycling
- Resources to increase reuse and repair

Food Scrap Recycling

- Providing multiple options for all residents to conveniently recycle food scraps – implementation of all elements needed to run the two counties' Food Scraps Pickup Program

General Outreach

- All the ongoing outreach, communications and promotion necessary for Joint Activities and R&E Center
- Community engagement to inform our work
- R&E Facility tours and waste system education

Joint Activities Budget – Summary

- Ramsey County, Washington County and R&E all value Joint Activities and are equally committed to continuing the collaboration
- Successful Joint Activities benefits R&E Center
- Growth of Joint Activities since 2016 has been intentional – investment in future of solid waste management for both counties
- Programmatic growth has outpaced staff capacity
- Additional Joint Activities staff are best way to fully implement programming in collaboration with both counties
- This budget addresses goals of counties and state while better preparing R&E for future

Upstream Solution Benefits

Environmental

Upstream solutions, higher use of waste resources, producer responsibility, circular economy, climate mitigation strategies, Solid Waste Management Plan

Racial & Health Equity

Programs accessible to all residents and businesses at no added cost, Reducing air toxics, lowering costs

Economic

Resources for businesses to more cost effectively manage their waste resources, manage waste and resources locally





Financial

Reducing environmental liability, not deferring costs to future generations, charging full cost of waste management

RAMSEY/WASHINGTON RECYCLING & ENERGY BOARD

	2022 Unaudited	2023 Approved Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
JOINT ACTIVITIES				
APPROPRIATIONS:				
Project Management	2,394,100	2,729,454	3,506,000	3,559,000
Commercial & Residential Recycling	2,966,814	4,050,000	4,425,000	4,425,000
Community Waste Solution	132,223	625,000	830,000	786,000
Food Scrap Recycling	756,167	2,500,000	1,105,000	1,455,000
General Outreach	1,048,693	605,000	925,000	925,000
Policy Evaluation	1,030,773	1,100,000	1,190,000	1,190,000
Total Appropriations	8,328,770	11,609,454	11,981,000	12,340,000
REVENUE:				
Washington County	2,891,086	3,134,553	3,234,870	3,331,800
Ramsey County	6,113,769	8,474,901	8,746,130	9,008,200
Total Revenue	9,004,855	11,609,454	11,981,000	12,340,000
TOTAL				
Appropriations	8,328,770	11,609,454	11,981,000	12,340,000
Revenue	9,004,855	11,609,454	11,981,000	12,340,000
Surplus/(Deficit)	676,085	-	-	-

Joint Activities alignment with County goals, priorities

	Commercial Recycling	Community Waste Solutions	Food Scrap Recycling
 WELL-BEING	XXX	XXX	XXX
 PROSPERITY	XX	XXX	XXX
 OPPORTUNITY	XX	XX	XXX
 ACCOUNTABILITY	XX	XX	XX
Residents First	XXX	XXX	XXX
Equity, Environmental Justice	XXX	XXX	XXX

Joint Activities Budget: Recommendations & Next Steps

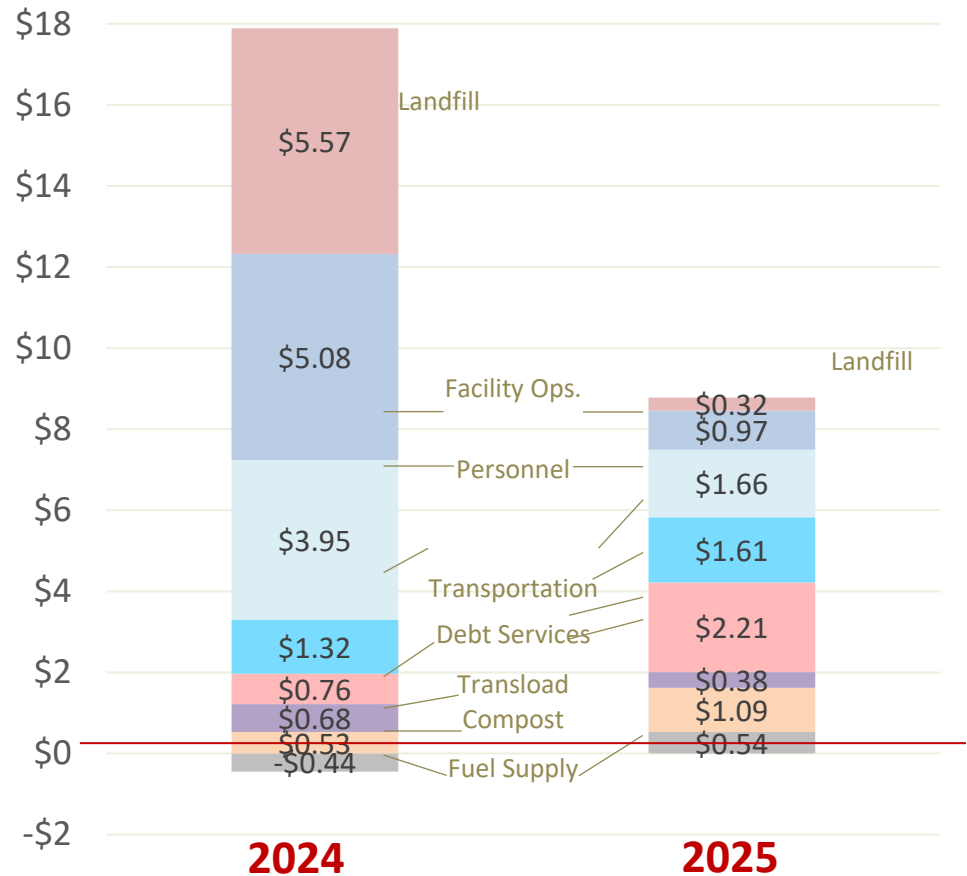
- Approval of 2025 Joint Activities budget
- Timeline

2024 – 2025 Tipping Fees

Revenue: Facility revenue to operate the R&E Center
 Primary funding source is tipping fees paid by haulers and individuals

2023 tipping fee: \$103/ton
 2024 tipping fee: \$121/ton
 2025 tipping fee: \$130/ton

Drivers of Tipping Fee Increase (May Revised)



Impact of 2025 Tipping Fee Change

Average household



1 year




2,000 lbs. (1 ton) of trash per year

If \$9/ton tipping fee cost increase is passed on from hauler

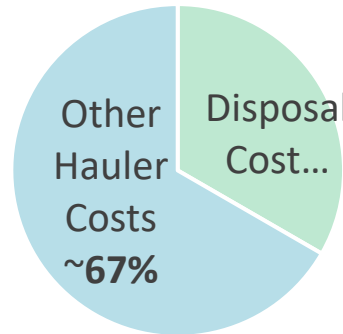


= **\$9/year** increase in 2024 per household



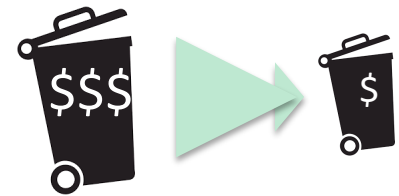
= **\$0.75/month** increase (less than \$5 per quarter)

About 1/3 of a hauler trash bill is for disposal costs



Haulers have other expenses (staff, fuel, truck maintenance, administrative, etc.) that impact hauler bills and may increase over time

Residents and businesses that reduce their trash pay less



Can use R&E's and county's upstream waste reduction and recycling programs to reduce trash = reduced cost impact



Recycling resources (e.g., Biz Recycling)



Compost at county drop-off sites



Reuse, repair, reconstruct programs

2025-2028 Tipping Fee Forecast

- 2024 Tipping Fee: \$121/ton
- 2025 Tipping Fee: \$130/ton
- 2026 Tipping Fee: \$130/ton
 - Walter's transfer station sortation agreement: +\$5.11/ton
 - Central region transfer station sortation agreement:
+ _____/ton
- 2027
 - Anerobic digestion +\$13.00/ton
- 2028
 - New RDF agreement +\$ _____/ton

Questions & Discussion

