

# Hennepin County Zero Waste Actions

Work Group Member Survey Results  
September 2022 - Revised November 2022<sup>1</sup>

Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan work group members collaborated over a multi-meeting process to identify and refine actions with the potential to effectively move Hennepin County closer to the goal of an equitable materials management system for zero waste. Following the identification of the potential zero waste actions, work group members were asked to weigh in on each action using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is strongly oppose and 5 is strongly support.

The following table displays both the actions that were identified through the work group process as well as the results of the work group feedback survey. The average score in the table is the average of the work group member votes on the 1 to 5 scale. The score does not reflect the opinions or input of the County or the project consultant team. The average score is not an indicator of the potential value of an action to the county's goal of achieving an equitable materials management system for zero waste. It is simply a reflection of the input submitted by the participating work group members.

*Table 1: Work Group Member Input Results*

Zero Waste Action	Avg. Score
<b>64 - Engagement - Regional</b> Coordinate with neighboring counties/states to advance zero waste - includes regional development of end markets, waste shed planning for facilities, regional acceptance of materials with labeling and consistent engagement.	4.56
<b>31 - Engagement - General Education</b> Expanded engagement strategies and partnerships to provide clear and consistent information on what is recyclable, compostable, and reusable, how to participate, who provides services, why zero waste is important, why certain materials cannot be recycled, and the impact of the materials we throw away.	4.55
<b>77 - State Policy - Truth in Labeling</b> Support state 'truth in labeling' legislation to require manufacturers to clearly and accurately identify local recyclability / composability of packaging	4.46
<b>104 - Food Waste - Mandatory Rescue</b> Mandatory food rescue / donation program for large generators.	4.46
<b>56 - Multi-family - Organics Collection</b> Increase access to hauler-provided curbside composting for multifamily buildings through incentives & rebates for property managers and residents, engagement and outreach, and other trainings.	4.44
<b>25 - Enforcement - Ord 13 Recycling</b> Enforce the Ordinance 13 recycling requirements for multifamily and commercial; offer incentives and support for building/property managers/ business owners to increase compliance.	4.43

<sup>1</sup> This memorandum includes revisions to September 2022 version. The following errors were corrected: Program 109 - Organics Transfer Station average score updated to 4.10, Program 82 - Landfill Phase Out average score updated to 3.56, Program 68 State Policy SCORE average score updated to 4.07, Program 58 - Organics Large Scale Processing average score updated to 4.20, Program 28 - Engagement - Community Led Solutions average score updated to 4.17.

Zero Waste Action	Avg. Score
<b>79 - Engagement - Multiple Languages</b> Provide community recycling training sessions in different languages; provide interpreters, offer commercial technical assistance for non-English speaking business owners. Connect culturally on what zero waste looks like.	4.43
<b>4 - C&amp;D - Deconstruction Policy</b> Adopt policies that prioritize and incentivize building deconstruction over demolition, educate policy maker on the value of deconstruction.	4.40
<b>67 - End Markets - Road Construction</b> Incorporate reusable and recycled materials into municipal road construction and maintenance projects and use of compost in roadside revegetation, run-off control, or medians.	4.40
<b>102 - Codes - Building Codes</b> Building codes addressing the built environment - requirements and / or incentives for reusing materials when possible, inclusion of green/ sustainable materials in construction, phasing in quality materials that can be disassembled in the future.	4.40
<b>16 - Drop-Off System</b> Expanded Access Improve / increase drop offs (recycle, organics) in multifamily dense, urban, and rural areas.	4.38
<b>30 - Engagement - New Residents</b> Partner with or incentivize cities, haulers, property managers to deliver consistent recycling and diversion information to people and businesses who move to a new address, make it easy to know service options and requirements.	4.36
<b>13 - Policy - Zero Waste Packaging</b> Requirements Adopt a county zero waste packaging ordinance and enforce the use of reusable, recyclable, and BPI certified compostable materials by businesses, events, stadiums, institutions, restaurants, and others.	4.35
<b>27 - Engagement - Deconstruction and Building Design</b> Connect demolition contractors /owners / developers with reuse options and resources; includes education and engagement, resources, and technical support.	4.32
<b>35 - Food Waste - Planning</b> Develop and adopt a county food waste reduction, resiliency, recovery plan with clear strategies and timeline to reduce wasted food and increase recovery.	4.32
<b>11 - Collection - Hard to Recycle</b> Expand collection opportunities (either via curbside or drop off) for hard-to-dispose items, i.e. textiles, clothes, household hazardous waste, plastic wrap, and others.	4.32
<b>62 - Procurement - County Level</b> Leverage county and city spending power to improve circularity by partnering with suppliers with favorable circular economy offerings; adopt a county sustainable purchasing policy to lead by example.	4.32
<b>71 - Sharing Economy - Repair</b> Offer more repair / reuse events like Fix-It Clinics, sewing, and bike repair, include job program, workshop space with access to tools, skill sharing, and virtual options.	4.31
<b>32 - Engagement - Schools</b> Improved technical assistance resources for schools to help with contracting, setting up and optimizing school diversion programs, and engaging with students, staff, and families.	4.30
<b>65 - Financial - Tax Benefits for Reuse</b> Provide tax benefits for reuse and repair businesses, include restaurants that implement reusable to-go programs and companies that offer take back programs. (Advancing Circularity, Neighborhood Solutions).	4.30
<b>21 - End Markets - Local and Regional Support</b> local / regional end market development to increase demand for recovered materials. (Policy, Systems and Infrastructure).	4.29
<b>75 - State Policy - EPR</b> Lead the development and adoption of extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies at the state level.	4.29
<b>9 - Circularity - Organics</b> Adopt policy for county and cities to procure finished compost to support end market, look to advance the requirement at the state level.	4.28
<b>10 - Codes - Space for Recycling</b> Advocate for requirements for new and significant remodels of multifamily and commercial buildings to have space for recycling and composting, pair with incentives, grants, or tax breaks.	4.27

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<b>6 - C&amp;D Minimum Diversion Requirement</b> Policy Require construction and demolition projects to recycle or divert a min. percentage of total materials (i.e. 50% required diversion).	4.25
<b>107 - National Policy - Plastics</b> Support national standards for plastic to encourage producers to manufacture and sell packaging that can be recovered in the existing recycling system.	4.23
<b>84 - Sharing Economy- Reuse Hubs</b> Develop neighborhood reuse or repair hubs, a 'reuse' mall, or other facilities for upcycling, sharing, refurbishment, and reuse while supporting local green jobs, look to leverage partners and existing entities in program.	4.23
<b>108 - Organics - Community Scale Sites</b> Support the development and growth (grants, technical, permitting, partnerships, resources) of community scale composting sites and backyard composting to increase access to compost and overall processing capacity. (Green Streams, Neighborhood Solutions, Systems and Infrastructure).	4.22
<b>39 - Grants - Deconstruction</b> Continue to offer (or expand) grants and incentives for small commercial projects to use deconstruction techniques, structural move projects, projects that install used building materials, and deconstruction training programs.	4.22
<b>90 - Policy - General Single Use Ban</b> Ban non-recyclable / compostable single-use plastics and / or require fee for single-use goods across entire county (restaurants, universities, event centers, concert venues, and sports arenas, etc.).	4.22
<b>14 - Equity - Community Panel</b> Establish diverse community panel to provide input county zero waste programs to ensure waste systems will not put environmental justice areas of concern at greater risk and include racial equity impact analysis in zero waste decisions.	4.20
<b>58 - Organics - Large Scale Processing</b> Increase available capacity for organics composting through large scale or regional facilities, could be public, private, or partnership.	4.20
<b>74 - Policy - County Single Use Ban</b> Ban single-use, non-recyclable or non-compostable items in county facilities and hosted county events.	4.17
<b>28 - Engagement - Community Led Solutions</b> Leverage and financially support local leaders to harness the power of community led engagement solutions for zero waste, includes range of community centric engagement actions.	4.17
<b>46 - Measurement - Reporting</b> Increase compliance with state reporting requirements, improve data sharing, support consistent county reporting methodologies, and develop additional metrics (i.e. source reduction, GHG impacts, economic impact) for benchmarking. Present data in a manner that is accessible, transparent, and understandable to the public.	4.16
<b>94 - Engagement - Information Sharing</b> Widely share information with the public on the costs, benefits, and burdens of the solid waste system, who generates materials, who is paying for the system, who is profiting.	4.15
<b>22 - End Markets - Organics</b> Suite of actions to grow compost uses such as city / county requirements for soil amendment for sod installation, landscape projects; municipal uses of compost in green infrastructure, engagement with landscapers, and other actions.	4.15
<b>3 - C&amp;D - End Markets</b> Support / incentivize growth of end markets for C&D materials (e.g. asphalt shingles, gypsum board, ceiling tiles, carpet, dimensional lumber).	4.13
<b>70 - Sharing Economy - C&amp;D</b> Establish or support reuse warehouses for building materials and creation of a material bank for temporary storage of construction materials where the materials are examined, repaired, and shared.	4.13
<b>109 - Organics - Transfer Stations</b> Processing Expand capacity for accepting and consolidating organics at existing transfer stations or building new transfer stations.	4.10
<b>42 - Grants - MRFs</b> Provide grant funding to material recovery facilities (MRFs) for equipment upgrades that help to reduce contamination and increase recovery, prioritize grant funding for facilities / projects that provide living wage.	4.10

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<b>88 - Mandatory Programs - Multi-family</b> Require cities to add all multi-unit properties to their residential waste programs, if they opt out provide list of alternatives rather than a fee.	4.10
<b>93 - Financial - Residential Incentives</b> Reward residents and provide incentives to increase participation, especially for low-income families.	4.08
<b>87 - Financial - Subsidy for Service</b> Subsidies, rebates, or bill discount to reduce burden of recycling and organics service costs for low-income customers and improve participation.	4.08
<b>68 - State Policy - SCORE Funds</b> Advocate for increased state funding for SCORE, including solid waste management tax funds that are currently diverted to the general fund; evaluate permissible SCORE expenditures (115A.557, sub. 2) and advocate for deconstruction and reuse as an eligible programs.	4.07
<b>116 - Equity - Community Ownership of Abandoned Areas</b> Community groups take over abandoned properties for community benefits (e.g. composting, community gardens etc.). Consider utilizing abandoned facilities as educational malls/interactive spaces to discuss waste.	4.07
<b>44 - Hauling - Contracts / Franchise</b> Work with cities or the county to adopt hauler contracts, franchising, or other organized collection scheme for multifamily and commercial; establish a roadmap to organize hauler collection to reduce impact on the infrastructure and neighborhoods; include hauler incentives for diversion, reduced contamination, others.	4.05
<b>54 - Mandatory Programs - Recycle</b> Require that households and / or businesses properly separate recyclables from the trash; consider accompanying this with a disposal / incineration ban; Include exceptions for lack of space and financial support for those that need it and a monitoring / enforcement plan.	4.00
<b>110 - Zero Waste - Friendly Stores</b> Audit and incentivize stores to carry easier-to-recycle packaging and packaging with better labeling (e.g. How to Recycle labels); publish list of "recycling friendly" stores.	3.98
<b>52 - Circularity - Innovation Hub</b> Develop innovation hub to incubate new businesses using recycled materials as feedstock to improve local circularity and job creation.	3.95
<b>69 - Collection - Shared Dumpsters / Service</b> Recycling Help neighboring businesses or properties consolidate and share services for recycling and composting (i.e. shared dumpster); consider allowing and providing financial incentivize to those that share with community to increase local access.	3.95
<b>100 - Policy - e-waste</b> Suite of policies to address e-waste in the county including potential for EPR, advance disposal fees, requirements for disassembly, county contracting, and / or prohibition from exporting waste.	3.95
<b>50 - HERC - Evaluation and Upgrades</b> Evaluate upgrades at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) to increase pre-sorting of MSW and material recovery, reduce hazardous items from incineration, increase pollution control measures, and other operational improvements to the facility.	3.93
<b>53 - Mandatory Program - Compost</b> Require that households and / or businesses properly separate food scraps and food soiled paper from the trash; consider accompanying with a disposal / incineration ban. Include exceptions for lack of space and financial support for those that need it and a monitoring / enforcement plan.	3.92
<b>105 - Drop-Off System - Mandatory Policy</b> Policy that every neighborhood should have a smaller collection site / drop-off within a certain distance (walkable and bikeable).	3.91
<b>115 - Financial - Community-based Solutions</b> Add a surcharge on tipping fee to pay for community -based solutions and for coordinated community, city and county to address cumulative pollution impacts.	3.78

Zero Waste Action	Avg. Score
<b>133 - Commercial - Green Business Recognition</b> Create a Green Business recognition program to highlight how business are successfully implementing recycling/organics programs, work with cities to promote these events.	3.78
<b>82 - Landfill - Phase Out</b> Establish milestones, resources, and funding mechanisms to phase out the use of landfills as county reaches zero waste, start with a phase out period that prevents landfills from expanding and then move to full phase out.	3.56
<b>49 - HERC - Phase Out</b> Establish milestones to phase out the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) as county approaches higher levels of diversion; includes identification of alternatives for disposal of MSW generated in Hennepin County. Include milestones for phasing out acceptance of materials at HERC that have higher / better use elsewhere or cause inefficient / high pollution combustion. Milestones to include a definitive shut down.	3.53