

Source Reduction and ReUse

2017 Master Planning Summary Fact Sheet

S A I N T P A U L – R A M S E Y C O U N T Y P U B L I C H E A L T H

Fact sheet sent to members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) in preparation of the May 16, 2017 meeting.

What is source reduction?

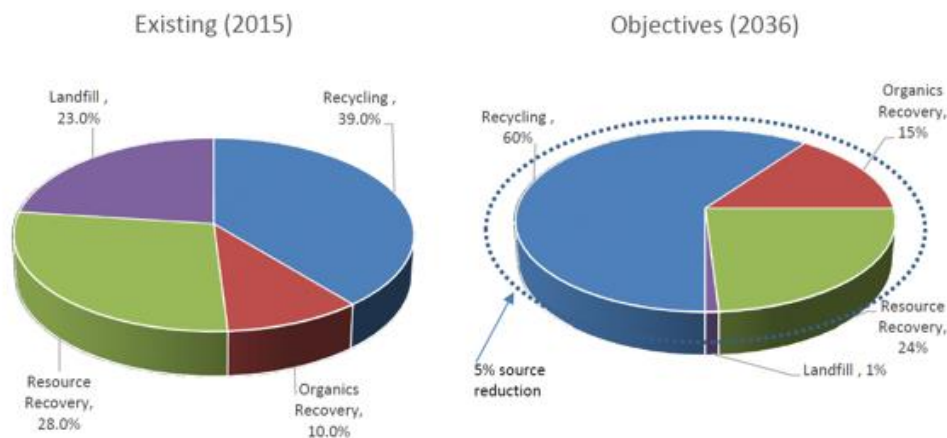
An activity that reduces the generation of waste or the inclusion of toxic materials in waste. It includes:

- Reusing a product in its original form.
- Increasing the life span of a product.
- Reducing material or the toxicity of material used in production or packaging.
- Changing procurement, consumption or waste generation in smaller quantities, or lower toxicity of waste generated. (Minn. Stat. §115A.03, Subd. 36b)

Source reduction results from systemic change, such as product stewardship initiatives or pricing that favor reduced waste. Ramsey County supports actions to reduce waste within internal operations in order to conserve natural resources and energy, reduce or eliminate toxins, support recycling markets and reduce the need for landfilling.

Source Reduction Goal

The source reduction goal for the Twin Cities area is 1.5 percent by 2020 and 5 percent by 2036.



Source: Policy Plan Fact Sheet

What is being done to address reduction and reuse?

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan for 2016-2036 states source reduction and reuse as a priority. In the last few years, the MPCA has focused its source reduction programs on reuse, food waste prevention and procuring more sustainable products. Counties are being asked to incorporate at least two of four suggested strategies in their solid waste master plans:

- Expand and improve material exchange programs;
- Support the state's Sustainable Purchasing Program;
- Implement a program for either businesses or residents that prevents food from being wasted;
- Implement programs that focus on reuse at the county level.

Source Reduction and Reuse

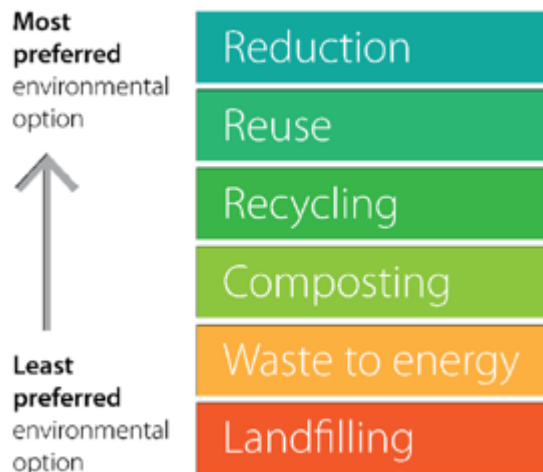
What is happening in Ramsey County?

Ramsey County encourages waste reduction in its technical assistance, outreach and marketing activities. The county uses a variety of methods to provide extensive information on waste reduction, reuse and other solid waste management issues. Specific initiatives include:

- *Fix-It Clinics* offer residents an opportunity to bring in items to be fixed and extend their life. Since 2015 the free clinics have served 533 people and fixed 593 products resulting in 3,325 pounds to be diverted from the waste stream.
- *Product Reuse Center* accepts reusable household hazardous waste items and offers them to residents for free. In 2016 over 242,000 pounds of products were reused by 23,314 participants.
- The installation of a biological waste water treatment system, thanks to a grant from the Leadership in Environmental Stewardship, turns organic contaminants (oil, grease, herbicides and pesticides) into carbon dioxide and water.
- *Cleaning for Health*, begun in 2008, has resulted in; (a) significant reduction of the county's stock of potentially hazardous cleaning chemicals; (b) improved its use of environmentally preferable paper products; (c) provided product and process training to janitorial staff and building occupants.
- Participation in the 2017 National Ad Council's *Save the Food* campaign. Joint initiative by the 7-county metro area to build awareness on reducing food waste through billboards and other marketing materials. Information will also be distributed in 2,000 Ramsey County organics starter kits.
- Contracting with *Second Harvest Heartland*, through the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board, to rescue food. In 2016 over 1,779 tons of food was rescued.

Minnesota's Waste Hierarchy

Reduction and reuse are at the top of the hierarchy as the most preferred environmental options for waste management.



Get involved:

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- Share your ideas on Facebook at [Ramsey County Minnesota](https://www.facebook.com/RamseyCountyMinnesota) #RCRethinksTrash