



RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY
CONNECTING VALUE TO WASTE

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy ANNUAL REPORT

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy partners with others to minimize waste and maximize value from trash through recycling and energy production.

COLLABORATION

Ramsey and Washington counties strongly support the state's hierarchy of waste management, including an emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling materials, and are committed to **achieving the state's 75% recycling goal**.

Since the 1980s, they have worked in unison to ensure that waste is managed to reduce risks to health and the environment. The result is a fully integrated system of reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery. 2018 was an eventful year for this partnership:

- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approved the waste management master plans of both counties, which were strategically aligned for the first time.
- Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E) made technology improvements to aid collaboration between staff from R&E, Ramsey County, and Washington County.
- And R&E was fully staffed for the first time, setting the stage for 20 more years of productive collaboration.

PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY

Through the Partnership on Waste and Energy, Ramsey, Washington, and Hennepin counties are collaborating on legislation and policy development, communication and outreach, and planning and evaluation of waste processing. **2018 was the first year of this partnership.**



WORK WITH SCHOOLS

To further align programs across Washington and Ramsey counties, both counties worked to convene a School Recycling Advisory Group. The group consisted of **14 schools or districts** throughout the two counties to provide guidance on developing the school recycling continuum. The continuum was finalized in December 2018 and will be an important component of counties' waste reduction and recycling assistance to schools moving forward.

RECYCLING & ENERGY CENTER

Ramsey and Washington counties have made a bold pivot in thinking about waste by recognizing the inherent value in the materials put in the trash, viewing these items as assets. The economic and environmental value of these assets can be realized only through a complete system that seeks to recover that value. This resulted in the 2016 purchase of the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center). At the R&E Center, recyclables are pulled from the waste stream, and trash is processed into a fuel source for Xcel power plants. In owning the facility and requiring all trash produced in Ramsey and Washington counties be brought to it, the East Metro area is maximizing the recovery of resources and diverting as much as possible from landfills. In combination with programs like BizRecycling, Ramsey and Washington counties are leading the charge in meeting state's **75% recycling goal**.

2018 was the first year of waste designation, which required all trash produced in Ramsey and Washington counties be delivered to the R&E Center. Observing Ramsey and Washington's success with waste designation, other counties are considering similar initiatives.

R&E employs **61 individuals** and has **84 haulers** and **6 transfer stations** under contract. In 2018, the organization initiated its Hauler Newsletter, a quarterly e-newsletter distributed to haulers, to better connect with industry partners.

OPERATIONS

The chart below provides detail on the tons of materials handled at the R&E Center in Newport.

	TONS	PERCENT
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Managed in R&E System	458,293	
Delivered to Transfer Stations	234,442	51%
Delivered to R&E Center	223,850	49%
MSW to R&E Center	408,954	89.2%
MSW to Great River Energy	24,457	5.3%
MSW to Landfills	24,883	5.4%
TOTAL	458,294	100%
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Produced	329,467	80.6%
Metals Recycled	14,629	3.6%
Residue Landfilled	19,120	4.7%
Bulky Waste Landfilled	39,261	9.6%
Year End Inventory, Moisture, Losses	6,478	1.6%
TOTAL	408,955	100%



FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Upgraded Comp-U-Weigh scale system and installed automated scale kiosk
- Implemented RFID tags for trucks – for trucks using tags, turnaround time at facility has decreased by approximately 8-10 minutes
- Added an outbound scale bypass lane and new facility front gates
- Resurfaced the tipping floor
- Installed new tipping floor doors
- Added new OMI odor control systems for the tipping floor and dust collection system
- Improved facility signage
- Initiated project to create bulky waste load out area
- Started construction on new office space and tour room

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

9,861
FEWER TONS
OF CO₂

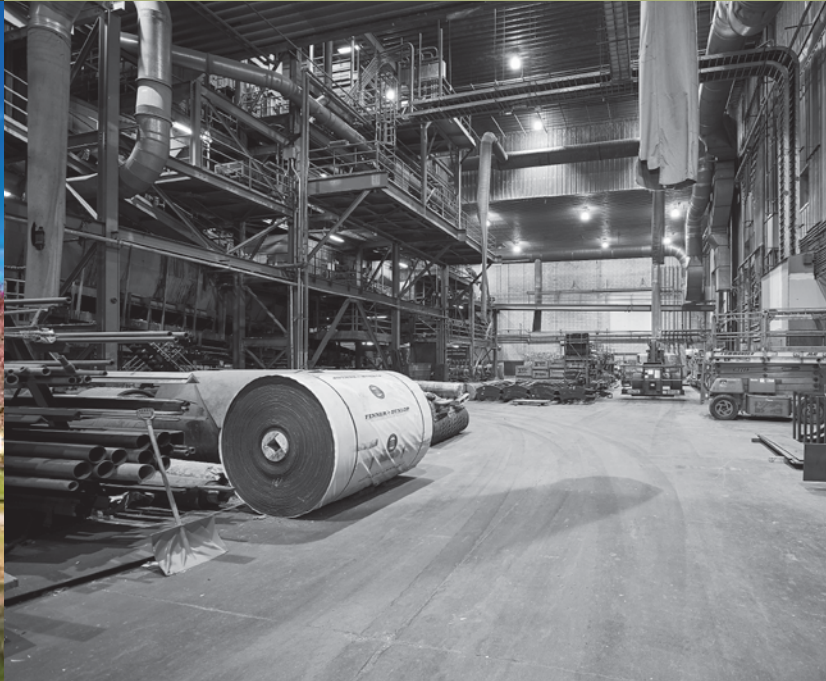
PRODUCED THAN
IF TRASH HAD BEEN
LANDFILLED -
EQUIVALENT TO
2,094 OF CARS
DRIVEN FOR A YEAR

40,000
HOMES
POWERED

BY XCEL ENERGY USING
REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL
(RDF) PRODUCED AT
THE R&E CENTER

14,629
TONS OF
METAL

RECYCLED AT
R&E CENTER



BIZRECYCLING

BizRecycling helps businesses in Ramsey and Washington counties start or improve recycling and organics collection. BizRecycling connects businesses with recycling experts who can help identify recycling and waste reduction opportunities. Businesses receive free on-site consultations, technical assistance and grants (up to \$10K per business) to implement best practices in waste management.

BizRecycling Partners, typically local business associations and chambers of commerce, educate their member businesses about recycling and organics collection opportunities and connect them to BizRecycling resources. As local and trusted sources of business information, Partners can effectively connect businesses to BizRecycling. BizRecycling contracted with 11 partners in 2018.

In 2018, BizRecycling laid the groundwork to start working with multi-unit dwellings (apartment complexes, townhomes, and condos) using a similar model used with businesses. This will provide valuable resources like grants and technical assistance to multi-unit properties in the years ahead.

PREFERRED HAULER INITIATIVE

BizRecycling Partners East Side Area Business Association (ESABA), Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) and East Side Neighborhood Development Center (ESNDC) learned through their BizRecycling assistance to members that a major obstacle to a business's success was the business's experience with their hauler. They compared experiences of a dozen members and found solid waste haulers had a wide range of costs for similar services, confusing fees, complicated bills and revolving contracts that lock customers into multiple years of service and often significant cost increases. They also heard complaints about customer service.

ESABA, LEDC and ESNDC contacted haulers to inquire about the possibility of a bulk rate for their members. Five haulers responded to their inquiry. ESABA, LEDC and ESNDC compared pricing for a variety of services and investigated customer service practices by conducting reference calls. At the end of this process, they selected a preferred hauler that their members can choose to purchase services from at a discounted rate. A win for all!

BIZRECYCLING: THE NUMBERS

272

BUSINESSES
RECEIVED ON-SITE
CONSULTATIONS

159

BUSINESSES
RECEIVED
RECYCLING
GRANTS

28

GRANTS AWARDED TO
START COLLECTING
ORGANICS

119

BUSINESSES
STARTED RECYCLING
COLLECTIONS

79

BUSINESSES
STARTED ORGANICS
COLLECTIONS

186

BUSINESSES
IMPROVED EXISTING
RECYCLING AND
ORGANICS COLLECTIONS

→ **\$1,005,725** IN GRANTS AWARDED ←



JERRY'S FOODS & CUB FOODS

WHAT: Implemented comprehensive recycling programs at five locations in Ramsey and Washington counties – four Cub Foods and one Jerry's Foods.

WHY: To reduce waste, save money and display a commitment to environmental sustainability.

HOW: Received a BizRecycling grant and worked with their hauler to add organics recycling, single stream recycling, and train all employees in all stores. Purchased color coded bins; installed industry standard signage; and made infrastructure improvements, such as installing exhaust fans to allow them to collect organics and recycling without causing odor issues. Additionally, Jerry's placed paper towel recycling in the restrooms and recycling bins at store entrances and checkout lines to engage customers.

RESULTS: Diverting 178,000 pounds of single stream recycling and 1.13 million pounds of organics recycling annually.

FINANCIALS

R&E maintained a balanced budget in 2018. The organization utilizes three primary budgets: the Joint Activities Budget, the Facility Budget and the Equipment Maintenance Budget.

JOINT ACTIVITIES BUDGET

Project Management	\$1,092,766
Non Residential Recycling	\$2,053,685
General Outreach	\$322,436
Policy Evaluation	\$1,133,128
Hauler Rebates	\$5,476,104
Total	\$10,078,119

The Joint Activities Budget supports a variety of projects and is funded by Ramsey and Washington counties. Both counties charge a fee associated with collecting municipal solid waste, referred to as the County Environmental Charge or CEC. A portion of the CEC fees collected funds the Joint Activities Budget.

FACILITY BUDGET:

Personnel	\$6,258,379
Fuel Supply	\$6,358,575
Landfill	\$4,094,343
Waste Processing	\$1,644,333
Transportation	\$6,341,962
Transload	\$2,102,634
Operations	\$5,900,249
Debt Service	\$1,391,681
Total	\$34,092,156

The Facilities Budget supports the operation of the R&E Center. This enterprise budget is funded by tipping fees and miscellaneous revenues.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE BUDGET:

Equipment	\$2,030,755
Maintenance	\$2,453,000
Total	\$4,483,755

The Equipment Maintenance Budget maintains and replaces equipment at the R&E Center and is funded by sale of recyclables.

