

**MEETING NOTICE**  
**PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD**

**Date:** Thursday, September 23, 2021  
**Time:** 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
**Virtual Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/91853633312?pwd=T3ZxSTc2WTZzR1c3Vk9BL0ZjTHZndz09>  
**Phone:** +1 651-372-8299 | **Meeting ID:** 918 5363 3312 | **Passcode:** 757315

*The Chair of the Partnership on Waste and Energy Board has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the emerging prevalence of the Delta variant. Commissioners will participate by telephone or other electronic means and the Board meeting will be conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021. Members of the public will be able to watch the public meeting live online.*

**AGENDA**

- |   |             |        |
|---|-------------|--------|
| 1. Call to Order, Introductions, Commissioner Roll Call |             |        |
| 2. Approval of Agenda                                   | Action      | Page 1 |
| 3. Approval of Minutes of August 26, 2021               | Action      | Page 2 |
| 4. Business   |             |        |
| a. Legislative Platform Review                          | Information | Page 5 |
| 5. Updates and Reports                                  |             |        |
| a. Great Plains Institute Presentation                  | Information | Page 8 |
| 6. Other  |             |        |
| 7. Adjourn  |             |        |

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, December 9, 2021 | 1:00-2:30 PM | HERC or Zoom

Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC)  
505 N. 6th Ave. | Minneapolis, MN 55405

**PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD MINUTES  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021**

A meeting of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) was held at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021 as a virtual meeting. Staff participants met at the Ramsey County Environmental Health Office, 2785 White Bear Avenue North, Suite 350, Maplewood, Minnesota. Other participants joined through Zoom.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Debbie Goettel – Hennepin County  
Commissioner Fran Miron – Washington County  
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt – Ramsey County

**ATTENDING AT RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, MAPLEWOOD**

Leigh Behrens, Michael Reed, John Ristad, Nikki Stewart, Jody Tharp, Jordan Thone, Kris Wehlage

**ATTENDING REMOTELY**

Dave Benke, Carolyn Collopy, Shannon Conk, Max Dalton, Dan Donkers, Leslie Duling McCollam, Rae Frank, Zack Hansen, Sam Holl, Filsan Ibrahim, Kevin Magnuson, Dave McNary, Jim Redmond, Sam Richie, Britta Torkelson, Jeff Travis, Ryan Tritz, Rob Vanasek, Renee Vought, Kevin Walli, Sam Walseth

**CALL TO ORDER AND COMMISSIONER ROLL CALL**

Chair Reinhardt called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm. The statement regarding conduct of a remote meeting was read. A roll call of commissioners was conducted. Introductions of attendees in Maplewood were made.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Miron moved, seconded by Goettel, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 3-0. Roll call vote:  
Ayes: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt  
Nays: None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Goettel moved, seconded by Miron, to approve the minutes of January 28, 2021.

Motion carried 3-0. Roll call vote:  
Ayes: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt  
Nays: None

**BUSINESS**

**Budget Update**

Kris Wehlage, R&E accounting manager, presented a brief overview of the 2021 budget.

**Agreement with Product Stewardship Institute**

Mallory Anderson, Hennepin County staff, provided an overview of the proposed agreement with Product Stewardship Institute.

Commissioner Goettel moved, seconded by Miron, to approve Resolution PWE-2021-03, Agreement with Product Stewardship Institute. The PWE Board:

- Approves the agreement with the Product Stewardship Institute to complete work on extended producer responsibility for packaging, with a term of September 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022, with a not to exceed an amount of \$25,000; with an option to renew the agreement for the period of March 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 should funding become available.
- Authorizes the chair to execute the agreement upon approval as to form by the county attorney.
- Authorizes the Partnership leadership team to adjust the 2021 Partnership on Waste and Energy budget to fund work with the Product Stewardship Institute on extended producer responsibility for packaging, and for 2022 and 2023, execute amendments to the agreement in accordance with Partnership procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of available funding.

Commissioner Goettel expressed hope that this work will lead to a bill. Commissioner Miron suggested working with other counties and partners to advance legislation at that time.

**UPDATES AND REPORTS**

**PWE 2020 Annual Report**

Michael Reed, Ramsey County/R&E Joint Leadership Team and PWE Lead Staff, presented an overview of the 2020 annual report. The four areas of legislative advocacy for 2020 were market development for recyclables, wood waste management through biomass energy, food waste reduction initiatives and financing for solid waste infrastructure. Additional focus was placed on emerald ash borer and wood waste management, anaerobic digestion, online training for hazardous waste generators and a battery disposal campaign.

**Legislative Update**

Dave McNary, Hennepin County and PWE Lead Staff, shared news of the retirement of Tony Hainault from Hennepin County. McNary thanked Hainault for his years of experience working on environmental issues and his lobbying work for PWE. Hennepin County anticipates having a replacement sometime in October.

The PWE Platform for 2021 provided a roadmap for lobbyists' work. Staff anticipates bringing the 2022 platform proposal to the September PWE Board meeting.

Sam Richie, Fryberger Law Firm, provided an update on the 2021 legislative session. Minnesota is the only state in the country with a divided legislature. A special session was needed to pass the budget. They were able to pass the budget prior to the deadline, largely due to federal funding from the pandemic. Some areas of interest receiving funding included the Natural Gas Innovation Act, food waste

**SUBJECT:** *PWE Meeting Minutes 8-26-2021*

organics recycling and emerald ash borer. The Future Fuels provision spearheaded by Great Plains Institute was not included in the final energy bill.

Rob Vanasek, Capitol Hill Associates, shared 2021 legislative results on solid waste issues. Areas of success include new, additional base funding for SCORE grants to counties; two-year extension of the District Energy/Xcel power purchase agreement; language aimed at banning PFAS in food packaging, with PFAS study group to return with model guidance; funding for collection and reuse initiatives; funding for MPCA groundwater contamination mapping project; annual allocation to closed landfill investment fund (CLIF); continuation of MPCA market development grants; and technical fixes to e-waste statutes.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Reinhardt called the meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday, September 23, 2021 | 12:30-2:00 PM | Maplewood or Zoom

ATTESTED TO:

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Chair  
September 23, 2021

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
September 23, 2021

<b>PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATE:</b>	September 23, 2021		<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	4.a	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Legislative Platform Review				
<b>TYPE OF ITEM:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Partnership Lead Staff				

**PWE BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Discuss and provide direction for the 2022 Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) legislative platform.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The 2022 Legislative Session will convene on January 31, 2022. As the session approaches, PWE will be finalizing its platform. The Governing Board will be requested to approve the 2022 PWE platform at its December 9, 2021 meeting.

At the September 23, 2021 meeting, board members are requested to review the 2021 platform and discuss changes for the next session.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2021 PWE Legislative Platform
2. Legislative fact sheet example—Product Stewardship/Extended Producer Responsibility

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	DATE
Hennepin County <i>Dave McNay</i>	9/9/2021
Recycling & Energy <i>Nicole Stewart</i>	9/12/2021
<i>Michael Reed</i>	9/13/2021

**A collaboration between Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties**

# Partnership on Waste and Energy 2021 State Legislative Platform

**The Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.**

## Support initiatives to build a sustainable, circular economy

PWE supports measures to design waste, toxicity and pollution out of the marketplace, keep products and materials in use and restore natural systems.

PWE supports shared responsibilities and partnerships among private and public entities to manage waste generation and use waste as a resource.

## Make solid waste financing a robust, equitable tool for achieving environmental and public health goals

PWE supports tax and finance policies that adequately fund local government to carry out responsibilities required in statute, that provide incentives to create a stronger and more circular Minnesota economy and that equitably apply costs and distribute financial resources in alignment with policy goals.

PWE supports strategic financing to encourage emerging technologies and advance the solid waste, resource and energy management systems in ways that are more sustainable, equitable and protective of the environment and public health.

## Build on Waste Management Act goals

PWE supports public health and environmental goals established in the Waste Management Act. PWE believes that integrating energy and materials management strategies to reach beyond current goals, policies and structures will achieve a more sustainable economy without waste, reduce greenhouse gases and improve other environmental outcomes.

PWE supports stronger and more resilient partnerships among state and local governments to ensure the ability of government to implement waste and resource policies and programs that achieve statutory goals.

## Contact for More Information

Rob Vanasek  
Capitol Hill Associates  
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rob@capitolhillassoc.com

Sam Richie  
Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.  
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srichie@fryberger.com

  
PARTNERSHIP ON  
**WASTE & ENERGY**  
Hennepin | Ramsey | Washington

# Partnership on Waste and Energy

## Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility

**The Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.**

PWE supports product stewardship among manufacturers, suppliers, retailers and consumers, relying on an extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework to create producer-led partnerships that reduce lifecycle impacts of products and packaging.

PWE supports EPR strategies that lead producers to manufacture non-toxic products, prevent waste, preserve natural resources, increase reuse or recycling of products and achieve public health and environmental protection at end-of-life management.

PWE supports EPR systems that reduce the financial burden on local government and taxpayers and establish measurable and enforceable goals.

### Better resource management, building a circular economy

Product stewardship and EPR policies can effectively address problem materials, especially the following:

- Packaging for food, beverages and consumer products
- Mattresses
- Carpet
- Prescription and over-the-counter drugs
- Medical sharps
- Electronic devices
- Lithium-ion batteries
- Solar panels

### Better health and environmental outcomes, reduced financial impacts on taxpayers and local government

Well-designed product stewardship and EPR approaches:

- Encourage product and packaging redesign
- Provide funding relief to local programs and taxpayers
- Offer consumers management options that are fair, convenient and better for the environment

### \$18 million annually

spent by Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties to properly manage recyclable, hazardous and problem materials.

### Contact for More Information

Rob Vanasek  
Capitol Hill Associates  
Phone: 612-964-4876  
rob@capitolhillassoc.com

<b>PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATE:</b>	September 23, 2021			<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	5.a
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Great Plains Institute Presentation				
<b>TYPE OF ITEM:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Partnership Lead Staff				

**PWE BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Information only.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At its June 7, 2018 meeting, the Partnership on Waste and Energy Board approved a contract with the Great Plains Institute (GPI) to study anaerobic digestion (AD). This project focuses on gathering information on the technology and building consensus to move AD forward in Minnesota. Phase one identified the environmental, economic, energy and regulatory issues around advancing AD in Minnesota. In September 2018, GPI presented a report, entitled [Anaerobic Digestion Evaluation Study](#), with these results.

Phases two and three began in late 2018, with GPI convening key stakeholders to seek consensus on the role of AD in the future. Stakeholders included state agencies, counties and other public sectors involved in organic waste management; universities and private sector companies conducting research; and current and potential private sector AD developers.

In 2020, phase three continued the work from the previous phases. GPI identified specific steps to facilitate the development of new food waste digestion projects in Minnesota. These steps were examined through additional literature review and stakeholder engagement, culminating in a report titled [Policy and Regulatory Considerations to Develop Food Waste Digestion in Minnesota](#) in December 2020.

GPI also generated a case study in phase three entitled [Renewable Natural Gas in a Minnesota Clean Fuels Policy](#). This piece explores how renewable natural gas from an AD facility could perform under a clean fuels policy in Minnesota, analyzes carbon intensity and describes the economics of AD using various feedstocks.

The current phase of work with GPI, phase four, builds on the momentum from previous phases. The bulk of the work in this phase looks at renewable fuel that could be produced at AD facilities that may be developed in Minnesota. Specifically, this work focuses on the most common uses of biogas produced by AD and assesses which uses offer the greatest greenhouse gas emission reduction potential. Using a modeling tool developed by Argonne National Laboratory (called the GREET model), GPI has assessed and compared several potential uses of digester biogas in Minnesota. The findings will help inform the Partnership, and others in Minnesota, as their AD development efforts move forward.

GPI staff will attend the September 23 board meeting to present the findings of this work.

PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY  
HENNEPIN | RAMSEY | WASHINGTON

2785 White Bear Avenue North, Suite 350 | Maplewood, MN 55109  
info@recyclingandenergy.org | 651-266-1199

**SUBJECT:** *Great Plains Institute Presentation*

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Great Plains Institute draft fact sheet: Greenhouse Gas Impact of Anaerobic Digestion End Uses

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

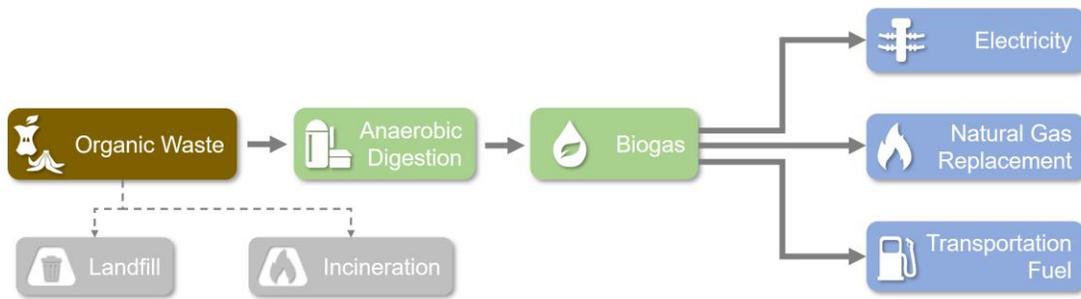
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
Hennepin County		9/12/2021
Recycling & Energy		9/13/2021
		9/9/2021
Washington County Attorney		9/13/2021
Ramsey County Attorney		9/13/2021



### Greenhouse Gas Impact of Anaerobic Digestion End Uses

Anaerobic digestion is a process that turns organic waste into biogas and digestate. Biogas can be upgraded to renewable natural gas and used to generate electricity, as a replacement for natural gas, or as an alternative transportation fuel in the form of renewable compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG). In virtually all these uses, renewable natural gas provides immense greenhouse gas reductions due to avoided methane emissions and the biogenic nature of renewable natural gas, where emissions resulting from combustion are considered part of a natural lifecycle due to their organic origins. Digestate, the secondary byproduct of the anaerobic digestion process can be used as soil fertilizer, providing even more emission credits for the displacement of conventional fertilizer production.

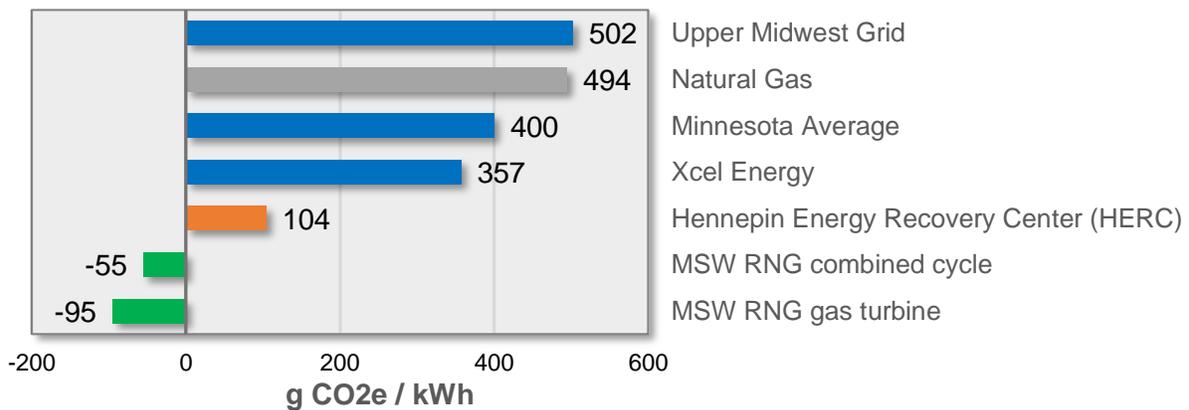
Various types and combinations of organic waste can be used as feedstock, but the numbers below reflect a feedstock that is 80 percent mixed organics and food waste and 20 percent yard trimmings.



### Electricity Generated from Renewable Natural Gas

Renewable natural gas can fuel a gas turbine or combined cycle generator, producing electricity at a lower greenhouse gas intensity than other electricity sources in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.

#### GHG Intensity of Electricity Sources compared to Renewable Natural Gas

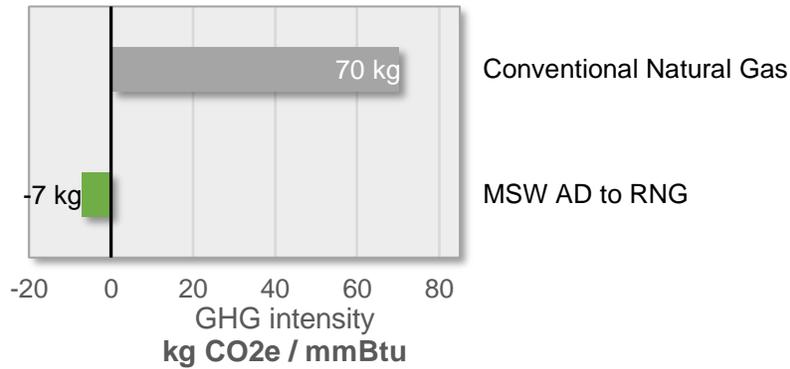




### Renewable Natural Gas as a Natural Gas Replacement

When used as a natural gas replacement, renewable natural gas has a much lower greenhouse gas intensity than conventional natural gas.

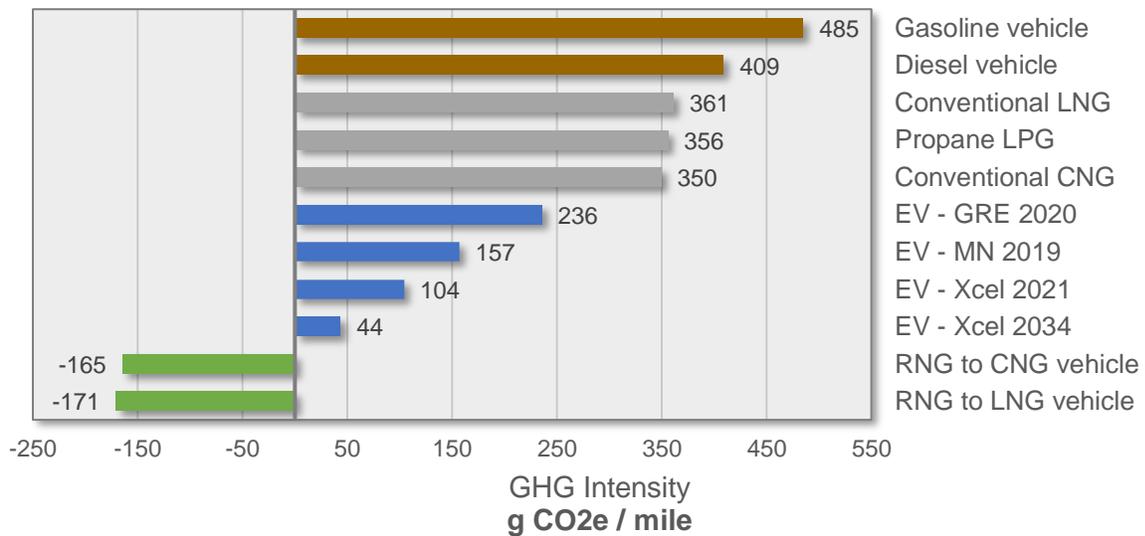
#### Greenhouse Gas Intensity of Conventional Natural Gas and Renewable Natural Gas



### Renewable Natural Gas Vehicle Transportation Fuel

Municipal solid waste anaerobic digestion-based renewable natural gas used in CNG or LNG vehicles provides larger greenhouse gas reductions than most alternative transportation fuels. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with electric vehicles vary based on the grid mix of each electric region.

#### Greenhouse Gas Intensity of Transportation Fuel, Electric Vehicles, and Renewable Natural Gas



Source: Authored by Mariem Zaghdoudi and Dane McFarlane, Great Plains Institute, 2021, based on Argonne National Laboratory’s GREET Lifecycle Model.