

MEETING NOTICE
PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD

Date: Thursday, October 27, 2022

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Commissioners, Key staff, Presenters:

Ramsey County Environmental Health | 2785 White Bear Ave N. | 2nd Floor Conference Room
Maplewood, MN 55109 | [Map](#)

Public: [Microsoft TEAMS](#) | Call In: +1-323-792-6297 | Phone Conference ID: 646 426 627#

Members of the Partnership on Waste and Energy Board will meet at Ramsey County Environmental Health Offices in Maplewood, along with key staff and presenters. Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely or may attend at the Maplewood address.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Commissioner Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda Action Page 1
3. Approval of Minutes of May 26, 2022 Action Page 2
4. Business
 - a. 2023 Proposed Budget Action Page 14
 - b. Selection of Waste Lobbying Services Provider Action Page 18
5. Updates and Reports Page 21
 - a. 2023 Legislative Session Information
 - b. Metro County Collaboration Update Information
6. Other
7. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 | 2:30-4:00 pm
Ramsey County Environmental Health, Maplewood

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022
PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD

A meeting of the Partnership on Waste and Energy Board (PWE) was held at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2022. Commissioners and staff participants met at the Ramsey County Environmental Health Office, 2785 White Bear Avenue North, Maplewood, Minnesota. Other participants and the public joined through Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ATTENDING IN MAPLEWOOD

Terese Bordeau, Sam Hanson, Kevin Magnuson, Leslie Duling McCollam, Andrea McKennan, Dave McNary, Jim Redmond, Michael Reed, John Ristad, Mindy Stepnick, Nikki Stewart, Jody Tharp, Jordan Thone, Rob Vanasek, Sam Walseth, Kris Wehlage

PARTICIPATING REMOTELY

Olivia Cashman, Hannah Keller, Sam Richie

ATTENDING REMOTELY

Mallory Anderson, Leigh Behrens, Gary Bruns, Alison Cameron, Rae Eden Frank, Jamie Giesen, Sam Holl, Filsan Ibrahim, John Jaimez, Brendan Jordan, Jennefer Klennert, Juna Ly, Shannon Mitchell, Jennifer Nguyễn Moore, Minette Saulog, Ken Smith, John Springman, Britta Torkelson, Margaret Vesel

CALL TO ORDER AND COMMISSIONER ROLL CALL

Chair Miron called the meeting to order at 12:37 pm. Introductions of attendees in Maplewood were made. A roll call of commissioners was conducted.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Goettel, to approve the agenda as presented.
Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Goettel, to approve the minutes of January 27, 2022.
Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

BUSINESS

Budget Update

Kris Wehlage, R&E accounting manager, presented an update of the 2022 budget, stating that everything is on track and on budget.

Wood from the Hood Grant

Olivia Cashman, Hennepin County Environment and Energy, presented information regarding emerald ash borer (EAB), which has been identified in 30 Minnesota counties. The seven-county metro area is entering peak phase of ash tree loss, which will require disposal of more than 1.67 million tons of tree waste in the next ten years, necessitating better disposal and management outlets.

Wood from the Hood, a woman-owned business in South Minneapolis was established in 2008. Wood from the Hood currently processes about 75 tons of tree waste annually, with ash trees comprising 70% of that waste.

Staff recommendation is for a \$24k grant to be used for equipment, materials and staff time to process additional tree waste. They intend to increase their tree waste processing to over 600k tons annually, or approximately 1,200 trees. They currently partner with Room & Board's "Urban Wood Project". The grant would allow them to scale up sales and interest in products created from urban tree waste, particularly related to EAB. Environmental advantages are managing tree waste, keeping carbon within the lumber and spreading the message of environmental stewardship with customers.

Commissioner Goettel stated that the innovation is exciting and that it's important to help businesses like this get off on a good foot and be sustainable long term.

Commissioner Miron asked what is anticipated for the EAB wood waste budget line item, in addition to this first-ever grant request.

Nikki Stewart, Washington County, PWE lead staff and R&E JLT, said staff is working on an RFP for a vendor to assist in mapping the flow of EAB wood waste with tree removal companies and yard waste management facilities to understand where the waste is coming from, beyond information available from District Energy. When completed, this information should be helpful to the counties and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This study is coming from the EAB wood waste budget.

Commissioner Miron asked whether a grant process has been defined and whether it has been published that grants might be available, so as to be competitive. Jim Redmond, R&E procurement manager, said staff is working through this question through the procurement process. Because it's a new process for PWE and not known if it will be an ongoing budget line item, creation of a program for grants is evolving. Should this become a more consistent opportunity, guidelines and processes will be developed.

Commissioner Miron said PWE should also look at partnerships, such as what has been done in Hennepin County with small business support. PWE should also leverage funding from other sources as part of a grant program through PWE.

Commissioner Reinhardt said since the R&E Board has grant programs, it would make sense to partner with Joint Activities (JA) programs for oversight. Stewart said since R&E is the PWE fiscal agent, the grant process can be modeled on R&E's JA program.

Commissioner Goettel suggested that since a grant process is not currently in place, this could be considered a pilot. It would be a favorable piece to add to the EAB platform position to show innovation that could possibly be done on a much larger scale in the state.

Commissioner Miron said it is important to ensure that wood waste for this program is from at least one of the three counties and related to EAB. Some level of reporting and accountability is necessary, especially if a second grant year is possible.

Commissioner Goettel moved, seconded by Reinhardt, to approve Resolution PWE-2022-03, Wood from the Hood Grant. The PWE Board:

- Approves a grant for Wood from the Hood to scale lumber production from urban tree waste and increase messaging related to responsible utilization of urban forest resources for the amount of

\$24,000 for the period of execution through May 31, 2023, with the option of one one-year renewal should funding become available.

- Authorizes Partnership lead staff to execute the grant agreement upon approval as to form by the county attorney.

Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

Legislative Session Update

Dave McNary, Hennepin County and PWE lead staff, recounted efforts that went into the legislative session work.

- The Board approved the 2022 legislative platform with three main items, including supporting initiatives to build a circular economy, make solid waste financing a robust and equitable tool for achieving environmental and public health goals, and building on Waste Management Act goals.
- Additional policy position statements were created on EAB, SCORE, waste-to-energy and circular economy, providing PWE lobbyists with tools to use in discussion with legislators.
- Partnerships were built with the Association of MN Counties (AMC), Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA), Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), Conservation Minnesota and the Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA).
- Twenty letters were drafted related to SCORE, MLCAT, EAB, PFAS, digital repair, Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force, Closed Landfill Investment Fund (CLIF) and several letters on the Omnibus bill.
- Testimony included Commissioner Miron (SCORE), Commissioner Reinhardt (Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force) and lead staff (zero waste and multi-family residential recycling).
- Sixteen strategy meetings were held between PWE staff and lobbyists.

Recognition was given to PWE staff Dan Donkers, Max Dalton and Mallory Anderson; PWE lead staff; and to lobbyists Rob Vanasek, Sam Walseth, Britta Torkelson, Sam Richie, Kevin Walli and Shannon Mitchell. Chair Miron shared that turnaround time was often very tight, and staff was very responsive in answering his questions and rewriting letters so they could be submitted under deadline.

Fryberger Update

Sam Richie, Fryberger Law Firm, provided updates on efforts on behalf of PWE. Additional details are available in the attached 2022 Legislative Outcomes memo shared at the meeting.

The session ended without a bonding bill, tax bill or supplemental budget. Fryberger's primary focus was on the state response to EAB, advocating for additional resources for local units of government to remove and replace impacted trees, and to start thoroughly and thoughtfully planning for coming impacts. Letters were sent early in session to chairs of the House and Senate Environment Committees urging action in 2022 on EAB:

- Adequately fund EAB management
- Implement biomass incentives to support District Energy's St. Paul Co-Gen facility
- Begin development of a state-level planning process for wood waste management akin to other waste streams

PWE lead staff and lobbyists met with high-ranking MCPA officials as a result of the letters sent early in session. Governor Walz included \$5 million for community tree planting grants in his Capital Budget recommendations. The final Capital Budget package included \$5 million in new funding for the DNR to replace seedlings impacted by 2021's drought. The Environment Omnibus Bill included \$10 million the

House carried into conference for communities to replace trees removed due to EAB; it passed in committee but did not make it to the floor.

Fryberger described the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) process. The House put together a bill of projects that received 10 votes; the Senate amended the bill to remove some projects, move funding around for others and added 19 projects never submitted to the LCCMR to request funding.

Great Plains Institute has been working on a Future Fuels Act. The Walz administration wanted a Clean Fuels Standard for Minnesota but didn't move things quickly enough to get it passed.

Fryberger is monitoring the Natural Gas Innovation Act passed in 2021 as it works its way through the Public Utilities Commission process.

Capitol Hill Associates Update

Rob Vanasek, Capitol Hill Associates, provided updates. Additional details are found in the attached Capitol Hill Associates May 2022 Legislative Update memo.

Three tiers of issues were outlined in January for engagement. The greatest effort was spent in two areas: securing more SCORE funding and product stewardship for mattresses. A core team that worked on SCORE and other issues advancing and defending county interests include PWE staff and contract lobbyists, AMC/SWAA, MICA, Conservation Minnesota and MN Resource Recovery Association (MRRA).

Enacted:

- Pig's Eye Landfill - \$800k and establishment of a task force

Agreed to but not yet enacted:

- SWMT/SCORE
- MLCAT repayment

Items not included in any conference committee report (CCR) are listed in the attached legislative update memo.

Commissioner Reinhardt stated that much was accomplished, and PWE will be able to build on progress that has been made in other areas (e.g., SCORE, EAB). There is interest among legislators to learn more about these issues.

Commissioner Goettel said there were big bonding pieces that were disappointing to see left unfinished. With environmental issues being key with voters this year, it may put pressure on legislators and candidates.

Commissioner Miron inquired about what is salvageable if there is a special session and whether PWE should be proactive in sending a letter.

Vanasek said the further out it gets from May, the less likely it is a special session will be held. It is possible legislators will choose to get past May 31 when campaign filing deadlines have passed. There is an Environment CCR, Tax CCR and a state government bill with a jobs bill sitting on the Senate floor that could be put together with other issues such as education. They may not find agreement on transportation or public safety.

Commissioner Reinhardt suggested a draft letter outlining what's important to PWE be ready should a special session be called. Commissioners Miron and Goettel agreed that a draft letter be prepared and sent to the commissioners.

2021 PWE Annual Report

Andrea McKennan, Ramsey/Washington R&E communications coordinator, presented a review of the annual report. It can be found on the PWE website: [2021 PWE Annual Report](#). Included is a letter from the board chair pointing out that the three counties serve over 2 million residents and are responsible for managing roughly one-third of the state's municipal waste.

- Legislative advocacy success included:
 - More funding for waste reduction and recycling, including a 4% increase in SCORE grants
 - Preventing the loss of St. Paul District Energy as a biomass energy solution for wood waste
 - Securing community grants and assistance to fight the impacts of the emerald ash borer
 - Bolstering markets for biofuels from anaerobic digestion through the Natural Gas Innovation Act
 - Prohibiting PFAS chemicals in food packaging
- Online hazardous waste training is now available in Spanish. English and Spanish trainings are free and available anytime.
- PWE counties partnered with the Product Stewardship Institute to develop consensus with multiple stakeholder groups on extended producer responsibility for packaging in Minnesota.
- Both Hennepin County and R&E advanced efforts to develop organics recycling infrastructure.
- PWE initiated a campaign to educate residents on proper battery disposal.

Battery Campaign

Hannah Keller, Washington County senior environmental specialist, presented an update. The battery campaign ran throughout 2021, with emphasis around Fire Prevention Week in early October. The purpose was to increase resident awareness of fires caused by batteries and increase the number of batteries brought to drop-off sites for household hazardous waste.

The campaign received a lot of attention, with over 15k clicks on promoted social media posts. At least 22 municipalities shared the campaign via social media and/or newsletters. Keller shared the campaign impact in each county from 2020 to 2021, with all counties seeing increases in battery collection.

Keller stated that confusion exists around alkaline batteries. Even though they can be put in the trash, the campaign encouraged bringing all batteries to collection sites, given that there are hazardous battery types that can be confused with alkaline batteries.

Commissioner Miron inquired whether the campaign was rolled out to local fire departments. Keller said it was shared with fire departments and that there was limited sharing and engagement.

Commissioner Reinhardt recommends that websites be updated to make clear where batteries are to be taken, particularly alkaline, which cause much confusion.

Commissioner Goettel appreciated that, for racial equity issues, this is being shared in multiple languages.

Hazardous Waste Online Training

Mindy Stepnick, Ramsey County hazardous waste compliance program supervisor, presented an update on the completed project. The training is for the regulated community of hazardous waste generators. PWE used Hennepin County's existing online training as a model to create the training.

The online option was needed due to the pandemic, as counties were unable to host in-person trainings. It recognized regulated community needs, making it available at their convenience. The training is more efficient, with no need for a trainer in a physical space and not limited by space capacity. It created consistent messages from three metro counties with businesses that cross county lines. The training was developed in English in 2020, then translated into Spanish and available with closed captions. This information isn't widely available in multiple languages in other counties and the state.

ADJOURN

Chair Miron called the meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

ATTESTED TO:

Approved: _____
Commissioner Fran Miron, Chair
October 27, 2022

Approved: _____
October 27, 2022

Addenda:

Fryberger Law Firm Memorandum - 2022 Legislative Session Outcomes

Capitol Hill Associates Memorandum - Legislative Update May 2022 Waste Issues



MEMORANDUM

TO: Partnership on Waste and Energy
FROM: Sam Richie and Shannon Mitchell, Fryberger Law Firm
DATE: May 25, 2022
RE: 2022 Legislative Session Outcomes

The 2022 Legislative Session ended without action on the typical even-year priorities, namely a bonding bill, a tax bill, and a supplemental budget. While agreement was reached on how to divide up the state's robust surplus between tax cuts, additional spending, and holding onto some for the next Legislature to deal with, the details on how to make that agreement work proved harder to accomplish.

In the end, the clock ran out on the 2022 Session with depressingly few bills making it across the finish line. It is our sincere hope that this update's shelf life is short and lawmakers return for a special session to pass bills that were finalized (or very close to finalized), including a bill for environment, an energy bill, an omnibus tax bill, as well as a long-anticipated bonding bill.

Here is a summary of some of the provisions that did manage to pass, as well as an update on the Partnership's role in several legislative efforts that remain ongoing:

Tree Planting and EAB Response

- As emerald ash borer continues to spread across the state, we have worked with stakeholders to advocate for additional state resources to slow the spread and to help communities deal with the financial fallout of the cleanup and replacement required.
- The issue got a fair amount of attention at the Legislature in 2022, but not with a full appreciation for what the state is likely facing in the coming years
 - No real discussion of the big picture needs with respect to planning for the waste management reality of what is coming,
 - no real discussion of the impact of District Energy's PPA ending would have,
 - and no additional funding for community grants for direct EAB management of tree removal
- However, there were several various budget and bonding proposals that the Partnership did support and that did receive committee attention:
 - **Seedling Replacement Funding** – after a contentious conference committee, \$5 million in funding to the DNR to replace seedlings impacted by last year's drought was included in the drought relief package. There had also been additional resources for shade trees proposed in this budget area, but that funding did not survive conference committee
 - **Funding to Replace EAB Removed Trees** – The House proposed \$10 million in funding in the omnibus Environment bill for grants to replace trees removed due to EAB. The Conference Committee report (which passed committee but not either floor)

did include a fraction of the request, \$750,000 from the Game and Fish Fund for grants to local units of government to replace trees removed because of EAB

- **Community Tree Planting Grants via Bonding** – Governor Walz included \$5 million in funding for community tree planting grants in his Capital Budget recommendations to minimize damage to forests and replace trees damaged by pests or disease. While House and Senate leaders were negotiating a potential bonding bill behind closed doors during the final weeks of Session, neither House or Senate publicly released a bonding proposal in 2022 and it is unclear if this funding would have been included in the final bill.

Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

- The ongoing drama with the LCCMR continued in 2022
- LCCMR is a 17-member panel, with 10 lawmakers and 7 citizen volunteers
- Project applications need to receive 12 votes in order to be officially recommended to the Council to the Legislature, who then (typically) approves the recommendations without any changes
- Again this year, the Council did not agree on projects and so none received the requisite 12 votes, many receiving 10 votes
- The House put a bill together with those projects that received 10 votes
- The Senate amended that bill to remove some projects completely, to move funding around for others, and to add 19 projects that had never submitted to the LCCMR to request funding
- After fights on both floors, a conference committee eventually came together and passed a bill
- A few projects proposed for funding of note for the Partnership:
 - \$200,00 to study PFAS in landfill leachate
 - \$169,000 to study plastics in the ag supply chain
 - \$445,000 to study destroying PFAS in drinking water
 - \$446,000 to St. Louis County for methods to protect water from PFAS using engineered wetland treatment systems
 - \$200,000 for living snow fence program
 - \$430,000 to save floodplain wildlife from beaver herbivory, changes in climate, and EAB
 - \$800,000 for Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force
 - \$189,000 to study budworm to protect spruce/balsam fir forests
 - \$208,000 to demonstrate that high temperature anaerobic digestion is effective at treating sewage sludge
 - \$189,000 to test and develop wood chips to sequester and degrade PFAS leachate

Future Fuels Act/Clean Fuel Standard

- The Partnership was part of a stakeholder group hoping to implement a new Clean Fuel Standard for the state
- Our friends at the Great Plains Institute again led the charge on this front in 2022 as they did in 2021
- Over the interim, the Walz Administration had indicated support for developing a Clean Fuel Standard for Minnesota and worked closely with GPI on assembling stakeholder outreach and meetings to prepare legislation for 2022, the Partnership participated in this process
- Once Session started, GPI was keen to get legislation introduced and moving, but the Administration preferred a slower approach, waiting until after committee deadlines had all but passed before giving up on the goal of getting policy language enacted in 2022.
- The stakeholder group remains diverse and difficult to hold together
 - Changes proposed to appeal to one end of the stakeholder political spectrum seems to lose supporters on the other end (i.e the Sierra Club and the Ethanol producers)
- We will continue to work with GPI on this effort and see what opportunities present themselves in 2023

Natural Gas Innovation Act (NGIA)

- The Fryberger Firm has helped the Partnership in monitoring PUC proceedings implementing the NGIA, which passed the Legislature in 2021
- My colleague John Gasele has worked with Partnership staff to help submit written testimony and assist staff in providing verbal testimony at proceedings in front of the Public Utilities Commission

Again, we hope to have further updates to share if lawmakers come back for a special session to pass the remaining priority spending bills, a tax bill, and a bonding bill. Thanks to all the Partnership staff for their hard work this Session, having such dedicated and professional staff makes advocating on your behalf a much easier and more enjoyable experience!

Legislative Update – May 2022

Waste Issues

Submitted by Rob Vanasek, Sam Walseth and Britta Torkelson, Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. on behalf of the Partnership on Waste and Energy Team

The 2022 session saw fewer challenges than in 2021, but we are likely to face more difficulties in 2023. The opportunities were beyond what we've ever experienced and we shattered our previous records of engagement on behalf of the Partnership. The volume of legislative hearings and bills that commissioners or staff provided testimony, submitted letters on or your lobby team engaged committees, legislators, legislative staff, the administration, county and non-county partner lobbyists was innumerable. Below is both the status of two dozen issues we directly engaged on and just over 50 links (thanks to Dan Donkers) to all the letters the Partnership submitted and indexed to those.

We want to thank Chair Miron and leadership staff for their attention, contributions, and signing off on all our letters and testimony under some very tight timelines. While many county staff put in a ton of time and work on the Partnership agenda, Dan Donkers, in particular, did some heavy lifting throughout this session. Mallory Anderson also put in long days and weekends, particularly on the SCORE effort and mattress negotiations.

We outlined three tiers of issues in January we expected to engage on, but pursued many more as fiscal and policy opportunities arose this session that applied directly to our 2022 legislative platform.

A prime example – We aggressively pursued two different and complementary streams of funding for SCORE, both of which were successfully adopted into final agreements in two different Conference Committee Reports (CCRs) in the last two days of session. Together the total amount adds up to an additional \$11.6 million for SCORE over three years. Unfortunately, like many CCRs, neither the Tax nor Environment CCR made it to Governor Walz's desk. If there's a special session, we would expect both of these CCRs to make it into law.

Outside of Unadopted Rules, there were no adverse issues advanced off a floor this session. Although there were no direct threats to Waste to Energy or HERC, an environmental justice House bill focused on monitoring air emissions could have created challenges for WTE facilities across the state.

We were actively engaged on two dozen bills this session, but tracking many more. See below for highlights from those bills. We want to thank Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington County staff and contract lobbyists who worked closely with us, along with other organizations, to advocate the Partnership legislative platform. We led a core group including AMC/SWAA, MICA and Conservation Minnesota on SCORE, along with a larger group consisting of Olmsted County, MRRA, and our three counties. We also partnered closely with MRRA on several other issues pertaining to threats to WTE.

Partnership waste priorities ahead of session:

Tier 1

- Leading a push to secure more SCORE funding
- Continuing all the work done on mattresses
- MLCAT and CLIF repayments, EAB and capital needs – MPCA CAP max limit increase from \$2 to \$5M, organics, Hennepin and Washington bonding, maintain the CAP program
- Protect the PWE stakeholder process on EPR

Tier 2

- The need to defend waste-to-energy is being monitored, as are activities around advanced recycling

Tier 3

- Support the compostable products bill
- E-waste, carpet and solar panels proposals

Below are all the waste issues we worked on during regular session.

Enacted.

- Pig's Eye Land Fill – LCCMR CCR, HF 3765
 - \$800k and the Task Force (House Env hearing 2-28-22; (**Commissioner Reinhart** testified House Env 3-1-22 hearing) (Sen Env/Legacy hearing 3-14-22) (House Env Omnibus hearing 4-5-22) (ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22)

Not yet enacted. These issues will continue during Special Session or the 2023 session.

- SWMT/SCORE – included in the Taxes CCR, HF 3669 & Environment CCR, SF 4062
 - 3% structural shift from general fund to SCORE resulting in an additional, permanent increase of at least \$3.1M/year addition to SCORE; growing in the tails -- \$9.5M over three years (House Env Info hearing 1-14-22) (Joint letter to Sen Env 2-1-22) (Joint letter to Hortman 2-3-22) (**Chair Miron** testified House Env 3-10-22 hearing w/Crow Wing Comm Barrows) (Joint letter Sen Env Omnibus hearing 3-28-22) (Joint letter Sen Taxes 4-4-22) (Joint letter House Taxes 4-5-22) (ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22)
 - \$700k/year additional appropriation from the Environmental Fund in addition to the GF transfer above to SCORE (Joint letter Sen Env Omnibus hearing 3-28-22) (ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22)
 - The current SCORE funding is \$18.45M/year following the increase we secured last year and the new level would have been \$22.25M, a 20% increase.
- MLCAT – included in the Environment CCR, SF 4062
 - \$876k in FY2023 and \$765k for each year thereafter for repayment of previous legislative raids on the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (House Env Info hearing 1-14-22) (Joint letter to Hortman 2-3-22) (House Env hearing 2-8-22) (reference in House Env hearing 2-28-22) (House Env Omnibus hearing 4-5-22) (ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22)

The following were not included in any CCR:

- Mattress product stewardship: despite making progress during negotiation sessions with industry, including inclusion of our top priority of covering all mattresses, the provisions were removed on the floor from the Senate omnibus environment bill due to concerns about the addition of a fee. It should be noted a recycler was lobbying against the placeholder language in the omnibus. We continue to work with industry, SWAA/AMC, and MPCA as well as recyclers to resolve remaining differences and expect potential action in 2023. (Joint letter, Sen Env Omnibus hearing 3-28-22)
- Cumulative Impacts/EJ definition/air permit constraints on WTE facilities was included and carried to conference via the House omnibus environment bill. The provisions were not included in the CCR. No other legislation with direct negative impacts on WTE was heard this session.
- CLIF repayment of legislatively raided funds did not make either House or Senate omnibus. (Joint letter to Sen Env 2-1-22) (Joint letter to Hortman 2-3-22) (Sen Env hearing 3-18-22)
- State grants for waste prevention/diversion – all were brought to conference by the House but not included in the CCR
 - New MPCA prevention & recycling grant/loan program (House Env Omnibus hearing 4-5-22) (ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22)
 - Zero Waste (e-waste reuse/recycling, source reduction, recyclables market development, organics collection/processing) (**Michael Reed** testified House Workforce/Job Development 3-21 hearing; **Dave McNary** testified House Env 3-29 hearing) (House Env Omnibus hearing 4-5-22) (ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22)
 - Multifamily composting (**Dave McNary** testified House Env 3-29 hearing) (House Env Omnibus hearing 4-5-22) (ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22)
- Compostable products/package standards/labeling, something the Minnesota Composting Council has led on. Several others submitted testimony in support. The House brought to conference but not included in the CCR. (House Env Omnibus hearing 4-5-22) (ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22)
- PFAS: restrictions on different products, disclosure requirements. A full conference committee hearing was held on this contentious topic. All members seem interested in making improvements, but in different ways. House brought to conference but not included in CCR. (House Env hearing 2-8-22) (House Commerce hearing 2-22-22) (House Env hearing 2-23-22) (House Commerce hearing 2-28-22) (House Prev Health hearing 3-14-22) (ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22)

- Carpet product stewardship study bill was heard but did not make the omnibus. (*House Env Omnibus hearing 4-5-22*)
- MPCA CAP grant rule changes, which would have increased the \$2M limit to \$5M did not materialize in the environment CCR. Also, a bonding bill never came together that could have included this language. The current \$2M limit requires our counties to pursue individual bonding requests. (*House Env Info hearing 1-14-22*) (*Joint letter to Sen Env 2-1-22*)
- Hennepin and Washington Counties bonding proposals for solid waste facilities are in limbo, as the bonding bill never materialized. An agreement on the overall bill was thought to be somewhat close the afternoon of the last day. (*Joint letter to Sen Env 2-1-22*); (*House Env Info hearing 1-14-22*)
- Digital Fair Repair Act was amended onto the House Judiciary omnibus and merged into the Public Safety conference committee, but no CCR was agreed upon. We worked with a broad coalition in support of the bill. (*House Commerce hearing 1-31-22*) (*House Judiciary hearing 2-17-22*)
- EPR for packaging bill carried by Rep. Jordan was introduced but not heard. We informed Jordan of the Partnership's EPR process to develop a bill for 2023, but are unsure of her interest in accepting what we produce via our process. She said she's open to further conversations.
- Solar panel product stewardship as proposed by the MPCA was opposed by the Minnesota Solar Industries Association and was not heard despite statements by a couple of Senators they'd be interested in learning more in a hearing.
- Advanced/chemical plastic recycling legislation did advance via the Senate omnibus but was not included in the CCR. We took a somewhat neutral position on the latest version. (*Joint letter Sen Env Omnibus hearing 3-28-22*)
- Unadopted rules were brought to conference via the Senate but were thankfully not included in the CCR. (*Joint letter Sen Env Omnibus hearing 3-28-22*) (*ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22*)
- Lead and cadmium restrictions were brought by the House but not included in the CCR. (*House Env Omnibus hearing 4-5-22*) (*ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22*)
- Lead tackle collection/reduction program was brought by the House but not included in the CCR. (*House Env Omnibus hearing 4-5-22*) (*ENR Conf Comm 5-5-22*)

Looking ahead to 2023.

About 45 legislators are retiring and 11 more are attempting to move from the House to the Senate. Some very strong leaders are retiring and with many of the new, returning members experiencing their first session in person in 2023, there will be many new dynamics in play.

Especially notable for the Partnership: both Environment Chairs in the Senate will not be returning. The number of Environment committees may change in one or both chambers. Also, the House Tax Chair is retiring. The House Minority Lead on Taxes is a coauthor of our SCORE bill. The Senate Energy Chair is retiring and he was a major ally on WTE concerns.

We expect many more challenges than opportunities in 2023, possibly due to shifts in majority parties. The Partnership's interests have historically seen our greatest challenges following midterm elections of a new president (2011 – inverse condemnation, 2019 – WTE, 2023 – ??). The Partnership expects to advocate EPR legislation, but there is a competing bill already introduced and the make-up of the legislature will be a factor.

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	October 27, 2022	AGENDA ITEM:	4.a
SUBJECT:	2023 Proposed Budget		
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff		

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the 2023 Partnership on Waste and Energy budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Section 5.2.4. of the Joint Powers Agreement that creates the Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) provides direction on an annual budget:

- 5.2.4. The Governing Board shall develop and approve an annual budget (for the calendar year January 1 to December 31) at its first official meeting, and at a fall meeting in subsequent years.
- 5.2.4.1. The budget shall specify contributions by the Parties, which shall be allocated in equal parts to the Parties.
- 5.2.4.2. The Parties shall make their contributions to the Administrative Agent by February 28 of each year.

Staff have prepared a 2023 budget for board members to review and discuss. The proposed budget does include an increase in PWE member contributions to advance the proposed efforts in the 2023 budget.

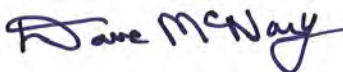

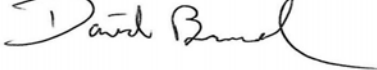


ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. Proposed 2023 Partnership Budget

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Upon final approval, the financial implications will be explicit in the approved budgets.

SUBJECT: 2023 Proposed Budget

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
Hennepin County		9/8/22
Recycling & Energy		9/8/22
		9/9/22
Washington County Attorney		9/9/22
Approved as to form: Ramsey County Attorney		9/9/22



**Resolution PWE-2022-04
2023 Budget**

WHEREAS, The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA”) between the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board (“R&E Board”) and Hennepin County for a Partnership on Waste and Energy Issues (“Partnership”) in section 5.2.4 directs the Governing Board of the Partnership to develop an annual budget; and

WHEREAS, The JPA further specifies that the Partnership budget shall specify contributions by the Parties, which shall be allocated in equal parts to the Parties; and

WHEREAS, Staff has presented the attached proposed 2023 Partnership Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Governing Board hereby approves the 2023 Partnership Budget.

Chair, Governing Board
October 27, 2022

Attest, Vice Chair
October 27, 2022

2023 Partnership on Waste and Energy Budget

	2022 Approved Budget	2023 Proposed Budget
APPROPRIATIONS:		
Staffing and Administration		
Planning Staff	9,600	9,900
Accounting Manager	6,900	7,200
Contract Manager	5,200	5,400
Communications Staff	5,000	5,200
Total Staffing and Administration	26,700	27,700
Contracts		
Insurance, MCIT	1,407	1,600
Platform and Annual Report Design	10,000	10,000
Lobby Contract - Waste	50,000	75,000
Lobby Contract - Energy	25,000	25,000
Anaerobic Digestion	25,000	-
Wood Waste Management	48,000	25,000
Product Stewardship	57,000	8,000
Legislation Tracking Contract	6,000	6,000
Zero Waste Challenges	-	14,000
Contingency Funds	-	25,000
Total Contracts	222,407	189,600
Total Appropriations	249,107	217,300
REVENUE:		
Carryover Funds	82,607	15,000
Recycling and Energy Board	83,250	101,150
Hennepin County	83,250	101,150
Total Revenue	249,107	217,300

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	October 27, 2022		AGENDA ITEM:	4.b	
SUBJECT:	Selection of Waste Lobbying Services Provider				
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff				

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. as the selected vendor for waste lobbying services.
2. Authorize Partnership leadership staff to execute the agreement with Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. for waste lobbying services, and any amendments or change orders thereto within the project budget and upon approval as to form by the county attorney, with a term of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, with a maximum not to exceed of \$234,000, with the possibility of one two-year renewal for an additional maximum not to exceed of \$171,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Section 5.1.1. of the Joint Powers Agreement states that the Partnership has the responsibility to “develop a legislative and policy platform, and to select the contract lobbyists for waste management and energy.” With the current contract for waste lobbying services expiring December 31, 2022, a request for proposals (RFP) was issued on August 1, 2022. Two responses were received. A five-member evaluation team that included staff from the three Partnership counties reviewed the proposals using the criteria outlined in the RFP. The evaluation team recommends that Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. be awarded the contract for waste lobbying services.

Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. has a great deal of experience and expertise working on solid waste policy, and the firm has a clear and detailed understanding of the Partnership’s positions and member counties’ interests on waste management issues. Capitol Hill Associates held the previous contract with the Partnership for waste lobbying services and was the contract lobbyist for the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board.

If approved, Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. will represent the Partnership for an initial term of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, with the possibility of one two-year renewal. The cost breakdown is as follows:

- 2023: \$75,000
- 2024: \$78,000
- 2025: \$81,000

If renewed:

- 2026: \$84,000
- 2027: \$87,000

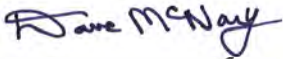

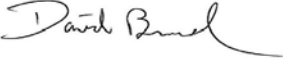


SUBJECT: *Selection of Waste Lobbying Services Provider*

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding for waste lobbying services is included in the approved Partnership budgets.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
Hennepin County		9/6/22
Recycling & Energy	 	9/6/22
Washington County Attorney		9/6/22
Approved as to form: Ramsey County Attorney		9/6/22

Resolution PWE-2022-05
Selection of Waste Lobbying Services Provider

WHEREAS, The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA”) of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) between the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board (“R&E”) and Hennepin County dated December 1, 2017 directs the Governing Board of the Partnership to develop an annual budget; and

WHEREAS, The JPA further specifies that the Governing Board may negotiate, enter and enforce contracts necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in the JPA; and

WHEREAS, The JPA identifies R&E as the Administrative Agent for the Partnership, and that its procurement guidelines will be used for Partnership procurement; and

WHEREAS, The JPA further charges the Governing Board to develop a legislative and policy platform, and to select the contract lobbyists for waste management and energy; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the R&E Board’s Procurement Guidelines, a request for proposals (“RFP”) was issued, and responses to that RFP were reviewed by an evaluation team consisting of staff from the three member counties and according to the criteria in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends that the Governing Board select Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. as the Partnership’s Waste Lobbyist; and

WHEREAS, Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. has a great deal of experience and expertise working on solid waste policy, and the firm has a clear and detailed understanding of the Partnership’s positions and member counties’ interests on waste management issues. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Governing Board hereby approves Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. as the selected vendor for waste lobbying services; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, The Governing Board hereby authorizes Partnership leadership staff to execute the agreement with Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. for waste lobbying services, and any amendments or change orders thereto within the project budget and upon approval as to form by the county attorney, with a term of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, with a maximum not to exceed of \$234,000, with the possibility of one two-year renewal for an additional maximum not to exceed of \$171,000.

Chair, Governing Board
October 27, 2022

Attest, Vice Chair
October 27, 2022

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	October 27, 2022	AGENDA ITEM:	5
SUBJECT:	Updates and Reports		
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLICY DISCUSSION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff		

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

For Information only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

2023 Legislative Session

The 2023 Legislative Session will convene on January 3, 2023. At the October 27, 2022, meeting, staff will review the development of recent Partnership platforms and the one-page policy position statements that support them. Staff will also review the upcoming process for developing the 2023 platform and present a look ahead at potential 2023 legislative considerations and other influences on platform development. The November election results will provide more clarity on the legislative landscape in 2023 and the most effective direction for a 2023 platform. The Governing Board will be requested to review and approve a draft 2023 platform at its December 14, 2022, meeting.

Metro County Collaboration

The Partnership on Waste and Energy works on several topics and issues that have shared interest across the metropolitan area. As a part of the Partnership's efforts, staff have facilitated opportunities for information sharing with the four other metro counties' solid waste staff. One of these efforts is to host a biennial meeting of metro county solid waste and recycling managers and their staff to discuss timely topics and learn about each other's progress and plans in areas such as solid waste planning, wood waste management, annual MPCA SCORE and certification reporting, organics management and public policy. Staff will provide an update on this work.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2022 Legislative Platform
2. PWE Policy Position Statements

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

SUBJECT: *Updates and Reports*

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	DATE
Hennepin County	9/13/2022
Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy	9/13/2022

Dave McNay

Michael Reed

David Buehl



A collaboration between Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties

Partnership on Waste and Energy 2022 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

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PARTNERSHIP ON
WASTE & ENERGY
Hennepin | Ramsey | Washington



Partnership on Waste and Energy

State Funding Is Needed to Achieve State Waste Goals

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.

State solid waste financing must be robust and designed to achieve positive environmental and public health outcomes. Ambitious state policies require additional state financial resources that allow local government to successfully carry out statutory responsibilities. It is critical that state tax and finance policies distribute financial resources in alignment with state policy goals.

Progress on state mandates requires modifying and expanding state tax and finance policies

Policies and incentives can be structured to build stronger and more resilient partnerships among state and local governments. These partnerships are needed to create a circular economy that keeps materials in use instead of putting them into landfills, and that better protects public health and the environment.

- **Reform Solid Waste Management Tax Allocations:** All revenues from the Solid Waste Management Tax imposed on waste services should be used for waste management activities, such as SCORE funding.
- **Increase SCORE funding:** Funding for SCORE recycling grants must rise to the level of investment needed to meet state recycling goals and respond to the challenging trend of rising solid waste volumes.
- **Incentivize Landfill Diversion:** Tools such as state incentives, credits or tax rebates are needed to encourage and reward waste processing and other strategies that keep resources out of landfills.
- **Enact More Effective Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility:** Require product producers to reduce the financial burden and liabilities imposed on local government and taxpayers to manage products, some of which are toxic, hazardous or difficult to recycle.

Future successes require state and local financing partnerships

Sustainable financing approaches are needed to create solid waste, resource management and energy systems that support synergy among multiple state policy objectives, promote the highest and best use of materials and significantly mitigate impacts on the environment, public health and the climate.

State financing and agency partnerships are needed to encourage forward-looking solutions to ever-changing waste challenges. The state must scale up its own financial support and more strongly leverage local government and private investment to reduce, reuse and recycle waste and take advantage of emerging technologies that recover materials, energy and biofuels from waste.

Contact for More Information

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Partnership on Waste and Energy

State Action Needed to Expand Recycling Markets

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.

Ambitious state recycling goals will not be met without strong demand for recyclable materials and the products made from them. Robust recycling markets keep useful materials out of landfills and available for companies to make new products. Recycling stimulates the state's economy, creates jobs and saves energy and resources. Stronger state action is needed to generate innovation, expand markets and strengthen demand for products made from recycled materials.

State leadership and investment is needed to expand recycling markets

Minnesota's legislature set recycling goals in state law and has a history of investment in partnerships to build a strong marketplace for recyclables, but other states do more. State recycling goals may not be achievable without a multifaceted approach by the state to expand the use of recyclable materials. Creating new and innovative partnerships with businesses, research institutions and local governments to capture more materials, make new products and divert valuable resources from landfills requires state action in four key areas.

- **Increase Investment in Recycling Market Infrastructure:** Recycling facilities need to update and expand their capacity to process and prepare more materials for industry to use in manufacturing. State policy must provide additional tools and resources to leverage investments in local recycling economies and help industries innovate and grow in Minnesota. These investments provide stability and growth opportunities for our communities' recycling programs.
- **Improve Local Collection Outcomes:** Even with successful curbside and business recycling programs, valuable resources are still ending up in the trash. Increased funding and policy changes that lead to more comprehensive, convenient and consistent collection programs across the state will result in more resources being collected for industry to recycle into new products.
- **Strengthen Demand for Recycled Products:** Recycling will fail and quality resources will end up in landfills if recyclables are not used to make new products, and no one buys those products. State policy should encourage producers to use more recyclables in manufacturing, strengthen government commitments to buy products with recycled content and stimulate consumer demand.
- **Develop Approaches for Innovative, Unique Markets:** Emerging markets and technologies must be welcomed to manage materials beyond those historically collected in recycling programs, such as organics or hard-to-recycle plastics. State policy should encourage innovative technology solutions that deliver environmental and economic benefits, assure recycling capacity to meet state goals and support the marketplace in overcoming regulatory and financial hurdles.

Contact for More Information

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Partnership on Waste and Energy

A Circular Economy Reduces Waste and Keeps Materials in Use

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.

The circular economy extends the life of resources and materials - using them to their greatest potential. Our current economic model is linear – materials are used to create products which are disposed of when no longer wanted. In a circular economy, the emphasis is on designing waste and pollution out of the system and on keeping products and materials in use to continue serving the economy. To maintain recycling leadership, Minnesota needs to join other states in advancing circular economy policies.



Ending waste begins with reducing what is generated

Policies that support reuse systems, emphasize design requirements and prevent wasted food will have the greatest impact in reducing waste, health risks and greenhouse gases.

- Research suggests that doubling the useful life of clothing, household furnishings and supplies through repair is equivalent to increasing vehicle efficiency by 15% or reducing greenhouse gas emissions by an equivalent of 2.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).¹
- The USDA estimates over 1/3 all available food is lost or wasted.² ReFED estimates this contributes 4% to US total greenhouse gas emissions.³
- In a circular economy, materials that do not adversely affect human and environmental health are preferred. Policies that reduce or eliminate toxic materials result in safer products that can be more easily recycled into new products or returned to the soil through composting.

¹ www.pca.state.mn.us/air/consumption-related-emissions

² www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste

³ www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/prevention-wasted-food

Value waste as a resource, not a problem to manage

Unwanted materials should not be considered a waste, but a resource to be preserved for future use.

- Investments in reuse and recycling infrastructure are needed to prevent otherwise unwanted materials from ending up in the trash. Based on 2021 commodity data, more than \$50 million of potential revenue from recyclable materials is lost to the waste stream in PWE counties each year.
- Policies supporting education for the community, placing more responsibility on product producers and funding better material recovery allows for the byproducts of everyday life to be repurposed in meaningful ways.

Contact for More Information

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Partnership on Waste and Energy

Increase SCORE funding to meet challenging recycling goals

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.

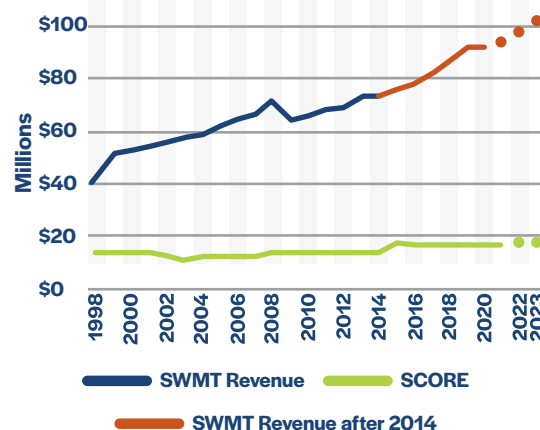
Minnesota law requires counties to implement recycling programs to achieve state recycling goals, including recycling 75% of metro waste by 2030. Counties need greater state investment in SCORE grants to meet today's more complicated solid waste challenges, achieve increasingly difficult recycling goals and keep valuable materials out of landfills.

Allocation to SCORE grants has not kept pace with state recycling goals

The state raised the metro recycling goal from 50% to 75% in 2014 without addressing the funding needed to achieve it. While revenues from the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) have been increasing, little of that increase has been used to fund SCORE.

- A shrinking percentage of SWMT revenues is used for SCORE grants, much less than the 30% of revenues diverted to the state's general fund.
- The PWE counties spend three times more on waste prevention and recycling than they receive in state SCORE grants.

SWMT Revenue & SCORE Funding Since 1998



Investments in waste prevention, reuse and recycling are needed now

Significant forward-looking investments are needed for waste prevention, reuse and recycling infrastructure to push beyond our current wins and onto new challenges. Current SCORE allocations are insufficient to make these capital- and operationally-intensive investments.

- Minnesota has spent \$400 million so far on cleaning up landfills. We need to prioritize resources to keep materials out of landfills through prevention, reuse and recycling.
- Even with currently high recycling rates, the market value of materials lost to the waste stream in the PWE counties is estimated to be more than \$50 million per year. Strategic investments in recycling infrastructure and programs can put these materials to work for Minnesota's economy and jobs.
- Organics recycling is the biggest opportunity to avoid landfilling. It will not happen without significant expansion of collection and processing infrastructure and extensive educational efforts.
- Waste reduction and reuse offer the best environmental payoffs. County successes with current efforts such as Fix-It Clinics are only a start—bigger impacts will take more resources.

Contact for More Information

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Partnership on Waste and Energy

Waste-to-Energy recovers resources and prevents methane emissions

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.

Processing waste to recover energy and resources is preferred over landfilling in federal and state law. Studies comparing landfilling to waste-to-energy find that processing waste reduces the exposure of pollution to our residents and environment. While we work towards a circular economy where waste is designed out of the system, waste-to-energy is an important part of an integrated solid waste management system.

Renewable waste-to-energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions from waste

Communities that rely on waste-to-energy are partners in the fight against climate change and understand their important role in protecting the state's land, air, water and public health. The Environmental Protection Agency and twenty-three states, including Minnesota, recognize waste-to-energy as a renewable energy because it recovers energy from a consistent byproduct of our daily lives.

- Processing waste provides a second chance to recover recyclables not captured by curbside recycling. Over 25,000 tons of metal are recycled each year from the Recycling & Energy Center in Washington County and the Hennepin Energy Resource Center. Since recycling steel requires 60% less energy than producing steel from iron ore, this reduces 45,800 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Every ton of trash processed by waste-to-energy generates 30 times less greenhouse gases than a ton of trash put into a landfill. Decomposing garbage in landfills produces methane, a greenhouse gas at least 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.¹

¹Waste Reduction Model (WARM) | US EPA One ton of MSW landfilled generates 0.31 MTCO₂E compared to one ton of MSW combusted generates 0.01 MTCO₂E.

Waste-to-energy is preferred over landfilling trash

Until we no longer create waste, local authority must be preserved to manage waste as directed by Minnesota's waste management hierarchy. Waste-to-energy creates value from today's discarded resources instead of storing them in landfills at the expense of future generations.

- Without waste-to-energy, our three counties would send 675,000 tons of trash to landfills each year. This would use up all the additional landfill capacity the state recently approved at 4 metro area landfills in about 8 years.
- Waste in landfills poses perpetual environmental and health risks, including risks to groundwater. Landfilling may seem cheaper in the short-run, but managing these risks and paying for the consequences costs more in the long-run. Minnesota has already spent over \$400 million cleaning up landfills.
- Waste-to-energy prevents wasteful landfilling by reducing waste volume 90%, leaving 10% as ash.
- Waste-to-energy is more efficient at recovering energy than landfill gas capture. A ton of processed trash creates enough electricity to run a house for 21 days, compared to only 3 days for landfill gas from a ton of decomposing trash.²

²Is It Better To Burn or Bury Waste for Clean Electricity Generation? | Environmental Science & Technology (acs.org)

Contact for More Information

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Partnership on Waste and Energy

State Support Needed to Fight Emerald Ash Borer and Manage Wood Waste

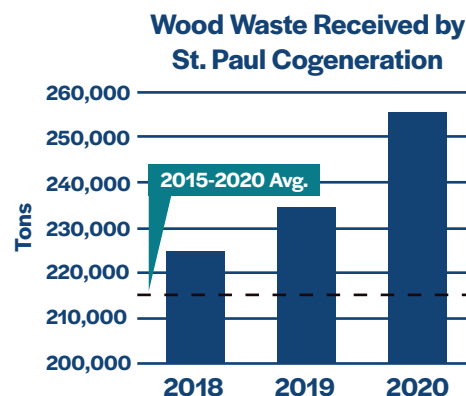
The Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

Local governments statewide face unfunded mandates to respond to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the growing volume of wood waste. State financial and policy support must scale up to meet this challenge. Additional state help is needed to maintain the St. Paul Cogeneration facility as a biomass energy solution for wood waste. State action is necessary now to slow the spread of EAB and develop additional options for the best uses of diseased trees.

Wood waste from EAB is growing beyond current management capacity

We are entering the peak phase of ash tree loss in the seven-county metro area this decade, requiring the management and disposal of more than 1.67 million tons of wood waste. EAB has infested trees in 30 Minnesota counties, and more will follow. The Legislature acted in 2021 to approve a two-year extension, through 2024, for producing biomass energy from wood waste at the St. Paul Cogeneration facility. That was an important first step.

- Nearly 3 million community ash trees in the state—one in five—are threatened by EAB.
- Landfilling, stockpiling and open burning are not viable options. We cannot repeat the mistakes of the past response to Dutch elm disease.
- New markets must be developed for products derived from harvestable ash trees to prevent wood waste and avoid saturating current wood-use markets.
- Additional solutions must be developed to handle volumes of wood waste that exceed capacity of the St. Paul Cogeneration facility.



Local governments need state partnership to succeed

The cost of the EAB response will continue to grow in the coming years. Sustainable funding is needed to slow the spread and ensure the highest and best use of diseased trees, consistent with the waste management hierarchy.

- Communities need statewide solutions now, before wood waste outstrips available management capacity.
- State resources are critical as local governments are not prepared for or able to bear the full cost of tree removal, replacement, and wood waste management, estimated to be approximately \$1,000 per tree and growing.
- The state must lead a coordinated approach now to develop a strategic, sound, and lasting wood waste management infrastructure like there is for other kinds of waste.

Contact for More Information

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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

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