

MEETING NOTICE
PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD

Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Time: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Commissioners, Key staff, Presenters:

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

Public: Members of the public are encouraged to attend remotely or may attend at the Maplewood address.
[Microsoft TEAMS](#) | Phone Conference ID: 914 648 317# | Call in (audio only): +1-323-792-6297

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---|-------------|---------|
| 1. Call to Order, Introductions, Commissioner Roll Call | | |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | Action | Page 1 |
| 3. Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2022 | Action | Page 2 |
| 4. Business | | |
| a. 2023 State Legislative Platform | Action | Page 5 |
| b. 2023 Board Meeting Schedule | Action | Page 9 |
| 5. Updates and Reports | | |
| a. Wood Waste Study Report | Information | Page 13 |
| 6. Other | | |
| 7. Adjourn | | |

NEXT MEETING

Pending 2023 meeting schedule approval:

January 19, 2023 | 1:00-2:30 p.m. | Ramsey County Environmental Health, Maplewood

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022
PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD

A meeting of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2022. Commissioners and staff participants met at the Ramsey County Environmental Health Office, 2785 White Bear Avenue North, Maplewood, Minnesota. Other participants and members of the public joined remotely.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ATTENDING AT RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, MAPLEWOOD

Mallory Anderson, Leigh Behrens, Dave Brummel, Max Dalton, Dan Donkers, Rae Eden Frank, Dave McNary, Jim Redmond, Michael Reed, Sam Richie, John Ristad, Bob Roche, Mindy Stepnick, Jody Tharp, Darren Tobolt, Britta Torkelson, Jeff Travis, Kris Wehlage

ATTENDING REMOTELY

Alison Cameron, Tutu Fatukasi, Tabatha Hansen, Sam Hanson, Filsan Ibrahim, Ryan O’Gara, Uriel Rosales Tlatenchi, Peder Sandhei, Anna Schmiel, Ryan Tritz, Rob Vanasek, Joua Yang

CALL TO ORDER AND COMMISSIONER ROLL CALL

Chair Miron called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Introductions of attendees in Maplewood were made.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt

Nays: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Goettel, to approve the minutes of May 26, 2022.

Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt

Nays: None

BUSINESS

2023 Proposed Budget

Dave McNary, Hennepin County and PWE Lead Staff, presented an overview of the proposed budget. 2023 carryover and overall expenditures will be less than in 2022. With reduced carryover, it is requested that both the R&E Board and Hennepin County dues increase by \$17,900 to \$101,150. This is PWE’s fifth budget and the first request for increased dues.

Commissioner Miron said that at the May meeting, a grant request was presented by Wood from the Hood. He inquired where that request fit into the 2022 budget and whether it has been incorporated into the 2023 budget. McNary said staff had a discussion following the May meeting on whether to move forward with grants, and a decision was made not to continue. The 2022 funds were under wood waste management and were not incorporated into the 2023 budget.

Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Goettel, to approve Resolution PWE-2022-04, 2023 Budget. The PWE Board:

- Approves the 2023 Partnership Budget.

Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt

Nays: None

Selection of Waste Lobbying Services Provider

Michael Reed, R&E Joint Leadership Team (JLT) and PWE Lead Staff, shared that PWE has two contracts for lobbying services for solid waste and for energy issues. The waste lobbying contract expires December 31, 2022, and a request for proposals (RFP) was issued August 1, 2022. The two RFP responses received were evaluated by a team of staff across the Partnership, with a recommendation to award the contract to Capitol Hill Associates.

Commissioner Goettel moved, seconded by Reinhardt, to approve Resolution PWE-2022-05, Selection of Waste Lobbying Services Provider. The PWE Board:

- Approves Capitol Hill Associates, Inc. as the selected vendor for waste lobbying services.
- 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.

Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt

Nays: None

UPDATES AND REPORTS

2023 Legislative Session

Dave McNary shared that in 2021, the PWE legislative platform was redesigned to be broader in order to take a higher-level approach. That platform was re-approved by the board in 2022. McNary expressed PWE's disappointment over the lack of results from the 2022 session, which concluded in May 2022. The November election could change the legislative body makeup. PWE's lobbyists and PWE staff, Max Dalton, Mallory Anderson and Dan Donkers, will meet shortly after the elections to evaluate the effect on PWE's work. A key concern is who the chair of the committees will be, and an important effort will be in communicating PWE's message, which will be done through the platform and fact sheets. PWE Lead Staff will bring the 2023 platform to the board for approval in December.

Commissioner Goettel said that all three counties are working on their legislative platforms, and Hennepin County's platform specifically supports the PWE legislative platform. The only thing Hennepin pulled was around electronic waste because there was no movement; however, Hennepin is in support of PWE's electronic waste platform.

Commissioner Reinhardt mentioned that the issue of permitting an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility was discussed by the R&E Board. This is the first time the MPCA will be permitting this type of facility in Minnesota. The R&E Board discussed whether there is something PWE could lobby for to help streamline the permitting process.

McNary said Hennepin County had just passed the first contract to move forward with AD. They hope to bring something to the County Board in the second quarter of 2023 and then to MPCA for permitting. They have had discussions with MPCA over the past couple of years to understand how long this could take, as well as hurdles such as air quality, water quality and solid waste permitting. The key takeaway was that how the facility is designed will dictate how long it takes on the permitting side.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked whether MPCA suggested any legislative changes to reduce permitting time. McNary said they did not but feels it would be beneficial to return to them to ask if something should change in the PWE platform. It's important to move this forward in collaboration with the State related to their waste reduction goals.

Metro County Collaboration Update

Michael Reed shared that PWE staff hold biennial meetings with other metro counties to collaborate on common solid waste challenges, provide a platform for networking, provide updates, coordinate on reporting and understand program priorities. Meeting topics have included solid waste planning, wood waste management, annual MPCA certification and reporting, organics management, household hazardous waste, public policy, and understanding the current and future facility capacities. The ability to bring staff experts and sector leaders together strengthens our organizations individually and collectively.

While Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties work together through PWE, other counties are working with individual lobbyists or through Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA). PWE staff review the platforms of other counties and SWAA, as well as the Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRRA), Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) to assess areas of alignment.

ADJOURN

Chair Miron called the meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

ATTESTED TO:

Approved: _____
Commissioner Fran Miron, Chair
December 14, 2022

Approved: _____
December 14, 2022

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	December 14, 2022		AGENDA ITEM:	4.a	
SUBJECT:	2023 State Legislative Platform				
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership on Waste and Energy Lead Staff				

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the 2023 State Legislative Platform.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Section 5.1.1 of the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) between the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board and Hennepin County, dated December 1, 2017, specifies that the Governing Board shall develop a legislative and policy platform.

The 2023 Legislative Session will convene on January 3, 2023. Staff and lobbyists have prepared an updated platform for consideration by the Governing Board based on member input at the October 27, 2022, board meeting. The Partnership's 2023 State Legislative Platform will guide efforts for the 2023 Legislative Session. Issue-specific policy position statements will continue to be created as needed, serving as an extension of the platform's priorities and direction.



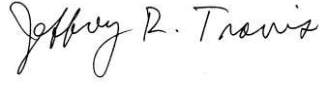


ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. 2023 Draft State Legislative Platform

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

SUBJECT: 2023 State Legislative Platform

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
Hennepin County		11/30/2022
Recycling & Energy		11/30/2022
		11/30/2022
Washington County Attorney		11/30/2022
Approved as to form: Ramsey County Attorney		12/1/2022

Resolution PWE-2022-06
2023 State Legislative Platform

WHEREAS, Section 5.1.1 of 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 specifies that the Governing Board shall develop a legislative and policy platform; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board has discussed legislative and policy issues that are in the interests of the Partnership’s member counties, and it has identified the key issues to be addressed in a platform. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Governing Board hereby approves the 2023 State Legislative Platform.

Chair, Governing Board
December 14, 2022

Attest, Vice Chair
December 14, 2022

2023 State Legislative Platform

Create a more sustainable economy

PWE supports measures to design waste, toxicity, and pollution out of the marketplace and keep products and resources in use for a sustainable, circular economy.

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

Enhance solid waste financing

PWE supports tax and finance policies that create effective incentives and distribute resources in alignment with policy goals.

PWE supports robust funding for local government to carry out statutory responsibilities.

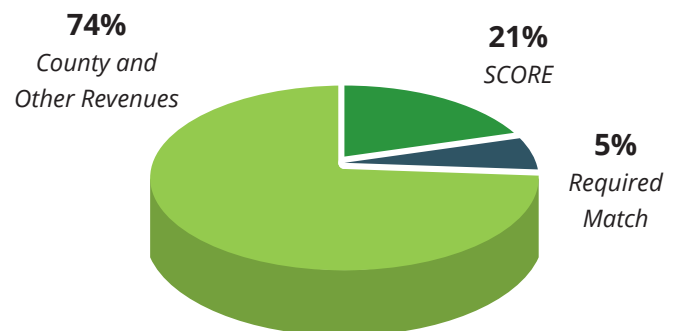
Build on Waste Management Act goals

PWE supports policies that align energy and materials management strategies and reach beyond current public health and environmental goals.

PWE supports forward-looking policy and regulatory design to encourage emerging technologies and support new markets for waste.

PWE supports stronger, innovative, and more resilient collaboration among state and local governments to maximize the benefits of waste, resource and energy initiatives.

County Recycling Spending and SCORE Grants, 2020



State grants cover only 1/5 of county spending for recycling.

Need more information?

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The Partnership on Waste and Energy—a collaboration between Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties—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.

PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATE:	December 14, 2022		AGENDA ITEM:	4.b	
SUBJECT:	2023 Board Meeting Schedule				
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership on Waste and Energy Lead Staff				

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the 2023 meeting schedule.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement dated December 1, 2017, Section 5.3.1 states the following related to Governing Board meetings:

The Board shall meet a minimum of three times a year, including an organizational meeting in January, a meeting following the legislative session, and a meeting in the fall to set the next year's legislative platform.

The attached schedule identifies dates and times for the known board meetings. The January, June and September's meetings are scheduled to be held at the office of Ramsey County Environmental Health in Maplewood, and the meeting in December is scheduled be held at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) in Minneapolis.

It is possible that meetings may be canceled or moved, but commissioners will be asked to schedule these dates onto their calendars for 2023.

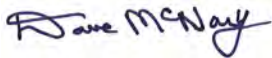
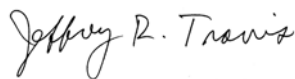



ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. 2023 Board Meeting Schedule

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

SUBJECT: 2023 PWE Board Meeting Schedule

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
Hennepin County		11/21/22
Recycling & Energy	 	
Washington County Attorney		11/22/22
Approved as to form:		
Ramsey County Attorney		11/22/22



RESOLUTION PWE-2022-07
2023 Board Meeting Schedule

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

WHEREAS, Section 5.3.1. of the JPA specifies that the Governing Board shall meet a minimum of three times per year, including an organizational meeting in January, a meeting following the legislative session, and a meeting in the fall to set the next year’s legislative platform. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Governing Board hereby approves the 2023 meeting schedule. BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, The January, June and September meetings are scheduled to be held at the office of Ramsey County Environmental Health in Maplewood, and the meeting in December is scheduled be held at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) in Minneapolis.

Chair, Governing Board
December 14, 2022

Attest, Vice Chair
December 14, 2022

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 19

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Ramsey County Environmental Health – Maplewood

Thursday, June 15

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Ramsey County Environmental Health – Maplewood

Thursday, September 21

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Ramsey County Environmental Health – Maplewood

Thursday, December 7

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) – Minneapolis

Ramsey County Environmental Health

2nd Floor Conference Room

2785 White Bear Ave. N. | Suite 350 | Maplewood, MN 55109

Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC)

505 N. 6th Ave. | Minneapolis, MN 55405

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:		December 14, 2022			AGENDA ITEM:		5.a		
SUBJECT:		Wood Waste Study Report							
TYPE OF ITEM:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION		<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION		<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:		Partnership on Waste and Energy Lead Staff							

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) has been actively monitoring the increasing amount of wood waste from trees infected with emerald ash borer (EAB) for the past several years. Local governments statewide face unfunded mandates to respond to EAB and the growing volume of wood waste. The seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area (metro) is expected to enter the peak phase of ash tree loss during this decade, requiring the management and disposal of more than 1.67 million tons of wood waste. Roughly two-thirds of this wood waste is processed as bioenergy at District Energy's St. Paul Cogeneration facility, but inflationary pressures and the anticipated end of a power purchase agreement in 2024 may prohibit maintaining current processing volumes. For the Partnership to effectively address this, more information is needed on the full wood waste management system in the metro, specifically within Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties.

As a part of its 2022 budget, the board approved funding for wood waste market development. Part of that line item was used to procure a professional consultant to assess current wood waste flows within the EAB tree removal and wood waste disposal industries. In June 2022, the Partnership released a request for proposals (RFP) for a vendor to conduct a wood waste flow study. Four firms responded to the RFP, and Cambium Carbon was awarded the contract. The study gathered information from more than 30 individuals and organizations (stakeholders) involved in wood waste management in the metro. That information was combined with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency facility reports to create a diagram of current wood waste flows. The interviews also resulted in the development of costs scenarios across Partnership counties if all county wood waste required paying tipping fees. Minnesota Department of Agriculture information was used to project the maximum generation of EAB wood waste, and those quantities were applied to the metro management system. Cambium Carbon delivered the final report to Partnership staff in November.

The report quantifies the potential impact of EAB-generated wood waste on the current management system and other private and government stakeholders. The report also provides recommendations for wood waste management in the near future, anticipating over half a million tons of wood waste generated annually between 2028 and 2029, during the projected peak of ash tree removals resulting from EAB.

The report emphasizes continued support of existing regional infrastructure, namely District Energy's St. Paul Cogeneration facility, which currently processes about two-thirds of the wood waste in the metro. The report states that without St. Paul Cogeneration/Environmental Wood Supply's processing capacity, it is impossible to absorb current material volumes through other existing channels. Koda Energy is another significant wood waste-to-energy processing facility in the metro area with the potential to manage a

SUBJECT: Wood Waste Study Report

significant quantity of wood waste per year if proper sizing and drying specifications are met. Cambium Carbon recommends the Partnership explore Koda Energy's potential to expand capacity for wood waste at their facility.

Other recommendations include leveraging Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Bioincentive Program to aid in expanding wood waste utilization options, such as biochar and lumber production. There are additional recommendations included in the report. The findings will help inform the Partnership and others on the issues and potential management solutions for wood waste in the metro area.

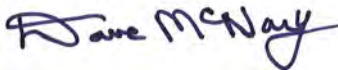

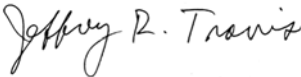
At the December 14, 2022 board meeting, staff from Cambium Carbon will provide a presentation summarizing the report and its findings.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Cambium Carbon report executive summary

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
Hennepin County		12/1/2022
Recycling & Energy		12/2/2022
		12/3/2022



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TWIN CITIES METRO AREA EMERALD ASH BORER WOOD WASTE STUDY

OCTOBER 2022

PREPARED FOR:



PREPARED BY:



Executive Summary

The goal of this assessment is to provide an opportunity analysis for alternative and higher-use of wood waste for the Twin Cities metropolitan area. This report, prepared for the Partnership on Waste & Energy, seeks to effectively manage an increasing amount of Emerald Ash Borer driven waste, specifically within Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties.

Current projections suggest that by 2028, a peak in ash tree removals will see more than half a million tons of wood waste processed within the Twin Cities metro area annually. At present, roughly two-thirds of wood waste is processed for use as bioenergy at District Energy's St. Paul Cogeneration facility, yet inflationary pressures, coupled with the anticipated end of a power purchase agreement in 2024, may prohibit maintaining current processing volumes. With a saturated mulch market, and less than 1% of wood waste salvaged as urban lumber, opportunities exist to seek higher impact alternative uses for wood.

With more than **400,000 tons of wood waste** flowing through the Twin Cities system, how wood biomass is managed has a significant implication for associated social, economic, and environmental impacts.

Based on more than 30 stakeholder interviews and an assessment of available wood waste data, this report outlines the following recommendations:

- **Support existing regional infrastructure including high-volume biomass energy plants and composting facilities.** St. Paul Cogeneration, Koda Energy, and SMSC Organics have the collective potential to process 365,000 tons of wood waste annually. To mitigate shocks to the wood waste system, particularly with waste volumes still rising, it is imperative to continue to enable these high-volume disposal options. Avenues to support these facilities include: extending the MDA [AGRI Bioincentive Program](#), using DNR EAB grants to subsidize ash wood use at combined heat and power plants, leasing alternative wood yards to large biomass facilities in need of capacity, and supporting state agencies in the timely issuance of required permits.
- **Expand wood utilization in lumber products via the AGRI Bioincentive Program and other policy levers.** Incentives should be positioned to enable milling operations (traditional and engineered products) and other torrefaction (e.g. biochar) or thermally-modified businesses to expand wood utilization efforts. Some examples to encourage adoption of urban lumber use are: amending and expanding the AGRI Bioincentive Program, developing new policies such as local procurement specifications, and subsidizing the use of urban lumber in place of traditional lumber.
- **Increase regulation of open burning of wood waste.** Concerns were expressed that a lack of processing capacity may result in open burning of wood as a way for tree care companies to dispose of unwanted debris. Currently, the Twin Cities metro area is exempt from burn permit reporting via the DNR statewide system. To mitigate concerns

of the growth of open burning as a disposal mechanism, it is recommended that PWE work with the DNR to improve and consolidate data collection requirements.

- **Begin programs that support small businesses.** The tree care industry is the primary source of wood waste generation in the metro area. Availability of infrastructure and equipment, coupled with operations and labor costs contribute to the companies' ability to transport, process, and determine utilization of biomass. In order to maintain the resilience of a system squeezed by shrinking margins and physical yard capacity, PWE might consider providing grants or equipment loans to avoid pushing out small players.
- **Establish additional city and/or county log collection yard with milling capacity.** The development of a centrally-located sort yard for wood waste offers the opportunity to improve aggregation and economies of scale toward log salvage and lumber production. Ramsey or Washington counties may be suited to institute a log salvage program within existing and future yard waste sites. To further determine specific commercial viability at a county or city level, an in-depth assessment is recommended.
- **Implement reporting requirements for wood waste processing and tree removals for public and private organizations managing woody biomass.** Monitoring tree loss and implementing uniform wood waste data collection practices can enable salvage efforts and inform on management strategies for utilization. It is recommended that PWE work closely with the MPCA to inform new wood waste reporting practices. Additionally, an initial assessment should be conducted to determine size, species, and condition of the removed trees to generate a clearer reflection of potential benefits.
- **Define clear roles and responsibilities at both county and state levels for agencies to play a more active role in wood waste management.** Agencies have developed various programs and resources aimed at understanding, educating, and slowing the spread of EAB in Minnesota. Yet there is no identified singular entity tasked with owning wood waste management, hindering the progress of biomass utilization efforts.
- **Improve education and grow awareness to facilitate increased secondary log use.** Education and advocacy, for both the public and tree care professionals, can be an influential factor in accelerating wood utilization. It is recommended that PWE work with the MDA and DNR to activate education campaigns for arborists to properly cut logs, and public campaigns to help catalyze market growth of urban lumber.