

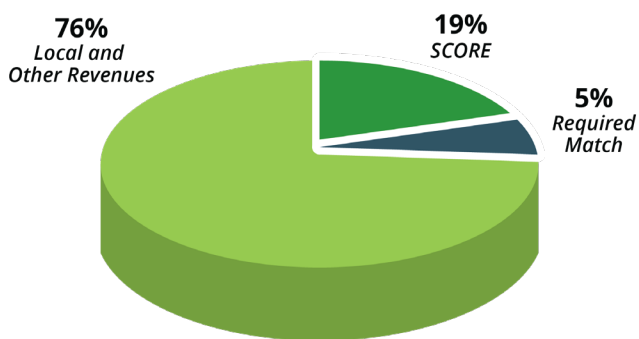
## Increase SCORE funding to meet recycling goals

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.

### SCORE grants have not kept pace with state recycling goals

The state raised the metro recycling goal to 75% without addressing the funding needed to achieve it. Revenues from the Solid Waste Management Tax have increased over time, yet a shrinking percentage of those revenues is used for SCORE grants. At one time 35% of revenues went to SCORE, and now it's less than 20%.

**County Recycling Spending and SCORE Grants, 2021**



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

### Investments in waste reduction, reuse and recycling are needed now

Counties need more SCORE funding to expand programs and support operationally intensive projects and capital investments.

- Minnesota has **spent over \$500 million on landfill cleanup**, with hundreds of millions more needed in the future. The state must prioritize funding for reduction, reuse and recycling to keep waste out of landfills.
- **More than \$50 million worth of recyclables is lost to the waste stream** each year in Partnership counties. Greater investment will allow these materials to contribute to Minnesota's production economy and jobs.
- Organics recycling is the biggest opportunity to avoid landfilling and to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions from waste. **Up to 55% of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills come from burying food waste.** Organics recycling cannot happen without investing in collection, processing capacity and education.
- Waste reduction and reuse deliver the best environmental payoffs. Current efforts such as Fix-It Clinics are only a start—**bigger impacts require more resources.**

### Need more information?

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

**Sam Richie**  
 Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.  
 218-301-9758  
 srichie@fryberger.com



**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.