

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

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024
Time: 2 – 3:30 pm
 Ramsey County Environmental Health | 2785 White Bear Ave. N. | 2nd Floor Conference Room
 Maplewood, Minnesota | [Map](#)
Public: Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely or may attend at the Maplewood address. [Microsoft TEAMS](#) | Phone Conference ID: 696 955 712# | Call in (audio only) +1 323-792-6297

AGENDA

- | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------|
| 1. Call to Order, Introductions | | |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | Action | Page 1 |
| 3. Approval of Minutes of June 6, 2024 | Action | Page 2 |
| 4. Business | | |
| a. Letter of Support | Action | Page 5 |
| b. Legislative Session Preview | Policy Discussion | Page 7 |
| c. 2025 Proposed Budget | Information | Page 9 |
| 5. Updates and Reports | | |
| a. Lead Staff Updates | Information | Page 12 |
| 6. Other | | |
| 7. Adjourn | | |

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 14, 2024 | 2-3:30 p.m. | HERC, Minneapolis

**PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024**

A meeting of the Partnership on Waste and Energy Board (Partnership) was held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2024. 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 remotely.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ATTENDING AT RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, MAPLEWOOD

Mallory Anderson, Leigh Behrens, Max Dalton, Dan Donkers, Melissa Finnegan, Caleb Johnson, Cassie Lefeber, Marcelo Neblett, Matt Phillips, Michael Reed, Sam Richie, John Ristad, Daniel Schmidt, Jody Tharp, Rob Vanasek, Elizabeth Walsh, Caleb Werth

ATTENDING REMOTELY

Daniel Bacehowski, Tammy Christopherson, Amanda Erickson, Sam Ferguson, Leslie Duling McCollam, Tutu Fatukasi, Annalee Garletz, Jamie Giesen, Sam Hanson, Filsan Ibrahim, Kevin Johnson, Jennefer Klennert, Juna Ly, Andrea McKennan, John Springman, Uriel Rosales Tlatenchi

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Reinhardt called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Introductions of attendees in Maplewood were made.

AGENDA OF JUNE 6, 2024 PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL

Motion by Miron, seconded by Goettel. Motion passed.

Aye: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt

Nay: None

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 25, 2024 PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL

Motion by Goettel, seconded by Miron. Motion passed.

Aye: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt

Nay: None

BUSINESS

2024 Budget Status

Matt Phillips, R&E accounting manager, projected that the full amount of the budget will be spent in 2024.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

2023 PWE Annual Report

Leigh Behrens, R&E and Partnership staff, shared an overview of the Partnership 2023 Annual Report, which was released on April 17, 2024. Thanks were given to Partnership staff and leadership, Caleb Werth for project planning, Sam Ferguson for editing and design coordination and Metre for report graphic design.

Caleb Werth, R&E planning specialist, reviewed highlights of the annual report:

- Common goals include actions to address climate change such as legislative work, harnessing innovation in waste and energy sectors, developing next generation technologies and state and county climate planning.
- Product stewardship highlights included drafting the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act bill language (HF 3911/SF3877) which was informed by 2022 committee process and feedback from interested parties, and which requires producers to financially support improvement and expansion of recycling programs.
- The Zero Waste Challenge was a month-long online challenge for residents, with the goal of having residents learn more about wasted food and making better use of food purchased. In 2023, nearly 600 participants across 75 teams completed over 4,800 actions.

Wood Waste Update

Caleb Johnson, Washington County and Partnership lead staff, cited that the budget included \$40k for funding wood waste reduction solutions. A Cambium Carbon agreement was signed and a first meeting upcoming. At the state level, John Klapperich was hired at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to work on wood waste. The group will meet in June and tour St. Paul Cogeneration, which received an air quality permit for burn boxes for biochar; the MPCA continues to work on permitting. Washington County is moving forward with a request for proposals (RFP) to work on moving wood waste higher up the hierarchy.

Legislative Update

Michael Reed, Ramsey County Environmental Health and Partnership lead staff, reviewed the Partnership's priorities going into the 2024 legislative sessions and results at session completion. For the 2025 session, the Partnership will need to take into account the possible shift of control in the House and Senate. Reed shared appreciation and recognition of Partnership staff and lobbyists whose work made the session successful.

Sam Richie, Fryberger Law, reviewed the primary goals for energy-related issues for the 2024 legislative session. Clean transportation legislation made headway, but without the ultimate goal of establishing the standards. Advocates objected to ethanol inclusion as a clean fuel. Opposition from both the liberal wing of the DFL and the GOP affects the ability to get these standards set and funded. The environmental bill provided some funding for tree planting to address emerald ash borer (EAB). There seems to be growing bipartisan support for addressing EAB with removal and planting. The Omnibus bill included \$5 million for Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy's (R&E) anaerobic digester facility. The MPCA will work to reduce permitting times. The Public Utilities Commission will be taking up the issue of use of wood waste/biochar as carbon neutral energy.

Rob Vanasek, Capitol Hill Associates, reviewed the session as it relates to waste issues. 2024 exceeded 2023 in accomplishments. The packaging bill is the biggest win for the state of Minnesota and will bring massive amounts of money into the state with companies wanting to work on this. Minnesota is only the fifth state to pass packaging legislation. There was much support after the bill passed from lobby groups who had opposed the bill. It is anticipated that the bill will be challenged over the next few years, including attempts to have it repealed.

Vanasek shared that this was a groundbreaking, historic win; the biggest in 40 years. He recognized Mallory Anderson's work over the course of the session. He recognized all of the individuals, legislators, organizations and MPCA who were critical to and instrumental in getting this through. He recognized the

work of Dan Donkers, Ramsey County and Partnership staff, who stepped in during Anderson's leave of absence last year.

Other items which were passed included boat wrap product stewardship, a ban on mercury in lighting and a multi-family compost grant program. Many items were not successful; there were challenges to the waste hierarchy, changes to waste-to-energy, SCORE funding did not make it into the omnibus bill, the beverage bill was tabled and never heard in the Senate and many other items that did not make it through the session.

Mallory Anderson, Hennepin County and Partnership staff, reviewed the progression of the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act through the House and Senate to reach Governor Walz's desk for signing on May 19, 2024. The goals of the legislation were achieved. Anderson reviewed the specifics of what was included in the bill and pointed out similarities and differences in legislation passed in Maine, Oregon, Colorado and California. She reviewed the impacts of these nation-leading reuse requirements. She also reviewed covered materials, covered entities, eco-modulated fees and reimbursements. By 2032, all packaging, food packaging and paper products must be able to be reused, recycled or composted through a curbside or alternative collection system.

ADJOURN

Chair Reinhardt declared the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

ATTEST:

Victoria Reinhardt, PWE Chair
September 26, 2024

September 24, 2026

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	September 26, 2024	AGENDA ITEM:	4.a
SUBJECT:	Letter of Support		
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff		

PWE BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Letter of support for Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt’s application to the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:






Commissioner Reinhardt has led on key testimony and advocacy to pass legislation on extended producer responsibility establishing the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution of support

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	DATE
Hennepin County 	09/23/24
Recycling & Energy 	09/23/24
Washington County Attorney 	09/23/24
Ramsey County Attorney 	09/23/24
	09/23/24

RESOLUTION PWE-2024-2

Letter of Support

WHEREAS, The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (“Joint Powers Agreement”) of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (“Partnership”) between the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board (“R&E Board”) and Hennepin County (individually identified as “Party” or jointly as “Parties”) dated March 27, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Hennepin County and Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy have committed to continue to protect and ensure the public health, safety, welfare and environment of each County’s residents and businesses through sound management of solid waste generated in each County; and

WHEREAS, The Partnership represents the policy and legislative interests of Hennepin County and Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt has served on the Ramsey/Washington Resource Recovery Project Board since 1997 and the R&E Board since 2015; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of R&E, Commissioner Reinhardt has served in a leadership position on the Partnership advocating for extended producer responsibility (EPR) and the creation of the EPR Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Reinhardt is a recognized leader on waste and recycling and has provided excellent service, leadership and commitment to the Partnership and the significant milestones achieved by the Partnership and the counties. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Governing Board hereby expresses its profound support for Commissioner Reinhardt to serve as a representative on the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Board.

Chair, Governing Board
September 26, 2024

Attest, Vice Chair
September 24, 2026

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	September 26, 2024	AGENDA ITEM:	4.b
SUBJECT:	Legislative Session Preview		
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY DISCUSSION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff		

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

For policy discussion.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session will convene on January 14, 2025.

Staff and lobbyists will provide an update on the development of the 2025 platform and present a preview of potential legislative considerations and other influences on platform development.




The Partnership Board will be requested to approve a 2025 state legislative platform at the November 14, 2024, meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2024 State Legislative Platform

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	DATE
Hennepin County 	9/18/24
Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy: Ramsey County 	9/18/24
Washington County 	9/18/24

2024 State Legislative Platform

Build on Waste Management Act goals

PWE supports policies that reach beyond current public health and environmental goals and advance equity and climate resilience.

PWE supports forward-looking policy and regulatory design to align energy and materials management strategies, encourage emerging technologies and support new markets for waste.

PWE supports maintaining Minnesota’s hierarchy of waste management practices.

PWE supports a legislative commission on waste management, energy and climate change issues.

Enhance solid waste financing

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

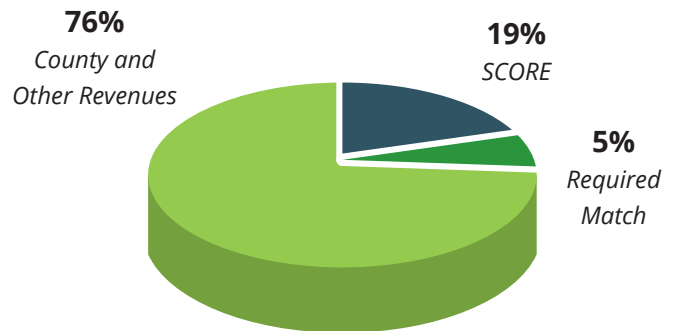
PWE supports robust state funding for local government to carry out statutory responsibilities.

Create a more sustainable, climate resilient economy

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

PWE supports strong, innovative partnerships between the state, local government and private entities to use waste as a resource and maximize the benefits of action on waste, energy and climate initiatives.

County Recycling Spending and SCORE Grants, 2021



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

Need more information?

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 Capitol Hill Associates
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Sam Richie
 Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.
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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 BOARD MEETING DATE:	September 26, 2024	AGENDA ITEM:	4.c
SUBJECT:	2025 Proposed Budget		
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:

Section 5.2.4. of the Joint Powers Agreement for the Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) 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 28th of each year.

Staff have prepared a draft 2025 budget for board members to review and discuss. Staff will bring a revised budget back to the November 14, 2024, board meeting for final approval.




ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed 2025 Partnership Budget

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None. Upon final approval, the financial implications will be explicit in the approved budget.

SUBJECT: 2025 Proposed Budget

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	DATE
Hennepin County 	9/19/24
Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy:	
Ramsey County 	9/19/24
Washington County 	9/19/24

Proposed 2025 Partnership on Waste and Energy Budget

	2024 Approved Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
APPROPRIATIONS:		
Staffing and Administration		
Planning Staff	10,200	10,500
Accounting Manager	7,500	7,800
Contract Manager	5,600	5,800
Communications Staff	5,400	5,600
Total Staffing and Administration	28,700	29,700
Contracts		
Insurance, MCIT	1,600	1,450
Communications & Graphic Design	10,000	16,000
Lobby Contract - Waste	78,000	91,000
Lobby Contract - Energy	25,000	25,000
Regulatory Services	-	15,000
Wood Waste Management	40,000	-
Bioeconomy Coalition of MN membership	2,500	2,500
Product Stewardship	2,500	9,000
Commercial Recycling Measurement Study	25,000	-
Haz. Waste Online Training	10,000	-
Zero Waste Challenges	24,000	24,410
Contingency Funds	3,675	-
Total Contracts	222,275	184,360
Total Appropriations	250,975	214,060
REVENUE:		
Carryover Funds	58,603	4,550
Recycling and Energy Board	101,150	104,755
Hennepin County	101,150	104,755
Total Revenue	260,903	214,060

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	September 26, 2024	AGENDA ITEM:	5.
SUBJECT:	Updates & 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:




Staff will provide updates to the Board on current Partnership projects.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	DATE
Hennepin County 	09/23/24
Recycling & Energy: Ramsey County 	09/23/24
Washington County 	09/23/24