

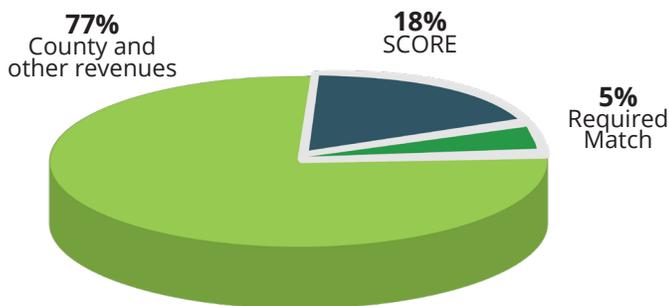
Increase SCORE funding to meet recycling goals

Counties need greater state investment in SCORE grants to meet state recycling goals, address today's more complicated solid waste challenges and keep valuable materials out of landfills. Currently, 27% of the state's solid waste management tax revenue goes to the state general fund. This user tax on trash must be redirected to support county efforts in addressing solid waste challenges.

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%. Counties come up with \$4 for every \$1 of state SCORE grant funding, far more than the required match.

County Recycling Spending and SCORE Grants, 2023



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

Investments in waste reduction, reuse & 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 recycling investment will get these materials into Minnesota's production economy and grow jobs.
- **Up to 55% of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills come from burying food waste.** Organics recycling is the biggest opportunity to avoid landfilling and to reduce harmful emissions. Organics recycling requires investing in collection, processing capacity and education.
- Waste reduction and reuse deliver the greatest environmental payoffs. Current efforts such as county-run Fix-It Clinics are only a start—**bigger impacts require more resources.**

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.