

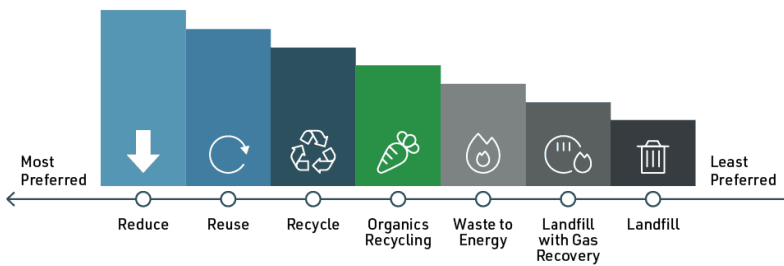


RAMSEY/WASHINGTON  
RECYCLING & ENERGY

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E) is the organization through which Ramsey and Washington counties collaborate to responsibly manage waste. Through R&E, the counties strive to protect health and the environment. R&E offers programs to help residents and businesses reduce waste and recycle better. R&E also owns and operates the R&E Center, which processes trash from the two counties to recover valuable materials and divert waste from landfills.

Through all its work, R&E's goal is to move materials up the waste hierarchy, shown below, reducing waste and putting materials to their best use.



## 2025 R&E Board

In 2025, R&E's joint powers board reduced from seven to five members: three appointed by Ramsey County and two by Washington County. Two ex officio members represent the City of Newport and the MPCA to ensure local and state coordination.

### Ramsey County Commissioners

- Mary Jo McGuire – *Board Chair*
- Kelly Miller
- Rafael E. Ortega
- Mai Chong Xiong (Alternate)

### Washington County Commissioners

- Fran Miron – *Board Vice Chair*
- Karla Bigham – *Board Secretary/Treasurer*
- Bethany Cox (Alternate)

### Ex-Officio Members

- Tom Ingemann, City of Newport
- David J Benke, MPCA

## R&E'S First Strategic Plan

2025 marked a milestone for R&E with the adoption of its first-ever strategic plan, which sets the direction for 2025-2030. Bridging board vision with day-to-day operations, the plan was shaped through staff workshops, public focus groups and board review. It reflects R&E's collaborative foundation and commitment to waste diversion, environmental health and community benefit.



Scan to read the full  
2025 R&E Annual Report.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

R&E coordinates programs on behalf of Ramsey and Washington counties that are designed to reduce waste and lessen environmental impact across the two counties.



122 grants awarded through Bizrecycling



28 new communities eligible for the Food Scraps Pickup Program



5,700 tons of food recovered



19,036 mattresses recycled



129 tons of building material recycled or reused



941 cubic yards of compost distributed



62,000 lbs. of pollutants prevented annually



340,000 web visits to waste resources and educational materials



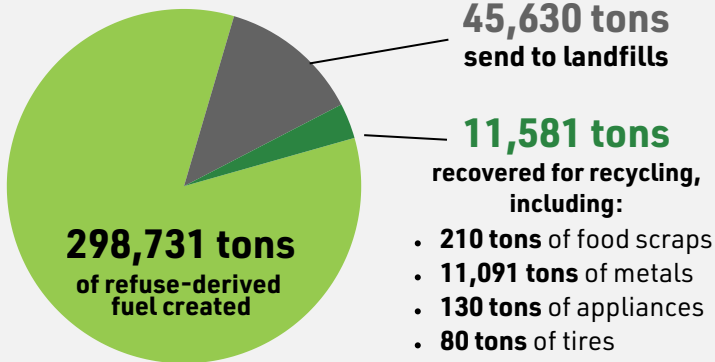
135 tours of the R&E Center

\*From businesses that received a Pollution Prevention grant.

## WASTE PROCESSING

All trash from residents and businesses in Ramsey and Washington counties is delivered to the R&E Center in Newport. There, state-of-the-art technology is used to recover value. Food Scraps Pickup Program food scrap bags are separated for commercial composting, metals are sorted for recycling and the remaining material is processed into refuse-derived fuel that generates electricity.

In 2025, the R&E Center processed 359,338 tons of trash.



## Impact

Diverted **86%** of trash at the R&E Center from landfills

Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **89,450 metric tons**, compared to if the trash had been landfilled

Created enough fuel to power **12,048 homes** for a year