



# 2023 CRA Fall Review

Kaitlin Keller, Hennepin County Environment & Energy

# Today's agenda



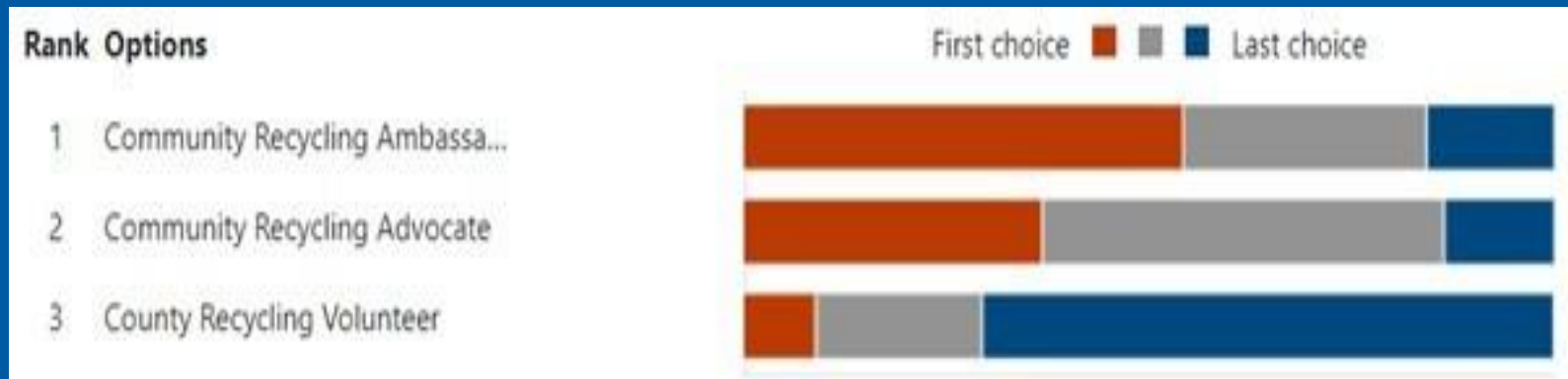
- 2023 program review
- Organics programs in Hennepin County
- Organics recycling FAQs
- Resources/updates

# 2023 in review



# From MRC to CRA

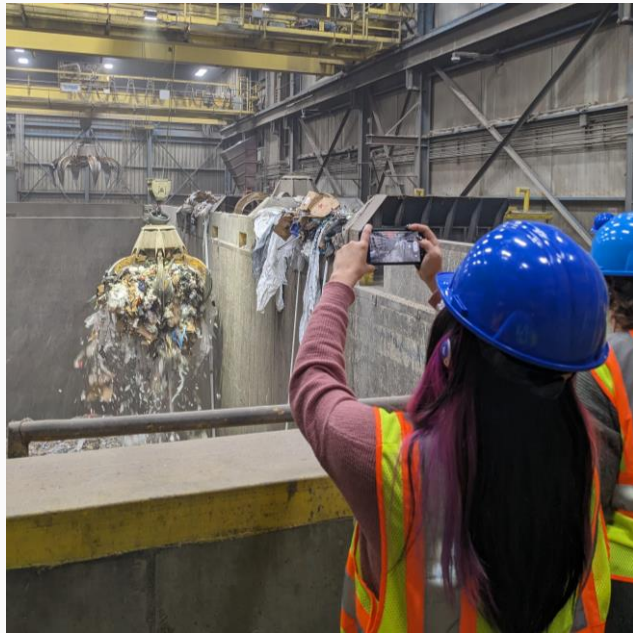
- 2023 launched our first year as Community Recycling Ambassadors
- The new program name came from the community and was voted on by volunteers
- New nametags are in-progress
  - If you did not request a new nametag earlier this year, you will be able to request one next year



# New faces!



# New places!



Hennepin  
Energy  
Recovery  
Center (HERC)



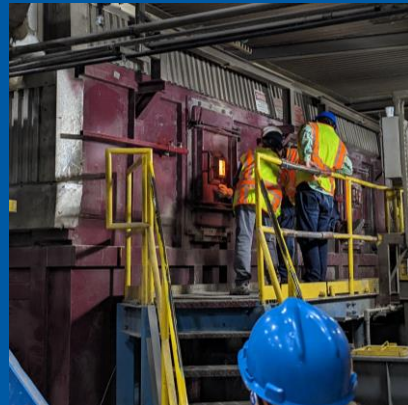
Shakopee  
Mdwakantan  
Sioux Compost  
Facility (SMSC)



Brooklyn Park  
Transfer  
Station (BPTS)

# Remaining tours

- There are two tours left this year
  - HERC - Friday, December 1 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (4 spots)
  - HERC - Wednesday, December 6 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (6 spots)



# Looking ahead

- 2024 Winter Class
  - Thursdays, Feb 15 - March 21, 6-8pm
- 2024 Spring/Summer Class
  - Wednesday evenings, May – June
- Fall Review and Tours





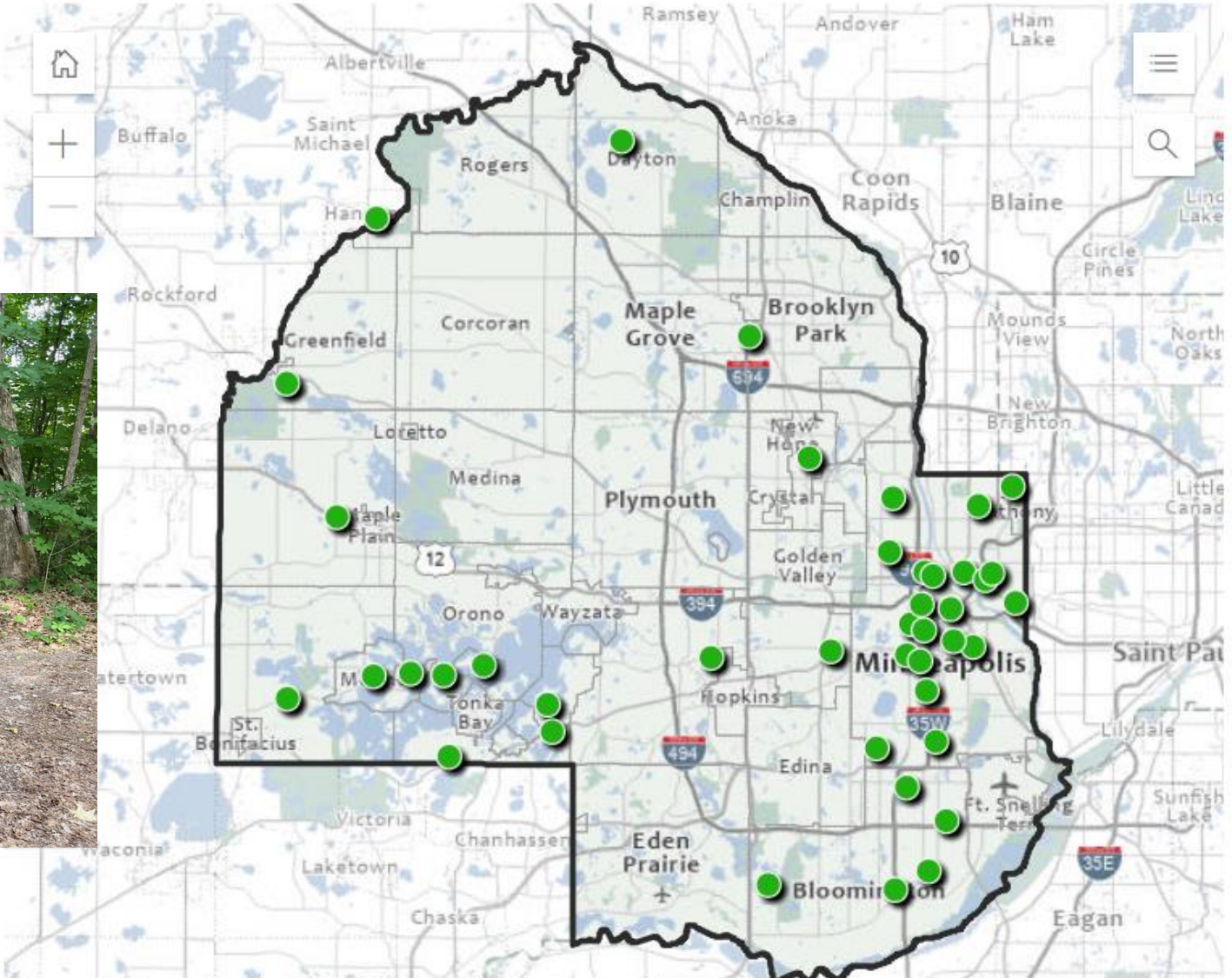
# Organics recycling programs

# City organics programs

- 17 cities have curbside organics organized by the city
- The remaining cities have service through haulers or drop-off sites
- Future of organics
- New programs! 
  - Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Champlin

# Drop off sites

## Organics recycling drop-off locations



# Organics Recycling FAQs

# What questions do you get asked?



# What is organics recycling?

- You collect food scraps, non-recyclable paper and compostable products around your home
- These materials are picked up by a waste hauler and delivered to an industrial compost site
- The organic material are recycled into compost, a nutrient-rich soil-like materials that can be used in gardens and landscaping projects



# Why is it important?

- Best opportunity to reduce our trash
- Puts our trash to better use by recycling it into a valuable resource
- Improves soil and protects the environment
- Supports a local economy

Give back  
to nature with  
**organics  
recycling**



# What is in the trash?

By weight

## 30% – Bulky Items

Wood, carpet, furniture, textiles, diapers, kitty litter, rocks, sand, etc.

## 16% – Paper

Cardboard, newsprint, mail, paper packaging, etc.

## 15% – Plastic

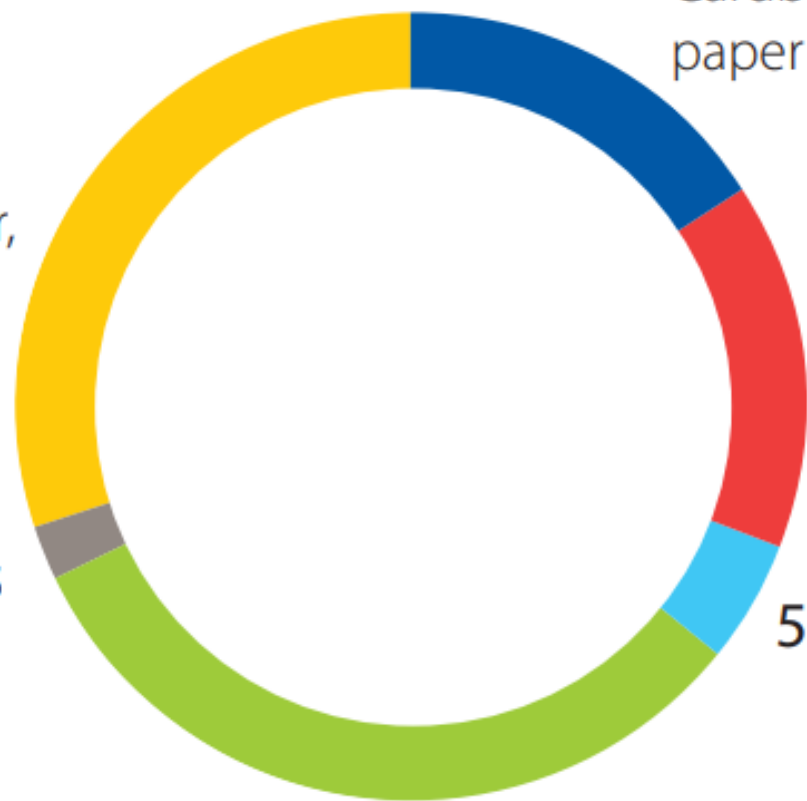
Bottles, containers, film, wrap, Styrofoam, etc.

## 2% – Glass

## 5% – Metals

## 32% – Organics

Food scraps and non-recyclable papers (napkins, paper plates, pizza boxes)





# How does organics recycling work?

- The organics you collect at home are:
  - Picked up by hauler
  - Delivered to a large-scale, industrial compost site



# At the compost site, the organics are:



Mixed with yard waste to get the correct ratio of carbon and nitrogen and the right moisture levels



Laid out in piles



Aerated to introduce oxygen



Left to compost and cure – a 6 or so month process in which bacteria is working to heat the pile and break down materials

# What is compost used for?



School gardens



Road  
construction



Landscaping  
projects and  
community  
events

# How do I start?

- Find out your local options and sign up (we can help!)
- Make space for a cart if needed
- Review accepted items
- Start collecting in your home



# What is accepted for organics recycling?

- All food
- Non-recyclable and food-soiled paper
- Certified compostable products
- Other compostable household items



# Organics Recycling Guide



## All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells



## Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons



## Certified compostable products

- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers



Look for the term "compostable" or the BPI logo on certified products.



## Other compostable household items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers
- Wooden items such as chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks



**Not accepted:** Yard waste • bandages • diapers • menstrual products • animal and pet waste, litter or bedding • cleaning or baby wipes • grease or oil • Styrofoam™ • dryer lint and dryer sheets • recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic) • frozen food boxes • microwave popcorn bags • gum • fast food wrappers • products labeled "biodegradable"

## Tips for collecting organics at home



Use a kitchen pail and line it with a compostable bag. Consider a vented container that allows moisture to evaporate, which will reduce odors and help your compostable bags last longer.



You can keep "wet" organics in your refrigerator or freezer, or place paper towels or newspaper at the bottom of your container. This all helps to slow the decomposition of food, reduce odors, and prevent flies.



Keep non-compostable materials out. Receiving organics free of contamination allows local composters to produce clean, nutrient-rich compost that people want to purchase and use. If you aren't sure if an item is compostable, put it in the trash.



Focus on collecting food. Food scraps are the most common material in the trash and the most nutrient-rich material in the composting process.



Label your containers so everyone in your household knows how to sort their waste. Order free labels for your recycling, organics recycling and trash bins at [hennepin.us/organics](http://hennepin.us/organics). Remember to collect organics (and recycling) throughout your home, including in the bathrooms, bedrooms, and office!

Hennepin County  
Environment and Energy

[hennepin.us/organics](http://hennepin.us/organics)  
612-348-3777

34-701-02-22



# Compostable products

- Compostable products still need to be BPI certified
- Look for the logo
- Talk to vendors/restaurants/etc. when you see greenwashing



# Isn't it stinky?

- Empty inside containers often
- Store kitchen containers in freezer
- The items in the organics are just what was in your trash





# Choose your collection container – there are many options



Small  
countertop  
container



Fancier metal  
container



Larger  
container



Bowl on your  
kitchen  
counter

# Resources and updates

# Online resources

- Newsletter
- Internal CRA page
- Green Disposal Guide
- Minneapolis Disposal Guide
- CRA Facebook Group



# Physical resources

Hennepin County Environment a x +

environmentalresources.hennepin.us/items

Abundant180 eProc... Virgin Pulse - Home Zero Waste Challen... PW-Waste Reductio... Environment and E... Share your ideas fo... HC Connect - Home


Hennepin County > Environmental Resources > Environmental education items

## Environmental resources

Factsheets, pamphlets, labels, and handouts covering a wide variety of environmental topics are available to residents, community groups, municipalities, and schools in Hennepin County at no charge. Be sure to plan ahead: it can take up to two weeks for us to send your order out.

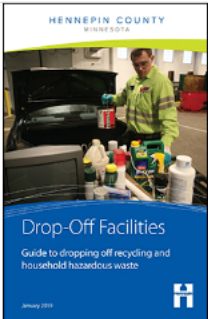
Environment and Energy  
[environment@hennepin.us](mailto:environment@hennepin.us)  
Phone: 612-348-3777

### Recycling and disposal



0 items in your order


[View order](#)



**HENNEPIN COUNTY**  
WISCONSIN

**Drop-Off Facilities**  
Guide to dropping off recycling and household hazardous waste

January 2019



**Recycling Guide**

**Paper**

- Mail, office, and newspaper
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and directory
- Phone books

**Plastic**

- Plastic bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Rigid and flexible drinking bottles and containers
- Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap, and lotion bottles

**Cardboard**

- Clean, dry, flattened cardboard
- Shipping boxes
- Corrugated cardboard
- Cardboard
- Cardboard
- Cardboard

**Metals**

- Food and beverage cans

**Glass**

- Food and beverage bottles and jars


**Cartons**

- Milk cartons
- Juice cartons
- Soup, broth, and sauce cartons

**Other**

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- Shipping boxes
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**Recycling Guide**



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**Recycling Guide**



# Updated organics recycling green color



C=56 M=0 Y=100 K=27  
ratio: 3.57:1



C=56 M=0 Y=100 K=50  
ratio: 5.67:1

Old	New

# Virtual MRF Tour Today

- Dakota County is opening up their virtual MRF tour to CRAs outside Dakota
- Happening today from 6-7pm
- Register via Zoom

Kickstart your plastic-free journey. Take the

# Plastic-Free Challenge



Coming this February



# Volunteer hour opportunity

- Start and manage a team during the challenge as Team Captain
  - Recruit coworkers, friends, family neighbors, etc.
- Promote the challenge- tabling for challenge partners, help with kickoff event (more info to come)



Thank you for  
all you do!

