

# 2023 CRA Fall Review – All About Organics

## Links

- [Become a Community Recycling Ambassador | Hennepin County](#)
- [Organics recycling for residents | Hennepin County](#) – city programs and drop off sites
- [residential-organics-recycling-guide.pdf \(hennepin.us\)](#)
- [BPI - Find BPI-Certified Products \(bpiworld.org\)](#)
- [Information for current Community Recycling Ambassadors | Hennepin County](#)
- Direct link to subscribe the CRA newsletter:  
[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNHENNE/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=MNHENNE\\_151](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNHENNE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNHENNE_151)
- [Green Disposal Guide | Hennepin County](#)
- [Disposal Guide - City of Minneapolis \(minneapolismn.gov\)](#)
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hennepincommunityrecyclingambassadors>
- [Hennepin County Environment and Energy Signs Ordering Form](#)
- [Environmental education | Hennepin County](#)
- [Recycling at events | Hennepin County](#)
- [Plastic free challenge Sign up to be notified when registration opens](#)
- [Ordinance 13 anonymous complaint form \(hennepin.us\)](#)
- Ban on bans: [Sec. 471.9998 MN Statutes](#)
- [Organics recycling for businesses and organizations | Hennepin County](#)
- [Multifamily recycling: Apartments, condos and townhomes | Hennepin County](#)

## Meeting Chat:

12:06:31 From Jackie Vallette Uglow To Everyone:

all is good

12:12:56 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=n9\\_vioCHv0aPt0ySRIOovr\\_85uIHVFxII35BVBsAyN5UME9TNDhaSzhJMUdSSk9KUU1aSVZVQINEVS4u&wdLOR=c8AD2EBB2-365F-485A-9060-EE663693BB8F](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=n9_vioCHv0aPt0ySRIOovr_85uIHVFxII35BVBsAyN5UME9TNDhaSzhJMUdSSk9KUU1aSVZVQINEVS4u&wdLOR=c8AD2EBB2-365F-485A-9060-EE663693BB8F)

12:13:33 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

The link above is for tours

12:14:10 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Notification for class: <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/become-recycling-ambassador>

12:14:13 From Lisa Burkhart To Everyone:

Is it still participants needing to be either living or working in Hennepin County?

12:16:33 From Kendra Grand To Everyone:

How do I find out how many volunteer hours I've already submitted?

12:16:52 From Linda Hayen To Everyone:

How to contact the Ramsey County program?

12:17:15 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/education/recycling-ambassador-program>

12:18:01 From Linda Hayen To Everyone:

Thank you

12:18:40 From Deanna Kelly To Everyone:

Does anyone know of organics in Maple Grove curbside, that is NOT Curbside Waste?

12:20:49 From Kendra Grand To Everyone:

Deanna, I live in Maple Grove and have Waste Mgt as my hauler. They offer organics.

12:21:45 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

If you go to the organics page, scroll down to the drop-off locations tab and you'll find this map <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/organics-recycling>

12:23:44 From Jackie Vallette Uglow To Everyone:

I am involved with the city of Plymouth Recycling program and the city is still in the process of inviting Ambassadors for the organics program

12:23:46 From Joan Palmquist

There has been so much on Next Door lately about the mandatory \$18 per quarter fees being charged for organics, regardless of whether or not they use the service. So much misinformation and not a lot of preparation. People are confused.

12:23:47 From Laura Detzler To Everyone:

I am on the Environmental Resources Commission for the city of Champlin

12:24:48 From Kellie Kish To Everyone:

Some residents pull contamination from carts themselves. The crew does it as well if the contamination is visible when they go to empty the carts. If it's really bad the crew will note it's contaminated and send a garbage truck to empty the cart.

12:25:42 From Claire Graupmann To Everyone:

I am on the Environmental Quality Committee in Shoreview

12:26:07 From Beth Waterhouse To Everyone:

Ques: How to set up a system in a condo building?

12:26:50 From Chris Heeter To Everyone:

Timeline for multi-family and companies to have composting available.

12:27:51 From LuAnn Johnson To Everyone:

Are the clear cellophane (sp?) bags that contain raisins at the Wedge really compostable? (as claimed)

12:27:53 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

bins and signage still overly complicated in regards to color and wording etc

12:29:08 From Twila Singh To Everyone:

Are these review slides available as a tool on the webpage?

12:30:48 From Beth Waterhouse To Everyone:

Meat and Bones??

12:31:13 From JoAnn Boraas To Everyone:

What's the best way to try and encourage a business to better delineate what goes into trash/regular recycling/OR carts? Is it possible to obtain appropriate signage on their behalf with Hennepin County?

12:31:40 From Chris Heeter To Everyone:

With 'the right' people, I just say not composting is the world's dumbest problem

12:32:21 From Karen Powers To Everyone:

This slide (of the trash graph) would make an awesome t-shirt. I would buy one!

12:32:54 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

eliminates trash, provides resources

12:33:28 From Lisa Burkhart To Everyone:

This is more business centric but we showed how high taxes and fees are on solid waste and how diversion saves us money

12:34:03 From LuAnn Johnson To Everyone:

Organics recycling is designed for us - those who live in the cities. We have no room for a compost heap in our back yard (condo).

12:34:56 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

community gardens, helps build community

12:35:11 From JoAnn Boraas To Everyone:

The "Yes/No" page was very useful to share with people. Can that be brought back in?

12:35:51 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

green hydrogen-we are now a hub

12:37:44 From Jackie Vallette Uglow To Everyone:

I am also a Master Gardener and we use the composting information from Hennepin County in the Jr. Master Gardener program at Zachary Lane Elementary school. I have given composting fun projects with the school. I would like to see the county donate compost to the schools

12:38:11 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

The back page of our organics recycling guide has helpful tips for collection!  
<https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/residents/recycling/documents/residential-organics-recycling-guide.pdf>

12:40:55 From JoAnn Boraas

I had that comment about Yes/No. You're right! It was in Minneapolis. SO POWERFUL!

12:41:56 From Chris Heeter To Everyone:

Food soiled paper is a little confusing. Because freezer boxes, etc have plastic, which isn't compostable, yes?

12:42:43 From Lisa Burkhart To Everyone:

Agree, Chris. We are updating signage in our work lunchrooms to say "pizza boxes"

12:42:59 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

Could it be a more simplified infographic and less words?

12:43:29 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

<https://bpiworld.org/find-certified-products>

12:43:45 From JoAnn Boraas

Do any companies falsely put that BPI logo on their products??

12:44:34 From Kellie Kish To Everyone:

beginning 1/1/26 it will be 'illegal' to sell/distribute products in MN that are misleadingly labeled: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/325E.046>

12:44:35 From Chris Heeter To Everyone:

A big learning for me at the Shakopee compost site tour was that non BPI (even if truly compostable) actually contributes to contamination and removal.

12:45:01 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

Interesting Chris

12:46:13 From JoAnn Boraas To Everyone:

In addition, thank those businesses who DO use BPI certified containers.

12:51:26 From Nina Ritchie To Everyone:

thank you! for the clarification on Chipotle bowls.

12:53:01 From Lisa Burkhart To Everyone:

The nuances, as you say, make decisions around recycling and organics so frustrating.

12:55:57 From Kellie Kish To Everyone:

BPI is starting to really push manufacturers to label all items if possible.

12:56:01 From Lisa Burkhart To Everyone:

This might be gross but I used the analogy of poop in a swimming pool. People could say "it's only a couple turds" but it still contaminates the pool

12:56:16 From Kellie Kish To Everyone:



12:58:10 From Andrea Siegel To Everyone:

We recommend "use your freezer" but also ask people, "what did you do with food scraps before? Did it smell in your garbage?"

12:59:25 From Amanda Jenson To Everyone:

I just keep an ice cream bucket in my freezer lined with the smaller BPI compostable bags and my kids have been very well trained that ALL food waste goes in there. I bring the bags out to my organics bin (I live in Mpls) the morning of my pickup day. I've never had fruit flies in my house or maggots in my bin.

12:59:55 From Kellie Kish To Everyone:

If you haven't heard my favorite tip for maggots in your cart outside. Solution is to open lid of cart for a couple of hours (especially in summer). Bugs crawl to the top, birds come and eat them. Maggots didn't turn into flies, birds got a healthy treat, and you didn't have to clean out your cart.

12:59:58 From Kathleen Sorbie To Everyone:

I keep a small organics bin on my counter, then transfer the bag to my freezer when it's full or has more liquid. Every two weeks I transfer the bags to a litter box in the trunk of my car (so it doesn't tip like a bucket has for me) and take it to a drop off.

13:00:12 From Kathryn Nelson To Everyone:

The first slide pictured a bin with mesh slots on the side and top. Seems like that would help keep the compost more dry. We often have bags rot through. Also always watching for smaller than the 3 gallon bins.

13:00:18 From Claire Graupmann To Everyone:

My two biggest questions are regarding paper plates and printed paper napkins. Originally I was told they were not compostable. Is this still true? If I have to use them I usually put in trash.

13:00:57 From LuAnn Johnson To Everyone:

Winter is a good time to put organics in a pail on your balcony (bagged of course).

13:01:38 From Kellie Kish To Everyone:

I have to take off for another meeting. Keep up the good work CRAs! Thank you for all of your dedication!

13:01:39 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

Kellie, have you heard if BPI is working on an app that can scan labels to authenticate?

13:01:48 From LuAnn Johnson To Everyone:

The paper is good - also I put half of egg cartons at the bottom to soak up liquids.

13:01:50 From Kathryn Nelson To Everyone:

Is newspaper okay in the bin?

13:03:02 From Nina Ritchie To Everyone:

I've started placing an egg carton at the very bottom of mine for liquids.

13:03:29 From Kellie Kish To Everyone:

To my knowledge they are not - on product labeling (printing, embossing, etc.) is being pushed as many times products aren't with their 'box' to scan a UPC or QR code. I can ask them during my next monthly meeting though and have Kaitlin follow up w/ y'all.

13:04:41 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

I also don't bag it until I dump it! Put a few paper items at the bottom and you're good to go

13:06:29 From LuAnn Johnson To Everyone:

Lianna is great!

13:06:45 From Chris Heeter To Everyone:

Aren't there upcoming rules/regs for companies? Like, by 2030, companies of X size have to compost?

13:07:58 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Anonymous complaint form:  
[https://formcatalog.hennepin.us/public\\_works/environment\\_energy/ordinance-13-anonymous-complaint-form/.html?type=guide&source=fp&wcmmode=disabled&\\_gl=1\\*5qq5xz\\*\\_ga\\*MjAxMjIwMjc5MC4xNjY2NzEwNTg0\\*\\_ga\\_DM0LW95D4D\\*MTcwMDA3NTI2NS4xNTEuMC4xNzAwMDC1MjY1LjAuMC4w](https://formcatalog.hennepin.us/public_works/environment_energy/ordinance-13-anonymous-complaint-form/.html?type=guide&source=fp&wcmmode=disabled&_gl=1*5qq5xz*_ga*MjAxMjIwMjc5MC4xNjY2NzEwNTg0*_ga_DM0LW95D4D*MTcwMDA3NTI2NS4xNTEuMC4xNzAwMDC1MjY1LjAuMC4w)

13:08:23 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Our business recycling page: <https://www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling>

13:08:47 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

CRA newsletter -  
[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNHENNE/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=MNHENNE\\_151](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNHENNE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNHENNE_151)

13:09:18 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Current CRA webpage: <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/current-recycling-ambassadors>

13:09:29 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Hennepin Green Disposal Guide: <https://www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide>

13:09:40 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Minneapolis disposal guide: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/garbage-recycling-cleanup/disposal-guide/>

13:09:58 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

CRA Facebook group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hennepincommunityrecyclingambassadors>

13:10:04 From Lisa Burkhart To Everyone:

For commercial accounts or multi family bldgs, it is important to verify that the dumpster labeling is correct AND those cleaning the building/residents are familiar with what is allowed. When I worked in an office bldg. in Edina, the recycling dumpster sticker said "Cardboard Only" and despite the individual companies doing great recycling in units they cleaners dumped it all in the trash except for cardboard.

13:10:30 From LuAnn Johnson To Everyone:

Thanks for this informative meeting.

13:10:43 From Lili Korbuly-Johnson To Everyone:

Yes, thank you for a fantastic training!

13:10:45 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Resources order form:

[https://environmentalresources.hennepin.us/Items?\\_gl=1\\*1u05jka\\*\\_ga\\*MTg1MTAzNzI0Mi4xNjkyODIxNjA1\\*\\_ga\\_DM0LW95D4D\\*MTcwMDA2NzI2OS43My4xLjE3MDAwNzA2ODMuMC4wLjA](https://environmentalresources.hennepin.us/Items?_gl=1*1u05jka*_ga*MTg1MTAzNzI0Mi4xNjkyODIxNjA1*_ga_DM0LW95D4D*MTcwMDA2NzI2OS43My4xLjE3MDAwNzA2ODMuMC4wLjA).

13:10:55 From Lili Korbuly-Johnson To Everyone:

It's nice to see how huge this group is!

13:11:28 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Tabling kits, activity kits, scales: <https://www.hennepin.us/business/work-with-henn-co/environmental-education#education-kits>

13:11:59 From Kathleen Sorbie To Everyone:

Will the chat be saved in resources?

13:12:47 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

That's a nice change I think!

13:13:13 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

We will for sure make all these links available, and I'll see if Kaitlin wants to save the chat somewhere

13:13:41 From Lisa Burkhart To Everyone:

How many people have gone through the MRC/CRA trainings now?

13:13:43 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Tonight's virtual MRF tour with Dakota County (not hours but fun):  
[https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAsd--tpjwoHNUdlyftljHkDzoNUG4PWtq\\_#/registration](https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAsd--tpjwoHNUdlyftljHkDzoNUG4PWtq_#/registration)

13:16:45 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNHENNE/signup/38814>

13:17:01 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

<https://tcplasticfree.ecochallenge.org/>

13:19:03 From Kathleen Sorbie To Everyone:

Question about cotton balls: does it matter what the cotton ball might have been exposed to?  
For example, chemical eye cleaners

13:19:12 From Lili Korbuly-Johnson To Everyone:



I will mention this issue on my YouTube channel.

13:19:36 From Carrie Sandgren To Everyone:

what is the Youtube channel?

13:19:48 From Lili Korbuly-Johnson To Everyone:

thelilichannel.tv

13:20:06 From Lili Korbuly-Johnson To Everyone:

I have a few issues coming out that deal directly with food and with composting.

13:20:36 From Lili Korbuly-Johnson To Everyone:

Actually The L.i.l.i. Channel. Thanks for asking. We need to get organics front and center!!

13:23:19 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Here's the state statute:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/471.9998#:~:text=Notwithstanding%20any%20other%20provision%20of,%2C%20itinerant%20vendor%2C%20or%20peddler.>

13:24:11 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

Anyone mention link from dryers?

13:24:18 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

lint

13:24:30 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

woot woot!

13:25:34 From Lisa Burkhart To Everyone:

I don't like doing my dryer lint since there is so much fleece or other poly fibers in my lint

13:25:49 From Jackie Vallette Uglow To Everyone:

Great review and comments from all. I learned a lot.

13:26:03 From Kathy McCurdy To Everyone:

Thank you!

13:26:05 From Shana Eisenberg To Everyone:

Thanks so much! This has been really useful

13:26:11 From Chris Heeter To Everyone:

I need to hop off. Thanks so much everyone!

13:26:16 From Albert (Shane) McCaffrey To Everyone:

Thank you!

13:26:34 From Nicole Smiley To Everyone:

Thank you!! This was a great refresher.

13:26:47 From Lisa Burkhart To Everyone:

Thanks everyone this is so helpful to review items regularly

13:29:50 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/business-services/business-assistance/run/food-business-rules/green-to-go/>

13:30:20 From Amy Maas (she/her) To Everyone:

Complaints - To report a business that is not following Green To Go rules, contact 311.