

Waste reduction, prevention, and reuse

Who we are

Member-based network of reuse businesses, supporters, and advocates

Founded in 2012

PURPOSE: To lead a movement grounded in the principles of reuse, which extends the life of resources and decreases the demand for new production.

MISSION: Build partnerships and support a vibrant network of reuse practitioners through education, promotion, and advocacy.

VISION: Regenerative, reuse-centered communities that protect the environment and value the well-being of future generations.



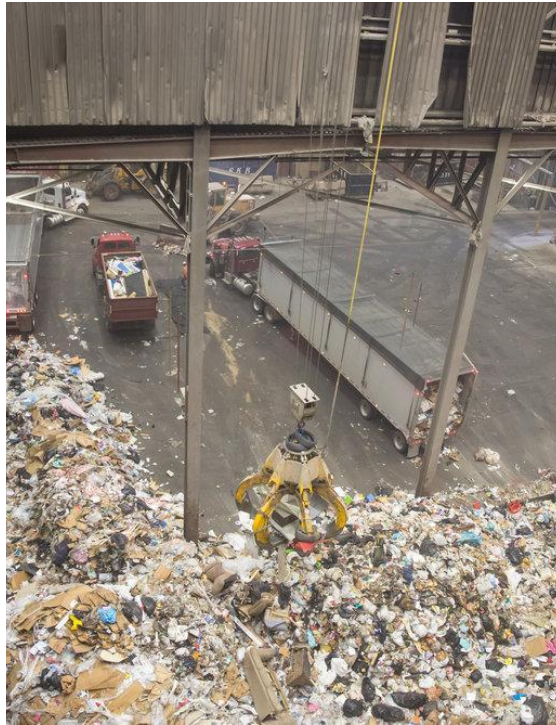
Why we are here



Waste prevention and reuse are NOT



Landfilling



Waste to energy



Recycling



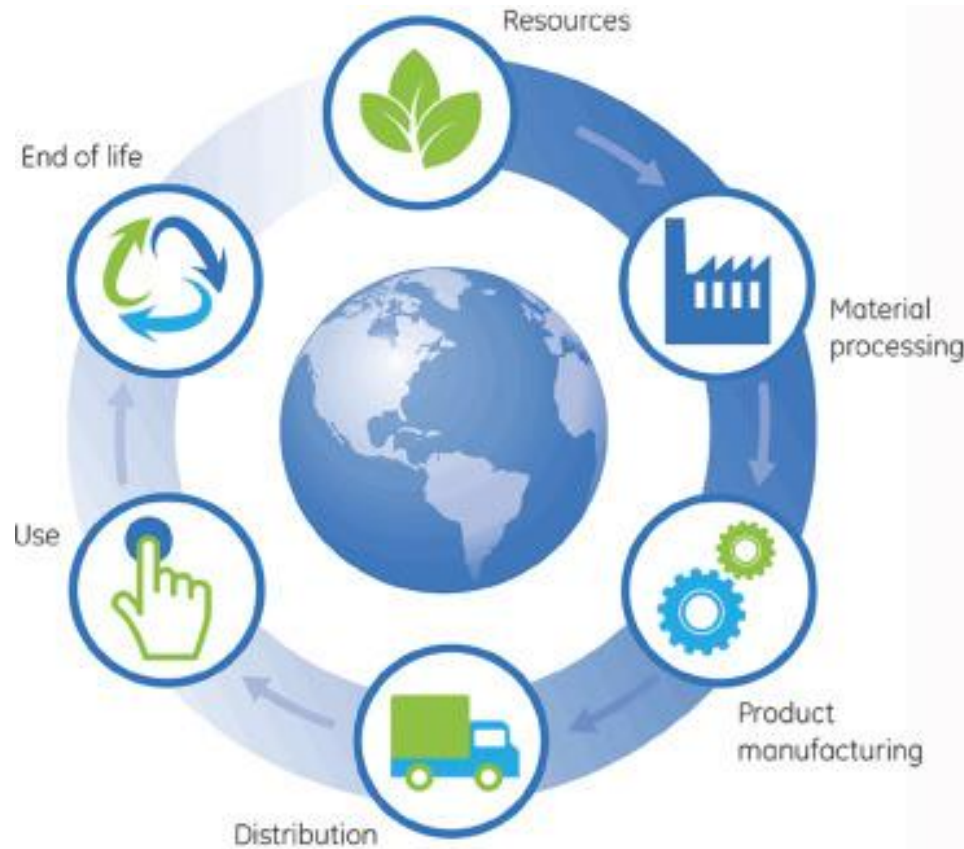
Composting

What is reuse?

Continued use, repair, or repurposing of items or materials which extends the life of resources and decreases demand for new production. These activities result in environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Humans have been reusing for thousands of years, but today it often requires a shift in our way of thinking and an change in our behavior.

Life cycle



Impacts occur at all stages of the life cycle, not just disposal.

- Recycling cuts out extraction
- Reuse cuts out processing, manufacturing, and often distribution

Waste prevention starts with choices here

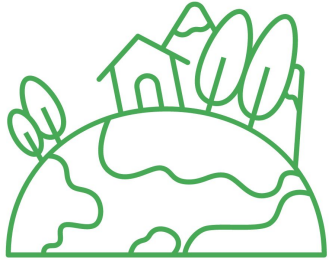


Not here



Once a product is in your hand,
it's too late to prevent waste.

The value of reuse



Environmental

500,000 metric tons of CO₂ avoided/YEAR

- = 100,000 cars off the road

24B liters of freshwater

- 50.4B bottles of water (16oz)



Economic

~\$4B/year in MN

~45,000 jobs

- Repair creates the most



Social

Reuse jobs → very local

Direct benefit to MN communities

Supports nonprofit sector

Extending the life of a product that is already available.

Before you buy



Is the item something you really need?

Can existing items be repaired?

Can another item serve the same purpose?

Can you borrow or rent the item?

When you do buy



Consider used first

Buy durable, reusable/repairable items

Buy items with multiple purposes

Buy recycled content

Refuse

Avoid the impulse to take “free” stuff you don’t need!



And don't give it out either!

Activity: ReShop

Let's go "shopping"!



What are actions you already do?
Pick 3 actions you will try in the next 6 months.

Shopping

When shopping, it is easy to bring home as much, if not more, packaging than actual items.

Reusable bags – not just for grocery!

Bonus: Make one from an old t-shirt

Bonus: Reusable produce bags

BYO containers/bags for buying bulk items.

Bonus: Use containers you already have - glass jars or plastic containers you might otherwise recycle.

Purchase refillable personal care items.

Bonus: Razors or toothbrushes with replaceable heads

Bonus: Minimally packaged bar soap instead of liquid

Choose items with less packaging.

Request e-receipts whenever possible.

Eating out

Reducing waste when eating out can be tricky, but with planning many single-use items can be avoided.

Assemble a kit to keep in your car or bag.

Bonus: Use items you already have!

Include: Utensils (fork, spoon, knife, chopsticks), straw, cloth napkin, beverage container (for hot and cold drinks), to-go container for leftovers

Did you know?

MN law allows you to bring your own to-go container!

Restaurant staff cannot handle your container.



Celebrate!



Make parties a time for celebrating, not making waste.

Reusable plates, utensils, cups, cloth napkins

Bonus: Borrow or shop secondhand if needed.

Bulk treats/drinks instead of individual serving sizes

Reusable décor - tablecloths, centerpieces

Bonus: Borrow from friends, family, neighbors!

Give waste-free gifts

- Used or vintage items
- Upcycled gifts from repurposed materials
- Experiences instead of stuff
- Wrap in repurposed or reusable gift wrap

Kid's play

There are many ways to avoid waste when it comes to kids play.

Buy and gift secondhand toys.

Join a toy library

Buy quality items that last so they can be passed on to other kids.

Make your own games and toys out of repurposed items.

Purchase refurbished electronics (including gaming systems).



Fashion and textiles

Textiles have a large environmental footprint, from production to disposal.

Shop secondhand.

Attend or organize clothing swaps.

Wash only when needed.

Dry clothes on lower temps for shorter time.

Learn basic [mending skills](#).

Make a mending kit ([video](#)).

Rent for one-time use.

When you do buy new, buy durable items.



Home remodeling

*Big or small, there are several ways to decrease the impact of your remodel.
Reusing or repurposing existing items is often a cheap and easy option.*

Reused building materials

- Habitat for Humanity ReStore
- Better Futures Minnesota
- LumberStash

Tools

- Rent or borrow
- Minnesota Tool Library
- SW Lending Library

Pledge

What did you choose?

What are excited to try?

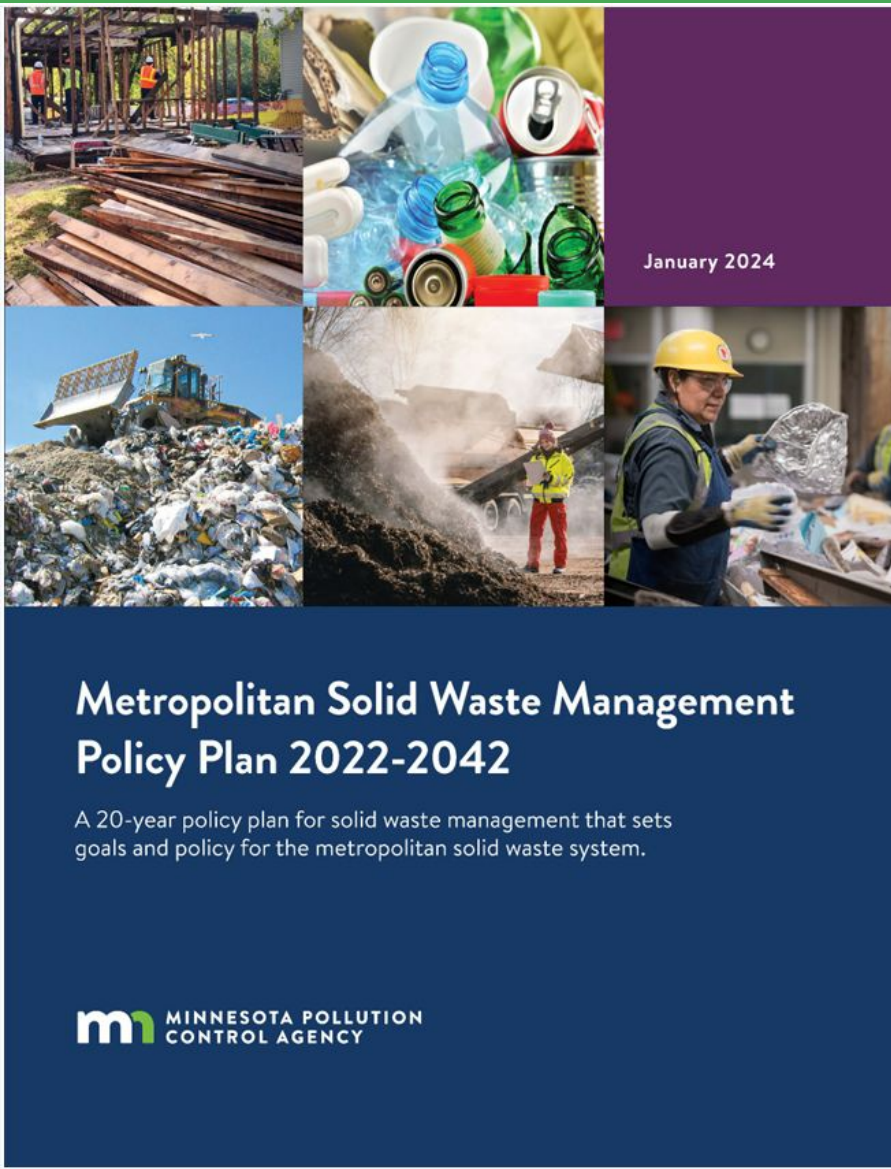
Policy matters

Individual changes are important, but...

Policy is required for systemic change



Policy planning



Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan

- 20-year plan (current 2022-2042)
- Prepared/updated by MPCA every 6 years
- Input from stakeholders
 - State, county, city, solid waste sector, environmental groups, businesses, citizens
- Framework for management waste in 7-county area
- Current version - LOTS of reuse focus!



Legislative

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Manufacturers have a stake after the sales

- Design for long-term (NOT obsolescence)
- Repair vs replace
- Longer repair windows (warranty)
- Takeback programs

Right to Repair

- Law to allow consumers to repair their own stuff - Went into effect July 1, 2024

Minnesota's new 'right to repair' law is the broadest one yet

BY: ELAINE S. POVICH - MAY 30, 2023 7:24 AM



Photo illustration by Getty Images.

Join us!

Membership – individuals, businesses, and organizations

Volunteer – ongoing opportunities and events

- [Hennepin County swaps](#)
- [Greater MN Fix-It Clinics](#)
- Annual conference

Board – [elections](#) in the fall

Participate and advocate

- Attend events (reusemn.org/events)
- Follow and support reuse legislation and encourage your community to adopt reuse policy
- Tell your family and friends what changes you are making
- Follow us on social media @reusemn

THANK YOU!



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