

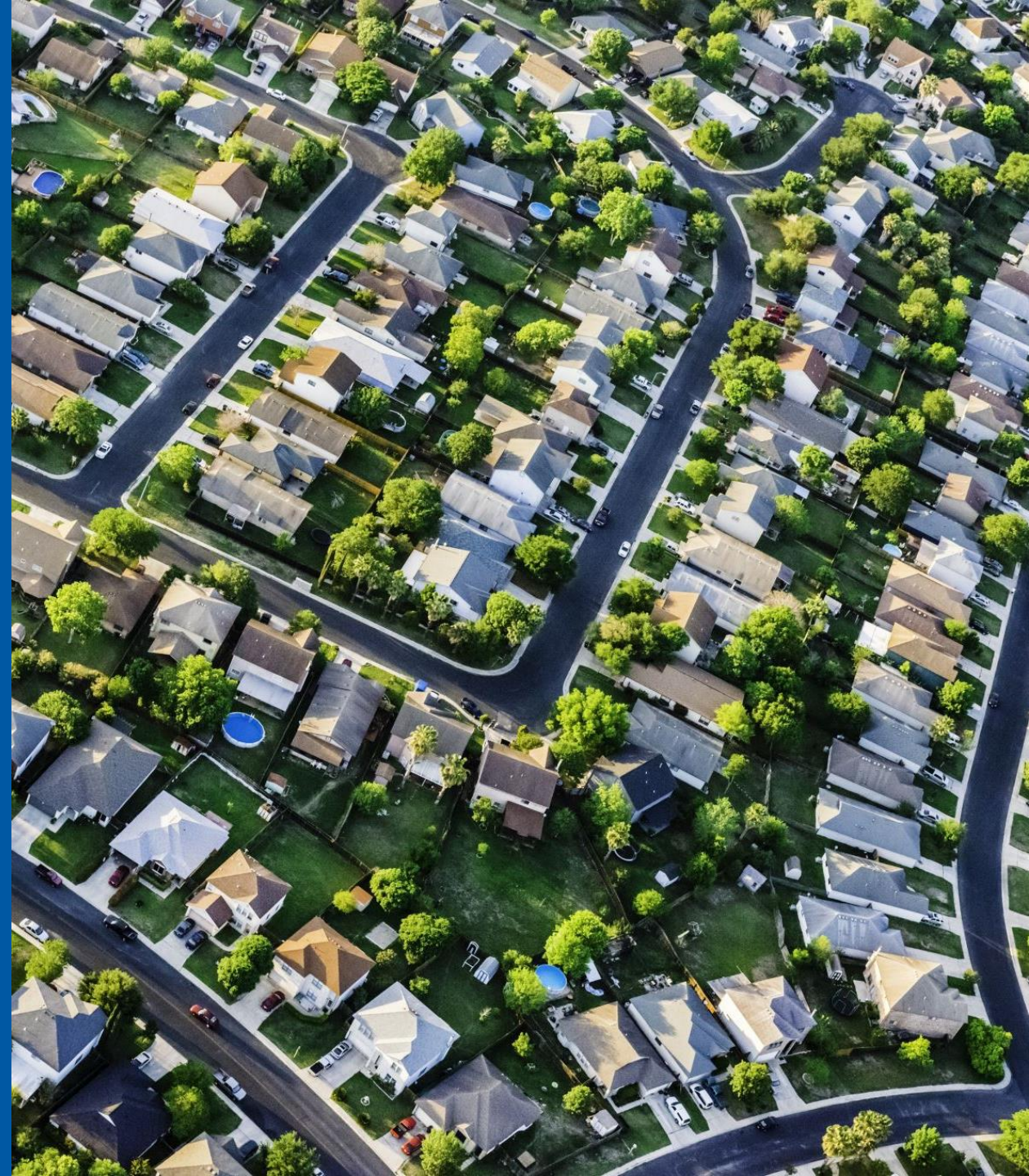


Organics Recycling in Hennepin County

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Overview

- Intro
- Residential organics
- Commercial organics
- How we can help



What does 'organics' mean?

Organics = the **biodegradable** portion of trash that can be **reused** and **recycled**

- All food scraps
- Soiled paper products, not coated with plastic
- Certified compostable products



Waste Composition Poll

Approximately, what portion of our trash is organics?

- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%

Why recycle organics?

- Organics resource value lost in landfills and release uncaptured methane
- Saves capacity at HERC for materials that produce more energy
- Better, higher use
 - Feeding people and animals
 - Healthier soils and plants
 - If digested, food scraps produce energy and beneficial products



Residential Organics

Composting:

Small scale vs Large scale

- Backyard/Home Composting is best at breaking down plant-based foods, plants, and leaves



- Industrial Composting involves collecting organics from various locations and delivering them to a large-scale composting site -- which can break down additional organics



Backyard/Home composting

- Examples of composting bins



<http://www.bostonbuildingresources.com/advice/which-home-compost-bin-is-the-best-choice>

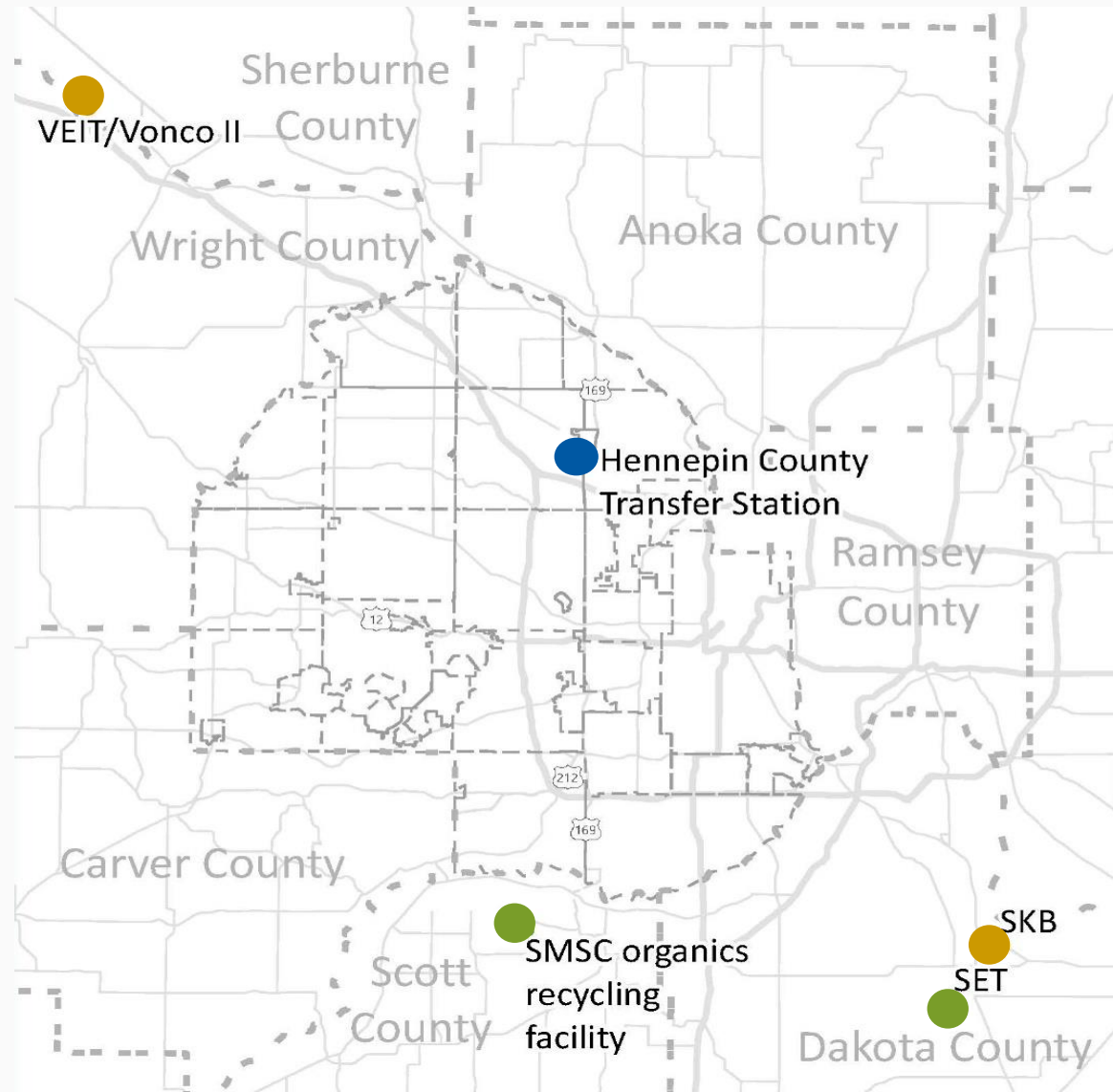


<http://www.myaimistrue.com/2008/06/june-in-the-little-garden/>

Industrial composting



Local industrial composting sites



Sites

- **Operating**
- **Permitted, not operating**
- **Transfer site**

Materials accepted

All food scraps including meat and dairy, napkins, paper towels



Compostable products



Residential organics requirement – Ordinance 13

- Went into effect on January 1, 2022
- Cities with over 10,000 residents need to:
 - Provide a city-run organics collection program OR
 - Require haulers to offer organics service
- Cities with under 10,000 residents:
 - Can choose one of the options above, or offer an organics drop-off

Residential options for organics collection

Curbside & alley collection



Drop-offs



Commercial Organics

Commercial Organics Requirements:

Certain businesses must recycle back-of-house food scraps, beginning January 1, 2020

Applies to businesses in the following sectors that

1. Generate **1 ton** or more of trash per week, or
2. Contract for **8 cubic yards** or more of trash service per week.

- Restaurants
- Food manufacturers
- Food wholesalers/distributors
- Grocery stores
- Hotels
- Hospitals
- Sports venues
- Event centers
- Caterers
- Nursing/residential care facilities
- Office buildings with dining services
- Farmers markets
- Food shelves
- Colleges and universities
- Shopping centers
- Airports
- Golf and country clubs
- Public/rentable commissaries/kitchens

Food Rescue

- Donations to food shelves, community kitchens
- Good Samaritan Act
- Second Harvest Heartland and The Food Group



Food to Animals

- Some businesses and schools send their food scraps to pig farms
- School districts:
 - Eden Prairie
 - Orono
 - St Anthony



Food-to-Animal Feed Manufacturing

- Focus on grain-based and inedible food products
- Packaged products may be OK
- Processed into:
 - Pelletized feed ingredient
 - Used mainly as corn, soy, fat replacement



Business incentives

- Financial
 - Lower tipping fees for organics
 - Organics exempt from taxes
 - Reduce level of trash service
 - County business recycling grants



Business support

- Technical assistance
 - Waste audits and waste sorts
 - Internal sorting stations
 - Securing a hauler
- Educational and promotional items
- Staff training



School organics



Participating schools:

- Most public districts
- 20 charter schools
- 25 private schools

Benefits for Schools



- Cost savings
 - Reduced trash service, avoided taxes, lower tip fee
- Hands-on environmental education
 - Teaches good stewardship practices to staff and students

Questions?

Hennepin County
Environment & Energy Department

