



Public Comments on the 2024-2044 Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

The draft 2024-2044 Draft Solid Waste Management Plan (2024-2044 Management Plan) was presented to the Dakota County Physical Development Committee of the Whole on July 23, 2024, and was available for public review and comment from August 1 through August 21, 2024. Residents, businesses, schools, and waste industry representatives were invited to comment by email at wasteless@co.dakota.mn.us or by mail. Comments were requested using a variety of promotions, including:

- County website
- Press release
- E-newsletters (Residential, Hauler, Business, Parks, Recycling Ambassadors, Schools, Multifamily, Fix-it Clinic, and Organics Drop Site)
- Social media platforms
- Emails to haulers and facilities, city administrators and recycling staff, rural city/township contacts, reuse organizations, food rescue organizations, tree waste organizations, and deconstruction organizations.

Staff also invited public comment at a display table in the Natural Resources building at the Dakota County Fair on August 9 and 10, 2024.

In total, 22 individual commenters provided 54 comments. Comments and staff recommendations for responding to the comments in the 2024-2044 Management Plan are included below.

Revision To Strategies Recommended from Comments

Plan revisions are recommended based on the following public comments:

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Phil Shaffer	National Waste & Recycling Association	Pre-processing of Waste: National Waste & Recycling Association questions the requirement to separate steel and aluminum. We certainly could extract steel from the waste stream by using a magnet. However, the requirement to remove aluminum from the waste stream is much more challenging and extremely expensive, requiring extensive technology. If implemented, this policy would almost certainly ensure that more waste will be disposed of at facilities outside of Dakota County that do not have such onerous requirements. We question whether the county's intention here is to require an upfront "dirty" MRF at landfills and transfer station, since that would be the primary means of removing aluminum. If so, the cost implications would lead National Waste & Recycling Association to strongly oppose this draft requirement in the Dakota County Master Plan. We believe that	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 26 (pg. 13)	Change Strategy 26 by removing the minimum list of materials required for pre-processing and identifying that landfills will need to submit a license amendment with an amendment application that identifies the materials, methods, and effectiveness for optimal upfront processing.

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		aluminum and other recyclable materials, especially OCC and paper, that are removed at the source by the generator and placed in the recycling bin have much higher market value than being sorted out of trash. Further, aluminum is already the most highly recovered recyclable material by generators, so we question the need for this requirement. Last, would a requirement like this create complacency for recyclers, negatively impact residents' and businesses' commitment to recycle, since there would be technology that will sort their trash for them, so they don't have to. Additionally, extending this requirement to Non-MSW facilities for Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) and industrial waste (primarily contaminated soil) is unreasonable. While Non-MSW facilities are currently removing ferrous metal such as steel from C&D using a magnet and recovering clean concrete, attempting to recover small quantities of aluminum (approximately 1%) would require an indoor building and expensive processing equipment. Furthermore, steel and aluminum are simply not present in the vast majority of industrial waste.		
Janae Barriuso	Unknown	I am concerned about the numbers of garbage hauler companies in my neighborhood. I do not see anything in the plan about this issue. Every Thursday a minimum of 12 dump trucks are on our streets. This is a poor use of our resources: wasted gas, polluted air from truck exhausts, wear & tear of our roads, and safety concerns. It would make sense for the cities to contract with the garbage haulers so that each neighborhood would have 3 garbage trucks from one hauler each week.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	Change strategy #28 by expanding to provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance, educational resources) to interested municipalities to research or implement best waste management collection practices beyond just for organics collection to all waste streams (organics, recycling, trash), consistent with the county's 2018-2038 plan.
Jon Derik Dautel	Resident of Lakeville	My neighborhood has five different trash haulers (Nitti, WM, DSI, Republic & Buckingham). They each send three truck (Waste, Recycle and yard waste) though our neighborhood each week for a total of 15 truck-trips. The environmental impact of this process is mind boggling. I also often wonder at the environmental impact to the water as I rinse our spaghetti sauce jars, etc..... for recycling? Did I do more harm than good?	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	Change strategy #28 by expanding to provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance, educational resources) to interested municipalities to research or implement best waste management collection practices beyond organics collection to all waste streams (organics, recycling, trash), consistent with the county's 2018-2038 plan.
Phil Shaffer	National Waste & Recycling Association	Rates: We just want to note that it appears as though there is a mix of gate rate and "all in" (the rate includes host fees, taxes, etc.) rate information from the various facilities serving Dakota County. We respectfully request that this be noted in the plan.	NA - Appendix A facility tables (pg. 45)	Change Appendix A by adding details about the source of the rate data for Table 4.

No Change Recommended

The following public comments were considered, but no plan changes are being recommended:

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
CarolAnn Hook	Resident of Burnsville	I'm really excited about the proposals for improving the county's recycling rates and the amount that we are including in our organics waste collection. My husband and I	Recycling and Organics Management	No change. Comment of support. Strategy includes providing

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		<p>had a YIMPY composter for years and it was too complicated for me to really get good compost from it. It seemed like it was too dry, too wet, both at the same time somehow; it became a home for wasps in two different summers – which was kind of cool to see since at least someone was using it successfully. So when we learned of the food waste collection program, we got on board right away, initially having to drive about 15 minutes to drop off our scraps and such, but later being able to drive 2 minutes. We love the program and have seen a dramatic reduction in waste in our household. However, when encouraging both my sister’s family and my mom to start doing it, they complained that they didn’t have time to drive it there. I don’t know if this is a fair complaint, but I think offering regular pickups at residents’ home would make it much more likely that individuals like my family members would try it more. I think we will definitely need more guidance on how to manage smells and animal interactions, though. We have a small, aluminum container that we line with the bag in our home, and a second plastic bucket with a lid in the garage. The metal never gets stinky, so we just have to wash it sometimes to get it clean again. The bucket came from my school and had pickles in it, so I don’t know if it smells when it’s empty. We’ve had flies lay eggs in the bucket (leading to maggots, of course) in the summer months. I’m a gardener, so I just rinse them out on the driveway, hoping the birds will find the easy meal, but the eggs stick to the sides and have to be wiped off and the maggots are very squirmy and generally make me wash my hands a couple times after cleaning them off.</p>	<p>with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)</p>	<p>residents with education and removes barriers to participation.</p>
<p>CarolAnn Hook</p>	<p>Resident of Burnsville</p>	<p>I’m intrigued on the communication about recycling and would love to see more specific feedback on which plastics are truly being recycled. I’ve seen videos and articles suggesting that the public, at large, is being lied to about which plastics are even recyclable (at a reasonable cost) and this has given corporations the excuse to continue to mass produce plastic that will be unlikely to ever be recycled. I’d love to be more informed on whether my own choices are making an impact and how they can be improved</p>	<p>Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)</p>	<p>No change. Comment of support for education on waste reduction and strategies to provide more frequent information on what, when and where to recycle.</p>
<p>CarolAnn Hook</p>	<p>Resident of Burnsville</p>	<p>I apologize that I have not read the entire report and am only commenting on a couple of sections. I am eager to see the encouragement for businesses to be more environmentally responsible</p>	<p>Recycling and Organics Management Strategies 25 and 30 (pgs. 13, 14)</p>	<p>No change. Comment of support. Plan strategies #25 and #30 support continued implementation of requirements for businesses to recycle and divert organics and provide resources to implement best waste management practices.</p>
<p>CarolAnn Hook</p>	<p>Resident of Burnsville</p>	<p>I’m especially excited to see the push for events to figure out how to be more environmentally friendly. I am so frustrated and disappointed when I’m at an event (in our city or another city) and I see that there’s still just one or two HUGE wastebins and people are throwing in food, aluminum cans, glass bottles, and non-recyclable plastic wrappers, all together. But, without another 2-4 bins, the only other option is for individuals to walk around an event, carrying recyclables and food waste, and we know that won’t happen. Thanks for all of your work on this. I’m looking forward to seeing how our community can improve even more.</p>	<p>Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 38 (pg. 15)</p>	<p>No change. Comment of support to continue to provide support for event recycling requirements and for events to divert organics.</p>

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Diane Grier	Resident of Apple Valley	We would enthusiastically support having curbside collection of organic waste. We have been using the county sites for years and my husband has included the grandchildren in the "Dump Team" and my daughter in law even made dump team T-shirts. It has reduced our waste to the landfill by at least 60%.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics.
Diane Grier	Resident of Apple Valley	The only suggestion I have for recycling is to pressure companies to reduce the amount of black plastic that is unrecyclable.	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 8 (pg. 9)	No change. Comment of support for county participation in state and regional product stewardship initiatives for increased producer responsibility that result in more sustainable products.
Diane Grier	Resident of Apple Valley	Also much more education for folks to know what they can recycle and where. I have done the Tour de Trash tour and really enjoyed learning more. Thank you for your endeavors.	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Comment of support for education strategies to provide more frequent information on what, when and where to recycle.
Phyllis Stratman	Unknown	I am advocating that businesses be fully included in this plan. There is much that businesses dispose of which are office supply products, recyclable materials and organic waste. As a former business owner, the option to recycle was not easily accomplished through our waste carrier or otherwise. Please make these county taxpayers also a part of your plan.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 25 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support. The plan includes a variety of strategies to improve management of waste generated by businesses.
Kim Currier-Bloom	Unknown	I am really happy to see a plan for residential organic waste. One of the things that I am very interested in seeing is an option for Dakota County residents to have access to both mulch and compost from residential organic waste. The City of St. Paul has this option for their residents for free, but I would even pay a nominal fee as a verified resident. As a someone who lives in a townhome and gardens exclusively in raised beds, I have to turn over and amend the soil every year. I would love a way to recycle used raised bed soil and find an easy and cheaper alternative to purchasing compost or top soil from a store.	Wood Waste Strategy 56 (pg. 20)	No change. Comment of support. The plan includes a strategy to expand drop off opportunities for residents to properly manage yard waste and tree waste when non-county funding opportunities (i.e., grants or additional state funding) are available.
Lois Parsons	Resident of Mendota Heights	Let's make curbside organics recycling available much sooner! 2026! The public bins are getting lots of use. Curbside pickup will make it easier for everyone to participate! Thanks for your work in these important issues.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Residential curbside organics is currently not offered anywhere in the county, and a required timeline by 2030 gives waste industry time to plan and make necessary infrastructure investments (trucks, facility capacity, labor, etc.). The plan does not prohibit municipalities or waste haulers from providing curbside organics collection prior to 2030.
Bobby Stewart	Highland Sanitation	Hauler feedback when customers don't recycle right: Most of the education needs to be done and is better served by being done by the county and cities. With single sort, automated collection, there is very little opportunity for a hauler to even recognize contamination and by extension, most contamination will not be seen and nothing can be done. Could implement a countywide rule that if a hauler does not notify a customer of contamination (whether it's an educational tag left behind or direct phone call or email)	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Plan strategies support frequent education to residents by multiple entities (county, municipalities, haulers) for reach. County staff will engage stakeholders on specific approaches for hauler feedback to customers during ordinance development.

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		that a hauler is required to provide a credit for the missed pickup or an off-day pickup at no charge		
Bobby Stewart	Highland Sanitation	Pre-processing at resource recovery facilities and landfills by 2030. Highland Sanitation does not own or manage any landfills, so we have no comment on this other than that landfills are stupid and shouldn't exist. Landfill methane leaks are wildly underreported in numerous studies and they should all be closed and replaced with facilities that manage waste in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly way.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 26 (pg. 13)	No change. No change requested.
Bobby Stewart	Highland Sanitation	Recycling, organics and trash collection on the same day: This should not be a problem at all for any hauler. Any hauler who says that it is a problem is lying and being disingenuous to get in the way of progress.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 24 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for the same day collection strategy.
Bobby Stewart	Highland Sanitation	Curbside food scraps collection for residents by 2030: This is an excellent idea, but is only financially affordable for residents if the individual cities put out RFPs for organics collection so that it's a single hauler servicing a community. Additionally, this will be an environmental net negative impact unless organics is combined with yard waste collection, as organized organics/yard waste that are co-collected would result in a net decrease of trucks on the road and by extension, substantial reductions in not just pollution, but also road wear and tear. Touching on above, not co-collecting yard waste with organics and pushing to make that a reality is hugely idiotic and creates additional trucks on the road and by extension, increases environmental pollution and therefore should not be considered unless this hurdle can be overcome.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics. The strategy includes support to municipalities to research and implement best collection practices, such as zoned contract areas. The plan does not prescribe one organics collection method over another (separate cart, co-collection, etc.). Waste industry, markets, collection and management costs, facility availability, and stakeholder input are some of the factors that will drive collection methods.
Kim Benton	Garlough Environmental Magnet School	The plan is thorough and comprehensive. My biggest point of feedback is supporting schools with training at the start of EVERY school year for students, teachers, support staff AND building engineers. Do not assume that teachers know how to sort (they don't always) and one time training is not enough. Training needs to happen year to year, especially when things (items accepted or not, introduction of reusables) or processes change. Schools should be required to have a plan when staff are hired mid year and may have missed the initial beginning of the year training. Who will be responsible for this training? Training for students, staff, teachers and building engineers should be done with ACTUAL items used at the site, not ambiguous plastic #1. For example, if a school cafe serves juice cups vs juice boxes- use the item used at that school to show students and staff if it should be recycled or not. If compostable boats are used, show that they go into the organics or trash. Most adults have questions about particular items that are not necessarily satisfied/answered with the pictures on the stickers attached to sorting bins.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 37 (pg. 15)	No change. Comment of support for strategy to continue to provide education (e.g., training assistance) and resources for school recycling improvements.

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Kim Benton	Garlough Environmental Magnet School	Lastly, I would like to see more of an emphasis on (and support for) the reduction of single use plastics in schools. If reducing is the preferred option, support schools who want to make this leap but are not sure how to communicate with school nutrition staff. Thank you for allowing feedback from the public.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategies 16 and 23 (pgs. 11, 12)	No change. Comment of support for strategies to provide resources for reusable foodware and implement waste reduction efforts at schools.
Katrina Gerenz	Unknown	Thanks for the information. My priority is to get Eagan to require garbage services to pick up organics. This should be available now not by 2030. It's a simple change and I continue to be confused why this is taking so long. Other suburbs already have it.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics, with request to implement sooner. Residential curbside organics is currently not offered anywhere in the county, and a required timeline by 2030 gives waste industry time to plan and make necessary infrastructure investments (trucks, facility capacity, labor, etc.). The plan does not prohibit municipalities or waste haulers from providing curbside organics collection prior to 2030.
Janae Barriuso	Unknown	I am excited for the compost pickup in the future. However, that will be at least 4 more trucks to avoid during my walks in the neighborhood.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics. The strategy includes support for municipalities to research and implement best collection practices, such as zoned contract areas.
Susan Brezny	Resident of Mendota Heights	I skimmed through the report and from what I could see it looks great; very comprehensive. Really glad it's in the plan to add organics pick up in the future.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics.
Susan Brezny	Resident of Mendota Heights	Could Dakota County mandate that retailers only provide recyclable bags (of various sizes) at the request (& purchase) of the customers? It would be to encourage people to bring their own bags and if they don't, they have to pay for a reusable bag. It's just a matter of retraining ourselves to reuse and it would add to less plastic bags blowing around in the wind. Chet's Liquors on Hwy 13 in Mendota Heights gives you a reusable bag that can hold 4 bottles of wine. If you bring the bag with you whenever you buy a bottle or more of wine, you get a discount. It's a small effort, but it's helpful. Thanks for all you do!	N/A	No change. Laws of this type are normally passed at a city level since cities typically have more authority related to businesses within their boundaries.
Pat Lieb	Unknown	Appreciate Dakota County's initiatives in recycling. However would welcome pickup arrangement in near future. I find that having to frequently take recycled food products to a collection point results in not participating in the program. Also deal with odor despite closed container.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics. The strategy includes support for municipalities to research and implement best collection practices, such as zoned contract areas.

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Marietta Sears	Unknown	An idea other states have city do leave pick up from each street in the fall and recycle all the leaves to compost ! It's a huge help to residents and a service to the community! Thank you	Wood Waste Strategy 56 (pg. 20)	No change. The county does not have authority to mandate that cities collect yard waste. Waste haulers provide yard waste curbside collection services throughout the county.
Jon Derik Dautel	Resident of Lakeville	I REALLY think that providing recycle feedback to homeowners will have the opposite effect as intended. When in doubt, people will throw things in the trash instead of the recycle to avoid getting a bad recycle report card.	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Broad stakeholder support was demonstrated through public engagement process for hauler feedback to customers when recycling and organics items are not properly sorted.
Jon Derik Dautel	Resident of Lakeville	Incentivize waste reduction and pick-up reduction. A homeowner who generates half as much trash and needs half as many pick-ups shouldn't pay the same as their neighbor who generates twice as much. Imagine if your water bill was the same no matter how much water you used.	N/A	No change. Volume-based pricing for trash is already required by the state and county, and volume-based pricing for recycling is prohibited by state statute.
Jon Derik Dautel	Resident of Lakeville	Just one person's feedback. My household of two has seen a huge reduction in our recycling. We stopped taking the newspaper, consolidate our online shopping for fewer boxes and often times receive envelopes instead of boxes. We also try to avoid single use cans and/or bottles. Unfortunately, our efforts actually make the math come out poorer when applied to the goal of imposed goal of 75% recycling rate. If we were at 75lbs recycling and 25lbs solid waste (per the goal), by dropping to 50lbs recycling we now are only at 67%. Additionally, our trash haulers are now required to send a truck every week to pick-up recycling that could easily wait 2-3 weeks. My overall thoughts: Goals need to be independent of each other (Reduce landfill waste to XX/CuFt per person, per year). Goals need to be more focused on the broader environmental impact (i.e. Don't send a recycle truck every day just to improve recycle rate by 1%).	N/A	No change. The Minnesota Legislature established the 75% recycling rate goal by 2030, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency set numerical objectives for other management methods through 2042. As part of plan implementation, county staff will continue to participate in state and regional discussions on improved measures.
P L Brust	Unknown	Leaning towards hauler feedback	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Comment of support for hauler feedback to customers when recycling and organics items are not properly sorted.
Douglas Moran	Unknown	I had the pleasure of interacting w/2 of the employees at the Natural Resources Bldg at the Dakota Cty Fair yesterday. They encouraged me to provide comments, so I am. The plan looks great.....I would strongly support the idea of providing curbside food waste/scraps pick-up! While I've been composting most of my home's food scraps, I think composting presents to many barriers to entry for most home owners. Having it curbside would be GREAT! And, I'd support adding a fee to cover it.....say in the range of \$20-\$30/yr. Hope this helps and thanks for your service!	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. The waste industry, not Dakota County, provides services and sets rates. The plan includes a strategy to provide support to municipalities to research and implement best collection practices, such as zoned contract areas which can reduce rates for residents.
Patricia Pecholt	Unknown	I love the ability to compost! I keep a bucket in the garage & put the filled compostable bags in there & when full I take it to the compost bin! So easy!	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 33 (pg. 14)	No change. Comment of support for organics drop sites.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Patricia Pecholt	Unknown	Keep up the good works of educating & encouraging reduction of garbage! We, on a whole, need to do better for our future generations.	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Comment of support for education initiatives included in the plan.
Patricia Pecholt	Unknown	We live in an HOA & we currently have a small recycling bin & a large garbage bin & I wanted to swap those for a large recycling & a small garbage, but was told they only do large garbage bins in HOAs. We could get a large recycling, but without getting a small garbage they wouldn't fit nicely in our garage. I think this is a crazy policy since I also compost so our garbage bin typically only has 1-2 Walmart size bags of garbage per week from our 2 person residence.	N/A	No change. The county requires haulers to provide recycling, but cart size is the decision of the HOA.
Robert Warmka	Resident of Eagan	Excellent plan you've all come up with! I think the goals of achieving 27.6% organics recovery (not including yard waste), 47.4% recycling, 20% resource recovery, and 5% landfill diversion is quite ambitious, particularly the last two, but rapid progress in these directions is good regardless of meeting these goals by 2044 or not, so I support these goals.	N/A	No change. Comment of support. The state sets numeric goals, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency includes yard waste in organics recovery goals.
Robert Warmka	Resident of Eagan	As a resident of Eagan, I particularly like the requirement of all waste haulers to provide curbside organics bins and weekly pickup by 2030, along with efforts to increase organics recovery (food to people, food to animals, and composting) from local restaurants, grocery stores, farms, and other large producers and distributors of food, and I like the plans to increase production and usage of biochar. I find resident-facing programs particularly important in this plan, not only because I myself am a resident, but primarily because when people participate in new services they not only utilize the service, changing their behavior, but using the service changes the way they think. I believe providing curbside organics bins will not only increase organics recovery immediately, but will also get more people interested in learning and doing more with proper waste management and usage. Essentially, I see it not only as a valuable public service improvement, but also an excellent marketing and advertising tool to get more people participating in proper and smart waste management. Thank you, and keep up the good work!	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics and other organics recovery initiatives in the plan.
Robert Warmka	Resident of Eagan	I like the plans to increase production and usage of biochar.	Wood Waste Strategies 54 and 57 (pgs. 19, 20)	No change. Comment of support. The plan includes a strategy to expand composting and mulching capacity beyond existing markets.

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Tracy Young	Resident of West Saint Paul	I'm an avid composter from way back. I had a homemade compost bin in my yard when I had a house in St. Paul, and now that I live in West Saint Paul am delighted to be able to take our compostable material to the bins at Thompson County Park. In fact I collect for our small condo building here on Imperial Drive. There are eight households here that participate. My letter today is to bring attention to the compost bins at Thompson Co. Park. They were recently changed to a larger version with greater capacity. While I understand this move was likely made to handle a larger volume of compost - great news if our bins fill up quickly - the issue I have is that the top opening of the bin is so high up I can only lift the lid about four inches due to my smaller stature. This makes it nearly impossible for me to empty our (five gallon) buckets. I know the onus is on me to solve my problem - likely I'll invest in a stool or small stepladder to bring with me when I come to dump compost. However I thought I'd bring the issue to your attention for consideration in the future when you contemplate making other such changes. Thank you and keep up the good work!	Recycling and Organics Management Strategy 33 (pg. 14)	No change. The accessibility issue raised with respect to the existing organics dumpster at the Thompson County Park was referred to the program manager to evaluate for improvements.
Todd	Resident of Dakota County	I would like to see a weekly or permanent site in Dakota County for Fix-It Clinics.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 20 (pg. 12)	No change. Comment is supportive of the Fix-it Clinic strategy. Changes in Fix-it Clinic locations and frequency will be evaluated during plan implementation with the intent not to compete with existing repair retail options.
Gillian Catano	City of Eagan	The City of Eagan's sustainability initiative will be an enthusiastic partner for the bi-annual low waste living challenge.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 12 (pg. 10)	No change. Comment of support for strategy to conduct low-waste living challenge.
Gillian Catano	City of Eagan	The City of Eagan attempted its first deconstruction project in 2023. We saw the positive environmental outcome of salvaging reusable building materials and diverting waste from landfills. The city is supportive of the county prioritizing sustainable material management and providing funding opportunities to the community and for municipal projects to continue to bring this practice to Eagan.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 16 (pg. 11)	No change. The plan includes a strategy to use non-county funding opportunities to research best practices and pilot opportunities to increase deconstruction and use of reusable building materials.
Gillian Catano	City of Eagan	The City of Eagan is supportive of expanded organics recycling opportunities for the community, especially for residents in multifamily homes who will not be impacted by the 2030 curbside organics requirement.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 33 (pg. 14)	No change. Comment of support for expanded organics drop sites.
Gillian Catano	City of Eagan	The City of Eagan has had success partnering with r.World to provide reusable cups at the largest city event for the last two years, with the support of funding through the county's waste abatement program. We would like to explore the opportunity of introducing reusable service ware through the r.World products at some of our permanent locations that do not have a dishwasher. We hope there will be funding opportunities through the county's waste abatement program for opportunities like this in the future.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 15 (pg. 11)	No change. The plan continues funding for municipal waste abatement activities. The county will continue to collaborate with cities and set annual work plan priorities in alignment with available funding to implement the plan.

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Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Of course, Dakota Valley Recycling loves the Community Waste Abatement grant program, and we look forward to many more years of working together! With the updates to both the MPCA Solid Waste Policy Plan and now the Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan including strategies on topics such as curbside organics collection and deconstruction, Dakota Valley Recycling would appreciate it if those topics could be included in future Community Waste Abatement grant programs. We feel these are opportunities to have a big impact on waste abatement in our cities, and would love to be involved with any city-led efforts.	Cost and Finance Strategy 60 (pg. 21)	No change. County staff will collaborate with partners to implement the plan and identify appropriate activities for the Community Waste Abatement Program. The County will explore additional funding sources to implement initiatives in the plan, and funding for programs will be determined during the plan implementation process.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	We greatly appreciate the funding available to municipalities to help with organized collection of organics. Dakota Valley Recycling requests that it be added to the Community Waste Abatement program in future years so that we can help our municipalities with the coordination and implementation of organized curbside organics collection (and potential recycling and/or trash as well).	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. County staff will collaborate with partners to implement the plan and identify appropriate activities for the Community Waste Abatement Program. The County will explore additional funding sources to implement initiatives in the plan, and funding for programs will be determined during the plan implementation process.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	On the topic of waste reduction and reuse, we also think it would be great if Dakota County were to take the lead on a Tool Library sometime in the future. Dakota Valley Recycling would love to host one, but space and staff resources are limited in our cities, unless Dakota County provided funding to help construct a small storage shed on one our city-owned properties.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 23 (pg. 12)	No change. The plan focuses on promoting existing tool libraries and continues municipal waste abatement funding which may be considered for city tool lending/reuse purposes. The county will continue to collaborate with cities and set annual work plan priorities in alignment with available funding to implement the plan.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling would like to encourage our cities to add additional drop-sites and assist with the coordination and implementation as much as possible.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 33 (pg. 14)	No change. Comment of support for expanded organics drop sites. County staff will continue to collaborate with cities on implementation.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling looks forward to implementing a building material collection or swap for residents.	Sustainable Building and Deconstruction Strategy 52 (pg. 19)	No change. Comment of support for strategy to implement building material swaps.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling agrees it is important to education to contractors and builders on proper sorting and reuse of building materials, but we also know deconstruction comes with an added price. It would be great if Dakota County could provide—or add to the Community Waste Abatement grant program—additional funding for municipalities to include deconstruction in municipal facility renovation projects. We’re concerned that even with training on the topic, deconstruction will not occur without funding opportunities.	Sustainable Building and Deconstruction Strategy 53 (pg. 19)	No change. Plan includes tactic to use non-county funding opportunities to research best practices and pilot opportunities to increase deconstruction and use of reusable building materials.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling would be supportive of Dakota County adding the following optional strategies to the Solid Waste Management Plan. This strategy is for county-owned buildings, but Dakota Valley Recycling would love for our cities to consider the same SMM strategies when demolishing or renovating city-owned buildings. Of course, additional finance assistance from Dakota County would be great to help implement those SMM strategies, specifically deconstruction.	N/A	No change. The county does not have authority to require use of a building materials management plan for non-county projects or other publicly owned buildings. Municipalities can choose to adopt their own requirements.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling would be supportive of Dakota County adding the following optional strategies to the Solid Waste Management Plan. This strategy uses Hennepin County's deconstruction grant as an example. While Dakota County doesn't have as many old homes as Hennepin or Ramsey counties, there are still opportunities in Dakota County for residents, businesses, or municipalities to include deconstruction into their renovation plans. Again, financial assistance from Dakota County would be great.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 16 (pg. 11)	No change. The strategy includes use of non-county funding opportunities to research best practices and pilot opportunities to increase deconstruction and use of reusable building materials.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Firstly, Dakota Valley Recycling appreciates the funding Dakota County provided as part of the Community Waste Abatement that helped us purchase a dishwasher and reusable service ware for the City of Burnsville Maintenance Facility. We will continue to look for opportunities to make similar purchase at other city-owned facilities, but we know there are some facilities where washing on-site is not feasible. For these facilities, such as ice arenas, community waterparks, or the Ames Performing Arts Center in Burnsville, it would be very helpful if the Community Waste Abatement program would allow Dakota Valley Recycling to pay for—or at least pilot—reusable vendor services. We would like to get enough city-owned facilities on board with reusables that a vendor could establish a route to collect and replenish reusable food and beverage service ware on a weekly basis. This would help us to eliminate thousands of disposable service ware items that are currently in use at these venues.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 15 (pg. 11)	No change. The plan continues funding for municipal waste abatement activities. The county will continue to collaborate with cities and set annual work plan priorities in alignment with available funding to implement the plan.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling supports a container delivery charge prohibition. Too often, we hear from residents who switch haulers and are charged both for the pick-up of their old containers, as well as delivery for new containers. We know this is specifically about organics containers, but we would be in favor of prohibiting container delivery or pick-up charges for trash and recycling containers as well.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support to prohibit haulers from charging for organics cart delivery, with request to expand prohibition to recycling and trash cart delivery charges as well. County staff will explore the legality of restricting container delivery fees as part of any ordinance changes.
Phil Shaffer	National Waste & Recycling Association	Variance Process: We appreciate your willingness to memorialize the variance process for implementation of weekly recycling, same day recycling, trash, and organics in rural areas of Dakota County where there is little to gain from an environmental standpoint given the fuel use, GHG emissions, and low population density from weekly recycling in rural areas. The variance allows us to focus our time and resources on areas where we can make the biggest impact on recycling volumes and allows us the flexibility to implement other options, such as larger carts, to attain the goal.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 32 (pg. 14)	No change. Comment of support for ordinance variance for residential weekly recycling in rural areas.