Build solid waste infrastructure in Minnesota

$49.2 million for CAP projects that will increase recycling and composting, and divert material from landfills.

The challenge

Putting waste in landfills is the least desirable disposal method for solid waste. Landfills must be monitored and managed in perpetuity, even after they stop receiving new waste. Closed landfills produce contaminated fluids (leachate) and methane gas that must be contained and disposed of properly, so that they don’t pose environmental and human health risks.

To avoid the risks and costs associated with landfills, it’s imperative to increase recycling, composting, and other efforts that divert material from Minnesota landfills. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (MPCA) Capital Assistance Program (CAP) offers grants to local governments to help them increase reuse, recycling, and composting, and keep materials out of landfills.

Proposal

The MPCA is requesting $49.2 million in bonding funds for CAP grants to local government for priority projects around the state:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas served</th>
<th>Project (in priority order)</th>
<th>Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clay County</td>
<td>Tier 1: New transfer station and problem materials facility</td>
<td>$8,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pope, Douglas, and seven other</td>
<td>Tier 1: Pope Douglas Solid Waste Management facility upgrade</td>
<td>$9,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Minnesota counties</td>
<td>Tier 1: Ramsey/Washington Recycling &amp; Energy center expansion</td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsey and Washington counties</td>
<td>Tier 2: Household hazard waste facility expansion</td>
<td>$391,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chisago County</td>
<td>Tier 2: Recycling center expansion</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Coon Rapids</td>
<td>Tier 2: New household hazardous waste and recycling facility</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota and Scott counties</td>
<td>Tier 2: Organics transfer station expansion</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin County</td>
<td>Tier 2: Organics infrastructure projects</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several local governments TBD</td>
<td>Tier 3: New transfer station, expanded recycling and composting facilities</td>
<td>$6,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd County</td>
<td>Tier 3: Transfer station renovation</td>
<td>$571,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All projects within a tier share the same priority rank.
Why it’s important

Local Minnesota governments are on the front line of solid waste handling in Minnesota. Ensuring that they have proper solid waste infrastructure has a significant impact on the state’s overall ability to divert waste from landfills and maximize recycling and organics composting. Keeping waste out of landfills will also reduce the future burden on taxpayers.

The projects

Clay County transfer station

Clay County needs to replace its dilapidated and undersized transfer station to accommodate population growth and new waste diversion programs. The new facility would also house a problem waste (household hazardous waste (HHW), electronics, bulky items, etc.) program.

Pope Douglas Solid Waste Management facility upgrade

Pope Douglas Solid Waste Management, which provides garbage services to seven counties, needs to update its Resource Recovery campus. The project would include building a new HHW facility with a recycling and reuse drop site, expanding the materials recovery facility and installing new equipment to pull recyclables from municipal solid waste, and building an organics composting facility.

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center expansion

The Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center is proposing to expand its tipping floor building and install equipment that would allow for residential organic waste collection in Ramsey and Washington counties. In addition, the facility would install new equipment to remove recyclable materials — two types of plastic, corrugated cardboard, and more — from municipal solid waste.

Chisago County household hazardous waste facility expansion

Chisago County plans to expand its HHW facility to accommodate increased demand for its collection and recycling services.

Coon Rapids recycling center expansion

The Coon Rapids self-service recycling center serves Anoka County and focuses on hard-to-manage materials, including polystyrene, appliances, carpet, mattresses, antifreeze, and more. The project will expand the facility and add equipment to further process recyclables, which would accommodate larger volumes and other types of materials.

Dakota/Scott household hazardous waste facility

Dakota and Scott counties are partnering to create a regional HHW and recycling facility. It would serve as a collection center for underserved areas of their counties. It would supplement their two existing facilities to serve current and future needs.

Hennepin County organics transfer station expansion

Hennepin County plans to expand its transfer station and dedicate space to receiving and storing organic material. The new space would accommodate collection vehicles dropping off organic waste, and semi-trailers loading the material for delivery to composting facilities.
Organics infrastructure projects in various communities

The requested $10 million would assist local governments in building or expanding compost facilities, adding on organics capacity at transfer stations, constructing anaerobic digesters to process food waste, and other facilities to recover organic materials.

Todd County transfer station and recycling facilities

Todd County plans to build a new transfer station to handle increased waste volume, including a HHW collection area. The county will convert its old transfer station into a single-stream materials recovery facility, and create a regional organics composting site.

Minneapolis transfer station renovation

Minneapolis plans to renovate its transfer station to accept more materials for recycling or reuse, increase efficiency, and better serve residents.

For more information

Greta Gauthier
Assistant Commissioner for Legislative & Intergovernmental Relations
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
greta.gauthier@state.mn.us
Office: 651-757-2031 • Mobile: 651-338-8955