

Invest in prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting to reduce waste

Expanding our recycling infrastructure will grow our economy and reduce our climate impact.

Challenge

Minnesota is bulging with waste. Despite ongoing efforts to prevent waste through recycling and composting programs, nearly half of our state's waste is disposed of in a landfill or at a waste-to-energy facility. Managing trash poses logistical challenges that can be lessened by promoting waste prevention and reuse. Prevention and reuse strategies are also priorities in Minnesota's efforts to combat climate change. Counties are required to implement waste prevention, reuse, and recycling programs, but there are significant gaps in funding for these initiatives. Additional funds are needed to help counties fulfill their waste prevention obligations and meet Minnesota's waste reduction goals.



Proposal

The Governor recommends \$16.94 million in FY2024 and \$16.94 million in FY2025 from the General Fund.

This proposal provides an infusion of money (\$4 million in each of FY2024 and FY2025) for local county efforts to improve prevention, reuse, and recycling activities to help them meet county waste management goals. Beyond FY2025, the proposal continues to provide counties \$2 million a year to focus on waste prevention and reuse activities. The funds would be dispersed through SCORE (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) grants.

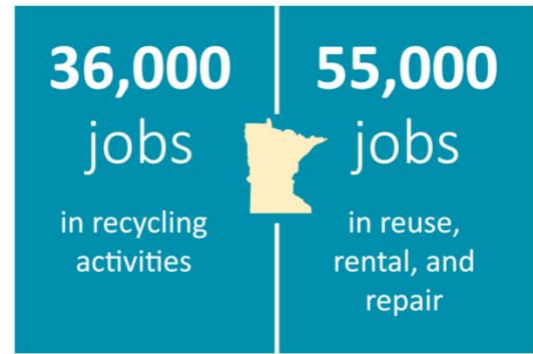
Waste prevention, reuse, and recycling efforts are not limited to counties, so the proposal includes grant and loan funding for private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and tribal nations advancing this work. Grants and loans would be provided for areas of need including:

- \$3 million for wasted food and food rescue efforts.
- \$2 million for overall waste prevention and reuse projects.
- \$4 million for market development projects.
- \$2 million for sustainable buildings and materials programs and projects.
- \$5 million for organics programs and projects.
- \$4 million for expanding markets and improving planning for wood waste.
- The proposal also includes seven full-time FTEs for the agency to administer the grant programs and provide waste prevention and reduction assistance to counties and others receiving grants.

Why it's important

Demand for MPCA-administered grants to support waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting, and market development far exceeded the amount of funding that is currently available. The MPCA has awarded prevention of wasted food and food rescue grants to 16 projects, with a total budget of just over \$2 million. During the three grant rounds, we received 75 applications for \$9.5 million. It is clear there is a strong demand for these grants.

Supporting a robust reuse and recycling infrastructure across Minnesota will also grow our economy. Recycling currently supports 36,000 jobs in our state, paying almost \$3.4 billion in wages. The reuse, rental, and repair sectors also make a significant economic impact in Minnesota, providing over 55,000 Minnesota jobs and generating about \$5.8 billion in economic activity each year.



For more information

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