

Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board

**Ramsey County Commissioner
Victoria Reinhardt**

SWMCB Chair

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Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board (SWMCB)

- Mission: To increase the efficiency and environmental effectiveness of the region's waste management system
- Established in 1990 through a Joint Powers Agreement of six Twin Cities metropolitan counties
- Two elected officials from each of County serve on the Board
- The region has 2.8 million residents and manages 3.1 million tons of MSW annually

Waste Management in the Twin Cities

- Counties are legislatively mandated to develop waste management plans that are consistent with the waste management hierarchy
- SWMCB counties collaborate on the development of policies and implementation of projects of mutual benefit to its members
- Significant private sector role in the delivery of services and ownership of facilities
- Region has 234 licensed haulers of MSW; nearly all of which are private haulers who determine the disposal destination



Minnesota Statutes: The Waste Management Hierarchy

Minnesota Statutes, section 115A.02, paragraph (b) state:

- *The waste management goal of the state is to foster an integrated waste management system in a manner appropriate to the characteristics of the waste stream and thereby protect the state's land, air, water, and other natural resources and the public health. The following waste management practices are in order of preference:*
 1. *Waste reduction and reuse;*
 2. *Waste recycling;*
 3. *Composting of source-separated compostable materials, including but not limited to, yard waste and food waste;*
 4. *Resource recovery through mixed municipal solid waste composting or incineration;*
 5. *Land disposal which produces no measurable methane gas or which involves the retrieval of methane gas as a fuel for the production of energy to be used on site or for sale; and*
 6. *Land disposal which produces measurable methane and which does not involve the retrieval of methane gas as a fuel for the production of energy to be used on site or for sale.*



Regional Accomplishments: MSW Management

MSW Management by Method - 2009

Management Method	2009 Tons	%
Recycled	1,350,998	52%
Delivered for Processing	974,956	32%
Landfilled	704,710	23%
TOTAL MSW MANAGED	3,064,489	

SWMCB Accomplishments: Policy and Communications

- **Advanced Environmental Policy**
 - Successfully advocated for e-waste product stewardship legislation and a requirement for the use of compostable yard waste bags
 - Actively partnered with the State in the development of Policy Plans
 - Developed Regional Master Plans outlining the implementation of solid waste programs
- **Implemented a Communications and Outreach Program**
 - Developed and widely promoted an award-winning regional campaign promoting waste and toxicity reduction and recycling



SWMCB Accomplishments: Collaborative Activities

Household Hazardous Waste

Established a HHW Reciprocal Use Agreement that allows citizens to use any county HHW facility in the region regardless of county of residence

Shingles Recycling

Worked with legislative, state agency and county leaders to change MN Dept. of Transportation road specifications to allow for use of tear off shingles in asphalt

Licensing

Issue MSW hauler licenses annually through a regional program



Challenges for the Region

- New strategies (regulatory, financial, or operational) are needed to move waste up the hierarchy
- Economics favor the bottom of the hierarchy
- Actions of the private sector greatly influence how waste is managed
- Lack of facility capacity and regulatory requirements constrain organics management programs
- Changing consumer behavior is difficult
- Additional legislative leadership is needed to make significant strides

Thank You

Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt

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