

12. WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING

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INTRODUCTION

Recycling has become a widely adopted waste management practice in Minnesota. Statewide, businesses and organizations have many opportunities to recycle through public and private collection programs. However, before recycling even becomes necessary, people have many options for reducing their use of environmentally hazardous materials. Anoka participates in the state SCORE Program and offers opportunities for waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

SCORE PROGRAMS

In 1989, the Minnesota Governor’s Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) recommended new legislation and funding to support local communities in responsible waste disposal and mitigation operations. SCORE set ambitious goals for recycling and energy-generation, which have generally been met or exceeded across the state. Programs and reports include recommendations by the Pollution Control Agency in consultation with the Association of Minnesota Counties, Solid Waste Administrator’s Association, and Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board. The programs are administered by the counties and follow Minnesota’s “waste hierarchy” of priorities.

WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING BOARD

The Anoka Waste Reduction & Recycling Board (WRRB) oversees the residential recycling program funded by the State SCORE program. The board serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council on residential recycling and waste reduction initiatives.

Minnesota’s waste hierarchy

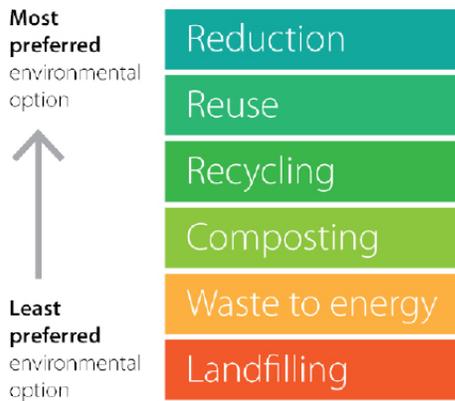


Figure 12-1: Minnesota’s waste hierarchy, from the MPCA’s 2016 SCORE Report Card

Specific duties include negotiating the residential curbside recycling contract assuring proper collection, handling, and disposal of recyclables, sponsoring recycling events and other recycling opportunities, and providing education, promotion, and resources to improve recycling and reuse opportunities habits in the reduction of residential waste.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Fix-It Clinics

Several Cities within Anoka County have teamed up to provide Fix-It Clinics to the public. Volunteer fixers help to disassemble, troubleshoot, and repair small appliances, electronics, clothes, and other household items at no cost. This saves the community money on unnecessary purchases, preserves possessions with sentimental value, and reduces waste that would end up in a landfill.



Spring Recycling

Anoka hosts an annual recycling collection day for large items that can be difficult or confusing to properly recycle. Anoka residents and small businesses can bring appliances, batteries, electronics, carpet, bicycles, tools, scrap metal, and other abnormal waste to a central location to avoid harmful methods of disposal. Donations to the Anoka High School Alpine Ski Team clothing drive fundraiser and MN Tool Library are also accepted. Mixed paper, envelopes, and file folders can be brought for shredding.

GOALS

CURRENT GOALS

- Host spring, fall, and special recycling events.
- Host Fix-it Clinics twice a year.

- Host two recycling educational presentations for school-aged children either at schools or special events.
- Improve/add recycling and reuse opportunities at city-sponsored events.
- Increase recycling opportunities at multi-family properties.
- Promote residential recycling through all applicable city communication tools, including the RAW newsletter.
- Meet once per month, or as needed, to discuss recycling opportunities and activities to help improve the quality of life within the city of Anoka.

FUTURE GOALS

- Consideration of a permanent city-owned and operated recycling center.
- Encourage and increase recycling opportunities and procedures in city departments.
- Establish one or more organics/compostable programs in city-owned parks.

