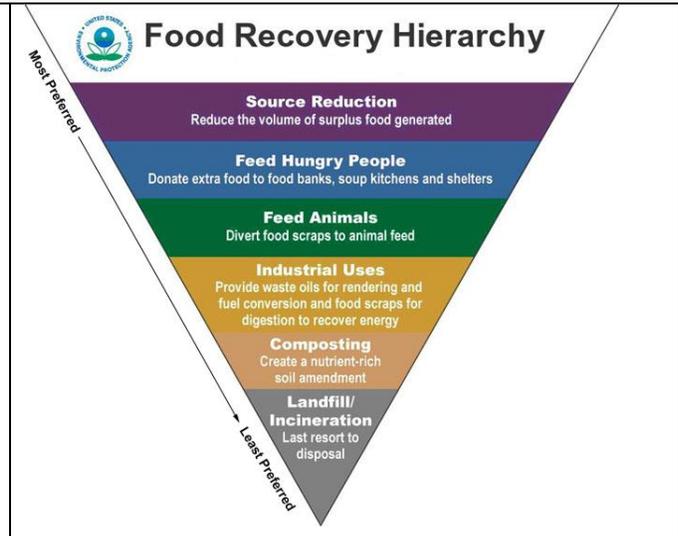


Why Organics Management Goes Beyond Composting

In 2013, a Statewide Waste Characterization Study identified nearly 43% of the waste destined for land disposal was organic. Organic waste includes food waste, food-soiled paper, and non-recyclable paper (e.g., napkins and tissues).

The Environmental Protection Agency identifies an organic waste management hierarchy that identifies multiple management methods, not just composting.



Recommendation

The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board supports amendments to Minnesota Statute 115A.557 to allow recently increased SCORE funds to be used for more than one method of organics waste management. Currently, Statute 115A.557 only allows recently increased SCORE funds to be used for one method of managing organics, that being composting. There are other management methods for organics, such as food to people, food to animals, and anaerobic digestion. Expanding the current statutory definition of organics to include other organics management methods would assist counties in achieving established State goals for organics diversion.

Current Organics Practices in the SWMCB Counties

Current practices in the SWMCB counties include multiple organics waste management practices. Examples follow.

Feed Hungry People

Second Harvest is a Maplewood non-profit that provides food for those in need in the Twin Cities. Second Harvest is piloting a program with [Hilton](#) to donate their prepared food from banquets and daily operations to local food shelves.

Feed Animals

In Dakota County, approximately 36,000 tons of solid waste are converted to animal feed at the Endres plant each year. This facility services the food manufacturing industry by providing disposal options for bulk by-product waste and unsaleable packaged foods. The packaging is either recycled (steel and aluminum) or used as a supplemental fuel in the on-site burner. The burner supplies heat to the dryer system used in the process.

Every year, about 3,800 tons of food scraps are fed to 5,000 hogs in Anoka County. It is collected by Barthold Recycling, owned by Pete Barthold, Luke's father. Barthold now

collects food from about 400 businesses in the metro area, including nearly all of the St. Paul public schools. The business has tripled in size since he took over.

Anaerobic Digestion

Sanimax in South Saint Paul has been developing an anaerobic digester project and could substantially increase organics management capacity. This facility will clean biogas to pipeline quality natural gas. The facility will use organic waste products from local food processing facilities, schools, grocery stores and municipalities. The process occurs in a sealed, negative pressure facility utilizing innovative filtration technology to mitigate odors. Not only will the facility generate pipeline quality natural gas, it will use some of that fuel to power their on-site 1.1 MW generator, and produce an organic fertilizer by-product.

Composting

Compost is diverted from the solid waste stream using the three composting facilities serving the SWMCB area: RRT PS in Dakota County, the Mdewakanton Sioux Community in Scott County, and Full Circle in Blue Earth County. Composting facilities convert organics into a usable soil amendment.