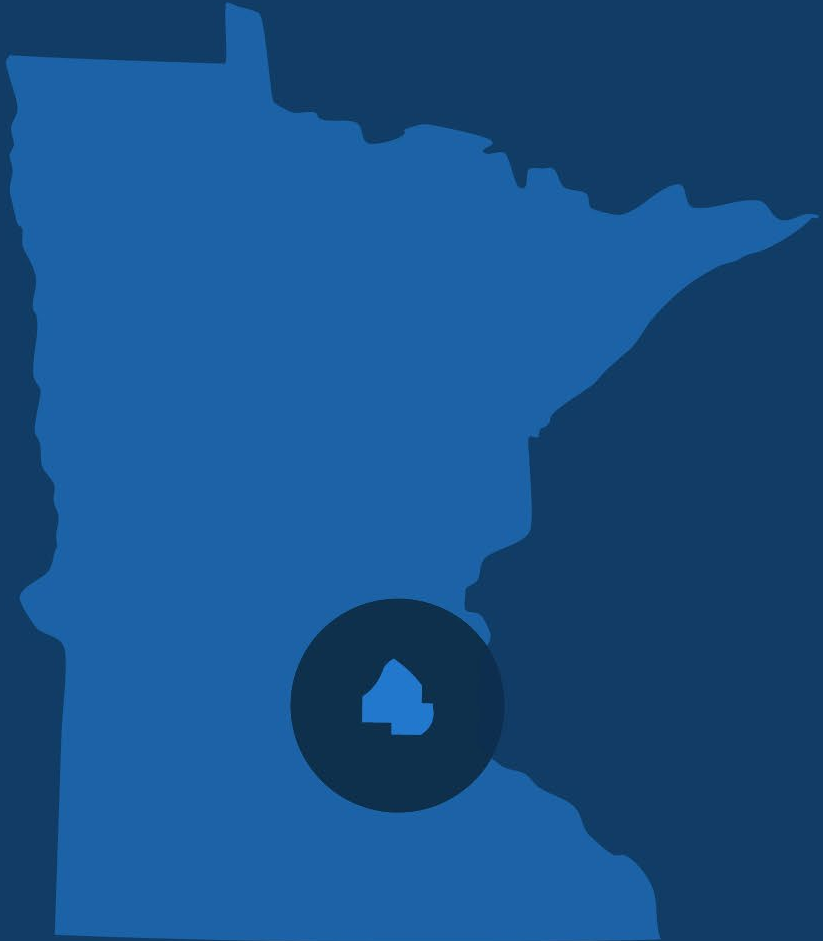


Hennepin County waste reduction highlights

Guiding principles and goals

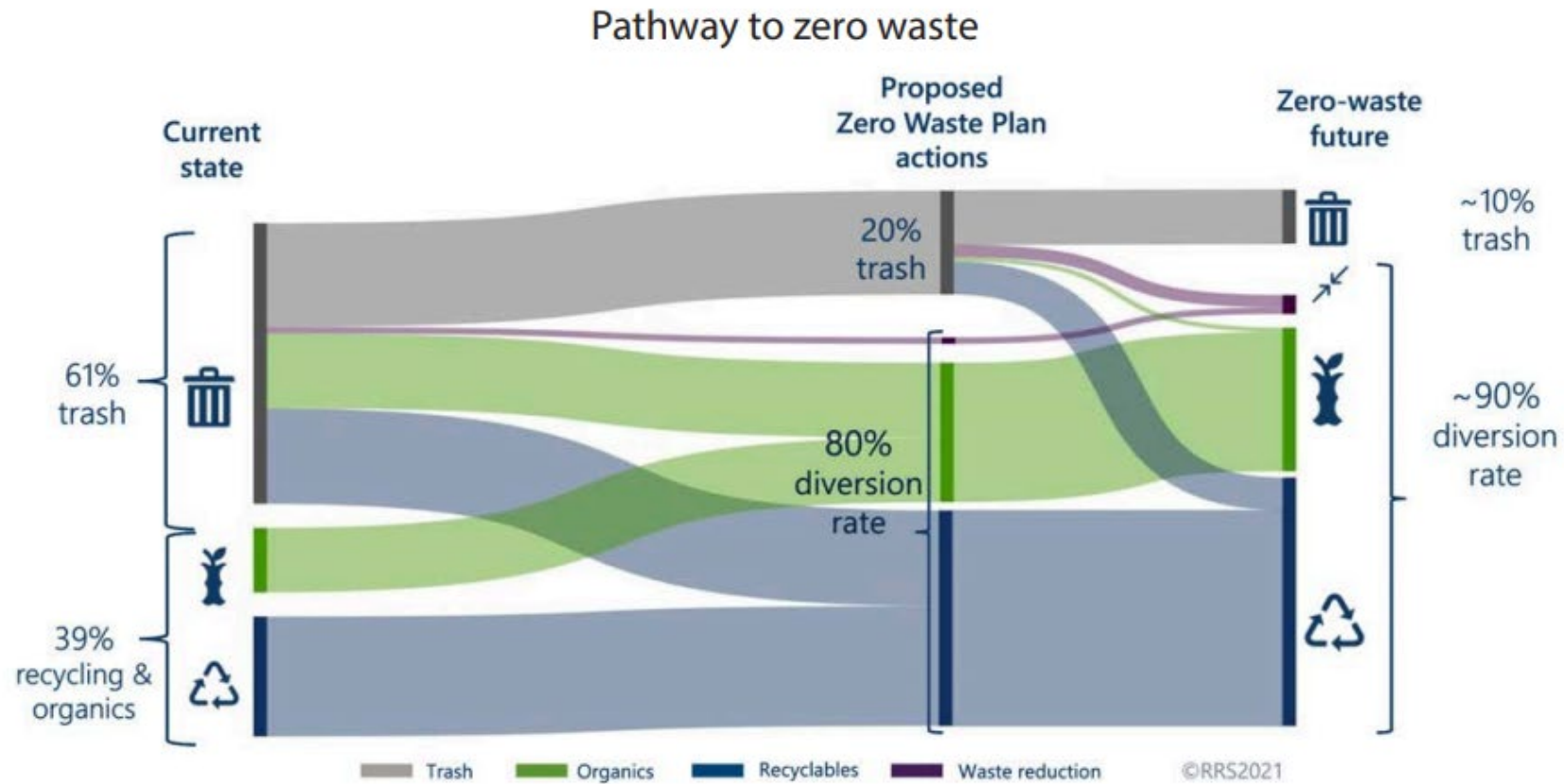
- Climate Action Plan: net zero carbon emissions by 2050
 - hennepin.us/climate-action/climate-action-plan
- Zero waste plan: 90% diversion of waste
 - hennepin.us/climate-action/what-hennepin-is-doing/zero-waste-plan
- 2024-2029 Solid Waste Management Plan
 - hennepin.us/solidwasteplanning



Partnerships

- Partnership on Waste and Energy
- Cities
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Legislators
- Residents and businesses

Getting to "zero"



What's new?

- Minimize
- Deconstruction and reused building material programs
- Fix-it Hub
- Swap-It Events
- Furniture reuse
- Plastic Free Challenge
- NEW: Organics Campaign
- Community Recycling Ambassador program

MNimize



MNimize is a single-use plastic reduction pledge and certification program for food businesses run by Minnesota Waste Wise in partnership with Hennepin County

- Help promote

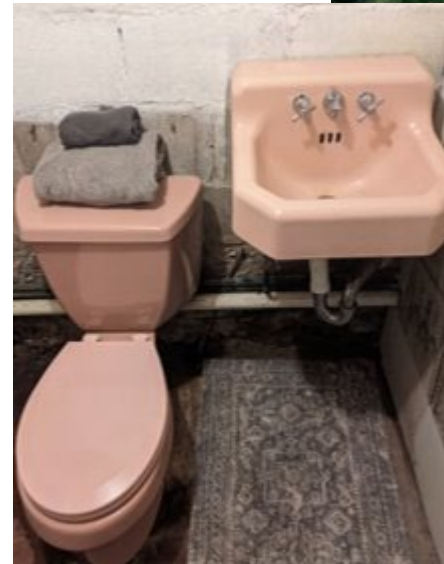
"Switching to metal and reusable plastic trays has allowed us to cut costs on wasteful products that fill our trash. We are already seeing the pros of having made this switch!"

Sergio Manancero
Owner
La Doña Cerveceria



Deconstruction

- Saving usable materials from the landfill
 - Encouraging installation of used products
 - Salvage Crawl through July in Richfield
-
- Help promote



Fix-It Hub

St Anthony Library, started Sept 2024
23 events in 2025 (library closed on Vet's Day)
363 attendees
581 items brought in
2,741 pounds diverted
87 percent repair rate

Second location, **Richfield Municipal Center**, started Oct 2025
14 attendees
19 items
82 pounds
100% repair rate

- Looking for fixers, menders and general volunteers



Swap-It Events

- Started in October, 2025
- 1209 people
- 8160 pounds swapped
- Looking for general volunteers



Furniture reuse events

- In 2025: first pilot event
- Upcoming events:
 - July in Medina
 - August in Richfield
 - September in Brooklyn Park
- Open to all residents



Plastic free challenge

- Will have a Spanish version
- In 2026:
 - Over 6,300 straws, cups, utensils and bottles avoided
 - Over 260 advocacy actions completed
 - Over 18,500 minutes spent learning

Join us next February

Hennepin County | Ramsey County | Washington County

Plastic-Free Challenge

FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 28, 2026

TEAMS ▾

PARTICIPANTS

PARTNERS

RESOURCES ▾

Helpful Resources

Thank you for participating in the Plastic-Free Challenge! Together with your teammates, you are proving that everyday actions, big and small, add up to real change! This page contains resources and tutorials to help you and your team optimize your Plastic-Free Challenge experience and encourage others to join. Find social media graphics, participant tips, and how-to guides for the challenge platforms.

NEW: Organics Campaign

- Targeting people who aren't participating yet
- Plan to launch this fall
- Help increase the amount of organics collected
- Help promote



Community Recycling Ambassadors



Action steps

Personal action

- Learn and practice low-waste and low-carbon behaviors
- Find ways to reuse, reduce and recycle that are sustainable to you – don't fixate on perfection



Spread the word

- Share about any programs that interested you!
- Lead by example and help bring others a step further along their journey



Advocacy

- Tell your legislators about what issues you support
- Talk to entities within your circle: school, place of worship, workplace or volunteer organization, other groups
- Submit feedback to businesses you frequent



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Environment and Energy Department

