



# Hennepin Energy Recovery Center

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## Fast facts

- ▲ HERC produces enough electricity each year to power 25,000 homes for a year.
- ▲ Each year more than 11,000 tons of ferrous metal are recovered from the waste stream and recycled.

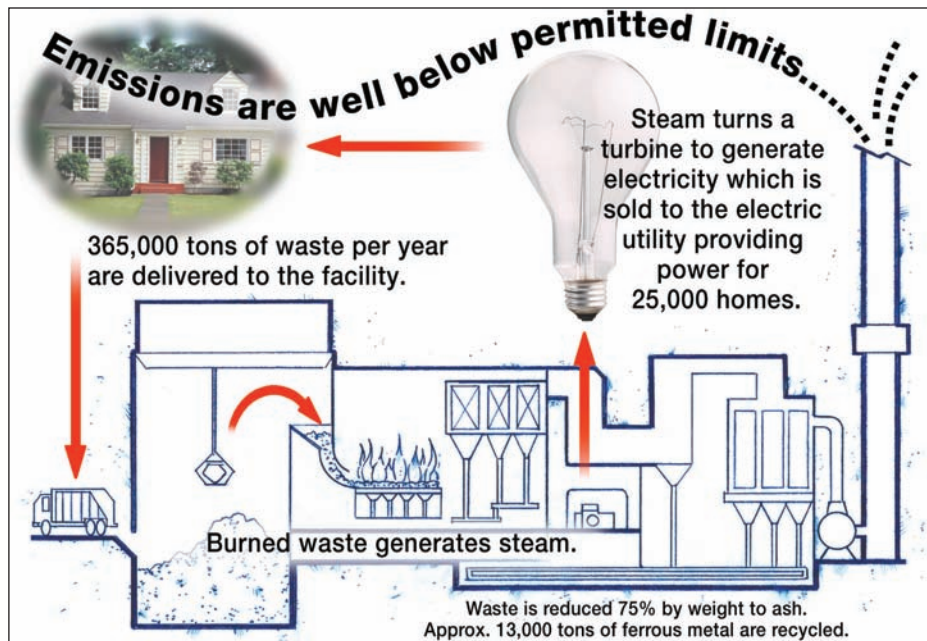
## What is the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center?

The Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) burns solid waste, producing steam to turn a turbine/generator, creating electricity. It is located at 505 Sixth Ave. N., Minneapolis.



## Facility information

- Owned by Hennepin County.
- Operated by Covanta Hennepin Energy Resource Co., by contract through 2018.
- The technology consists of two mass burn boilers in parallel, a turbine/generator and air emission control equipment.
- Permitted capacity is 365,000 tons of solid waste per year. This represents about 35 percent of all solid waste generated by residents and businesses in Hennepin County (after recycling).
- The county has contracts to accept waste from many waste haulers. Any waste that the county cannot process into energy must be transported and landfilled at the county's expense.
- Waste accepted includes residential solid waste from the City of Minneapolis and suburbs, and commercial solid waste from private haulers.
- Approximately 150 garbage trucks use the facility each day, plus 14 service trucks to deliver supplies and to haul ash and scrap metal away. Most waste deliveries are made from 6 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- The facility operates around the clock, 365 days per year. There are scheduled outages for two weeks each spring and fall for maintenance and repairs.
- Each year enough electricity is generated to power 25,000 homes for an entire year.
- Generated electricity is sold to Xcel Energy by contract through 2018 and transmitted to Xcel's Aldrich Substation through a county-owned transformer and transmission line.
- Excess steam will be sold to NRG for use in the downtown district heating and cooling system.
- The value of the facility is estimated to be \$160 million.



## Environmental information

- The facility has a Title V Air Permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- State-of-the-art air emission control technology includes controls for nitrogen oxides; lime injection to control hydrogen chloride and sulfur dioxide; carbon injection to control mercury; and a baghouse filter to control particulates, metals and dioxins. Emissions consistently test below the regulatory permit limits – 80 percent below permitted limits on average.
- Since it opened in 1989, HERC has diverted 6.5 million tons of waste from landfills.
- Odors are being effectively managed to ensure the facility continues to be compatible with adjacent neighbors and land use.