

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
MINNESOTA



Business recycling:  
Apply for bins and  
compostable bags

2026 guidelines

## Introduction

Businesses and organizations produce more than half of the waste generated in the county. Recycling programs conserve natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They can also help a business' bottom line and demonstrate commitment to the community. Hennepin County provides free resources and assistance for small businesses and nonprofit organizations to start or improve recycling and organics recycling.

Applicants may select up to \$3,000 worth of containers and BPI-certified compostable bags (organics programs require collection bins to be lined with compostable bags) from the county's product list. Only products listed in the application may be selected — there are no exceptions or substitutions.

Compostable bags are only available to applicants starting new organics for composting programs, not organics programs that are already in place. Hennepin County Environment and Energy will purchase the containers and compostable bags, on behalf of the applicant, and products will be delivered to the address provided in the grant application unless noted otherwise.

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until Friday, November 13, 2026, or until the annual program budget is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

## Eligible applicants:

Nonprofit organizations and small businesses\* located in Hennepin County. Bins must be used in Hennepin County.

\*For the purposes of this grant, *small business* is defined as having gross annual revenue/receipts no greater than \$1.5 million on average over the past three years. Hennepin County reserves the right to verify any information supplied, by means it deems appropriate, to determine the accuracy and truth of an applicant's gross annual revenue/receipts submitted for this grant.

## Applying

### 1. Complete a consultation with business recycling staff

Prior to applying, applicants must contact county staff through the [business recycling request form](#) for a consultation that may require a site visit to assess container needs and, if applicable, compostable bag needs. To qualify for compostable bags, you must provide a quote or other documentation from a licensed hauler that supports your intent to start organics recycling. You may request a 3-month supply of compostable bags.

### 2. Submit application materials

Application materials will be provided to you after your consultation. Email the following to [businessrecycling@hennepin.us](mailto:businessrecycling@hennepin.us):

- Completed application
- Substitute W9 vendor form
- If requesting compostable bags: documentation of pending organics service

The application will be provided after you contact county staff through the [business recycling request form](#) for a consultation. We have provided the information below as a preview of the application:

- Business/organization name, address, and contact information
- Short summary of what your business/organization does
- Number of staff at your site
- Short description of your current recycling system
- Short description of any education and training you will incorporate
- Information on your current waste hauling (locate a recent waste hauling invoice for this information)

### Equipment selection:

You will select types and quantities of containers. Be prepared to specify where you will place each container. For compostable bags, you may request a 3-month supply (on the application, please provide the calculation for the number of bags you are requesting).

Here are the containers and compostable bags you will select from:

Blue recycling container	Size options
	Size: 11" x 8" x 12" Capacity: 3.5 gallons
	Size: 14.5" x 10.5" x 15" Capacity: 7 gallons
	Size: 15" x 11" x 20" Capacity: 10 gallons
Green organics container*	Size
	Size: 12" x 9" x 9" Capacity: 2.25 gallons *Bags available for this container
Green organics container*	Size options
	Size: 11" x 8" x 12" Capacity: 3.5 gallons *Bags available for this container
	Size: 14" x 10" x 15" Capacity: 7 gallons *Bags available for this container
	Size: 16" x 11" x 21" Capacity: 10 gallons *Bags available for this container

Green organics container with lid	Size options
	Size: 14" x 10" x 15" Capacity: 7 gallons *Bags available for this container
	Size: 16" x 11" x 21" Capacity: 10 gallons *Bags available for this container
Blue recycling container (and optional lid)	Size
	Size: 20" x 11" x 30" Capacity: 23 gallons
Green organics container*	Size
	Size: 20" x 11" x 30" Capacity: 23 gallons *Bags available for this container
Blue recycling container	Size options
	Size: 22" (diameter) x 28" (height) Capacity: 32 gallons
	Size: 24" (diameter) x 31.5" (height) Capacity: 44 gallons

### 3. Application review and next steps

After your application is reviewed, county staff will contact you to discuss next steps. Upon application approval, the items will be shipped to your business address. Hennepin County reserves the right to refuse funding or to partially fund an application.

### Contact information

Hennepin County  
Environment and Energy  
Business recycling grants  
612-543-1316  
[businessrecycling@hennepin.us](mailto:businessrecycling@hennepin.us)  
[hennepin.us/businessrecycling](http://hennepin.us/businessrecycling)