

County system

Drop-off facilities

Hennepin County has two drop-off facilities where residents can get rid of recycling, electronics, appliances and household hazardous wastes. The facilities accept a wide range of materials and have convenient hours. The primary purpose of the facilities is to accept household hazardous waste (HHW) and problems materials and, in the case of Brooklyn Park, to serve as a transfer station for trash and organics. The facilities also accept recycling.



Brooklyn Park

Brooklyn Park Transfer Station and Recycling Center

Full and self service areas

8100 Jefferson Highway
Brooklyn Park, 55445



Bloomington

South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center

Full service only

1400 W 96th St.
Bloomington, 55431

In general, the county does not accept waste from businesses, but an exception is made for cardboard, scrap metal, recycling, and organics recycling from small businesses. Both facilities make reusable paint, automotive products, cleaners, adhesives and other products available for free.

The county charges a fee for some items, including \$3 for each tire, \$15 per mattress or box spring, \$15 for each appliance, \$30 for each air conditioner or full size refrigerator, and \$10 for each TV, computer monitor, or laptop. Limits also apply for some items.

To allow for broader participation, the county has reciprocal use agreements with other metro counties to allow residents to deliver household hazardous wastes and problem materials to facilities and

collection events in any of the participating counties. The county of origin reimburses the receiving county for the cost of managing the waste.

Facility hours

Day	Hours
Monday	Closed
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday	Closed
Holidays	Closed most major holidays

Household hazardous waste and problem materials

Household hazardous waste and problem materials collection programs play an important role in protecting public health. Many of the materials managed by these programs are banned from municipal solid waste. Although there are various private options for disposing of these wastes, the drop-off facilities provide a convenient, one-stop location. These facilities accept a wide range of materials including electronics, paint, appliances, vehicle wastes (oil, batteries, antifreeze and tires), household batteries, fluorescent lamps and products that contain ignitable, reactive, corrosive or toxic chemicals.

To provide more convenient local disposal options, the county also offers collection events at various sites throughout the county. Additionally, the county collects household batteries at libraries and community centers and provides disposal of medicines at drop boxes and collection events at senior living facilities.

Recycling

The drop-off facilities accept common recyclables, such as single sort recycling and cardboard, from homeowners and businesses that self-haul their materials. The county also supports the collection of non-traditional recycling by offering options for many items that are not accepted in recycling carts at home.

Non-traditional recyclables accepted include:

- Mattresses and box springs
- Plastic bags and film
- Scrap metal
- Media (CDs, DVDs, etc.)
- Clothing and linens (non-reusable)

Organics

Hennepin County offers a reduced tipping fee of \$25 per ton for organics delivered to the county's Brooklyn Park Transfer Station (BPTS). Because the tipping fee for garbage is \$55 per ton at BPTS, there is an incentive to save money by managing organics separately from garbage. BPTS also accepts organics for free from residents and small businesses. Organics must be generated in Hennepin County and be separated from trash and recyclables. There is a limit of 5 bags per person per day.

Resource Recovery at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC)

About 1.4 million tons of solid waste was generated in Hennepin County in 2016. There are two options for managing the waste that remains after waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting: burning it to generate energy or burying it in a landfill. Processing waste to generate energy is environmentally preferable to landfilling and provides the opportunity to recover metal for recycling.

The Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) facility in Minneapolis uses a mass-burn technology. HERC is limited by its state permit to burning 365,000 tons annually. The county negotiates waste delivery agreements with haulers to deliver trash directly to HERC or to the county's Brooklyn Park Transfer Station, which is used to facilitate the delivery of trash to HERC.

HERC produces enough electricity to power 25,000 homes. The electricity is sold to Xcel Energy. A portion of the steam produced is extracted to provide heating and cooling to the downtown Minneapolis district energy system and Target Field.

The combustion process at HERC reduces the volume of waste by 90 percent. The material remaining after combustion is non-hazardous ash. The ash is screened to recycle metals and then sent to a landfill. HERC recovers more than 11,000 tons of scrap metal each year, which is more than double the amount of metal collected in curbside recycling programs in the county.

Air emissions at HERC are cleaned and treated before being released. HERC's air permit requires it to operate under stringent U.S. EPA and State of Minnesota air pollution regulations. The air emissions are also well below the European Union standards for waste-to-energy facilities.

HERC uses the following state-of-the-art air emission control technology:

- A mixture of urea and water is injected into the furnace to control nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions.
- Activated carbon is injected to control mercury and other metals.
- Flue gases pass through a scrubber, where a lime slurry is injected to control sulfur dioxide and hydrochloric acid. Combustion gases pass through fabric filters to remove particulate matter, metals and dioxins

County licensing of haulers and facilities

The county licenses all garbage haulers in the county under Ordinance 17 and as part of the metropolitan area regional licensing program. Recycling haulers are not licensed. Under Ordinance 17, the conditions of the operating license include basics such as vehicle decals, written reports on operations upon request, language regarding cleanup charges, and the right to examine hauler records. Licensing does not currently require performance standards or reporting on waste quantities. Some municipalities in the county also license haulers.

Under the authority of Ordinance 2, the county licenses solid waste facilities. The purpose is to establish standards for disposal of solid waste within the county. Recycling facilities are not included.

The county ordinances related to solid waste management are more fully described in the next section.

County solid waste ordinances

Ordinance #2 Solid Waste Management Ordinance

- Establishes standards and regulates solid waste disposal and the operation of waste facilities and resource recovery facilities.
- Requires a license for the establishment and operation of a waste or resource recovery facility.
- Establishes requirements for certain facilities.
- Provides for application and license fees, performance bonds, and penalties for lack of compliance with these provisions.

Ordinance #7 Hazardous Waste Management

- Establishes rules, regulations, and standards for hazardous waste management including the identification, labeling, and classification of hazardous waste; the handling, collection, transportation, and storage of hazardous waste; and the treatment, processing and disposal of hazardous waste.
- Provides for the licensing of hazardous waste generators and hazardous waste facilities, payment of license fees, penalties for failure to comply with the provisions of this ordinance, and issuing, denying, modifying, imposing conditions upon, suspending or revoking licenses.

Ordinance #10 Solid Waste Surcharge

- Establishes rules, regulations, and standards to collect a solid waste surcharge on operators of landfills accepting mixed municipal solid waste, the amount of the surcharge fee, a full and partial exemption from the surcharge fee, fee payment and reporting requirements, and penalties for failure to comply with provisions of this ordinance.

Ordinance #13 Solid Waste Source Separation

- Requires the separation of recyclable materials from mixed municipal solid waste by generators before collection of such materials.
- Establishes procedures to be followed by municipalities in order to reduce the volume of solid waste generated.

Ordinance #15 Solid Waste Management Fee

- Establishes authority for a Hennepin County Solid Waste Management Fee to fund environmental programs that protect the health and welfare of Hennepin County citizens pursuant to state mandates governing waste management programs.
- Includes procedures for establishing a Solid Waste Management Fee, the fee payment method, reporting requirements, and penalties for non-compliance with provisions of this ordinance.

Ordinance #17 Solid Waste Hauler Licensing

- Establishes rules, regulations, and standards for the regional licensing of municipal solid waste haulers in the six metropolitan counties participating in the SWMCB.

Ordinance #18 County Collected Solid Waste Fee

- Establishes authority to fund waste management programs that protect the health and welfare of Hennepin County citizens through a county collected solid waste fee imposed against the

market value of taxable property pursuant to state mandates governing waste management programs.

County fees

Commercial hauler tipping fees

HERC

- Contract: \$55 per ton (as 2017)
- Non-Contract: \$85 per ton (as 2017)

Brooklyn Park Transfer Station

- Source Separated Organic Material: \$25 per ton

Drop-off facility fees for residents

Item	Fee per item
Appliances	\$15
Gas-powered appliances	\$30
Tires	\$3
Mattresses and box springs	\$15
TVs, computer monitors, and laptops	\$15

Solid waste management fees

Ordinance #15 Solid Waste Management Fee (hauler collected)

- Residential rate: 9%
- Commercial rate: 14.5%

Ordinance #18 County Collected Solid Waste Fee for Solid Waste Management Services

- Currently set at zero

Environment and Energy Department solid waste budget information

Revenue

The primary sources of revenue for the county's solid waste programs are described below.

Solid waste tipping fees

These are the fees paid by waste haulers for delivery of MSW to the county's solid waste facilities. Fees are also received from residents disposing of solid waste and problem materials such as appliances and tires.

Hauler collected solid waste management fees (Ordinance #15)

Hennepin County Ordinance 15 requires every MSW waste hauler to collect and remit a fee from waste generators for solid waste management services. The fee is a percentage of the amount the waste generator is billed for MSW service by its waste hauler. The percentage rates were set in 1994 and have not changed. The residential rate is 9 percent of the bill, and the non-residential rate is 14.5 percent of the bill.

State grants

The county receives grants from the State of Minnesota and other agencies for special purposes.

Other revenue

Additional revenue results from items such as interest earned from investments and finance charges, electrical sales, Covanta lease payments, licensing fees and recycling material sales.

Expenditures

The primary expenditures for the county's solid waste programs are described below.

Solid waste program

In 2016, the major expenditures for the solid waste program were for processing MSW for generating energy. The costs of operating a mass-burn waste-to-energy facility and sending waste to GRE was approximately \$24.2 million in 2016. Operating a transfer station and hauling waste to processing facilities and non-processible waste to landfills cost \$4.6 million in 2016. In 2016, the county spent approximately \$130,000 for the enforcement of solid waste ordinances, mostly in staff salaries.

In 2017, it is anticipated that the county will expend \$24 million on waste processing and \$1.7 million on transferring waste to processing facilities or landfills. In 2017, the county will only landfill waste that it controls if processing capacity is not available. The county has budgeted \$120,000 to landfill non-processible waste.

Household hazardous waste and problem materials programs

The household hazardous waste and problem materials programs include operating the drop-off facilities and collection events for these materials. Other programs include the free product centers, the battery program, the consumer electronics program, the fluorescent and HID lamp program, the major appliance program and the mercury collection program. Actual expenditures for the household hazardous waste and problem materials programs were \$4.3 million in 2016. The 2017 budget for the household hazardous waste and problem materials programs is \$4.3 million.

Waste reduction and recycling programs

Waste reduction and recycling expenditures are for county programs and activities aimed at reducing and recycling as much of the waste stream as possible. Staff salaries include county staff who focus on these activities. Expenses for recycling center and program operations include allocated facility operational and capital costs for the county's two recycling centers as well as costs to provide in-house recycling collection service to all county facilities. Public education and information expenses are related to information and promotion aimed at affecting behavior change to get county residents to reduce waste, reuse, and recycle as much waste as possible. Grants and program funding includes recycling grants to municipalities, the business recycling grants program, school grants, public space recycling grants, and deconstruction activities. Actual expenditures for waste reduction and recycling programs in 2016 were \$6.2 million. The 2017 budget for waste reduction and recycling programs is \$8.5 million.

Administration

Administrative expenditures directly related to solid waste programs cover depreciation costs and interest expenses related to the HERC facility and transfer stations. Other expenditures included advertising and printing costs related to waste reduction and toxicity reduction.

Attachments

1. 2016 Recycling Progress Report
2. Stakeholder Engagement Report
3. Waste Sort Report
4. Residential Recycling Funding Policy 2017-2020
5. Waste Delivery Agreement Template
6. Hennepin County Solid Waste Ordinances
7. Hennepin Solid Waste System Operating Manual
8. City Contract Rates