

Appendix B: verbatim comments on the draft Zero Waste Plan

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Online meeting (Page 2)

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- Cities of:
 - Eden Prairie
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 - Group of medical providers in North Minneapolis

Action alerts (Page 194)

- Sierra Club North Star Chapter
 - 77 messages received with letter from Sierra Club
 - 34 emails received directly associated with a Sierra Club service provider

00:25:10 Sean Gosiewski: Hello Everyone! Feeling green after our fun friends of lake hiawtha meeting – join us for our Earth day Clean up Sat April 22 at 9am the north pipe will have a filter on it starting on June 3
<https://www.facebook.com/HiawathaMpls>

00:25:31 Nazir Khan: How long is going to be allowed for comment?

00:26:43 Sean Gosiewski: The HC staff ZW presentation to the Hennepin Co Board in December was very inspiring –

00:27:30 Sean Gosiewski: Here is the ZW plan link
<https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/your-government/projects-initiatives/solid-waste-planning/draft-zero-waste-plan.pdf>

00:28:43 Angie Timmons: Replying to "How long is going to..."

We expect the presentation to be about 40 mins, leaving 50 mins or more for questions and comments.

00:30:58 Angie Timmons: Replying to "How long is going to..."

For those who are unable to stay through the presentation, you can leave comments in the chat or complete the survey now.

https://beheardhennepin.org/zero-waste-future/survey_to_ols/zero-waste-plan-comment

00:39:39 Sean Gosiewski: We can work with local League of Women Voters chapters to help more suburban cities to adopt organized collection like Bloomington, it can help a lot with rolling out organics collection
sean@rccmn.co <https://rccmn.co/zero-waste/>

00:41:32 Angie Timmons: Here is a link to the full plan:
<https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/your-government/projects-initiatives/solid-waste-planning/draft-zero-waste-plan.pdf>

00:42:35 Nazir Khan: All these necessary changes cannot happen if you rely on burning trash into the most overburdened community in the state of Minnesota! (With the highest asthma hospitalization rate in the state.) The HERC stands in the way of getting to Zero Waste. It is the biggest polluter in the county. It consumes the resources and political will necessary to actually address the waste crisis. And yet, somehow, the county promotes the HERC as a solution to this crisis (just look at those absurd trash bins at MSP airport that make it seem like you are either contributing to recycling or contributing to energy— “waste to energy”—so you’re good either way). Which hides the truth from people. You cannot get to zero waste if you continue relying on this false and deadly solution..if you continue to place the burden of your waste system on the lungs of a frontline environmental justice community.

00:42:50 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Reacted to “All these necessary ...” with 👍

00:42:52 Bryce Riesner: Reacted to “All these necessary ...” with 👍

00:42:57 Akira yano: Reacted to “All these necessary ...” with 👍

00:43:18 Mary Pogatshnik: Reacted to “All these necessary ...” with 👍

00:43:19 Aaron Rosenblum: Reacted to “All these necessary ...” with 👍

00:43:26 Kyle Johnson: Reacted to “All these necessary ...” with 👍

00:43:34 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Replying to "All these necessary ..."

Nazir – I completely agree

00:43:43 LesLee Jackson : Who are the residents that you worked with to get your comments from

Are you planning to have a meeting with the Minneapolis Green Zones to discuss this plan for comments ?

00:43:48 Leslee Gutierrez: Reacted to "All these necessary ..." with 👍

00:43:55 Leslee Gutierrez: Removed a 👍 reaction from "All these necessary ..."

00:43:56 Leslee Gutierrez: Reacted to "All these necessary ..." with 👍

00:44:02 Krystle D'Alencar: Reacted to "All these necessary ..." with 👍

00:44:22 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: An equitable material management system does not include burning trash in North Minneapolis

00:44:27 Anne Sugnet: Reacted to "All these necessary ..." with 👍

00:44:32 Sydney Murray: Reacted to "All these necessary ..." with 👍

00:45:01 LesLee Jackson : Are you planning on changing the air monitors at HERC

So they give accurate measurements of the plastic that is burned at HERC??

00:45:13 Katherine Blauvelt: Agree. "Establish milestones" to phase out the HERC is a bizarre dodge by the County that makes its claim to reduce disparities worse than laughable. Say when you will shut down the HERC.

00:45:45 Nazir Khan: Orwellian

00:46:03 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: how much money will the county invest in the old deteriorating HERC in the next 5 years?

00:46:13 Stephanie Fitzgerald: Phase out plans include a target date!

00:46:22 LesLee Jackson : WHY does it take so long to get the current data about the emissions released from HERC??

00:46:29 Anne Sugnet: Yes!

00:46:30 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Reacted to "Phase out plans incl..." with 👍

00:46:34 Bryce Riesner: Reacted to "Phase out plans incl..." with 👍

00:46:41 Sydney Murray: Planning to plan milestones for the HERC shut down? Why can't you just plan the milestones now? Give us a concrete date!

00:46:50 Lori Olinger: Chemical recycling is also not a good solution for hard-to-recycle materials – they should instead be redesigned to eliminate them

00:47:07 Nazir Khan: Even the emissions they share don't cover the hundreds of new chemicals that industries manufacture. They only have to cover and filter a small number of things.

00:47:18 Andrea Siegel: Reacted to "An equitable materia..." with 👍

00:47:30 Nazir Khan: Not cover, *share emissions info for

00:48:02 Stephani Maari Booker: It is THE barrier to zero-waste achievement! I am one of the people who participated in the zero-waste community comment groups. This presentation is downplaying we participants' voting for

and calling for HERC shutdown.

00:48:10 Andrea Siegel: Reacted to "Phase out plans incl..." with 👍

00:48:15 Nathan Reinbold: I'm thankful for the resource recovery facility in MSP. If anything, we need more facilities in Hennepin and other areas that are HIGH generators of waste. No sense (in the environmental justice sense) to fill up landfills in the south metro (close to a Native American EJ community – SMSC. Kicking the can down the road impacts others.

00:48:19 Sean Gosiewski: Below are our 2023 Legislative Zero Waste Wish List members of our Zero Waste Community Engagement cohort brainstormed with Hennepin Co and City of Minneapolis staff Thanks! Kristel, Audua and Sean sean@rccmn.co

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11kfp7vIgAmSyRpEIp0XfSnECFG9j2SR1WRfiMI3QpQQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Let's make sure the bonding bill includes funding for an organics anaerobic digester for Hennepin Co.

Excellent progress so far with our MN 2023 Legislative Session on advancing zero waste – committee deadline is March 15 so lets make sure all our priority bills are introduced in both the house and senate

<https://recyclingandenergy.org/legislative-platform/>

00:48:23 Krystle D'Alencar: Reacted to "Agree.

"Establish mi..." with 👍

00:48:30 LesLee Jackson : The County has 14 years to figure out how to get rid of the waste

In the meantime are you considering placing a system where the residents can receive incentives for recycling plastic off their water bills

00:48:38 Maria Jensen: Heavy metals contamination

coming from the HERC is only measured once per year.
00:48:42 Akira yano: Aim 1 showed “establish milestones to phase out the use of HERC as county approaches zero waste,” but doesn’t show that the aim also includes an action for “short-term upgrades to HERC.” You have to view the entire Zero Waste Plan in order to see that.

In your zero-waste plan, you mark the upgrades as having a significantly higher impact than phase-out of the HERC. This is incredibly misleading because people who are interested in shutting down HERC (such as myself) might vote in favor of Aim 1 thinking they’re voting shut down HERC but instead, are also voting in favor of these short-term upgrades which the County can justify because the plan marks it as having a higher impact than phase-out. This is not an effective, or just way of gathering community feedback on the plan and poses serious concerns about the integrity of this process.

00:49:23 Elizabeth Winter: Replying to “All these necessary ...”

And no amount of outreach is going to be effective if people continue to be misled that incineration is acceptable, and if they don’t do their best at diversion, oh well – I heard a Mpls City employee say this during the community focus groups. Even well informed people don’t understand the impacts of incineration, and so they can’t provide informed feedback.

00:49:38 Kyle Johnson: We need to prioritize the kids in North MPLS

00:49:47 Aaron Rosenblum: I’m a resident physician in

North Minneapolis and I'm very concerned about health impacts on our community from HERC emissions... My colleagues and I see patients suffering every day. Any zero waste plan I would get behind would have a concrete phase out date for the HERC that would occur very soon.

00:50:05 Dennis Uyat: Reacted to "All these necessary ..." with 👍

00:50:05 Kyle Johnson: Who have some of the highest rates of asthma in the state

00:50:12 LesLee Jackson : What is the accurate amount of plastic burned and are you measuring the ash that falls upon us?

Are you planning on moving Mary Jo since the residents stand outside breathing the toxins?

00:50:40 Kyle Johnson: Removed a 👍 reaction from "All these necessary ..."

00:50:42 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Reacted to "Aim 1 showed "establ..." with 👍

00:50:43 Kyle Johnson: Reacted to "All these necessary ..." with 👍

00:50:48 Doug Gurian-Sherman: It is unacceptable to burn trash in north MPLS, burdening a community that is already overburdened. Despite the good intentions for achieving zero waste, it is highly unlikely that this will happen within years. So allowing HERC to remain open until the County "approaches zero waste" is racist and unacceptable. It is not the responsibility of the members of this community to solve this problem. The County's first responsibility is to provide for the safety and health of its citizens. The County is failing at this. Actions speak louder than words! "Approaching zero waste is vague", and seems like an excuse to kick the can down the road

00:50:48 Nazir Khan: Reacted to "Aim 1 showed "establ..." with 👍

00:50:54 LesLee Jackson : Where is HERC actually going to separate the waste they receive?

00:51:47 LesLee Jackson : EPA HAS NOT DONE THEIR JOB FOR MINNESOTA WHEN IT COMES TO THE INCINERATORS ACROSS MINNESOTA

00:51:49 Anne Sugnet: Removed a 👍 reaction from "All these necessary ..."

00:51:51 Anne Sugnet: Reacted to "All these necessary ..." with 👍

00:52:07 Kyle Johnson: Shut down the HERC and repurpose the site into the county innovation hub and repair center

00:52:55 Sean Gosiewski: Cities are the ones who can pass Construction & Demolition waste ordinances, lets include this in the Mpls Climate Equity Plan sean@rccmn.co – send suggestions to Kelly Kish Kellie.Kish@minneapolisismn.gov

00:53:26 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: There are no safe level of dioxins or lead -- both emitted from the HERC-- These toxics fall out onto our homes, parks, schools, and farm fields

00:53:44 Stephani Maari Booker: Mr. Reinbold, are you trying to pit the predominantly African American community of North Mpls against the Native American community of the South Metro? Are you saying our only choices is to either pollute African American lungs or Native American bodies?

00:54:04 Elizabeth Winter: Vinyl is made from PVC, aka vinyl chloride, the stuff that spilled in East Palestine...

00:54:51 Lori Olinger: PFAS treated products

burned at the HERC are releasing PFAS by-products into the air and posing a risk for residents

00:55:16 Stephani Maari Booker: Yep, PVC is one of the most polluting materials to produce and it's poisonous to burn.

00:55:23 Akira yano: One great way to keep trash out of the incinerator is to remove the incinerator

00:55:50 Sydney Murray: Reacted to "One great way to kee..." with 👍

00:55:54 Nathan Reinbold: Replying to "All these necessary ..."

Not true. Did you see the awfully low recycling rates for counties/cities that don't also use waste to energy facilities as part of their solid waste plan? Look at the entire state. Facilities like the HERC and Hennepin see and understand the entire picture. Do you want a landfill in your backyard? The liquid leachate that is collected at landfills are far more concentrated in toxins that go to waste water treatment plants are are not treated. Just like PFAS. Waste to Energy facilities assist in destroying these emerging chemicals of concern.

00:56:31 LesLee Jackson : When your changing the system to land fills How high do you plan for them to be Is the plan that Minnesota will be known as Mounds of Minnesota waste city of the Midwest

Considering the growing population in Minnesota

00:57:12 Lori Olinger: The waste reduction line is very tiny – this is a missed opportunity

00:57:30 Stephani Maari Booker: Mr. Reinhold, I have a trash burner in my backyard! I live less than 1.5 mile from the trash burner.

00:57:47 Nathan Reinbold: Replying to "We need to prioritiz..."

We need to prioritize all kids in the entire state. Shipping garbage to other areas of the state from larger cities isn't the answer. You are just kicking the can to someone else to deal with.

00:57:50 LesLee Jackson : WHERE WILL THE LANDFILL BE LOCATED??

00:57:51 Elizabeth Winter: Replying to "All these necessary ..."

PFAS are not destroyed by incineration. There is no incineration technology in existence that destroys PFAS. Incineration emits them into the air, where they spread 150 miles or more.

00:57:58 Sean Gosiewski: Great news that the Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan will include air quality goals, strategies and metrics <https://rccmn.co/air-quality> Minneapolis now has funding for community based air monitoring. Need to maintain mutual transparency and accountability to improve air quality in the North and Soutside Green Zones.

00:58:09 Doug Gurian-Sherman: Health impacts from multiple, cumulative toxins is not adequately accounted for by current risk assessments. Risk are almost always based on analysis of single hazards, but people in N. MLPS are overexposed to multiple, cumulative, hazards. So the County is currently greatly underestimating the harm to N. MLPS citizens (full disclosure, I was a risk assessment scientist at US EPA). HERC needs to be shut down.

00:58:19 Grace Bassekle: Reacted to "All these

necessary ... " with 👍

00:58:24 Sean Gosiewski: Key to increase investments in Healthy Home retrofits with home energy improvements to improve indoor air quality and reduce asthma rates, <https://rccmn.co/indoor-air-quality/>

00:58:28 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Replying to "Health impacts from ..."

Thanks Doug

00:58:40 Nazir Khan: Replying to "All these necessary ..."

That's incinerator industry propaganda you're falling for. Incinerators produce TOXIC ASH. They still rely on landfills! And that ash is extremely dangerous and still leaches. Furthermore, the HERC is consuming the resources needed to divert organic waste, which would dramatically reduce leachate and methane emissions.

00:59:08 Grace Bassekle: Reacted to "One great way to kee..." with 👍

01:00:13 Nathan Reinbold: Replying to "Mr. Reinbold, are yo..."

Nope. By closing the HERC... you are kicking the can to south metro landfills... next to a federally recognized native American tribe. Is that better?

01:00:22 Stephani Maari Booker: Nearly half the non-recycled and non-composted trash in the entire county is burned in MY BACKYARD!

01:00:35 Sean Gosiewski: excellent examples from across the U.S. ROCIS (Reducing Outdoor Contaminants in Indoor Spaces) a Community Based Initiative in Pittsburg,

PA to improving indoor air quality and health outcomes through home air sealing and by distributing low cost-effective home air filters <https://rocis.org/>

30 MN Radio Interview

<http://outsideinradio.org/shows/in-pittsburgh>

and a local example of the MSP multi year noise mitigation program massive investment in home insulating and air sealing <https://metroairports.org/noise-mitigation-program>

01:00:40 Nazir Khan: Replying to "We need to prioritiz..."

Well, we actually help lead a state zero waste coalition to avoid kicking the can down the road. We are moving a package right now through the legislature to actually systematically address this waste crisis.

01:00:49 Nazir Khan: Replying to "We need to prioritiz..."

(MN Environmental Justice Table)

01:00:55 Kellie Kish: Supporting community groups to help encourage and incentivize waste diversion from trusted sources is necessary to make recycling and composting standard behavior – and key to helping meet zero waste goals. Many residents don't know where their waste goes – so long as it goes 'away' they don't care – closing HERC won't magically get people to recycle or divert material for composting

01:00:56 Maria Jensen: I am a representative from a recycling center in St. Paul/ Golden Valley that employs 75 full time employees and processes millions of pounds of electronics per year. I was a part of the community

planning group for the Zero Waste plan (I was in the Policy group). I heard a call from the community loud and clear that we want a date for HERC shut down. A real commitment to improve the health of North Minneapolis residents. I am really disappointed to read this draft plan that contains no commitment. Refusing to shut down the HERC trash burner is environmental racism.

01:01:00 LesLee Jackson : The air monitoring program will not allow for all the toxins to be measured and we can't sue the polluters some are Grandfathered in Until we are issued a higher quality product to measure the toxicity

Are HEALTH WILL REMAIN AT RISKS

01:01:11 Stephani Maari Booker: Mr. Reinhold, you are saying the choice is to either pollute African American lungs or Native bodies.

01:01:20 Nathan Reinbold: Reacted to "When your changing t..." with 👍

01:01:30 Nazir Khan: Replying to "Mr. Reinbold, are yo..."

Again, several folks here are trying to address this problem systematically.

01:01:46 Nazir Khan: Replying to "Mr. Reinbold, are yo..."

You are arguing to continue harming one community instead of addressing the problem.

01:01:54 Susan J Sperl: 34 year near north resident. Lots of "pretty charts and graphs. When are you going to address shutting down the HERC burner by a date certain

01:01:56 Krystle D'Alencar: Reacted to "You are arguing

to c..." with 👍

01:01:57 Kyle Johnson: Replying to "Mr. Reinbold,
are yo..."

Reinbold is a troll.

01:02:04 Jesse Lawson: Any zero-waste plan in
Hennepin County needs to have explicit language for
shutting down the HERC.

01:02:10 Angie Timmons:

https://beheardhennepin.org/zero-waste-future?tool=survey_tool#tool_tab

01:02:13 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "Nearly half the
non-..." with ❤️

01:02:21 Doug Gurian-Sherman: The idea that the
only choices is between N. MLPS and HERC and Native
people farther south is a false choice. That is absolute
garbage (no pun intended).

01:02:31 LesLee Jackson : THANK YOU FOR HAVING
THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE

01:02:44 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: The zero
waste plan is missing a key element – a retirement date for
the HERC (and a reuse plan for the site)

01:03:04 Stephani Maari Booker: Again, pollute
African American lungs vs. Native American bodies--that
can't be the only choices!

01:03:05 Jessica Garraway: The incinerator is not clean
its the leading cause of asthma in Minnesota

01:04:03 Nathan Reinbold: Reacted to "Well, we actually
he..." with 👍

01:04:20 Nathan Reinbold: Reacted to "Supporting
community..." with 👍

01:04:44 Krystle D'Alencar: Reacted to "You are arguing

to c..." with 🖐

01:04:45 Krystle D'Alencar: Removed a 👍 reaction from "You are arguing to c..."

01:04:50 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Question – what is the plan for the power purchase agreements for the HERC's electric output? How will those be wound down?

01:05:31 Nathan Reinbold: Replying to "Supporting community..."

Exactly. The garbage will get shipped to other areas of the state with less resources to move the problem elsewhere. Sad. '

01:06:06 Nazir Khan: *That's a huge misrepresentation, Kellie.*

01:06:09 Sean Gosiewski: *Helpful background article – the question is how much is more landfilling acceptable because we are only improving waste diversion a few percentage points per year*

<https://www.startribune.com/hennepin-county-incinerator-air-pollution-environmental-justice-landfill-trash/600254429/>

01:06:37 Nazir Khan: *And as a Minneapolis city employee, I'm very concerned about how you're putting your thumb on the scale here.*

01:06:56 Nathan Reinbold: *Aire monitoring is 24/7 through a continuous monitoring system... that is tracked by a third party. The HERC can't cheat the system.*

01:06:58 Elizabeth Winter: Replying to "Supporting community..."

That's not the purpose. Switching to landfills won't

‘magically’ accomplish that either, even when people are being told propaganda about the relative impacts of these disposal alternatives.

01:07:35 Kyle Johnson: Thank you LesLee!

01:07:50 Kellie Kish: Our 2022 waste sort found that over 60% of waste in garbage carts could have been diverted. Results can be found here (under studies and reports drop-down):

www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste-recycling

01:08:12 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Question -- at what milestone will the HERC be shut?

01:08:32 Nazir Khan: Misrepresenting HERC’s harms and risks also disincentivizes people to divert and reduce waste

01:09:12 Kellie Kish: Not trying to do that – just saying there’s additional need to provide information and incentives from trusted sources to divert waste

01:09:40 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Angie – how much money will be invested in repairing the old and decrepit HERC over the next 5 years?

01:10:50 Jolene Jones: I could only do 1 survey

01:10:51 Nazir Khan: Kelly, you seem to be supporting keeping HERC around. I think many Minneapolis residents would be surprised to hear that the city recycling coordinator is saying that.

01:11:21 Stephani Maari Booker: North Minneapolis is predominantly Black/Indigenous/People of Color and an area of concentrated poverty. We have been victimized by environmental racism for too long, including toxic waste sites, highways destroying neighborhoods and the HERC.

01:11:41 Krystle D’Alencar: The HERC already sends 23% of its tonnage to the landfill as highly toxic ash that

pollutes groundwater more than unburned trash. It's time to recognize that the HERC is poisoning air and water.

01:11:44 Kellie Kish: See my message above – there's a lot of work to be done to divert materials from the trash period.

01:12:04 Jessica Garraway: We need a firm closing date

01:12:25 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Angie – The County ought to change that law, don't you think?

01:12:27 Nathan Reinbold: We should also require pre-processing of all garbage that goes to landfills. SOOO many recyclables do not captured by single sort recycling. Lots of GHG and EJ concerns for areas in this country and world when even a simple aluminum can isn't recycled, but trashed. Missed opportunity. We need to hold landfills accountable for a lot more than they do on the front end of processing.

01:13:48 Stephani Maari Booker: Half of the non-recycled, non-composted waste in the entire county is burned and sent into my lungs and the lungs of the BIPOC, low-income people of North Minneapolis.

01:13:58 Doug Gurian-Sherman: Your answers are so vague concerning HERC. Why has the option of shutting HERC not already part of your plan? This is not a new issue. The impression is that you are not taking this seriously. As a former risk assessment scientist, this sounds like trying to sound reasonable without an adequate plan that is not so vague as to be meaningless.

01:14:06 Krystle D'Alencar: If waste was diverted to max capacity almost the same amount of trash would be going to the landfill as just what's coming from the HERC right now.

01:14:23 Nazir Khan: Of course there's a lot of

work to be done to divert materials from trash. That's what many of us are working on. We are not just trying to shut down HERC. But we are arguing that you cannot get to ZW when so much resources and political will is being expended on keeping HERC around. It is easy to burn into and exploit a vulnerable community instead of dealing with this systemically. We must take that easy out away.

01:14:31 Jessica Garraway: So we have to keep getting polluted?

01:14:39 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Angie— Who is your leadership?

01:14:41 Nathan Reinbold: Replying to "The HERC already sen..."

Not true. The ash is tested. It is used as a construction ingredient in concrete and roadway building in Europe and a few places in the US. The US is behind.

01:14:52 Sean Gosiewski: Key to reduce asthma rates in the next five years in the north and southside green zones by investing citywide funds in healthy homes outreach and retrofits in areas with high levels of cumulative air impacts city's asthma outreach specialists. The City of Minneapolis massively increase funding for home energy retrofits

<https://mn350.org/peoples-climate-and-equity-plan/>

01:14:55 Stephani Maari Booker: Interesting that the law says waste has to be "processed" before landfilled. They call trash burning "processing"!

01:15:07 Maria Jensen: I for one would rather see it landfilled, rather than burned in one of the most overburdened communities in the State.

01:15:23 Krystle D'Alencar: Replying to "The HERC

already sen..."

Bop. Don't troll me, the ash is entirely toxic and seeps into ground water

01:16:03 Stephani Maari Booker: So this law that calls trash burning "processing" is in the way of shutting down the HERC!?

01:16:04 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: I vote for shutdown of the HERC in 2025. Let's put it to a county-wide referendum!

01:16:20 Doug Gurian-Sherman: Angie, this is just bureaucratic BS. Sorry but it is. Everyone points to everyone else's responsibility in a circular endless loop.

01:16:39 Jessica Garraway: Where does the buck stop???

01:16:59 Kyle Johnson: They are asking us to "wait until a more convenient season."

01:17:31 LesLee Jackson : Our 14th Amendment is being VIOLATED

KNOW YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS

01:17:35 Jolene Jones: We have lots of polluters here by us

01:18:57 Stephani Maari Booker: And saying "we need HERC, so we must wait until HERC is not needed before shutdown," North Minneapolis doesn't need to breathe half the trash of Hennepin County.

01:19:06 Maria Jensen: I would be happy to help advocate at the state level so that the county has the support they need to shut down the state. Counties are underfunded, but lets not take that out on North Minneapolis.

01:19:07 Nathan Reinbold: Maybe toll roads in and out of the metro in general to reduce asthma rates from all the vehicular traffic?

01:19:21 Elizabeth Winter: If producer responsibility is important for waste reduction, why has the County put forward an EPR bill that simply shifts the cost to industry without any accountability for reduction targets?

01:19:22 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Question about those milestones, Angie – getting to the waste diversion rates you alluded to will require actions of individuals, right? Individuals the County has no control over, right? But you do have 100% control over the HERC, right now....

01:19:42 Nazir Khan: 1989

01:19:46 Nazir Khan: 34 years

01:19:57 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Replying to "Maybe toll roads in ..."

yes, let's reduce VMT

01:20:12 Nazir Khan: And officials told people when it was built that it was supposed to only be here for 20 years.

01:20:48 Nazir Khan: It should've been closed in 2009. Instead you tried to increase the amount of trash burned. But you were stopped.


01:20:59 Sean Gosiewski: Critical bill to support at the legislature is to get cities and counties more funding for their recycling efforts – 30 percent of tipping fees goes into the state's general fund

<https://recyclingandenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PWE-Position-Statement-SCORE-2-2023.pdf>

01:21:35 Stephani Maari Booker: HERC is a monster that needs to be fed as long as it exists to justify itself cost-wise.

01:21:53 Cam Gordon: Could some of the

milestones be spelled out in the Zero Waste Plan? If so, maybe they could then have dates set for them and that could lead the plan to clarify that if they are met, then the HERC can be shut down on _____ 2025/6/7/8

01:22:02 Jessica Garraway: Reacted to "Critical bill to sup..." with 

01:22:04 Sean Gosiewski: We need to unite on getting as much done with the 2023 MN legislature as we can to accelerate all these zero waste strategies


01:22:14 Jessica Garraway: Reacted to "And officials told p..." with 

01:22:21 Jessica Garraway: Reacted to "It should've been cl..." with 

01:22:52 erick boustead: Reacted to "It should've been cl..." with 

01:23:12 Kerrick Edwards: If the path toward shutting down the HERC requires cooperation between a bunch of different agencies (county, state, etc.), how exactly is that going to be motivated by these milestones? Where in the milestones does this plan require cooperation of these agencies TOWARD shutting down the HERC?

01:23:14 LesLee Jackson : Will HERC Contributed to the community health monetary to those who have asthma and other respiratory problems

01:23:51 Nathan Reinbold: Reacted to "Critical bill to sup..." with 

01:24:15 erick boustead: Reacted to "Question about those..." with 

01:24:20 Kerrick Edwards: Where does that responsibility live, if not here?

01:24:32 Maria Jensen: But what are the current costs to our health? Are we comparing the two?

01:24:34 Akira yano: Angie, you said that setting a shut down date for HERC puts all of the responsibility on the County and that it requires a lot of people to change but neglected to acknowledge the responsibility the County has to communicate what actual solutions to waste are to the public. How are people supposed to know the urgency with which they need to shift if you are always down-playing the impacts of HERC and promoting it as an acceptable method of waste disposal?

01:24:35 LesLee Jackson : How many on this. Decision makers live over North Minneapolis or on the North End ?

01:24:37 Kyle Johnson: Divert the trash to Edina, we'll get to zero real quick

01:24:38 Cam Gordon: How much money does HERC bring in to support county environmental programs?

01:24:47 Sean Gosiewski: the summer stakeholder meetings with community leaders, city staff and business reps were solid and the action steps are clear – let's initiate transparent collaborative county, city community implementation of the ZW plan – here are excellent examples from across the U.S.

<http://rccmn.co/strategy-mapping-jan-26/>

01:24:51 Neil Seldman: Please note the presentation is not letting us know that EPR can be good, bad and ugly. It gets ugly when the EPR system puts major corporations in charge of recycling, including those that want to increase burning garbage all across the USA.

01:25:13 Stephani Maari Booker: I don't believe the County is acting in good faith, not after the fiasco of the zero waste community conversation I was part of and not now with the County and the consultants still downplaying the call for shutting down HERC as key to zero waste and

necessary for equity.

01:25:14 erick boustead: Reacted to "If the path toward s..." with 👍

01:25:19 Krystle D'Alencar: Reacted to "Divert the trash to ..." with 👍

01:25:21 Grace Bassekle: Reacted to "It should've been cl..." with 👍

01:25:24 Grace Bassekle: Reacted to "And officials told p..." with 👍

01:25:24 erick boustead: Reacted to "Will HERC Contribute..." with 👍

01:25:33 erick boustead: Reacted to "Where does that resp..." with 👍

01:25:44 Nathan Reinbold: I live near a closed landfill that has a leaking plume. I drink this water.

01:26:01 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "I live near a closed..." with ❤️

01:26:02 Lori Olinger: Reacted to "Please note the pres..." with 👍

01:26:09 Doug Gurian-Sherman: Well, Juri, the fact that the costs and implications of shutting down HERC was NOT part of your purview just confirms that the County is not taking this seriously. I am guessing that those of you from the County on this call don't line in North.

01:26:10 erick boustead: Reacted to "Angie, you said that..." with 👍

01:26:15 Susan J Sperl: What do you mean, HERC is beyond the scope of a zero waste plan? It should be front and center!

01:26:16 erick boustead: Reacted to "How many on this. De..." with 👍

01:26:18 Nazir Khan: Nathan, let's talk offline. I

want to support you in that fight.

01:26:21 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Reacted to "What do you mean, HE..." with 👍

01:26:26 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Reacted to "Well, Juri, the fact..." with 👍

01:26:27 erick boustead: Reacted to "Divert the trash to ..." with 👍

01:26:28 Mary Pogatshnik: Reacted to "Well, Juri, the fact..." with 👍

01:26:31 Grace Bassekle: Reacted to "What do you mean, HE..." with 👍

01:26:43 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "Well, Juri, the fact..." with 👍

01:26:56 Nathan Reinbold: Reacted to "Nathan, let's talk o..." with 🙄

01:27:10 Anne Sugnet: Reacted to "What do you mean, HE..." with 👍

01:27:17 Stephani Maari Booker: They downplayed the call for HERC to shut down as key to zero waste during the zero waste community conversation, and they're doing it now.

01:27:26 Anne Sugnet: Reacted to "Well, Juri, the fact..." with 👍

01:27:35 Lori Olinger: Reacted to "What do you mean, HE..." with 👍

01:27:42 erick boustead: Reacted to "I don't believe the ..." with 👍

01:27:50 Sean Gosiewski: YES Asthma rates can be tackled in the next five years if we increase the surcharge on the tipping fee to pay for house by house asthma outreach and home retrofits with the community based groups and the cities program

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/property-housing/healthy-homes/asthma/>

01:27:52 Nazir Khan: This is my email, Nathan:
nazir@mnejtable.org

01:28:34 Stephani Maari Booker: Ms. Sperl, what you said! No zero waste plan with HERC! It's a monster that needs to be fed to pay for itself.

01:28:46 Nathan Reinbold: Reacted to "This is my email, Na..." with 

01:29:03 Nathan Reinbold: Replying to "This is my email, Na..."

Thank you for the opportunity to connect

01:29:25 Maria Jensen: Health has a \$\$\$ cost. We just aren't measuring it. If we did, maybe we realize it is cheaper to shut down the HERC. Lack of measurement health effects shows lack of commitment.

01:29:37 Lori Olinger: Reacted to "Health has a \$\$\$ cos..." with 

01:29:38 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: The County collects a ton of money from just sifting out the iron from the ash and selling it

01:29:40 Nazir Khan: Replying to "This is my email, Na..."

Absolutely. I definitely hear you on your concerns. I think if we work together across frontline communities, we can address the waste crisis systematically. It is these communities that will lead the way.

01:29:47 Sean Gosiewski: Nazir lets connect this week on how to raise more money for asthma prevention and collaborative air quality healthy home retrofits including a

EPA EJ Collaborative problem solving grant sean@rccmn.co

01:29:59 Grace Bassekle: Reacted to "Health has a \$\$\$ cos..." with 👍

01:30:07 Nazir Khan: Definitely, Sean. I've been meaning to call you

01:30:27 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "Nazir lets connect t..." with ❤️

01:30:30 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "Definitely, Sean. I'..." with ❤️

01:30:38 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "Thank you for the op..." with ❤️

01:30:41 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "Absolutely. I defini..." with ❤️

01:31:04 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Reacted to "Health has a \$\$\$ cos..." with 👍

01:31:35 Sean Gosiewski: Wondering if the Hennepin Co bonding request for the Organics Biodigester is on track with the 2023 MN Legislature

01:31:59 Stephani Maari Booker: I'm out of here. If HERC is beyond the scope of the zero waste plan and the law says waste has to be "processed" --burned!--before burying it, this whole process is not happening in good faith from the County's side.

01:32:09 Kyle Johnson: The indoor organic farm proposed for the Roof Depot would be a huge asset and ally in the effort to divert organic waste

01:32:14 Cam Gordon: Thanks --- I think that getting all the organics out (or some percentage) would be a great milestone and easy to define now.

01:32:27 Jessica Garraway: Reacted to "What do you mean, HE..." with 👍

01:35:13 Maria Jensen: I am hearing that the

counties need more support. Lets work together to shut it down.

01:35:30 Cam Gordon: Reacted to "I am hearing that th..." with 👍

01:35:44 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Reacted to "I am hearing that th..." with 👍

01:35:49 Anne Sugnet: Reacted to "I am hearing that th..." with 👍

01:36:03 Kerrick Edwards: Thank you

01:37:09 Christie Manning: Reacted to "Health has a \$\$\$ cos..." with 👍

01:37:37 Sean Gosiewski: Key in the zero waste plan is having a paid EJ advisory team like they have with Alameda County –

<https://www.alamedaca.gov/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Zero-Waste>

01:39:38 Elizabeth Winter: Does the advisory team have decisionmaking power or is it another toothless fig leaf like the MPCA's or the Mpls CEAC whose feedback will be ignored?

01:40:01 LuAnn Johnson: Thank you Nazir.

01:40:10 Maria Jensen: Thank you Nazir.

01:40:19 LesLee Jackson : Get involved with the Health Department Air Monitoring Program Kelly Muellman and Jenni

See the air that you breathe at home

Thank you for sharing all the information and answers to everyone questions

Hard and interesting work ahead

Thank you again

Stay Warm Happy and Safe

01:40:25 Anne Sugnet: Thank you Nazir!

01:40:43 Maria Jensen: I voted "strongly against" landfill phase out. How were there 0 votes in the results?

01:41:12 Krystle D'Alencar: I shared this zoom link with someone and it had them sign on as me— Krystle D'Alencar— and their comments came in as me. So anything before now was someone else. i.e. "I was hacked" lol. But not really. From the real me, though — The HERC is harmful and not a solution. And it does not have to be one community suffering over another to make progress on waste diversion. All communities can live healthier. It's not a zero-sum game

01:41:25 Maria Jensen: Thank you Nazir for bringing that up – about the results.

01:41:50 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Thank you Nazir

01:42:53 Mary Pogatshnik: Thank you Nazir

01:42:54 LuAnn Johnson: We must figure out a way to keep a HERC upgrade.

01:43:04 Sydney Murray: Thank you Nazir

01:43:13 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "I shared this zoom l..." with 😊

01:43:16 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "I shared this zoom l..." with ❤️

01:43:18 Grace Bassekle: Thank you Nazir!

01:43:23 Cam Gordon: Can we weigh in to say that we don't want to see any more investments in maintaining the burning facility?

01:43:31 Nazir Khan: I love that Cam

01:43:47 Maria Jensen: Replying to "I shared this zoom l..."

Thanks for helping them get included in this process <3

01:43:50 Sean Gosiewski: Don't give up on collaboration Nazir. We can tackle asthma and the ZW plan at the same time. many of the HC ZW plan strategies require multi-jurisdictional collaboration, neighborhoods, cities, state of Mn businesses, lets keep up the momentum through the work teams this summer. Here is a great tool that would facilitate this collaborative implementation <https://www.insightformation.com/insightvision>

01:43:51 Nazir Khan: Can everyone just say they don't more investments and "upgrades" — we want a phaseout

01:43:53 Kyle Johnson: I'm excited to shut down the HERC and center racial equity as STEP ONE

01:43:56 Nazir Khan: Whoever wants that

01:44:04 Elizabeth Winter: So important — when this process is disingenuous, how can residents trust that anything else the County does related to the ZW Plan is in good faith?

01:44:38 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Cam — the county's budget has 10,000s of dollars for capital investments in the HERC over the next 2–4 years

01:45:09 Cam Gordon: Can you even legally require less burning in HERC now or is it in the contract with Great River to get them 1000 tons a day?

01:45:35 Nazir Khan: Thanks for that clarification

01:45:41 Nazir Khan: Kellie

01:45:44 Susan J Sperl: Middle-aged white man who signed one of my petitions said "How have they [county commissioners] been getting away with keeping the HERC going this long if it was supposed to be phased out after 20 years?"

01:46:12 Krystle D'Alencar: Reacted to "Middle-aged

white ma..." with ♥

01:47:47 Elizabeth Winter: Replying to "Supporting community..."

I appreciate the clarification Kellie, but in this comment you did explicitly refer to HERC specifically.

01:47:54 Josie Winship: I am wondering if HErc is giving any money to the residents of North Mpls to help deal with asthma and other health issues from the toxic fumes from the herd

01:48:18 Cam Gordon: Sorry about that

01:48:48 Doug Gurian-Sherman: I am against sending more money to HERC!!!!!!

01:48:51 Maria Jensen: I am against sending more money to the HERC

01:48:53 Kyle Johnson: I am against any further investments in HERC

01:49:02 Audrey Pallmeyer: I oppose further investment in HERC

01:49:06 Jesse Lawson: I oppose further investment in the HERC

01:49:08 Akira yano: No more money or investments in HERC

01:49:11 LuAnn Johnson: I am against more funding to Herc

01:49:13 Kellie Kish: @Elizabeth – the comment was so as many of the comments were towards HERC. As a waste educator– the ultimate goal is waste reduction – period. It doesn't matter where the waste goes. the goal is to not produce waste in the first place. Apologies for any confusion on than front.

01:49:14 Lori Olinger: I oppose more investment in

HERC

01:49:17 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: *I oppose any further investments in the HERC*

01:49:22 Christie Manning: *I also oppose further investments in HERC.*

01:49:26 Elizabeth Winter: *The survey should be modified to clarify this, that is so basic.*

01:49:27 Cam Gordon: *Go ahead Neil*

01:50:11 Nazir Khan: *I am against spending more money on HERC (just to make sure it gets captured in the chat)*

01:50:24 Anne Sugnet: *I oppose any more investing in the HERC.*

01:50:27 Sydney Murray: *I am against spending more money on HERC.*

01:50:42 Lois Norrgard: *I oppose spending any more money on HERC*

01:51:25 Gary Liss:*Please capture the Chat discussion as part of the recording of this meeting.*

01:51:51 Nazir Khan: *That's great, Cam*

01:51:56 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: *Can you post that contract on the City's website? The GRE contract?*

01:51:58 Maria Jensen: *Question: If the county put a phase out date at 2025 – what support would they need from the state to do that?*

01:52:10 Elizabeth Winter: *To Sean's comment on state legislation – Yes, and, we need to make sure the legislation we do pass is robust, equitable, and as strong as possible. That is more important than passing it this session. The EPR bill that the County tried to introduce recently was none of those things.*

01:52:13 Nazir Khan: I agree with this idea, of setting tonnage targets for HERC

01:52:19 Akira yano: When will this recording be available for the public? Can we ensure that the chat is also captured and shared?

01:52:34 Maria Jensen: Reacted to "When will this recor..." with 👍

01:52:40 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Reacted to "When will this recor..." with 👍

01:52:50 Dennis Uyat: Reacted to "When will this recor..." with 👍

01:52:51 Krystle D'Alencar: Also access for the zw plan.. how is that material being sent out for folks to see and comment on?

01:53:03 Krystle D'Alencar: Many people I spoke to said they had no idea about a plan and how they could find that information

01:53:16 erick boustead: I am against further investment in HERC! To decisionmakers: be brave and do something within your power to shut it down now. Much love to everyone here working for clean air and healthy communities against these systems

01:53:27 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Reacted to "I am against further..." with 👍

01:53:48 erick boustead: Reacted to "I am against further..." with 👍

01:53:49 erick boustead: Removed a 👍 reaction from "I am against further..."

01:55:02 Akira yano: So can we expect that the recording and chat will be sent out via email then? I'd like specific clarity on that. Will this be on the website?

01:55:45 LesLee Jackson : Are their plans to create a

organic waste compost area in the city so community gardens can get soil (like Chicago has)

01:55:49 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Good question Maria

01:56:07 Cam Gordon: Land fill is the only other option, right?

01:56:16 Christie Manning: Reacted to "Good question Maria" with 👍

01:56:42 Gary Liss: Could the County work on upgrading all landfill operations as a priority?

01:56:50 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Up to the City..hmm

01:56:54 Cam Gordon: Is there another burning anywhere?

01:57:08 Elizabeth Winter: Why have we gone through this whole process to still not have answers to this?


01:57:27 Lori Olinger: There is a lot of opportunity if we truly focus on reducing


01:58:05 Gary Liss: If the County is already landfilling more than half of its waste and the ash from HERC, it seems that the County could make it a priority to advocate for improvements in landfill operations, and for reuse, recycling and composting facilities to be located at upgraded landfills.

01:58:05 LesLee Jackson : Is there a plan for the city and county work together to create a zero waste plan? Including transportation too?

01:58:12 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Angie – are you talking volume or weight?

01:58:46 Lori Olinger: The Netherlands does not give out shopping bags even at grocery stores. All restaurants use real dinnerware – no disposables even at food marts. We could do this too

01:59:33 LuAnn Johnson: Reacted to "The Netherlands does..." with 

01:59:36 Anne Sugnet: Reacted to "The Netherlands does..." with 

01:59:37 Krystle D'Alencar: Thank you, Joe

01:59:45 Cam Gordon: Defintely ban single use plastic carry-out bags and resue and recyle or compost all the paper ones. But to do that we need a state law change to allow the county to do it.


02:01:33 Elizabeth Winter: It is not acceptable that the entire equivalence of what goes to HERC right now has to be diverted and not landfilled before shutdown – North Mpls is not on the hook for individual residents and the County's efforts not meeting those rates.

02:01:37 Ophelia Loree: Not sure if this is a feasible idea, but understanding that the entire community and many parties need to engage in this plan to make waste reduction happen and noting the HERC is most important to the community, would there be a way to take all of the waste reduction that the community achieves directly away from HERC. This would keep the landfill contribution the same but gradually reduce the percentage of waste going to HERC, actually getting this plan in line with community goals

02:01:56 Doug Gurian-Sherman: Exactly, Nazir!

02:02:16 Cam Gordon: Great idea Ophelia

02:02:23 Maria Jensen: Yay to the EPA reconsidering the waste hierarchy

02:03:34 Joseph Vital: Reacted to "I shared this zoom l..." with 

02:04:08 Gary Liss:EPA review of waste hierarchy:
<https://www.wastedive.com/news/epa-waste-hierarchy-in>

cineration-landfill-warm/634166/

02:04:15 Maria Jensen: Thank you all.

*02:04:20 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: Thanks
to all the staff for this session!*

02:04:30 erick boustead: Thank you!

*02:04:32 Evan Mulholland, he / him, MCEA: We all
appreciate it!*

02:04:35 LuAnn Johnson: Thank you all!

*02:04:38 Nazir Khan: On EPA reviewing waste
hierarchy*

*There was no research to back this up and “EPA is now in
the process of reviewing the waste hierarchy to determine
if potential changes should be made based on the latest
available data and information.”*

*[https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-managem
ent-non-hazardous-materials-and-waste-management-hie
rarchy](https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-non-hazardous-materials-and-waste-management-hierarchy)*

02:04:45 Cam Gordon: Thanks so much everyone

Comment on the draft Zero Waste Plan

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

21 February 2023 - 20 March 2023

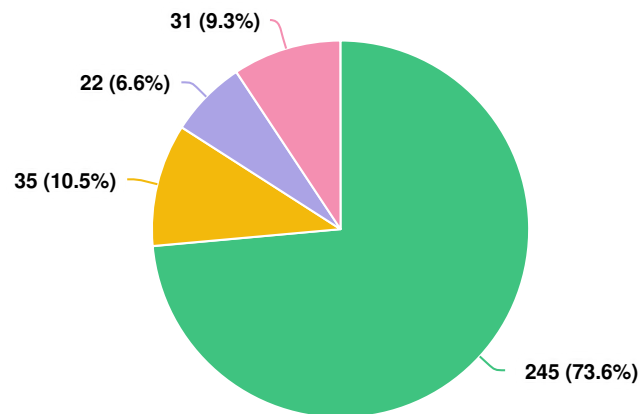
PROJECT NAME:

Share your ideas for a zero-waste future



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Please describe your level of support for the county's zero-waste goal?



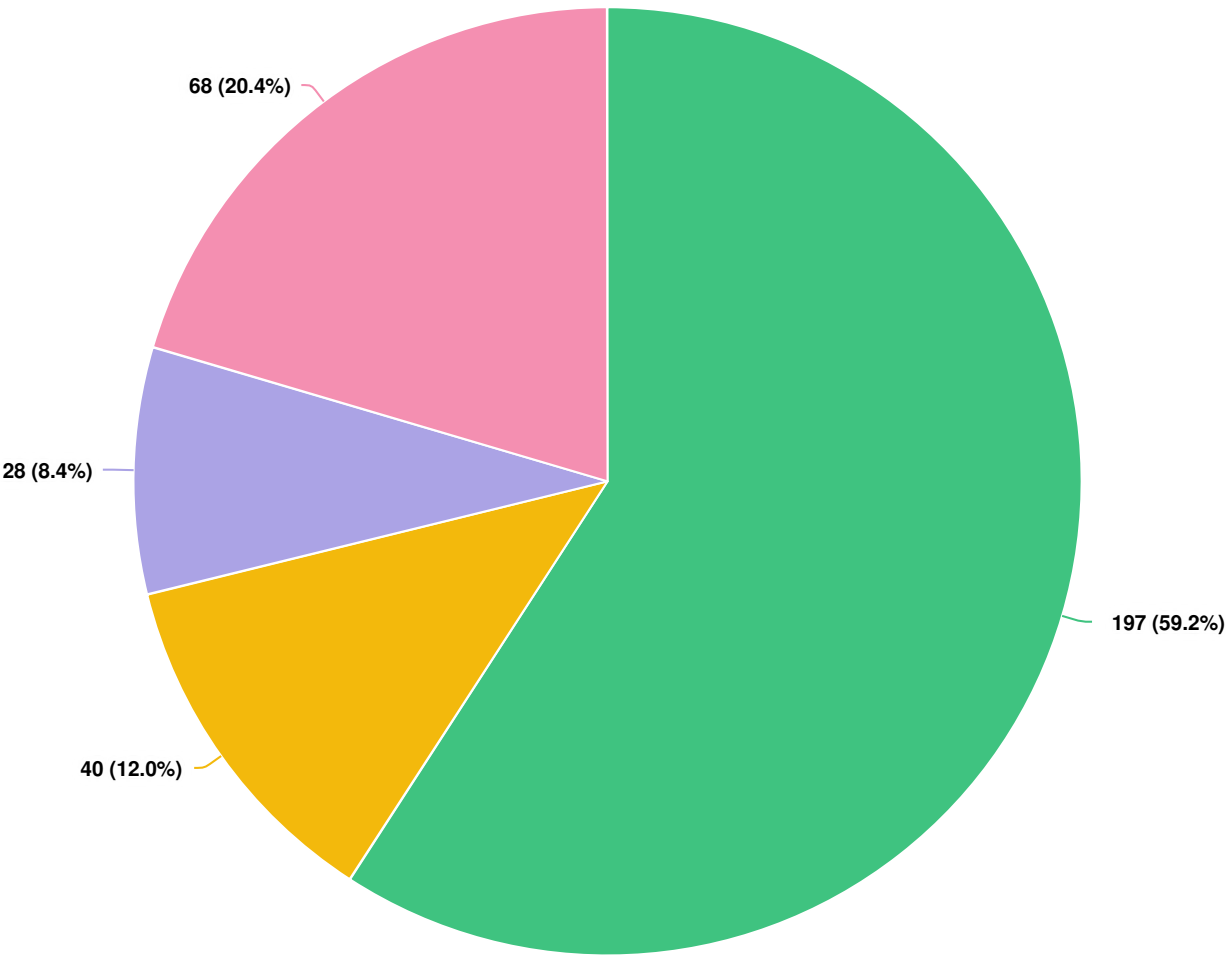
Question options

● Strongly support ● Moderately support ● Somewhat support ● Little to no support

Mandatory Question (333 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q2 Overall, please describe your level of support for Aim 1 and its associated actions:



Question options

Strongly support Moderately support Somewhat support Little to no support

Mandatory Question (333 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q3 Please provide any additional comments about Aim 1 and its actions:

Anonymous

2/22/2023 11:18 AM

While the actions presented in this survey appear to be favorable, it feels like it is not giving a full representation of the scope of actions that the County is actually looking to do. I am in favor of expanding drop-off options, increasing access to organics recycling options for multifamily residents, a community equity panel, expanding funding and support for community-centric solutions, expanding workforce development for living wage, green jobs and financial incentives. I am not in favor of any upgrades to HERC and anything less than a decisive commitment from the County to a swift and comprehensive shut down of the facility by 2025. I feel like the options being highlighted to represent Aim 1 are not truly comprehensive. My concern is that if I were to vote favorably for Aim 1, that the County would then use that vote as a me being in favor of short-term upgrades since those are grouped with a phase-out plan. If the aforementioned commitment from the County is not included within the Zero Waste Plan, on the timeline that I specified. I am not in favor of this zero waste plan. Trash incineration has no place within a zero waste plan and anything less than aggressive exclusion of it within this plan invalidates it in my eyes. There are Zero Waste consultants that the County can work with to create a successful plan that will phase out the HERC by 2025, if they're willing to come to terms with the reality that prolonging it's existence further will jeopardize and significantly slow down any zero waste efforts the County might put forward otherwise.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 11:52 AM

current drop off locations not possible to use for people in western Hennepin county who work

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:04 PM

Appreciate the desire to phase out the HERC but know that it must be paired with requirements for manufacturers to make their materials recyclable.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:15 PM

Need to makes options realistic and available/accessible within community

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:17 PM

For this to succeed, it has to be easy to participate.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:23 PM

phasing out waste to energy is completely unrealistic, it will just go to landfills.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 01:55 PM

Composting needs to expand to all MPLS. We need more recycling bins downtown. We need to educate ppl not composting and recycling.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:15 PM

HERC plays an important role in the waste stream of Hennepin County. Evidence doesn't seem to support the worry that HERC has an unfair impact on certain communities. I believe the public needs to be educated on how incredible that resource is. The alternative is landfilling the remaining waste and that is shown to have serious, long-term impacts on air, soil, and water quality.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 02:54 PM

Waiting until the county approaches zero waste to phase out the HERC is inequitable and continues the racial disparities experienced by EJ communities due to our current system for too long. The Zero Waste plan must include closing the HERC and diverting waste away from EJ communities concurrent with the transition to zero waste.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:22 PM

I think it's really good. But I didn't see here (or elsewhere) anything that addresses the fact that single-family homes must pay for organics recycling in many cities. If organics recycling is going to be mandated, or simply if you want single family homes to participate in organics recycling, it needs to be made accessible and affordable.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:07 AM

Re: Increased access to organics recycling: I would add 'access to regular and organics recycling for multi-family residents' since some complexes don't offer any services.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 11:16 AM

I don't understand why the HERC system cannot be amended to eliminate toxic emissions. It's energy-creation value is not a small thing to lose.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 12:07 PM

Please be sure to derive any programs, outreach, policies that are targeting historically disadvantaged people or neighborhoods (with the aim to improve equitable outcomes) ONLY IN COOPERATION/CODESIGN with the population you are trying to serve/support. Incorporate their lived reality in any program or system design. Systems that work in economically advantaged communities might not work the same in other neighborhoods, etc.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 01:57 PM

I am glad to see the phase out the use of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) as it is a trash incinerator polluting the North Loop area. I hope this is moved to a higher priority as a "zero waste" plan that causes pollution only creates more systemic problems than it solves.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 03:50 PM

There seems to be no information on the reality of this plan and costs associated with implementation of it. How will waste haulers and recyclers do this and meet the goal? How much will costs increase? Overall, I am supportive of more recycling and reducing waste - but I do not support a plan that doesn't show costs and the reality of achieving its goal.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:35 PM

I live in an apartment and I doubt the management will do anything with this program as they don't even have appropriate bins for recycling at the present.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 08:28 PM

Need to equalize access for renters and homeowners

Anonymous

2/24/2023 08:36 AM

Racial equity? How about a materials management plan, period.

Anonymous

2/24/2023 11:01 AM

Race and waste management don't seem to be related

Anonymous

2/24/2023 11:45 AM

Racial disparity in a waste program? That doesn't exist!

Anonymous

2/24/2023 02:12 PM

Some bullet points make sense. Expand drop-off options and organics recycling options for multifamily. I would also have more and better recycling options for all multifamily locations. It would take a very long time before HERC is not needed. Closing down HERC would just send more garbage to landfills(methane). There are no health concerns with HERC. Put out all the emissions data you have on HERC and no one should question anything about the plant. It does not cause asthma(etc.). Why would condos, breweries, hotels, restaurants decide to build around HERC and the North Loop area is they would be concerned about HERC?

Anonymous

2/24/2023 04:35 PM

I think prioritizing "Establish milestones to phase out the use of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) as county approaches

zero waste" or perhaps even trying to phase out the use of the HERC before the county approaches zero waste is an important way to gain community trust; the HERC's location and potential pollution impacts have made it a deeply dividing issue and if there is a way to speed up its phase out, I think that's important and will help get more community members involved in reducing waste since they won't be fighting the HERC.

Anonymous

2/25/2023 11:55 PM

Keep Herc. Much trash is unrecyclable

Anonymous

2/27/2023 12:54 PM

I think there is a big missing opportunity to center education in this list; especially for younger people. My understanding is that organics collection and recycling are both hindered by contamination. I'm appalled by the waste produced in the public schools I've been in in the city - this is a missed opportunity to build a culture around environmental consciousness led by young people - and it's not hard to find where concentrations of students are who have had fewer resources to engage in creating a healthier planet for their own futures.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 10:40 AM

I love Aim 1! I used to work in the zero waste field years ago and have loved seeing the MN GreenCorps program expand. BUT many cities have outsourced a lot of their entry-level and/or zero waste work to GreenCorps members, which provides great training for the next generation of leaders but doesn't meet the goal of supporting living wage, green jobs. No one with dependents can afford to work as a GreenCorps member and a lot of knowledge and community relationships are lost when the member leaves. As a result, many entry-level and/or part-time jobs at cities have disappeared. Now that I work for a community partner organization, I see a lot of ebbs and flows in the capacity for outreach and the technical knowledge from cities because there aren't long-term employees leading this work in many cases. I would love to see Hennepin County encourage and support actual employee positions at cities (even if they're part-time) to lead the expansion of drop-offs, create and sustain living wage green jobs, and support the community-centric solutions mentioned in Aim 1.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 12:30 PM

Multifamily residents should include (if not already) apartment buildings. There also needs to be access or incentive for large businesses to organics pickup.

Anonymous

Reaching "zero waste" is a great goal that the County should try to

2/27/2023 05:18 PM

achieve and there are many good ideas in this plan on how to get there. There are low hanging fruit in the plan that the County should go for first. I feel that when we go to the next steps it will get harder and harder to rid of all the different kinds of materials that are in our society. We all know about the burgeoning issue of plastic. In this plan there is verbiage about "chemical recycling technologies." I feel this is a gift to the chemical companies that make all this plastic. Rather than work on ways to reduce the production of all this plastic, chemical recycling gives the false hope that we can engineer our way of this plastic crisis. When we do chemical recycling the volume or weight of the waste is still there, now just in another form and I have to wonder what are other issues created with this process like air pollution. Chemical recycling is not zero waste.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:07 PM

Way too many actions.... narrow to the three that have direct and measurable impact. Support drop off options, increasing access to organics for multifamily, HERC.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:14 PM

How will this be funded?

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:30 PM

Quit the "equity" language.... just increase participation where it is lacking and areas where drop offs are less accessible. Educate everyone!

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:37 PM

Zero waste has adoption should be easier and less expensive than alternatives for even our most challenged communities.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:11 PM

I think it's really important to lower the barriers for participation. And to retire the HERC which disproportionately impacts disadvantaged communities with the resulting emissions.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:08 PM

This sounds like another government program that will financially benefit the leaders of this program and their friends with little help to the community. This pet project will be paid for with increased property/sales taxes.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:50 PM

Always consider the needs and ages of your constituents before discontinuing/making illegal services and products. For example seniors and those with disabilities may not be able to get to bins or take items to a site for recycling.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:50 PM

The HERC reduces waste drastically, compared to putting it into another landfill. It also provides electric and steam to surrounding businesses and homes.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 02:36 PM

Specific legislation regarding single-use items should be considered, even within the city limits. Glass bottles, compostable materials, and reusable food-ware should be mandated whenever possible. Fast-food venues should be mandated to have reusable dishes for dine-in.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 03:19 PM

Sounds like a really great goal, and the actions to get there seem really well thought out.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 04:52 PM

Herc needs to stay

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:01 PM

Just start recycling everything. It's absurd that recycling is only at 10% of the 90% of recyclable products I place in the recycling bin. The public has been lied to for years. The recycling programs are a fraud and a waste of money, who should we hold responsible for all this deception.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:36 AM

It's great to expand drop off sites; but we will never get current recyclable levels state wide without a mandatory recyclable program. Consider the programs in MI or OR; some are returnable benefits, some impose the fee on the manufacturer.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:54 PM

You will create issues for lower class areas by over regulating.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 09:26 PM

Thank you for actively addressing the negative impact HERC has and seeking to find other options that don't involve burning trash to energy.

Anonymous

3/02/2023 04:59 AM

Living wage green jobs strikes me as a aim that will contribute to success of other parts of the plan

Anonymous

3/02/2023 05:46 AM

Take a stand against the production of ecotoxic materials like plastics - and invest in their alternatives

Anonymous

3/02/2023 03:17 PM

We should not be paying people to participate in zero waste initiatives. That is not how I want my tax dollars used. Why does everything have to do with equity?! It's handling garbage - everyone can and should pitch in similarly.

Anonymous

3/03/2023 05:26 PM

This is not the important issue in our state.. people should not be forced; which is essentially what you will be doing

Anonymous

3/03/2023 08:24 PM

Push to eliminate packaging.

Anonymous

3/04/2023 10:27 AM

For the Aim items, and maybe you've provided answers in your expanded report, but I don't know where each item stands numerically in terms of how far we have to go before Hennepin County (HC) says HC and/or the residents have achieved it or are achieving it. For example, Expand drop-off options - How many drop off sites do we have in HC now and where do we want to be? Are you only including sites owned by HC or are you including other drop off sites within HC? Increase access to organics recycling options for multifamily residents - How many multifamily residence sites does HC have now and what percentage of them have organics recycling option now? What year 1 goal for this - 10% increase or an additional 4 multifamily sites, year 2 and so on? Expand funding and support for community-centric solutions - What is the HC funding now and how much of the current HC budget is it - percentage wise or numerical \$ amount ? Do you have year 1 goal? Year 2 goal? Expand workforce development for living wage, green jobs - How much do people get paid for their work for HC now and what is considered a living wage for it? What would be considered a green job? Etc., Etc. I chose strongly support but I'd like more specifics.

Anonymous

3/04/2023 02:09 PM

I don't see why we need to offer financial incentives for people to do the right thing, merely make it easier for them to do so.

Anonymous

3/04/2023 05:43 PM

This plan does not place enough emphasis on waste prevention. True zero waste solutions work to prevent generating waste. The low hanging fruit is to change personal habits and ways of doing business. For example, eliminate plastic bags; establish refill stations for bulk items (soaps, shampoos, laundry soaps, etc.) thereby eliminating much plastic waste; replace plastic bottles in vending machines with cans; restaurants, schools & meals-on-wheels programs should switch to washable dishware. Reuse and refill stations/locations/stores for bulk items is a source for job/economic growth and workforce development. Other focus should be on

establishing (a) re-use/recycling centers (i.e., advertised swap meets; second-hand stores/areas) for items in good order just no longer needed/wanted, (b) fix-it clinics for small appliances or items needing repair. Some second-hand stores exits as do some fix-it clinics. There is room for more. These areas would be another source for job/economic growth and workforce development. Incineration (HERC) is not a solution. Incineration causes pollution and toxic emissions from wastes, such as heavy metals, cadmium, mercury, lead, dioxins, furans, and other toxic bi-products to migrate over into other counties and the pollutants are deposited in the soils and waterways (lakes, rivers, streams) thereby contaminating the land and waterways and the living organisms within these bodies. Incineration operations create socio-economic and racial injustices when located in low-income communities.

Anonymous

3/05/2023 07:59 PM

Composting is great. It is needed on a large scale, societal level.

Anonymous

3/05/2023 08:19 PM

Anonymous

3/05/2023 10:45 PM

I agree with project drawdown that inceneration of trash for energy is only a temporary solution, but we should continue to use at as long as it is providing more value in energy created than it takes to run it.

Lily K

3/06/2023 05:42 AM

I do not support the "community equity panel," the expansion of "funding and support for community-centric solutions," or "provide financial incentives to increase participation in targeted communities." The first two are primarily what I call "churn." Yes, great for talk, but no, not great for action. On the third point I do not support, I believe people don't need to be financially incentivized to act. Think better of people: they will act on their own to engage when the cultural movement is established. Financial incentives waste money and provide only short-term solutions.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 06:31 AM

In addition to expanding in multi-family don't forget institutions and wealthy neighborhoods. I live in the latter. My neighbors and I create disproportionately more waste (higher consumption), have more capacity to recycle (space to sort, lower stress about basic life needs) yet only half compost, they get recycling all wrong, they throw away perfectly good items, etc)

Anonymous

Many of us pay additional subscriptions for private companies like

3/06/2023 09:26 AM

Ridwell and Terracycle to save specific kinds of waste from landfills. I'd like the county to consider these specific kinds of waste and what can be done locally to make this kind of recycling affordable and accessible.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 10:04 AM

Why is "equity" such a dominant consideration? How is it even relevant to achieving zero waste? I'm an old, life-long liberal, but this sounds unnecessarily "woke" to me, and is off-putting.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 11:20 AM

I am especially interested in seeing the establishment of a community equity panel

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:02 PM

1. "Provide financial incentives", where will the money come from? 2. Why is there a need for a "community equity panel"? What exactly are they responsible for? How much will this cost? Who are panel members accountable to?

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:00 PM

I am most excited about actions to reduce consumption and increase circularity. That should be at the very top of the list! I see the local Henn Co Libraries as likely places where more Fix-it Clinics could take place and as places to host swap events. I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE the idea of all Henn Co events being zero-waste events. Again, I see library events as easy ways to implement this go get the ball rolling. I do, however, anticipate some pushback or hesitancy to move away from single-serve, individually packaged food items in our post-COVID world.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 01:44 PM

Provide Financial incentives for everyone to participate

Anonymous

3/06/2023 02:47 PM

However "multifamily" is defined in Ordinance 13, we have a homeowner's association that contracts for garbage pickup, but each family/unit has individual trash cans and individual recycling bins, yet we cannot get organics pickup. If they can pick up garbage from in front of each of 140 units, they ought to be able to pick up organics.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 04:10 PM

I think there needs to be a major push on how compostable items are marked. I would like to see a requirement that all compostable products in the market are labeled BPI so people actually know it is compostable instead of having to guess or hope they are doing it right.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 07:08 PM

I am 76 and have been recycling (mainly re-using) and composting since I was a kid. I have worked with children all my life and always taught them the way I was taught. If green jobs is part of this, I recommend some systematic expansion of the way people stand at the trash/compost/recycle stations at, e.g. Eco Experience, and help people understand how to do it. Doing that community wide is more difficult, but important. Teaching people to believe it is important.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:16 PM

I'm nervous to phase out the energy generating HERC, but with a good phase out plan it can be done.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:20 PM

Closing HERC should come first.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 09:32 PM

The poisonous HERC trash burner should never have been built in the middle of the most densely populated area in the state. I am a community members and single mother residing in North Minneapolis. Our children should not have to bear the burden of breathing in emissions from one of Hennepin County's biggest polluters. Burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal. I will not vote in support of a plan if continuing to poison our most vulnerable communities is still deemed reasonable, even if I'm being told it's temporary.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 09:17 AM

The county is acknowledging how damaging the HERC is the the North Minneapolis community but making no commitments on when it will be shut down. This type of facility should not be placed in such a densely population, and over polluted neighborhood. It is over 30 years old - time to phase out. We can't wait for the county to zero-waste their way out of needing the HERC. Give us a date.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 09:47 AM

I think words like "equity" are so highly used these days that they risk becoming a buzzword with no teeth. Equity goals in this plan need to be concrete and actually beneficial to disadvantaged and underresourced communities.

jono

3/07/2023 10:34 AM

Need aggressive timeline to end HERC use.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 01:31 PM

Like most new initiatives, the first adopters and beneficiaries will be home owners of middle income. And this is the largest group, so

please don't slow the process to reach this population

Anonymous

3/07/2023 01:58 PM

"establish milestones" is a weak nod to the leaders who have been elevating the health and pollution impacts of the HERC to local community residents. The county is setting more specific goals for other aspects of the plan - it should also commit to shutting down the HERC. It is important for us to do so before the GRE contract is renewed in 2025. I also feel concerned that this summary of Aim 1 does not fully relay the plan's actual intentions to increase HERC funding.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 03:15 PM

Add a shutdown date for HERC. There needs to be a clear goal here.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 03:26 PM

Phase out HERC quickly

Anonymous

3/07/2023 03:29 PM

Squirrels get in to the organics bin (and other grey bins) - the bins need to be replaced so garbage isn't strewn all about--bugs and rodents.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:22 PM

I do not support removing the HERC

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:23 PM

The County needs to include a specific date set for the phase-out and closure of the HERC trash burner to be included within this plan. HERC has been around for 34 years at this point and continues to contribute to some of the highest asthma rates in the entire state. Furthermore, because of HERC's location, the residents who bear the brunt of pollution it generates are predominantly Black and brown. Therefore, keeping HERC operating amounts to a gross act of environmental racism. I am certain the County does not want to be complicit in that.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:24 PM

My primary concerns align with the proposed increase access to organics recycling options for multifamily residents, as well as focusing on community equity and shutting down HERC!

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:50 PM

Provide mandatory education in schools on the benefits of reuse, and the risks of plastics to human, animal, and plant life. Provide a reuse kit that students can take home, including a cloth shopping bag, reusable water/coffee cup, stickers to bring home to put on

trash/recycle/compost containers, and reusable utensils, and show them how to use them instead of plastics.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 07:02 PM

Let's solve crime first.....

M Johnson

3/07/2023 07:10 PM

Get your priorities in order.....stop crime and make the city and county livable first.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 10:53 PM

I live in an apartment building so I'm all for making it easier to participate in composting other than my driving to the drop off site every week.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 10:15 AM

I'm glad there is an equity plan!

Anonymous

3/08/2023 10:54 AM

It will be interesting to see how you will manage Apartment renters.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 12:32 PM

I strongly support the equity components, but oppose any additional burning. The Burner facility must be removed.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:17 PM

I very much support this and appreciate the prioritization of reducing racial disparities and advancing equity - some of these actions are still fairly broad though (what types of community-centric solutions?). I like the bottom three points the most and appreciate the additional detail in the draft that highlights how this goes beyond recycling - in the sessions I joined there was a lot of discussion on realizing recycling/composting isn't enough, and I think that message needs to be emphasized further (that is the only reason I put "moderately support" - I think there could be even more!). I think it's good that there is such an emphasis on funding/support/financial incentive, and also really appreciate the living wage job focus. One note - the first page of this survey talked about a 90% recycling rate, which I think was a mistake and meant to say diversion (including strategies besides recycling like prevention and reuse/repair), but want to call that out to be sure. We should not be working towards a 90% recycling rate.

jgrosscup

3/08/2023 02:08 PM

To start: more consumer education. Accelerate the "minting" of environmental ambassadors and set them out to neighborhood block clubs, schools and every congregate living facility. The majority of

consumers are only C+ at best in understanding Recycling, Composting and Trash (RCT).

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:34 PM

What does expanding drop off options have to do with the other bullshit on the list? Nothing. No one is equal, not even people in their own household. So, it's easy to eliminate that bullshit equity panel as well.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:40 PM

These are all great, but the HERC needs a shut down date n.o.w. The fact that greater Hennepin County is driving some of their trash to low income neighborhoods is ridiculous. There are better ways to be clean without subjecting the city to pollution.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 03:47 PM

This is ridiculous. You are asking for " level of support", but there is no information on cost. In order to decide if I would support it, I would need to know a real plan and real cost, not fairytale ideas in a fairytale world. Since there is no real information here, I can provide no support. Next time, provide real information - this survey looks like a middle-school questionnaire. Sadly, many people will "Strongly support" this, and predictably this government agency will send out messaging that this initiative has "Strong Public Support" even though you withheld all of the pertinent information. Typical government. Next time, be better.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 05:22 PM

What is HERC? Is that the garbage burner?

Anonymous

3/08/2023 05:47 PM

the county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan and shutdown date is not legitimate.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 08:27 PM

It's disturbing to regularly witness disregard for the health of BIPOC communities such as the potential arsenic exposure to those in East Phillips via the destruction of the Roof Depot and the subsequent exhaust from the Public Works truck yard that will replace it. I hope the community equity panel will be agile and progressive enough to respond to urgent concerns of vulnerable residents in accordance with their wishes. Neighborhoods that are already exposed to disproportionate levels of pollution should receive a protected status for mitigation and prevention of future degradation.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 08:11 PM

I am in full support of the following: Expand drop-off options Increase access to organics recycling options for multifamily residents Establish and maintain a community equity panel Expand funding and support for community-centric solutions Expand workforce development for living wage, green jobs Provide financial incentives to increase participation in targeted communities However, I in order to gain my support, a swift, and proactive shutdown of HERC date needs to be included within this plan. HERC has no place within a zero waste plan in the County. The way that this question is summarized gives the idea that I'm describing my level of support for milestones to phase out HERC, but omits all the conditions you've attached to that phase-out. You also are hiding the fact that A.9. short-term upgrades for HERC, is within this group of actions and is prioritized more. Stop investing in burning garbage and harming people, and shut down HERC!

Anonymous

3/08/2023 11:12 PM

It all sounds nice, but the reality is it won't result in much change from the status quo.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 08:26 AM

Some concern about cost management

Anonymous

3/09/2023 11:55 AM

The county NEEDS a clear shut down date for HERC. That date should be in the year 2025 at the very latest. There is NO meaningful zero waste plan that doesn't include a shutdown of HERC by 2025. Any plan without a specific date for the shut down of HERC will not receive my support.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 12:41 PM

For me to be supportive of this plan, I need a specific date set for the phase-out and closure of the HERC trash burner to be included within this plan. It has been around for 34 years and continues to contribute to some of the highest asthma rates in the entire state, disproportionately impacting Black communities in N Minneapolis. This is what racism as a public health crisis looks like. It is perpetuating systemic racism to keep this incinerator, that was not wanted by the N Minneapolis community in the first place, to keep running despite the impact on health. The MN Dept of Health reported that 16000 people a year on average are dying from pollution related deaths. There are other options that won't kill people (composting systems creations, educating people from orgs that use incinerator about how to separate trash into composting, recycling, and trash, solar/battery storage/imported wind could replace HERC's electricity services on the grid). This will require you putting your money where your mouth is, in regards to caring about Black people in Minneapolis.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 01:10 PM

I need to see a concrete phase-out plan for HERC. The zero waste plan won't have my support without a swift and firm shut down date for HERC. This plan is not legitimate without a defined shut down date. I'm tired of seeing talk and no action. You can't just say you're GOING to do something, and ask for people's approval of you saying whether or not you'll do something -- say you ARE doing something, and ask for people's approval TO do something.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 04:12 PM

Aim 1 mentions phasing out of HERC. My concern is that we will divert trash to landfills.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 05:26 PM

You talk about racial equity and you have no set date for shutting down the HERC ! The toxins it releases are disproportionately affecting BIPOC and low-income residents. This needs a SET date for shutting down the HERC, which is a crutch and excuse for not fulfilling zero waste goals.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 05:50 PM

A swift, and proactive shutdown of HERC date needs to be included within this plan in order to gain my support. I need a specific date set for the phase-out and closure of the HERC trash burner to be included within this plan. It has been around for 34 years at this point and continues to contribute to some of the highest asthma rates in the entire state. The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan and shutdown date is not legitimate. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. Anyway, burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal. I will not vote in support of a plan if continuing to poison our most vulnerable communities is still deemed reasonable, even if I'm being told it's temporary. It was unacceptable to begin with.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:21 PM

The overall goals of this plan are good, but it needs to involve plans for a swift and precise shutdown of the HERC, without loopholes, for me to back it. 2025, the end of the current contract, should be the sunset date for this facility. Burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal. HERC has no place within a zero-waste plan in the County.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:22 PM

There needs to be a specific shut down date for the HERC. It is contributing to a high rate of asthma for residents in the surrounding area. I don't think it is an acceptable means of waste disposal. Using the HERC is the opposite of "zero waste" as it produces quite a lot of toxic airborne waste.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:49 PM

It was really disappointing to see this plan fail to do the basics - set a specific date set for the phase-out and closure of the HERC trash burner. Please correct this oversight - as it stands, these proposed actions in Aim 1 simply do not measure up to achieve the 90% zero waste goal. This is also in stark contrast to the sector-specific goals in the County's Climate Action plan.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:47 PM

I need an actual timeline for the HERC's removal

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:52 PM

Hennepin county needs a shutdown date for HERC included in this plan. HERC contributes to some of the highest asthma rates in the state and needs to be shut down. Burning trash is not an acceptably means of waste disposal especially in such a densely populated section of Minneapolis.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 07:23 PM

HERC needs to be shut down immediately.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 09:12 PM

From my experience with existing multi-tenant mixed recycling and organics programs, despite proper recurring education and communication/signage, there is significant contamination due to improper separation. This creates added costs with minimal positive outcome. I oppose County Commissioners approving this plan without identified costs or alternatives for these actions. If HERC is to be phased out, alternatives, timelines and costs must be known. In order to attract national tenants to Minnesota, the expense burden has got to stop. In order to retain and attract residents to Minnesota, the expense burden must stop. Increasing mandates and expenses are hurting our future.

Anonymous

3/10/2023 11:37 AM

HERC needs to be phase out ASAP and should not be allowed to continue without a closure date. Burning trash is devastating to the local communities and to all Minnesotans who breath air. This facility should be eliminated completely with hard dates stated in the zero-waste plan. Too many conditions are attached to the phase-out that allow more delays and loopholes. "A.9. short-term upgrades for

HERC" is within this group of actions and this provision means dumping more money into a failing system that has no place in our future. You need to end any investment in a facility that pollutes the air and water and is harmful to everyone. We need to shut down HERC.

Anonymous

3/11/2023 12:44 AM

Provide small compostable bags to put under sink in coffee can for organics so we don't have wet stinking organics with maggots.

Anonymous

3/12/2023 12:43 PM

HERC has major health impact mostly for people of color and historically marginalized communities. While I'm relieved to see its phase out included, I am concerned that alternatives will still burden POC more than others. We have so much work to do.

Anonymous

3/12/2023 04:11 PM

I think providing better options in multi family units could be very impactful. Need to do education to go with it

jholub91

3/12/2023 07:06 PM

Would like to see HERC phased out as aggressively/soon as possible.

Richard Asinger

3/13/2023 03:18 PM

Multifamily dwellings are currently underserved for composting

Anonymous

3/13/2023 04:52 PM

This plan does not place enough emphasis on waste prevention. The actions described are not specific enough to be measurable. True zero waste solutions work to prevent generating waste. The low hanging fruit is to change personal habits and ways of doing business. For example, eliminate plastic bags can be done through (a) citizen education and encouragement to bring their own bags, (b) reusable bag handout during (i) environmental educational fairs/venues, (ii) attendance/participation at local meetings, and/or (iii) to local community volunteer appreciations, (c) encouraging grocers to eliminate plastic bags for produce [reference global open-air markets and our own farmers markets where individuals bring their own bags]; work with merchants to establish refill stations for bulk items (soaps, shampoos, laundry soaps, etc.) thereby eliminating much plastic waste; replace plastic bottles in vending machines with cans; restaurants, schools & meals-on-wheels programs should switch to washable dishware. Reuse and refill stations/locations/stores for bulk items is a source for job/economic growth and workforce development. Other focus should be on establishing (a) re-use/recycling centers (i.e., advertised swap meets; second-hand stores/areas) for items in good order just no longer

needed/wanted, (b) fix-it clinics for small appliances or items needing repair. Some second-hand stores exists as do some fix-it clinics [Anoka County]. There is room for more. These areas would be another source for job/economic growth and workforce development. Incineration (HERC) is not a solution and should include an end date for its discontinuation. Please keep in mind that what happens in one County impacts neighboring counties. Air emissions [HERC] from an incineration processes travel and contaminate adjacent Counties.

Anonymous

3/14/2023 01:56 PM

I'm strongly in favor of increasing the multifamily recycling

Anonymous

3/15/2023 09:55 AM

Need to develop a clearly outlined phased plan with broad educational and awareness campaigns if you want this to work. Saying you'll do it and doing it are two very different things.

Anonymous

3/15/2023 03:12 PM

I'd be able to support Aim 1 and its actions if you include a closure date for the HERC in the Zero Waste Plan. This is about good governance and following through on commitments. As a resident of Hennepin County living in the City of Minneapolis, we continuously experience symbolic gestures by those in power for our community around equity but when it comes down to policy, justice always seems to be skirted. Whether it's declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis or The Disparity Reduction Strategy or the Regional Met Council 2040 Climate Plan or the County's Climate Action Plan, or the City's designation of Green Zones, If policy and leadership do not recognize and reflect these plans into policy action, they are worthless. We are tired of these gestures and want more for our community and neighbors. The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes.

Anonymous

3/15/2023 07:42 PM

Accessible drop off for E-Waste, Hazardous Waste, Plastic Film, Battery, Packaging Materials, Etc.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 09:00 AM

I personally think it would make sense for HERC to be repurposed as an anaerobic digester for food waste and other organics as it would be central location for so many large generators. Could the methane generated for that be used to maintain some of the electricity and steam heating that HERC currently provides?

Anonymous

3/16/2023 10:48 AM

The HERC needs to be shutdown in order for this county to move towards being truly zero waste. there needs to be a clearly defined

phase-out plan and shut down date, until then i don't believe the county is making any effort.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 11:10 AM

You are pricing people out of the market

Anonymous

3/16/2023 11:45 AM

The devil is in the details here. Like many institutional efforts to address inequity and racial disparities, this one hides lackluster goals and damaging behavior behind nice sounding language. If the county truly wants to address these issues, then setting a phase out date for the HERC incinerator now, as part of this plan, is essential. Moreover, no more money can go into upgrading this facility as this is money that could be used to create more equitable solutions to our waste problems. As a physician in North Minneapolis, every day I see patient's who are suffering the consequences of living and working in such a heavily burdened neighborhood. While drawing the line to direct causation is always difficult, the HERC must be seen in the context of the whole, with its proximity to other pollution sources that collectively lead to increased rates of asthma, hospitalizations for certain cardiac and respiratory issues, and likely harder to track outcomes such as prenatal and neonatal complications, birth defects, and certain cancers. The contract for operating the HERC expires in 2025. To me this seems like the ideal time to finally phase out this facility that is the source of so much unnecessary suffering.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 11:53 AM

HERC is impossible to use without using a car. That needs to change

Anonymous

3/16/2023 02:41 PM

Agree with the goals, but the focus has to be biggest bang for the buck. Waste and carbon needs to be reduced asap!

cam

3/16/2023 02:29 PM

We need stronger and more clearly defined goals in this area. Expanding, increasing could mean very little. Ensure that every resident has a drop off site within 5 miles, and ensure that every resident in the county has full organic and recycling services provided at their residence would be better. The plan could and should also identify the milestones and the timeline for HERC closure and set a date. How about reducing the amount burned by 50% by Dec. 2024 with full closure on December 2025?

Anonymous

3/16/2023 07:51 PM

Shut the HERC in 2025. Without a shutdown date, I don't support this.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 08:10 PM

Most of this aim is dependent on shifting behavior. Access is first, but you then need folks to use new systems when they have built behavior around not having it. Behavior change is HARD. Address specifically how you will do this using evidence-based practices.

Rebecca

3/16/2023 09:10 PM

Clear education campaign is so important!

Anonymous

3/17/2023 09:45 AM

HERC currently manages a large proportion (45%) of the county's disposed waste (365k tons per year of the total 800k tons). Milestones to consider phasing out HERC should be considered only once there is less than 500k tons of waste per year still being disposed. The economic (county and state) and environmental costs would be unacceptable if HERC is closed too soon.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 10:21 AM

While different people have different abilities to access recycling and waste reduction, making racial equities the focal point of the first aim only works to strengthen the racial divide and subconscious bias. Expanding access and ease of recycling and waste reduction should be independent of race, provided equally for everyone.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 02:38 PM

A question rather than comment, if we stop using the HERC where will the 10% of items that do need to be landfilled go? It'd be nice to know more about where Hennepin County's waste goes if not to the HERC and why it would make sense / what benefits there are to no longer using it. If the HERC is better than landfilling, it might be nice to keep that open to take in other county's waste for a fee or something like that, if they themselves are not making the same strides we are.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 03:06 PM

I think the education component is very important.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 03:12 PM

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate. And the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 08:37 PM

I think we need a lot more community education!

Anonymous

3/17/2023 09:15 PM

Another program you want to waste our taxes on. How's the organic waste working out?

Anonymous

3/18/2023 07:28 AM

I'd like to see more of a focus on shifting production and put the oneness on producers to either reduce wasteful/harmful packaging and provide opportunities/services for recycling or reuse

Anonymous

3/18/2023 09:51 AM

Really?

Anonymous

3/18/2023 03:00 PM

My only comment would be to list the key actions in order of importance. I think that expanding the workforce development for living wage green jobs is one of the most important key actions on this list. If reducing racial disparities and advancing equity is the goal of aim 1, getting low income communities access to the training needed for this industry would be a possible solution. I think that might have a bigger impact on communities than expanding drop off locations. (side note- what are the drop off locations for? I am assuming organics, but perhaps that could be defined)

Anonymous

3/18/2023 05:07 PM

Shut down the HERC, our communities deserve less pollution!
Incentives for parents using washable cloth diapers. More backyard composting access, education, workshops ect.

Anonymous

3/18/2023 05:56 PM

Establish milestones now to phase out HERC and provide regular updates to keep on track to meet them.

Anonymous

3/18/2023 06:22 PM

It is not enough to consider phasing out the HERC. There is no place in a zero waste plan for a trash incinerator. There is no other way to reduce the environmental injustice this facility causes other than shutting it down completely. A firm shutdown date for the HERC needs to be established, with 2025 as the absolute latest date. Aside from that, I support the other actions of this aim.

Anonymous

3/18/2023 06:39 PM

These steps are needed for the plan to succeed. Not following these steps shows intention to let the plan fail. Close HERC!

Anonymous

3/18/2023 06:52 PM

We must do more than establish milestones to phase out HERC. That language throws red flags to me. We should already have 1st steps planned for the shutdown!! Residents must decrease consumption as the County takes measurable steps to immediately start shutting down HERC

Anonymous

3/18/2023 08:12 PM

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. The Zero Waste plan must have a defined phase-out (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2025") and a shutdown date for HERC. And the county must not use this plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. A swift proactive shutdown of HERC needs to be included. No more money for HERC. It has been around for 34 years at this point and continues to contribute to some of the highest asthma rates in the entire state. Burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 11:59 AM

First, In the full Zero Waste Plan draft, it is said that Aim 1 will include an INCREASE in funding to the HERC for upgrades. That language is left out here, which seems deceptive. Secondly, the phase out plan listed in the full draft is filled with vague language, loopholes, and unenforceable commitments. If the county is committed to zero waste, the HERC needs to be shut down. The HERC eats up public money that will be needed for us to reach our zero-waste goals, and it is poisoning our most vulnerable communities in the meantime. Your draft says that the HERC will be phased out "as the county approaches zero waste". This is not only unrealistic, as the trash burner requires that the city generate trash for it to continue to operate economically, but it is also extremely vague. Are we to expect that the HERC will remain open until the city reduces its waste by 50%? 80%? 99%? These milestones could take years, decades. The zero waste plan will not and cannot be complete nor genuine unless it includes an explicit shutdown date for the HERC with full commitment by the County. That date should be in 2025, when the current contract with the HERC is up. Further, there should be no further money spent on the HERC for "upgrades". Investing in this infrastructure will ensure that the facility remains open all the longer, which the community has said time and time again that they will not accept. To invest further in infrastructure that will lock us into more trash and more pollution is antithetical to the Zero-Waste Plan as a whole. For these reasons, I reject Aim 1 on the basis of its lack of commitment to a HERC shutdown date in 2025 as well as its purposefully deceptive language regarding increased funds for the HERC. If these issues

are resolved in the language of Aim 1, then I would support this section.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 12:01 PM

We ABSOLUTELY MUST SHUT DOWN HERC. I do not support any plan that does not explicitly include a phase out of HERC -- entirely shut down and done -- by 2025.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 12:23 PM

Expanding drop-off centers may not help in some area of the cities due to people not having transportation. Recycling drives might help with this. Businesses and offices need to do more recycling, especially food waste. I worked for the City of Mpls for 38 years, and we were recycling glass, papers, etc. at our home many years before City offices even had recycling bins. Regarding food recycling, the bags needed for that are not always that easy to find. These should be made more widely available..

Anonymous

3/19/2023 01:27 PM

The Zero Waste Plan must include a real phaseout and shutdown date for the HERC trash burner by 2025.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:30 PM

I live at 4133 Ewing Ave S, in SW Minneapolis. My trash is being burned downtown, and the wind is taking it right into the lungs of the people in North Minneapolis, to make them sick and give them asthma and worse. A Zero Waste Plan must include a phaseout and shutdown date for the HERC trash burner (by 2025 at the latest). SHUT HERC DOWN ASAP! It is a false solution and should never have been built in the middle of the most densely populated area in the state to begin with. Its closure is long overdue. NO MORE MONEY FOR HERC!

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:30 PM

Please have a deadline for the shutdown and a clear and transparent plan with accountability for moving forward to zero waste future. We need to stop wasting money on HERC, we need a shutdown date and we need to be funding the plans to move towards a zero waste future.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:33 PM

A HERC Shutdown Date by 2025 must be in the Zero Waste Plan. And no more money should be wasted on HERC. HERC's existence is preventing the county from transitioning to a zero-waste economy and creating good, safe, long-lasting union jobs. My union - Teamsters Local 320 - has come out against the trash incinerator because it is poisoning our membership who live on the North Side, and because it is an obstacle to creating more jobs in composting, reuse, and other waste diversion.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:46 PM

The zero waste plan MUST phase out HERC with clear goals/steps for its end and a clear end date (for example I'd like to see 500 tons per day reduced by 2024, down to zero by 2025 end of year). HERC must end swiftly for my support to be extended. HERC is hurting our communities in violent and racist moves from the city and state.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 08:10 PM

Action A5: Increasing traditional and organic recycling at multi-family housing sites will be the biggest challenge, but will also have the biggest upside. This action should be the main focus of this section.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 04:13 PM

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. It cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. The Zero Waste plan must have a defined phase-out (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2025") and shutdown date for HERC. And the county must not use this plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. No more money for HERC at all - no upgrades, shut it down to stop poisoning North Minneapolis.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 04:54 PM

In order to support this plan, I would need to see specific dates and commitments in place to shut down the HERC by the end of 2025 at the latest. If you are serious about acheiveing zero waste, then shutting down the HERC - not upgrading it - has to be a top priority. I see on page 18 of the draft that upgrading the HERC is given the highest rating for "impact," whereas "establishing milestones to phase out the use of the HERC as county approaches zero waste" is given the lowest rating. I don't see a world where we can approach zero waste while still funding the HERC. The HERC has caused immense harm to the community over its 34 years of existence — it was never acceptable, and now is the time to put an end to it. I do see a world where we can approach zero waste: where all of resources you'd use to upgrade and maintain the HERC are redirected towards real, long term solutions!

Anonymous

3/19/2023 08:46 PM

Expand drop off sites to include metal and e-waste. Set a specific date to shut down the HERC.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 06:27 PM

Focus on expanding easy access to organics waste collection.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 07:53 PM

Aim 1 is incredibly important to improving equity.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 09:22 PM

I'm for the actions included in Aim 1. I am unsure of classifying these as solutions to equity issues. (Perhaps that is just me being picky.) Also wonder what additional measures can target this aim.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 09:03 PM

Need speciifc timings for when things will be done. Dates and milestones for shutting down he hERC ARE IMPORTANT. WHEN WILL MULTI FAMILY BE ADDRESSED

Anonymous

3/19/2023 11:38 PM

The plan is replete with vague language and loopholes concerning HERC, and does not commit to shutting it down in a reasonable amount of time. Therefore the plan continues the history of racist and classist policies that have greatly harmed BIPOC communities and have made Minnesota the state with among the greatest racial disparities in the country. The plan therefore pays lip service to equity. It is typical of our state and local governments that clearly "know better" based on their rhetoric, but are not "walking the walk". NO funding should go to HERC. It is already 14 years past its expected lifetime and must be shut down as soon as possible, and certainly before the current contract expires in December 2025. It not only continues to harm residents, but contravenes the County's fiduciary responsibilities. The following are some specific failings of the plan concerning HERC, which studies have shown clearly adds another heavy and unfair health burden to the surrounding, heavily BIPOC and low income communities: 1) A.10 aims to set milestones for "long term" phaseout of HERC. It does not define long term, but clearly this must be a number of years at least. The lack of definition of "long term" leaves virtually any time frame as acceptable in the plan. This is also supported in the proposed plan in the acknowledgment on page 22 which says that the State favors incineration over landfill. The plan does not have to accept the State's preferences, but as stated it seems to do just that. Therefore, it implies that residual waste would be preferable to burn rather than bury. Neither are desirable, but incineration clearly increases the burden selectively to already disadvantaged communities. And it is not at all clear in any case that there is greater harm from landfill, and in fact there is probably less if properly done. However, A.10 and the other minimizations of harm from HERC are incompatible with the supposed "core aim", as stated on page 16, of equity. However, once again that language is vague, not defining what "reducing" racial inequities means. As stated it could be 1% or 99%, and so is essentially meaningless. 2) A.10 predicates phaseout of HERC on

approaching zero waste. But it is entirely unclear what "approaching" means. Elsewhere, "approaching" seems to be achieving 76-82% waste reduction. But this requires achieving rates that are currently unheard of in the US, and apparently rare globally. It would also require numerous new or enlarged programs and policies such as grants and infrastructure that would undoubtedly require significant County expenditures. Yet the plan nowhere estimates how much it would cost or where the funds would come from. This is once again vague and irresponsible. But in any case, even an optimistic assessment would be a number, probably many, years for this to occur, if ever. Shutting down HERC cannot be contingent on such vague racist and meaningless benchmarks. And in fact, on page 22 it is written that the following actions are aimed at "reducing reliance on HERC and increasing equity". "Reducing" suggests no shutdown at all, and "increasing equity" is once again, vague and quantitatively meaningless. In sum, the proposed plan merely continues current systemically racist policies by paying lip service to equity in the guise of vague language that is intended to seem robust, and therefore give the gloss of justice and fairness. Although the authors may have been well-meaning, it is an insidious plan. If the authors are truly committed to racial and class equity, as they claim, they still have the opportunity of doing the right thing by recommending that HERC be shut down by 2025 at the latest! Anything else would be a betrayal.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 12:21 AM

It will be very helpful to specifically identify those actions that can be taken at the City Council level and does not need State level approval. This way, community groups in each city within the Hennepin County can work with the Council to get those low-hanging fruits implemented. Right now, the list of options that can be implemented at the local level is very low.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 08:41 AM

Without knowing the full scope of all 14 points this question is misleading

Anonymous

3/20/2023 08:53 AM

The HERC is not helping in the movement towards green jobs. It is no better than landfills, and allows toxic waste to enter both the landfills, air, and water of surrounding areas. We all deserve to breathe clean air.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 09:59 AM

Increase options for use if compost created by organics recycling by residents especially in community gardens and parks

Anonymous

3/20/2023 10:04 AM

A rapid decommissioning of the HERC is an essential component of this plan

Anonymous

3/20/2023 10:10 AM

I don't think this plan makes sense without a specific phase out date for the HERC. As long as it's in operation, zero waste can't and won't happen.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:04 AM

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. The Zero Waste plan must have a defined phase-out (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2025") and shutdown date for HERC. And the county must not use this plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. HERC has no place within a zero waste plan in the County. The way that this question is summarized gives the idea that I'm describing my level of support for milestones to phase out HERC, but omits all the conditions you've attached to that phase-out. You also are hiding the fact that A.9. short-term upgrades for HERC, is within this group of actions and is prioritized more. Stop investing in burning garbage and harming people, and shut down HERC!

Anonymous

3/20/2023 12:32 PM

The most important part of it for me is to find a quick and effective solution to phasing out the HERC completely.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:17 AM

Sounds good, but how do we get there?

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:29 AM

HERC has no place within a zero waste plan in the County. Burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal. Every day HERC is in operation, it is continuing to poison our most vulnerable communities. A swift, and proactive shutdown of HERC date needs to be included within this plan in order to gain my support. No more money for HERC.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:24 AM

Continuing to burn trash is not a solution! I need a specific date set for the phase-out and closure of the HERC trash burner to be included within this plan. It has been around for 34 years at this point and continues to contribute to some of the highest asthma rates in the entire state. No more money for HERC.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:46 AM

I am strongly in support of the overall goal of Aim 1 and many of its actions including increasing access and participation for multifamily

residents, expanding workforce development for living wage green jobs, and expanding funding and support for community-centric solutions. However, I find it unacceptable to include more funding for HERC (even in the short-term) and a long-term phase-out "plan" that involves so many loopholes and caveats. In order to gain my support, this plan must include a swift, proactive, actionable plan for the complete closure of HERC by the end of 2025 at the latest. No more funding for HERC.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:53 AM

Expand drop off options and increase apartment accessibility---YES! More panels, committes and groups? Hard NO. Also, May e I crease recycling pick up to weekly or 2x per week instead of every other week. I see so much recycling in the garbage because the pick up is far too infrequent for most households.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:58 AM

In addition to milestones, I want this plan to include a date when the HERC will be shut down.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 05:52 PM

I would rather milestones established to phase out landfills vs the HERC which would open up the HERC more to communities outside of MPLS in Henn Cty. When expanding drop-off locations please take into account that users may not be able to drive to or take public transportation to the facilities.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 01:53 PM

Phase out of the HERC should not be dependent on when we reach zero waste milestones, as the facility creates a lot of harm and actively discourages zero waste initiatives.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:01 PM

Shut down the HERC. Provide a concrete deadline for its phase-out, and define what a phase-out is exactly. It is a false solution and should have never been built in the middle of the most densely populated area in the state to begin with. Its closure is long overdue. No more money for HERC.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:25 PM

engage local voices especially students and young families mandate composting thru a robust educational campaign to demonstrate what to compost and how to use finished compost.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:55 PM

Love the expanded dropoff options and increasing access to organics in multi family residents. I urge you to close the HERC and put a firm timeline on closure, with an aimed date of 2025. The HERC furthers

disparities and is antithetical to multiple County goals.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 03:41 PM

All of these will reduce existing costs immediately or soon after.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 04:18 PM

Anything better for the environment in the community I support

Melissa Wenzel

3/20/2023 04:51 PM

Really happy to see that workforce development/green jobs is front-and-center. That is necessary!

Anonymous

3/20/2023 05:58 PM

No money should be spent on the HERC. If the goal is to advance health equity, the largest polluter of asthma exacerbating emissions, should be phased out immediately and without additional funding. Please. The asthma rates in the surrounding communities are bad and only getting worse. The HERC is one of many problems, as I am sure you're well aware, but it is a major problem at that. Thank you.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 06:34 PM

Supportive and great leadership.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 07:15 PM

The Aim will not be realized if there isn't a specific target date to shut down the incinerator and the county does not create specific milestones that wind down the incinerator before it is shut down. Our brothers and sisters living near the burner have suffered long enough from the toxins that are spewed from the burner, and the health of citizens in the entire Twin Cities region must not continue to be put at risk.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 08:18 PM

Please end HERC funding asap and prioritize closure and relocation of waste to wealthier, whiter enclaves of city

Anonymous

3/20/2023 08:44 PM

I encourage milestones to phase out the downtown HERC

Anonymous

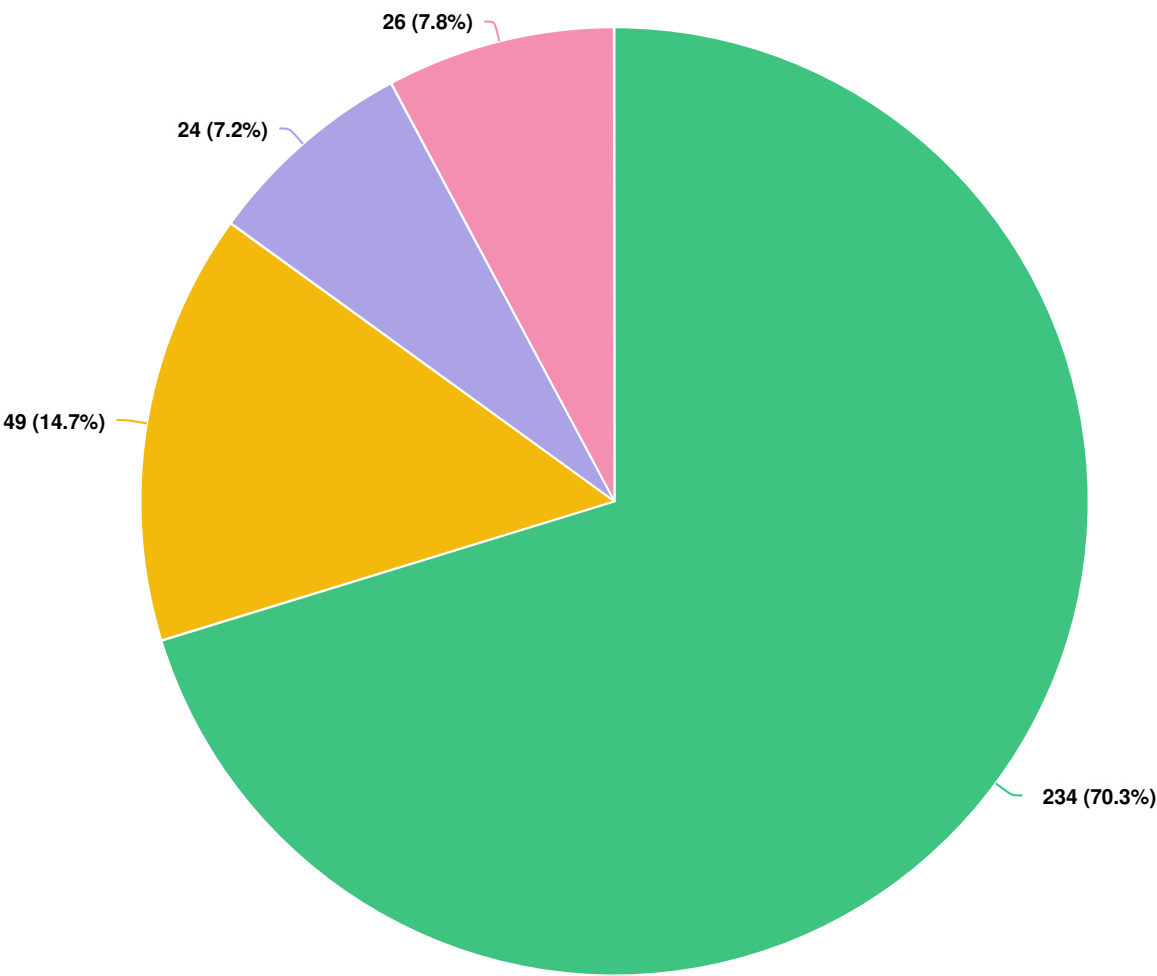
3/20/2023 09:27 PM

Shut down HERC and put no more money into it.

Optional question (190 response(s), 143 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q4 Overall, please describe your level of support for Aim 2 and its associated actions:



Question options

- Strongly support Moderately support Somewhat support Little to no support

Mandatory Question (333 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q5 Please provide any additional comments about Aim 2 and its actions:

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:04 PM

More money for grant programs--not just more marketing. Make it impossible to refuse.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:17 PM

People have to understand what they have to do, what help is available, and how important it is to do this.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:23 PM

There needs to be more companies competing for organic waste processing.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:22 PM

In addition to the carrot, there could be a stick for companies that do not comply with recycling and organics requirements which would require unannounced physical checks like the Health Dept does at local restaurants/catering companies.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:21 PM

Been trying to get neighbors to recycle organics and it would be helpful if there were Hennepin County specific training/education videos online that I could share with others.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:25 PM

Educate K-12 students about this Aim and how they can help to achieve it.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 01:55 PM

We should charge ppl for not recycling or composting. Education is key.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:15 PM

Culturally relevant outreach is so extremely important in achieving success here. It's a new concept to many and will pose some major challenges.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:07 AM

They are all great ideas.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 11:16 AM

I believe that education is the key to the plan's success

Anonymous

2/23/2023 12:07 PM

Again, modes of marketing and education that work in one cultural group or neighborhood might not work as well in another - how do

you reach people where they are and empower them to be advocates for their community and their specific needs? How are partnerships with the school system a potential conduit to reaching children and their families?

Anonymous

2/23/2023 01:57 PM

I think education needs to be in 'Aim 1' as increasing access to programs is great, but if folks don't know about the programs or how/why to use them then it isn't having the maximum impact. If folks understand why/how to use the programs and make different lifestyle choices, they'll be better users and advocates when the programs become accessible.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 03:50 PM

Not sure what culturally relevant outreach means and the goals associated with it. Are there certain segments of our population not recycling as much as others? Also - what does it mean to improve compliance? Are these done with fines and increased costs?

Anonymous

2/23/2023 03:51 PM

Increasing county enforcement of ordinance compliance would greatly help cities and help increase diversion.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:35 PM

I support this plan, but need to have the management approve of this and really have the residents involved.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 08:28 PM

I Support large scale organics processing — the other actions in this aim are pretty vague and fluffy

Anonymous

2/24/2023 11:45 AM

And the cost to this is????

Anonymous

2/24/2023 02:12 PM

Improving compliance and recycling requirements are very important. Anaerobic digester would get more food out of the waste stream. Very good. How much bang for your buck is this investment. If it's a more feel good option I would invest in siting another organics collection site instead. Better value with less expense. Both are taking organics out of the waste stream.

Anonymous

2/24/2023 04:35 PM

I think beyond expanding the reach of waste education programming (and this may be details in the plan), there needs to be a concerted effort from the County to invest in behavior change campaigns. While education is an important first step, it often does not lead to behavior change and so relying on it alone does not produce the desired

results. I'd also like to see partnership with other local entities, such as the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, when thinking about large scale organics processing. Also, I would be interested in how much "improved compliance" relies on punitive measures; while I think there is a place for them, I do think that they often don't have as strong of results as non-punitive measures.

Anonymous

2/25/2023 11:55 PM

Teachers could implement trash education

Anonymous

2/27/2023 09:43 AM

I fear the instructions on what and how to recycle are still too complex - particularly for people with busier lives and fewer resources. I get different answers from different people on what and how to recycle and many of them opt for throwing in the regular trash when they are not sure.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 12:54 PM

This sort of, but not completely negates my comment above - this will only work if it's done creatively and meets people where they are at - social media, clever campaigns. It's worth spending some real money to ensure that you understand your audiences and target those most likely to change their behavior.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 10:40 AM

Love Aim 2 - especially the waste education programming, culturally relevant outreach (which is a huge gap for the community events I run!) and large-scale organics processing infrastructure. We need more organics processing capacity and it's so meaningful for residents to experience it first-hand and close the loop by using finished commercial compost products.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 05:18 PM

Definitely expand public education. But maybe first ask the public if we as individuals are doing all we can to prevent generating more waste? We are not going to recycle our way out of this crisis. We need to reduce, reduce, reduce our generation of trash. Explain to people to give some thought to everything they purchase and what is going to be done with that stuff once they no longer want or need it. Promote think before you buy.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:07 PM

Only support development of the processing infrastructure. That needs to be first. Create the capacity, then demand will come naturally.

Anonymous

How will this be funded?

2/28/2023 12:14 PM

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:37 PM

Trying to do more with the same resources is difficult for households and organizations. If you can save families money and make things easy to adopt we will come on board. Waste collectors are not very helpful in moving to lower waste options. They literally make money on garbage. Why aren't water bottle fillers funded anymore? Issuing composting bins would be great. It's worked before.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:35 PM

Expand reach of waste education programs

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:54 PM

Vague language. Make it more specific.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:08 PM

Improve compliance --- pay for recycle Nazis? Waste education --- really It seems recycling is a moral decision and you cannot legislate morals. I feel that me and most of my neighbors do a very good job recycling.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:50 PM

Unclear " Improve compliance with recycling requirements". Does this refer to sorting recyclables or some other way to make voters recycle? Perhaps the word needed is "Motivation" not compliance.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 02:05 PM

The Solid Waste Facebook group has been so helpful in providing education about what is accepted or not. There are so many details that I have learned from the group. Would love more people to know about the great support offered there. Really miss the comprehensive Disposal guide that was online listing out so many specific items. Would love to see that come back. Yes, linguistically and culturally relevant education is important.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 03:19 PM

This seems like it's the difficult part - getting people to know how to handle waste differently. Glad to see that education is part of the plan!

Anonymous

2/28/2023 04:52 PM

low income neighborhoods are notorious for not recycling that's not going to change they do not care I know i am a sanitation driver

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:01 PM

There is no recycling involved just more government waste (money).

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:36 AM

provide grant money or free access and subsidized recyclable waste to businesses. Look at gas stations and see how much recyclable items are in their trash. KwikTrip is the only one i see with a recycling bin. Find out why they don't.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 09:27 AM

Knowing that there is a segment of society that is averse to any government rules dictating individual behavior, it will probably be most effective to put more resources into swaying public opinion (education) than in ordinances or laws

Anonymous

3/01/2023 10:22 AM

Concerned about upfront expense

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:54 PM

Education will not help much. People already know what is recycled and what isn't.

Anonymous

3/03/2023 05:26 PM

Your grants find ways to only pay and support those who vote for you

Anonymous

3/03/2023 08:24 PM

Make producers of packaging pay fees.

Anonymous

3/04/2023 10:27 AM

Same types of questions as for Aim 1 list

Anonymous

3/04/2023 02:09 PM

Improving compliance with recycling requirements will help a lot.

Anonymous

3/04/2023 05:43 PM

Organics should be recycled. This is something that the local county/city/township can assist the resident in accomplishing; be it via education and via logistical support. Residents should receive education on the impacts of waste. Particularly on the health effects and consequence of incineration, exposure to plastics [microplastics and nanoplastics], PFAS, phthalates, etc. Education should include the false solutions [i.e., chemical recycling] and actions individuals can take to minimize waste and reduce their individual exposures to toxic substances.

Anonymous

3/05/2023 07:59 PM

I do not like marketing lumped in with large scale organic processing, at the bottom of the list. Marketing is not the priority. Also, marketing and its instruments are usually prone to bilking funds & delivering scant results. I do not think grant marketing is the priority in

this.

Lily K

3/06/2023 05:42 AM

It is through education and outreach that cultural change can occur. It is through group participation that greater impact is realized.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 07:10 AM

Education is helpful but a fairly weak driver of change.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:48 AM

Need more clear guidelines on what can be recycled

Anonymous

3/06/2023 11:20 AM

Our city is increasingly diverse and the success of the program will be dependent on your action around partnerships to provide culturally relevant outreach.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:02 PM

None of the items in "Aim 2" are a responsibility of Hennepin county. As a resident of this county I do not want to pay for a county marketing department.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:00 PM

YES! Every staff breakroom in Hennepin County buildings should have an organics recycling bin.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 04:10 PM

As someone who does regular outreach and education for recycling and organics with the community, I often get frustrated because it all boils down to your audience making a behavior change. You can teach them everything they need to know, but it comes down to them choosing to change their behavior. I find this is especially true with multi-family residents. Property managers tell me all the time that they have stopped trying anymore to get people to do it correctly. Some say they have done everything they can such as working with Hennepin County to get better signage or have onsite education events for residents. I don't know how we break through this barrier.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:16 PM

Education is always a good thing.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 09:47 AM

There is a growing trend nation-wide of organics programs going back to food scraps and yard waste only, due to contamination and issues with "biodegradable" packaging. I think the county needs to think really carefully about this issue and ensure that the compost or other products generated from the organics facilities is actually a high

quality, useful material, that has an end market, and that processing organics is actually the most environmentally beneficial path, as opposed to for example focusing more on reusable programs or recyclable products.

jono

3/07/2023 10:34 AM

Fund people doing direct outreach at apartment buildings and homes to educate and support composting, etc. Also support single use plastics bans wherever possible.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:22 PM

Compost site is necessary. Also, education at a younger age is crucial. It helps develop life skills. easier to teach a kid vs adult. Work with school districts.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:24 PM

I am especially in favor of the culturally relevant outreach and large-scale organics processing.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:50 PM

Recruit volunteers who can manage the bins at peak times/intersections and/or large events to provide real-time education.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 06:48 PM

Pay teachers, cafeteria staff, janitorial staff, and students to be a part of this process, especially from the Minneapolis Public Schools. I'm a substitute teacher, a teacher on disability, and I've never seen so much food and compostables go into the trash in the cafeterias at every school. In the classrooms, the recycling bins are just another trash bin. No one recycles. This HAS to change, and there has to be buy-in from those who are attending and those who should be enforcing it. What are incentives for any of them to do that, other than it's the right thing to do? Clearly, that hasn't been enough. In Edina, we had a parent at our school, Michelle Horan, who helped us get into composting back in 2006 or so. Then my 5th graders decided they wanted to go beyond the cafeteria to the bathrooms and classrooms and created the Green Trash People (GTP), so they collected composted paper towels essentially at lunch every day. But we the teachers had to be educated and we had to educate our students about what went into each of the 3 bins. And then monitor it. I'm very concerned about the earth, so I was very much into it. This group continued for 3-4 years until I left in 2010 for another school.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 10:53 PM

The public is really dumb when it comes to recycling. We need to do more education.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 11:43 PM

I think there would be a huge benefit in education around electronics recycling, most people I know just throw their old electronics in the trash but there are great organizations like Repowered that recycle them. I also think education on selling used things would be helpful, selling or donating something rather than throwing us away saved a ton of waste.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 10:15 AM

Organics recycling can start in schools, with schools having kids sort food waste into specified bins. Starts kids thinking about this early.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 10:54 AM

Dream on.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:17 PM

Overall, very supportive - again did "moderate" because of wanting a stronger emphasis on reduction/reuse/repair. Appreciate the focus on multi-housing and culturally relevant outreach though.

jgrosscup

3/08/2023 02:08 PM

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:34 PM

Having a large scale processing infrastructure is terrible. We should encourage individual households to compost and provide them training and bins. Much more effecient.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 03:47 PM

This is ridiculous. You are asking for " level of support", but there is no information on cost. In order to decide if I would support it, I would need to know a real plan and real cost, not fairytale ideas in a fairytale world. Since there is no real information here, I can provide no support. Next time, provide real information - this survey looks like a middle-school questionnaire. Sadly, many people will "Strongly support" this, and predictably this government agency will send out messaging that this initiative has "Strong Public Support" even though you withheld all of the pertinent information. Typical government. Next time, be better.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 08:27 PM

I would love to have access to organics collection. I have made requests to my rental company to provide the infrastructure, however, they are apprehensive due to the education it would require of renters. I hope there will be incentive for owners/management of rental property to participate in collection.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 11:12 PM

The emphasis on organics recycling is key to reducing trash weights. I would add buying out the patent that Randy's Sanitation had on the Blue Bag system, which was an extremely easy and cost-effective way to separate organics curbside. Drop-offs for organics just don't work - too messy and smelly.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 11:55 AM

While I support the goals stated above, when I look more closely at the draft zero waste plan, it includes evaluating upgrades for the HERC incinerator. I don't believe HERC should be upgraded. It need to be shut down. Any plan that does not include credible milestones to shut down HERC and a specific shutdown date will not receive my support.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 04:12 PM

I think developing large-scale organics processing center within the Hennepin County region that employees residents would be tremendously beneficial.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 05:50 PM

A swift, and proactive shutdown of HERC date needs to be included within this plan in order to gain my support. I need a specific date set for the phase-out and closure of the HERC trash burner to be included within this plan. It has been around for 34 years at this point and continues to contribute to some of the highest asthma rates in the entire state. The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan and shutdown date is not legitimate. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. Anyway, burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal. I will not vote in support of a plan if continuing to poison our most vulnerable communities is still deemed reasonable, even if I'm being told it's temporary. It was unacceptable to begin with.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:21 PM

This all sounds quite good!

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:37 PM

Make/ require bins be available in more places, including private businesses

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:47 PM

I need actual steps to waste reduction. Mainly through lessening consumption

Anonymous

3/09/2023 07:23 PM

This is fine - creation of waste needs to be addressed. Hennepin County can impose fines on businesses that continue to create new plastic.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 09:12 PM

There are already grants, requirements and education in place at significant added cost to businesses and residents.

Anonymous

3/10/2023 10:22 AM

In terms of grants and education on the topic in general, the Hennepin County Library would be a great place to hold seminars/small classes and/or to have physical resources that would include the information.

Anonymous

3/11/2023 12:44 AM

Strongly support organics digester

Anonymous

3/12/2023 04:11 PM

There is so much wish cycling- people want to do the right thing, but don't know.

Richard Asinger

3/13/2023 03:18 PM

Grant support is necessary particularly for older multifamily dwellings that will need education and physical updating

Anonymous

3/13/2023 04:52 PM

Organics should be recycled. This is something that the local county/city/township can assist the resident in accomplishing; be it via education and via logistical support. Residents should receive education on the impacts of waste. Particularly on the health effects and consequence of incineration, exposure to plastics [microplastics and nanoplastics], PFAS, phthalates, dioxins, etc. Education should include the false solutions [i.e., chemical recycling] and actions individuals can take to minimize waste and reduce their individual exposures to toxic substances. Education could be incorporated at local PTA meeting to inform and engage parents in means of waste and exposure reduction. The more informed the citizen the greater probability of their taking positive actions toward waste minimization.

Anonymous

3/15/2023 09:55 AM

This tends to be the critical path. If people don't know how and if it's not easy - it won't work. And funding is required - this initiative may warrant a tax increase and/or higher fees for waste collection making it more economic to recycle and compost.

Anonymous

Make sure compliance doesn't penalize BIPOC businesses or

3/15/2023 07:42 PM

households but instead incentivize or help them transition.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 10:48 AM

waste education includes informing individuals that's BURNING waste is more toxic to our environment than burning coal. the county will have to investigate the ways they have failed minnesotans, primarily BIPOC minnesotans experiencing environmental injustice. the county should support citizen's effort for environmental justice.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 11:45 AM

Continue to prioritize low income and communities of color as well as small local businesses in these outreach efforts.

cam

3/16/2023 02:29 PM

These are worthy efforts, although I have deep concerns about a large-scale facility and feel it would be better to have smaller ones distributed evenly throughout the county and ensure that they are not producing methane.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 07:51 PM

Shut the HERC in 2025

Anonymous

3/16/2023 08:10 PM

Start education with the kids! Parents/Adults are extremely tough to influence and teach new ideas to, but kids are so eager to learn and implement new things. Education, ESPECIALLY around the environment, trickles up!

Rebecca

3/16/2023 09:10 PM

Grants are needed for business to set up refill stations.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 09:45 AM

The county should plan for multiple anaerobic digesters.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 10:21 AM

Aim 2 should be Aim 1, as it gets to the big picture goals of reducing waste and increasing abilities to recycle.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 09:15 PM

Wasting tax dollars on woke garbage

Anonymous

3/18/2023 07:28 AM

There needs to be availability of receptacles/services. Education doesn't do anything if there is no access.

Anonymous

3/18/2023 06:22 PM

I support grant programs for public institutions such as educational facilities. However, corporate entities (for-profit and even not-for-profits) should not be given free money to solve these waste problems they have helped create. Corporate actors should be given loans if they need funding to implement programs to improve their waste diversion. Furthermore, participation in waste diversion for corporations should not be voluntary. As evident by the historic actions of corporate industry, unless they have binding regulation to follow, they will choose profit over people's best interests. I support the increase in education for the public. I also support an increase in organics recycling as long as it is recycled into usable compost which will help replenish our soil and reduce the use of fertilizers, such as the SMSC facility.

Anonymous

3/18/2023 06:39 PM

These are good goals. There is NO reason we shouldn't be recycling and composting. Close HERC!

Anonymous

3/19/2023 12:01 PM

I would like to see stronger efforts to bridge the gaps between the organics recycling program and citizens of Minneapolis. It seems like many individual homes as well as a majority of multi-family residences do not yet participate. Many businesses that focus on food are also unenrolled and I think this is a huge problem.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 01:27 PM

The Zero Waste Plan must include a real phaseout and shutdown date for the HERC trash burner by 2025.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:30 PM

Education is always good. Composting is wonderful.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:33 PM

This aim should include workforce training programs for all employers within the County, particularly union-represented employers. As a Teamster union representative at the University of Minnesota, I have witnessed many wasteful practices on campus that could be addressed with culturally relevant workforce training programs and education of the student body. The university's Office of Sustainability has an aversion toward education and training that should be corrected by the County.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:46 PM

N/a

Anonymous

B2 Business incentives (financial) will make a huge difference;

3/19/2023 08:10 PM

however, the grant application process must be simple and short.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 08:46 PM

The County has set high goals to divert waste but the steps to get there are not ambitious enough. Set strong actions. For example, require schools to eliminate plastic drink bottles and set up a reuse/refill system with internal washing machine in the vending machine. This is currently available and being used at some sites. Require schools to have washing equipment and to use reusable dinnerware and no single-use plastic. Don't wrap any food in plastic. Toxic chemicals in plastic are impacting the health of students.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 07:53 PM

Aim 2 is crucial for supplying outreach support.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 09:22 PM

Education and access are huge. The more areas of life that we must recycle/ compost, the better ingrained those lessons. Emphasis on reduction and reduce.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 09:03 PM

EDUCATION OF PEOPLE IS VITAL. eXPLANATION OF WHY AND HOW IS NECESSARY. pEOPLE WILL DO THE RIGHT THING IF THEY KNOW WHY HEY SHOULD AND WHAT THEY SHOULD B DOING.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 11:38 PM

However, these actions must not be at the expense of current services that help BIPOC communities and the poor and education, must not place additional expenses on the poor, etc.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 12:21 AM

Provide grants and guidance and support to local groups to work with the community and city government to help with the implementation of low-hanging fruits. The grants can be very small amounts, but will cover costs of printing, holding educational sessions, hosting meet ups, and increasing advocacy for zero-waste.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 07:34 AM

My community is already participating in organics. Why wasn't infrastructure and compliance thought about with the last plan?

Anonymous

3/20/2023 08:41 AM

Again missing information does not allow a critical thought process.

Anonymous

I will not support the HERC in any capacity.

3/20/2023 08:53 AM

Anonymous

3/20/2023 09:59 AM

expand options for reduced plastic like restrictions on plastic packaging (alternatives exist like mycelium) or increased cost to using plastic bags or polystyrene. Elimination of non-recyclable plastic packaging and takaway containers (like black take out plastic and plastic plant pots which is not recyclable). Create curbside plastic bag recycling.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 10:10 AM

This seems fine, although I think hyperlocal organic collection/processing is going to be vital.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 12:32 PM

I think education is great, but what is more important is that the infrastructure and system works and is intuitive so most people can figure it out without receiving much, if any material from the county.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:17 AM

Developing a large scale organics program is probably going to be the biggest challenge.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:24 AM

Culturally relevant outreach please! And compost in the parks!

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:53 AM

Spend this money to increase the frequency of recycling pick ups instead. More household would recycle more items if they didn't have to wait 2 weeks between. Collections.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:25 PM

same, massive educational campaign

Anonymous

3/20/2023 03:41 PM

See previous.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 04:18 PM

Education is key

Melissa Wenzel

3/20/2023 04:51 PM

Increase grants for using used building materials.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 06:34 PM

Great role model

Anonymous

3/20/2023 07:15 PM

As a renter, I appreciate the inclusion of multifamily properties in your outreach. Getting residents in apartment buildings to increase their recycling can help make significant progress in reaching the Zero Waste goal. I frequently see building materials in our apartment building's dumpster, so I also appreciate the plan's proposed actions to find ways to deal with deconstruction and reusing building materials.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 08:18 PM

Focus on large corporate employers and wealthy companies

Anonymous

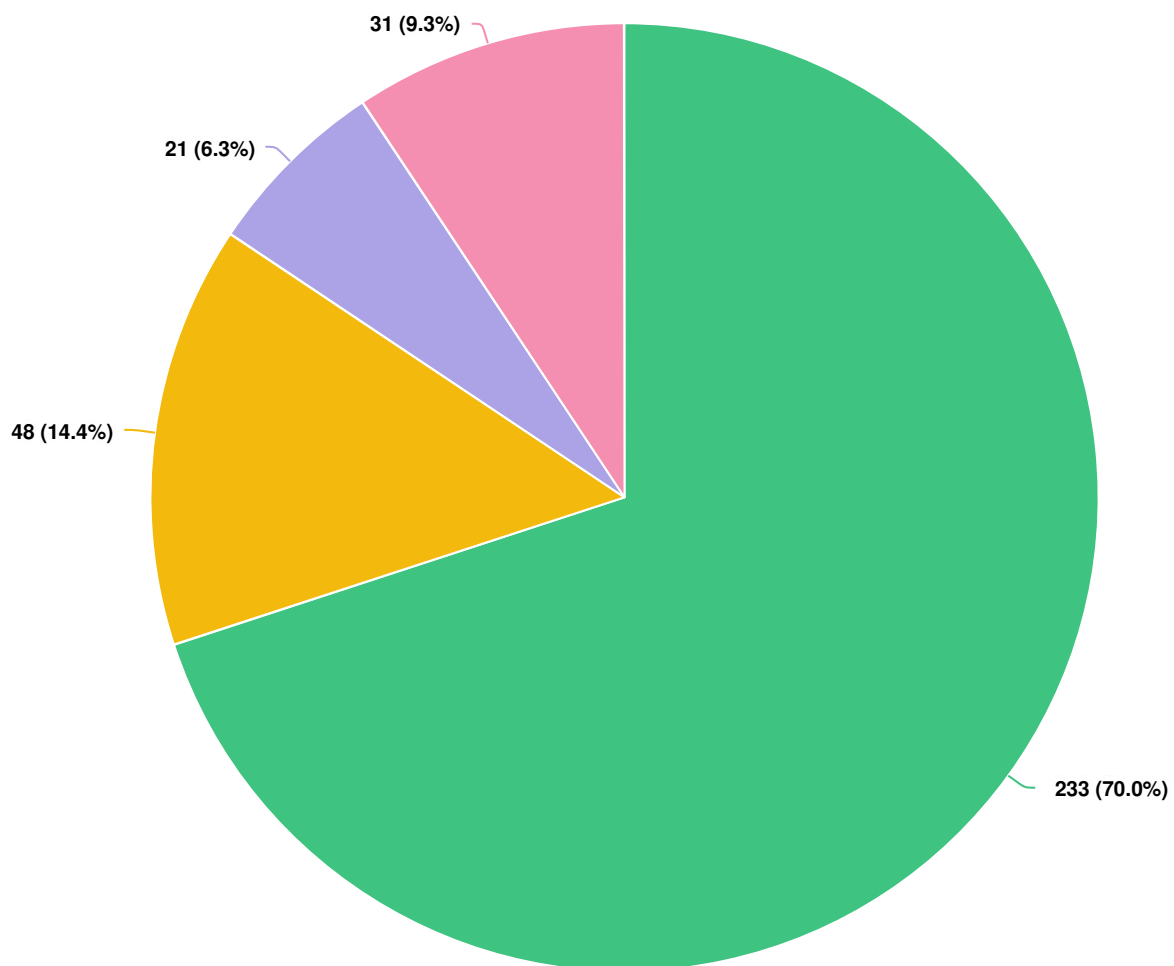
3/20/2023 09:17 PM

I'm especially in favor of expanding grants for deconstruction and building reuse. There's a lot more that could be done in that area. I'm in favor of expanding culturally relevant outreach to residents and businesses as well. The county could be doing more to reach communities whose first language is not English and who may not be aware of the programs available. Also, I'm very supportive of community-scale composting sites. It's important for neighborhoods that participate to have access to finished compost to improve their soil. Small scale composting avoids collection costs and emissions and keeps the nutrients local.

Optional question (125 response(s), 208 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q6 Overall, please describe your level of support for Aim 3 and its associated actions:



Question options

Strongly support Moderately support Somewhat support Little to no support

Mandatory Question (333 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q7 | Please provide any additional comments about Aim 3 and its actions:

Anonymous

2/22/2023 11:18 AM

You cannot say you are working towards a Zero Waste future with anything less than a clear commitment to phase out the HERC incinerator. I am supportive of these policies, but they also need to be accompanied by phase-out of the HERC

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:04 PM

This is where you are going to see the most impacts.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:15 PM

concerns about what single use ban and zero waster packaging involves. This sounds as unrealistic as shortsighted as the banning of future drive thrus in Minneapolis.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:17 PM

we have to mandate participation, once we have realistic expectations and ways to achieve them.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:23 PM

None of above suggestions have worked anywhere where they have been tried.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:21 PM

Please move the cost of organics recycling to property tax, similar to other recycling costs. The recurring costs for organized pickup is a turnoff to most I've talked to in my neighborhood.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:25 PM

Help schools to transition away from prepackaged foods and to use washable plates, trays, glasses, and eating utensils.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 01:34 PM

When you mandate something, it never works.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 01:55 PM

Grocery stores need to buy in. Buying in bulk, bringing our own containers is a start. We need to ban plastics that cannot be recycled.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 02:54 PM

In addition to 'Mandate participation in recycling and composting programs,' the fee for a large black garbage cart should increase significantly and the allowance of an additional bag of trash to be set out next to carts should be removed and turned into a voucher system like other items such as tires.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:22 PM

I'm SO EXCITED to see the transition to organized collection in here!

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:59 PM

Will there be grants for small biz/restaurants to comply? What about national chains who use single use food service items?

Anonymous

2/22/2023 07:34 PM

Can't mandate participation in recycling. People will either do it or not. Consider incentives. Mandates send the wrong message. The public does not like this sort of mandate as it is intrusive.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:07 AM

I don't understand what is meant by Extended Producer, and minimum diversion in construction projects. For the latter, I'm assuming you mean reusing as much of the building material as possible, but not sure. A challenging proposal, for sure!

Anonymous

2/23/2023 12:07 PM

How do you work in surrounding communities too to make this a regional solution? It is confusing to the consumer/customer sometimes when there are different policies when you shop or eat in one part of our region vs. another. I know there are limits to cooperation, but also wouldn't it be great if Hennepin and Ramsey Counties (for example) were more aligned so when you get takeout the restaurants have similar policies/access to compostable containers, etc. etc.?

Anonymous

2/23/2023 12:38 PM

EPR feels critical to the initiative's success. Right now the onus for recycling is all on the end-user.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 03:50 PM

I do not support a single use ban unless the businesses that are impacted support it

Anonymous

2/23/2023 03:51 PM

The state level actions (especially EPR) should be highly prioritized, otherwise we're acting in a county silo.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 04:32 PM

Aim three seems to be the most difficult and divisive.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:35 PM

please see above 2 comments.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 07:03 PM

I am specifically concerned about "Adopt a single-use ban and zero-waste packaging for food service." What exactly does that mean? Can companies still use compostable materials for single use items? I don't see this happening. There is too much of a chance of cross contamination if people try to reuse containers for things like fast food or restaurant food. Even if they give you a take home reusable container it's probably going to either never be returned or thrown away anyways in a majority of cases. So you're defeating the purpose unless there are compostable choices for single use items, but your verbiage does not allow for that.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 08:28 PM

Make sure that this infra to support this being effective is in place before mandating

Anonymous

2/24/2023 08:36 AM

All in favor of EPR.

Anonymous

2/24/2023 11:45 AM

MANDATE participation? More government mandated policies. Sounds socialistic to me.

Anonymous

2/24/2023 02:12 PM

Organized collection. Very good for garbage truck air emissions and wear and tear on city streets. I don't think anyone likes being forced to comply on any issues. Producer Responsibility would be difficult to implement. Construction and demolition should be sorted at the transfer stations/landfill. The material should be used to a higher purpose.

Anonymous

2/24/2023 04:35 PM

I get a bit concerned about unequal impacts of some of these bans; there is potentially a place for single-use products for folks with disabilities, for example, and some of these measures can make life more difficult for small businesses or unhoused folks. With sweeping bans, I'd like to see more nuance and assistance for smaller businesses, and care taken in this work to avoid accidentally penalizing those with disabilities or without housing.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 09:43 AM

Not clear what "organized collection" is. Do we not have organized collection now?

Anonymous

2/27/2023 12:54 PM

I've heard from so many small restaurants about how hard it is to get customers to not contaminate commercial compost and get things in the right place. They need help and tools to be successful at this - a carrot approach.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 10:40 AM

Would love to see expansion of single-use ban food service packaging and Extended Producer Responsibility at the state level. These are huge gaps in our community zero waste infrastructure.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 12:30 PM

Love the inclusion of food service to go containers!!

Anonymous

2/27/2023 05:18 PM

There is discussion by environmental groups, local government, and lawmakers to pass a bill on Extended Produce Responsibility (EPR) on packaging in Minnesota. We are not going to recycle our way out of this problem. EPR will require manufactures of all this packaging to take the toxicity out of their products, make them reduce the amount of packaging they produce, make their products either recyclable or compostable, bring back refillable or reusable containers for carryout food. And make the manufactures of all this packaging pay for the management of the stuff they make. Give them goals to reach by some future date like reduce their non-recyclable packaging by 30% by 2025 for example and have penalties if they do not meet these goals.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 08:52 PM

Include ban on single use plastics in horticulture.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 09:58 AM

its seems to be very complex and not attainable; may need some flexibility

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:07 PM

Too many actions. Pick the most impactful and realistic, and those you can control. Support single us ban.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:14 PM

Must make the biggest producers of the waste pay

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:12 PM

Not going to support mandating anything until you have a solid outline that identifies adverse consequences of such mandates and plan to mitigate. The road to hell is paved with good intentions & Minneapolis is a SHINING example of it with how degraded it has become.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:30 PM

Dont require those of us who have been composting for years in our own yards to participate and pay for those that don't take the time to

compost on their own.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:37 PM

If streamlined, standardized collection and programs are put in place AND save households and organizations money we will come on board.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:35 PM

single use ban and food service zero waste

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:08 PM

I don't know about the rest of the county but we already have recycling in Brooklyn Park. It should be mandated to at least have a recycling cart if a city doesn't already do it. I want/like my food to be safe.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:50 PM

Given the response to mandating wearing masks during covid pandemic, mandating recycling and composting will not go well.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 02:36 PM

Adopting a single-use ban and zero-waste packaging for food service is an absolute must.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 03:52 PM

What are the barriers for people to recycle and compost? How can people- young, old, poor be helped with this?

Anonymous

3/01/2023 03:19 PM

Things I'm concerned about in this section: - Reusable takeout containers sounds great conceptually, but there's a major behavior change from consumers needed there in that they'd now need to return the containers to the restaurant. How would you get people to do that? - As an apartment dweller, I'd be excited to be able to get my compost into a composting stream. But I'd also be concerned about smells from the compostable waste when it's still in the house.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 04:52 PM

there is a driver shortage cannot keep drivers staffed now you want to increase workload how is that possible ?

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:01 PM

I support the movement to recycle. However, eliminating single use products wouldn't be necessary if recycling programs actually worked at recycling.

Anonymous

Awesome ideas.

3/01/2023 04:36 AM

Anonymous

3/01/2023 09:27 AM

Again would recommend fewer individual mandates and more education and 'peer pressure.'

Anonymous

3/01/2023 10:22 AM

Concerned about pressure on small restaurant business cost

Anonymous

3/01/2023 12:23 PM

just by driving around my neighborhood on trash day I would say half of the people don't recycle

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:54 PM

Government mandates always create extra work and eat away at personal freedoms.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 09:26 PM

I would love to see / know more about enforcement of bans on single-use products or packaging that is not compliant with zero-waste. I live in Edina and although we have a Green-To-Go Packaging ordinance that stipulates all carryout /takeaway food packaging must be BPI certified compostable, I've been to several places that aren't complying and the City has no way to enforce the ordinance. So if there was something at the county level that could help hold businesses accountable, that would be great. Telling businesses they have to do something is one thing but following through with consequences when they don't is another. Please make sure there's some substance (people and resources) to backup the policies in this plan so it can be effective.

Anonymous

3/02/2023 04:59 AM

Single use ban/zero waste packaging very important to implement- right now it's hard to buy food that's not in plastic

Anonymous

3/02/2023 05:46 AM

Be careful about mandates and bans - they can have oppressive consequences for already marginalized people

Anonymous

3/02/2023 09:33 PM

zero-waste packaging for food service???? how are you supposed to get food from a restaurant, bring your own plates or tupperwares to the drive through?

Anonymous

3/03/2023 05:26 PM

There is no such thing as 'zero waste' .. this is not diversity of thought or ideas

Anonymous

3/03/2023 08:24 PM

All really good ideas. Let's get going now..

Anonymous

3/04/2023 10:27 AM

Same types of questions as for Aim 1 list

Anonymous

3/04/2023 02:09 PM

Pick up for organic materials would be great. I tried participating in the drop off program offered in Deephaven but it wasn't feasible for us.

Anonymous

3/04/2023 05:43 PM

Food waste should be recycled. This is something that the local county/city/township can assist the resident in accomplishing; be it via education and/or through material and/or logistical support. The County should strongly support a state EPR packaging bill that accomplishes to: (a) set environmental standards [goals] for packaging (i.e., reduction standards/goals), (b) reduces toxics in packaging, (c) offer no false recycling, (d) included modernized beverage deposit law, a.k.a., bottle bill, (e) provide financial relief to taxpayers and consumers, (f) includes both residential and commercial waste, (g) doesn't put the packaging industry in charge, (h) avoids glaring loopholes, and (i) seeks transparency and inclusion in the process.

Anonymous

3/05/2023 07:59 PM

Definitely organized collection!! Definitely. One of the reasons the twin cities is such a mess is because there is a mess of contractors. I'm terms of systems, centralization is more focused. I think simply consolidating refuse services to one entity would solve a lot of the problems immediately. It would create & maintain a central standard, less free wheeling contractors who aren't exactly held to coherent standards.

Anonymous

3/05/2023 10:45 PM

I do worry about the green premiums for compostable takeout containers, especially for struggling small restaurants already dealing with increased food cost. The county should make compostable materials available for purchase at a reduced rate, much like how we can buy discounted LED bulbs at the store. I 100% believe that we will make more progress by putting the onus on corporations instead of consumers, and am in firm support of the EPR legislation.

Lily K

3/06/2023 05:42 AM

Like 401Ks, this program should be "opt-out" where everyone is in, unless they specifically opt not to participate. Please follow economic behavior principles.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:15 AM

ERP should be a top priority.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:48 AM

People who compost for their gardens often do not have compost to be picked up. Need financial incentives for low garbage. We only have 1 grocery bag of garbage per week, yet have to pay for a whole can for pick up. Wasteful of energy and hard on roads for multiple trucks to pick up garbage and recycling and compost every week

Anonymous

3/06/2023 09:26 AM

County mandates for single-use bans, zero-waste packaging, organics recycling, and similar measures that force businesses in particular to be less wasteful should be a high-priority. It's not enough for individual families to make these changes if businesses aren't also doing their part, and most will not without a mandate.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 11:20 AM

I don't see how we can make progress toward a zero waste goal without mandated participation

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:02 PM

Hennenpin county has no jurisdiction to implement bans on food service retailers. This is a ridiculous overreach of the county.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:00 PM

Yes, please! Use libraries to host public education events to get the word out about this.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:40 PM

The priority should be to reduce plastic use and production so as to see no plastic food or beverage packaging produced by brand companies and no plastic food and beverage containers in grocery stores. Incentivize the transition to sustainable packaging and ban the use of plastic for food and beverage items. The EPR bill should ban the toxins in packaging.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 01:44 PM

Work with Minneapolis to eliminate complex charging to residents in multi building .

Anonymous

3/06/2023 02:47 PM

Agree strongly on the MANDATE. It's too easy to just slip it all into the trash.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 04:10 PM

For me, the EPR piece is HUGE! We need to get legislation in place that will require businesses to have some skin in the game too. The Green-to -Go ordinance in Edina is laughable because it has no teeth

to actually hold restaurants accountable for not complying.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 07:08 PM

I have always composted on my own, but gladly paid the extra when our city, Golden Valley, added composting. Don't know if this belongs here, but whether it's garbage or compost, some system of paying less for a smaller garbage can, because you recycle/re-use more, could be a good financial incentive.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:16 PM

Excited about single use ban & eliminating food service packaging waste. But devil is in the details - not sure how they would work.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 09:32 PM

The process that attaching the condition "as county approaches zero waste" to HERC's phase-out is unacceptable. HERC consumes the very money and political will needed to invest in real solutions.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 09:47 AM

Again, I urge the county to carefully consider "biodegradable" packaging from a lifecycle analysis perspective. Often these products, if not actually composted, have a larger footprint than traditional recyclables.

jono

3/07/2023 10:34 AM

Love the single-use ban.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 10:42 AM

Give participants the opportunity to access composted soil created by program for their own garden use.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 01:58 PM

Many of these actions are fairly ableist and require a certain amount of wealth and privilege to implement. There need to be supports in place to ensure that lower income and more vulnerable communities do not bear disproportionate cost to transitioning food systems.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 03:29 PM

Again, squirrels get in to bins (garbage collections causes weak spots in plastic bins)

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:23 PM

Once more: the plan MUST include a clear timetable for shutting HERC down. Burning trash is certainly not an environmentally friendly option to get rid of it.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:24 PM

I especially support phasing out single-use and replacing with zero-waste food packaging. I am always *extremely* disappointed that businesses that focus on food do not participate in organics recycling. My employer does not and it's totally bogus because we are a food-centric business.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:50 PM

Also mandate no single use plastic utensils (compostable), increase charge for plastic bags to \$1 each for grocery and produce bags. Provide visibility to consumer goods in glass/metal/bulk to highlight the benefit of reuse/recycle over single use plastics.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 06:48 PM

Each school site should have a composting committee, but will there be funding for that?

Anonymous

3/07/2023 07:02 PM

Way too much! Focus in on one or two areas.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 10:53 PM

All of these are amazing and I can't wait for them to be implemented.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 11:43 PM

I think it would be great to accelerate bulk buying in some way, there are a decent number of stores that have bulk food options but expanding this would reduce waste.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 10:04 AM

Reducing single use plastic is essential.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 10:15 AM

I love the ban on single use containers!

Anonymous

3/08/2023 11:05 AM

Sounds difficult to mandate use of services

Anonymous

3/08/2023 12:32 PM

Single use must go away. All takeout must be compostable. Extended producer guidelines and accountability must not be written by the vendors!

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:17 PM

For food ware - I hope to see the policies go further and as the details get worked out have requirements (not encouragement) for reusables. If you're banning "single-use" that includes recyclables and compostables, which I support. For certain sizes of events, it may

not be realistic, but then define a scale where the smaller ones or ones that are contained to a building (event centers where food/drink can't be brought in or taken out) that it has to be reuse. Very excited about the county procurement policy. That is a great plan! EPR can include more waste reduction and reuse, not just recycling/composting. Yes for right to repair! This came up a lot in the listening groups I participated in, and I'm very happy to see it in this plan. That fits nicely with the goal to increase more green jobs as well as electronics repair fits in that bucket.

jgrosscup

3/08/2023 02:08 PM

All fast food and carryout must come in compostable containers. At parks and restaurants (actually everywhere) the waste stream is forever compromised. No plastic for school lunches. Require schools, churches, businesses and congregate living facilities to have an appointed and trained RCT ambassador to provide local/in house oversight on RCT. Empower trash haulers to refuse pick-up or award fines when lack of attention to RCT (recyclables in plastic bags and compost material in trash) contaminates the bundled pick-up.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:34 PM

Do you really want to abduct people and throw them in cages for not recycling? Like Noam Chomsky said, the problem with the public is not civil disobedience, it is obedience. And we will change that.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 03:47 PM

This is ridiculous. You are asking for " level of support", but there is no information on cost. In order to decide if I would support it, I would need to know a real plan and real cost, not fairytale ideas in a fairytale world. Since there is no real information here, I can provide no support. Next time, provide real information - this survey looks like a middle-school questionnaire. Sadly, many people will "Strongly support" this, and predictably this government agency will send out messaging that this initiative has "Strong Public Support" even though you withheld all of the pertinent information. Typical government. Next time, be better.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 05:22 PM

We can't ban something unless there is an alternative. I'm referring to food service.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 08:27 PM

This is exciting. I would love to see consistent collection/sorting systems at every establishment. I still see use of styrofoam and other single use packaging especially at small BIPOC businesses. Please provide subsidized and/or group purchasing discounts of sustainable packaging for these businesses.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 08:48 PM

Recyclable packaging for takeout isn't more sustainable if it doesn't actually get recycled. Frequently the recyclable packaging used is too difficult to wash well enough to be recycled, especially when consumed out of the house. In some cases traditional paper takeout boxes may be more sustainable overall, even though not recyclable.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 11:12 PM

Garbage costs have gotten so high that making it more expensive not to recycle and collect organics will make more of a difference now than in the past.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 04:12 PM

Mandating participation is great. I am interested to know if nonparticipation will have penalties.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 05:50 PM

A swift, and proactive shutdown of HERC date needs to be included within this plan in order to gain my support. I need a specific date set for the phase-out and closure of the HERC trash burner to be included within this plan. It has been around for 34 years at this point and continues to contribute to some of the highest asthma rates in the entire state. The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan and shutdown date is not legitimate. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. Anyway, burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal. I will not vote in support of a plan if continuing to poison our most vulnerable communities is still deemed reasonable, even if I'm being told it's temporary. It was unacceptable to begin with.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:21 PM

This also sounds good!

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:49 PM

Experience in other communities on what makes these programs successful shows that we must ban organic waste into landfills, with adequate funding for enforcement and infrastructure.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:47 PM

What is the timeline for the plastic ban? This is vague

Anonymous

3/09/2023 07:23 PM

every aspect of this sounds like new green jobs!

Anonymous

3/09/2023 09:12 PM

I am opposed.

Anonymous

3/11/2023 12:44 AM

Encourage and educate people so they all know why we are supposed to compost. This

Anonymous

3/12/2023 04:11 PM

Recycling and composting should be the default choice.

Richard Asinger

3/13/2023 03:18 PM

Sadly mandates may be necessary

Anonymous

3/13/2023 04:52 PM

Moderate support as I believe EPR for packaging should be raised to a higher priority and that food composting could be addressed in a couple of ways. See examples provided below. Food waste should be recycled. This is something that the local county/city/township can assist the resident in accomplishing; be it via education and/or through material and/or logistical support. Chisago County provides its residence with organic composting containers for their food waste and provided educational sessions on how to compost. Linwood Township provides containers its residence for food waste collection and a designated place to drop-off that is open 24/7/365. These are two example that could be adopted in Hennepin County to address food waste; it needn't be an either/or, it could be adoption of both examples. County support of an EPR packaging bill should be moved to a tier 1 level. The County should strongly support a state EPR packaging bill that accomplishes to: (a) set environmental standards [goals] for packaging (i.e., reduction standards/goals), (b) reduces toxics in packaging, (c) offer no false recycling, (d) included modernized beverage deposit law, a.k.a., bottle bill, (e) provide financial relief to taxpayers and consumers, (f) includes both residential and commercial waste, (g) doesn't put the packaging industry in charge, (h) avoids glaring loopholes, and (i) seeks transparency and inclusion in the process. The support of an EPR packaging bill should be a tier 1 or 2 priority.

Anonymous

3/14/2023 01:28 PM

I do not support a single-use ban and zero-waste packaging for food service, nor do I support mandated participation in composting programs.

Anonymous

3/15/2023 09:55 AM

Cradle to grave or cradle to cradle concepts - must start at initial processing and manufacturing, then move to distribution and

ultimately recycling-reuse. Location for future recycling/compost locations will also be critical as environmental justice impacts are reviewed.

Anonymous

3/15/2023 07:42 PM

Zero Waste Compliance curriculum/training/auditing required for all businesses and schools.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 10:48 AM

we need composting for those in large housing complex's. Also, why is the city intending to tear down the roof depot in East Phillips when there are citizens willing to repurpose the building? why are the policies in place actively harming the environment and the citizens?

Anonymous

3/16/2023 11:45 AM

Impose taxes on larger corporations that operate in our county and do not meet minimum requirements. Flow this money into supporting small businesses and local organizations.

cam

3/16/2023 02:29 PM

Here is where a government body can actually make a huge difference. Collection must be organized and requirements and penalties made to ensure accurate reporting and performance to move things to the organics and recycling collections. The mandate is worth it, I look forward to complying with the details. Definitely ban single-use carryout plastic bags as soon as possible. We need to start prohibiting packaging that is not 100% recycled in a closed loop back into its packaging in an efficient way or that is fully compostable. We also need to be able to include yard waste in our organics program.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 07:51 PM

Please plan to shut HERC in 2025

Anonymous

3/16/2023 08:10 PM

New legislation and mandates are key here - less coming into the system means less left from consumers. The more the effort on the consumer end is reduced, the easier change will be.

Rebecca

3/16/2023 09:10 PM

Producers can't regulate themselves..

Anonymous

3/17/2023 09:45 AM

Most if this needs all-metro or all-state policy to be successful.

Anonymous

All solid efforts.

3/17/2023 10:21 AM

Anonymous

3/17/2023 03:12 PM

Yes, eliminating single-use plastics, love it!

Anonymous

3/17/2023 09:15 PM

Making small business pay for crappy paper straws, no wonder no one wants to start a business in Golden Valley

Anonymous

3/18/2023 07:28 AM

Again there needs to be a focus on production as well. Consumers will always do the easy thing and if fined for non compliance it's their problem. Why is it ok for companies to put out products in these materials but we have to figure out what to do with them? Can grant \$\$ be used to explore sustainable packaging at the producer level?

Anonymous

3/18/2023 03:00 PM

I think that aim 3 and the plan using the term zero waste is misleading. While we may wish to consume and create no waste, it is just not possible. I think that the term circular, or low waste more accurately describes the goal of this plan and aim 3.

Anonymous

3/18/2023 05:56 PM

Producers must be held accountable for non-recyclable or non-compostable packaging

Anonymous

3/18/2023 06:39 PM

Please remember some of us have compost bins we use for our gardens. There should be an opt out option for those of us who can prove we compost. Close HERC!

Anonymous

3/19/2023 11:59 AM

I am particularly supportive of the mandated participation in recycling/composting programs, with the caveat that I think it is very important for public funding to be available and easily accessible for families and other small generators to be able to comply with the mandate. By accessible, I mean that it should be easy to find, easy to apply for, and quick to process, even if the applicant is not tech savvy, a native english speaker, etc.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 01:27 PM

The Zero Waste Plan must include a real phaseout and shutdown date for the HERC trash burner by 2025.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:30 PM

Yes - eliminate food waste! I'm on the MN350 Food Systems Team. For food waste, we have a Clean Plate Club for restaurants to join - when they compost, recycle, etc to eliminate food waste.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:33 PM

All of the policies outlined above will be beneficial, but the continued operation of the HERC trash incinerator will be an impediment. The HERC facility needs to be shut down in the short term if the County is going to see long term progress toward zero waste.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:46 PM

N/a

Anonymous

3/19/2023 08:10 PM

Several of these items will involve city cooperation. I highly encourage the county to set up meetings and coordinate with local governments to ensure buy-in to the new plan. I would even recommend routing the plan to cities within the county prior to approval to ensure cooperation.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 08:46 PM

Require all restaurants, food courts and all other locations selling food, to provide reusable dinnerware instead of disposable. Require all take-out to be compostable or to be a returnable container. Set up a city-wide system for returnable take-out containers. Support and EPR for Packaging legislation that is effective, has specific goals, bans toxic chemicals from packaging and does not allow chemical recycling of plastic.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 06:27 PM

Require waste haulers servicing businesses and multifamily buildings to offer organics waste collection and to deliver that waste to appropriate county facilities (composting facility or anaerobic digester).

Anonymous

3/19/2023 09:22 PM

C.5 Require events to be zero waste ~ ~ Perhaps resources for event creators to locate truly compostable and non single use items. Green washing, researching & locating sustainable supplies, and expense are barriers. C.7 Adopt a single-use ban and zero-waste packaging requirements for food service ~ ~ Great! Also, how can we expand sustainable packing for other markets? Piggy backing on Aim#2, grants for Minnesota innovators to create/ establish/ manufacture/ ship sustainable packaging solutions. (So much waste packaging is non recyclable plastic film that come from overseas.) C.12 Prioritize extended producer responsibility~ ~ I support the goal of holding manufactures accountable for down stream life of their product after initial purpose is served. The onus of reclaiming product packaging used to be on the product company. The responsibility has shifted to the consumer. This one may be my favorite action item! Overall in Aim 3 : This sounds good conceptually, but how will this be

monitored? Or enforced? consequences? I am not advocating for penial punishment on the individual level for "minor" violations. Rather education, resources, guidance.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 09:03 PM

SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAN IS =VERY IMPORTANT. epr ONLY IF IT IS STRONG AND PUSHES FOR THE rEDUCTION OF WASTE, NOT JUST WHAT TO DO WITH IT AFTER IT HAS BEEN CRETED.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 11:38 PM

However, these actions must not be at the expense of current services that help BIPOC communities and the poor and education, must not place additional expenses on the poor, etc.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 12:21 AM

There are private organizations like Ridwell. I would encourage the county to offer the option of public-private partnerships and develop the required policies to encourage the government and the private sector to work together.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 07:34 AM

I do not support county wide organized collection or increasing consumer good costs with inflation already hitting people's pocket books.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 08:53 AM

I don't see enough action being taken in these plans. The HERC needs to be shut down. It should have never been built. No more money for HERC.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 10:04 AM

With recycling it is important to note that most plastics are marketed as recyclable, but there is no cost effective way to do so. Such plastics, even when dropped off in the recycling bin are rarely actually recycled and end up in landfills, incinerated or as litter. We must avoid this kind of "wish-cycling"

Anonymous

3/20/2023 12:32 PM

Organized collection is the most important part.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 01:53 PM

In creating widespread single-use bans, disabled and low-income citizens are disproportionately harmed. It is vital that such a ban includes exceptions and solutions for these groups. Additionally, the onus of responsibility should fall on the producers of these products as opposed to the users of them.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:25 PM

support for joining CSAs and community gardening programs....get people in the soil.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:55 PM

Large, sustained change must happen at this level. Individual action is great, but we need policies and support to enable (and force) systemic change.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 03:41 PM

Since we are slow to self-discipline as it relates to the speed of destruction that is occurring due to climate crises, it is time (past time) that enforcement measures be implemented.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 04:18 PM

We need these steps to move forward

Anonymous

3/20/2023 06:34 PM

Great for environment and community support to help one another.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 07:15 PM

Education and outreach are insufficient to achieve behavior change; public policy changes are necessary to create change, too. I'm glad there is a commitment to adopt policies to move toward zero waste. Creating a county plan for eliminating food waste is crucial, as up to 40% of all food is wasted and the decomposition of this waste in landfills generates methane.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 08:18 PM

Again target the wealthiest consumers. Small business owners and BIPOC businesses should not be overtly targeted due to historical injustices in environmental waste and racism

Anonymous

3/20/2023 09:17 PM

I am concerned about mandating participation in organics/composting programs. Organics collection is still new for a lot of residents. Contamination could become an issue if everyone was required to participate. I think this strategy could be considered when organics is more widespread. I'm in favor of zero-waste packaging requirements and moving to phase out single-use items like plastic straws, plastic utensils and styrofoam take-out containers. I'm very supportive of a county-wide food waste reduction plan. I'm not sure what's meant by shared lunches for schools - is that referring to sharing tables? Supporting food businesses to change practices to reduce waste will be an important component, along with educating residents to prevent food waste at home.

Anonymous

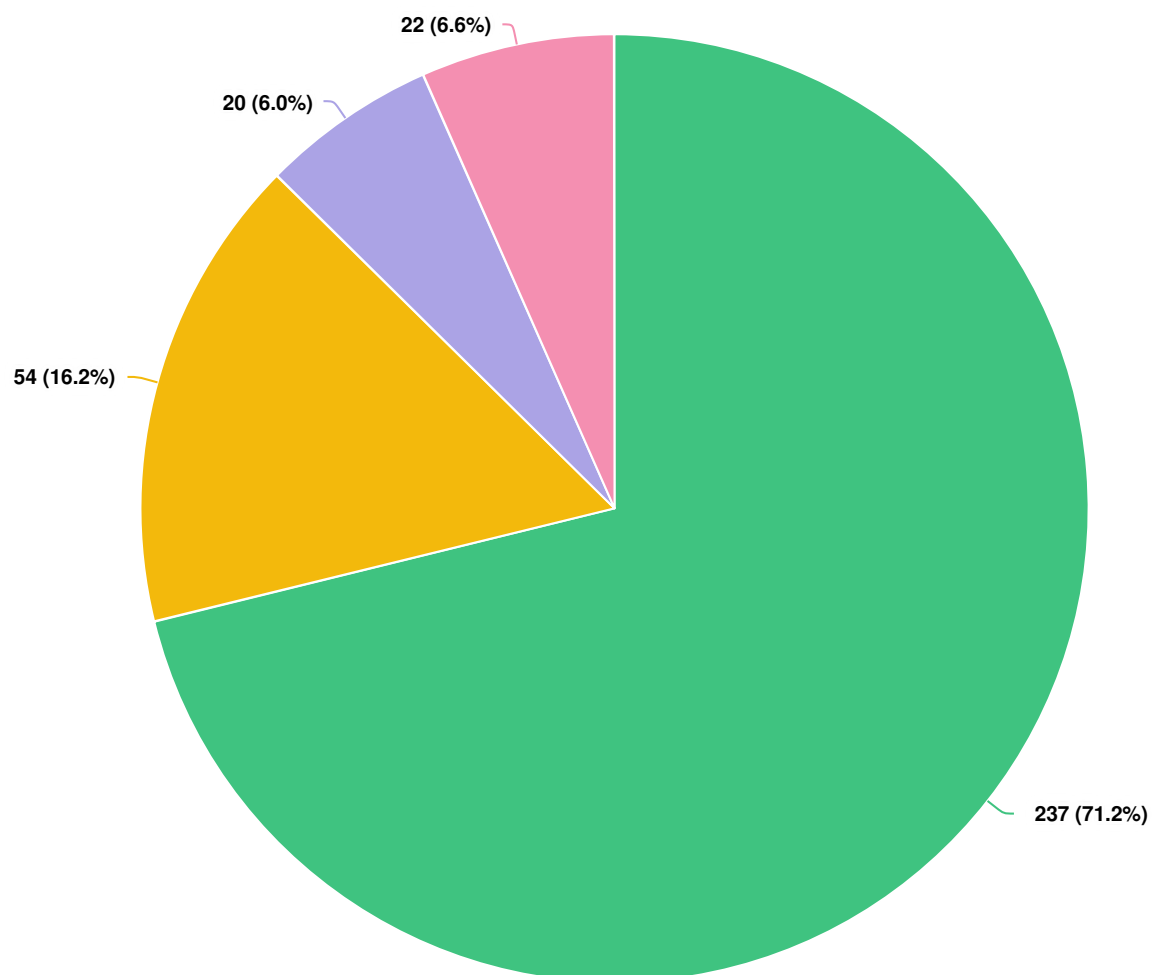
Gréât to see EPR legislation

3/20/2023 08:44 PM

Optional question (154 response(s), 179 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q8 Overall, please describe your level of support for Aim 4 and its associated actions:



Question options

☒ Strongly support ☐ Moderately support ☐ Somewhat support ☐ Little to no support

Mandatory Question (333 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q9 Please provide any additional comments about Aim 4 and actions:

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:04 PM

Deconstruction needs to be much faster and cheaper for cities to adopt it. And repair shops can only stay in business if there are stronger consumer disincentives to replace with new.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:17 PM

Define every term so people know what everything means. Like "deconstruction policies."

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:23 PM

Work on these things first, to reduce the amount overall material.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:22 PM

We have local "tool share" sites, second hand stores, and public libraries. None of these are very well marketed and/or utilized by middle/upper class residents in the county.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:07 AM

I would think it impossible to recover recyclable materials from trash since they would likely be contaminated and it would be too costly to clean. I hope I'm wrong! I love the idea of brick and mortar reuse and repair centers!

Anonymous

2/23/2023 11:16 AM

I've observed that the compostable packaging in Minneapolis is largely ignored by most restaurants. Development of packaging options seems more important to me than mandates.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 12:07 PM

LOVE IT. Local circular economy would be AWESOME. We have some great manufacturers in this State, are there partnerships?

Anonymous

2/23/2023 03:50 PM

Overall these would make some sense. Not sure the costs associated with reuse and repair centers and who will be paying for this.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 03:51 PM

These are huge - affecting behavior change which ripples into the other aims/actions. Should be highly prioritized.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 08:28 PM

Nice ideas — pretty fluffy on how this helps

Anonymous

Sounds good, but the cost involved is usually not feasible

2/24/2023 11:01 AM

Anonymous

2/24/2023 11:45 AM

Again - what's the cost!!!

Anonymous

2/24/2023 02:12 PM

Seems like another feel good approach. I'm not sure you are getting back a great deal on the money you are investing. The value of recyclables is worth less after it is contaminated in the trash. Recycling efforts should be made before it is mixed with the trash. Deconstruction projects should send their waste to facilities that would sort and recycle the material.

Anonymous

2/24/2023 04:35 PM

I think partnering with other circularity efforts, such as Circular Twin Cities or the Sustainable Growth Coalition, would be big for a countywide innovation hub. I'd be interested to see what the brick and mortar repair centers look like and how they don't step on already existing businesses toes and how they recognize that a lot of folks with less resources already have to make repair and reuse a part of their everyday lives.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 09:43 AM

Please be thoughtful with regard to the complexity and cost of deconstruction policies. I experienced this indirectly in Palo Alto, CA. There was support, but also frustration around cost, delays, and red tape, and some people/organizations without the patience or resources would find a way to circumvent the policy.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 12:54 PM

This part seems innovative and fun.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 10:40 AM

These sound like fantastic aims. I have no idea what a countywide innovation hub could look like but I'll stay engaged in this process!

Anonymous

2/27/2023 05:18 PM

Support right to repair legislation

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:07 PM

This sounds like just a lot of making work for county employees with little to no direct impact. Again, pick one or two things and do those. Not studies....because that's just going to give you another list of 30 things to do.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:14 PM

As long as it does not replace making producers pay to reduce production of waste before it gets to trying to recover from stream

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:30 PM

Check out Hubbard County recycling/trash/reuse programs and their amazing new county drop off facility! Tops in the state I would imagine.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:37 PM

New plastic is too cheap to make reuse goods attractive. No use recycling if the recycled materials are not made into attractive, inexpensive products. Repair centers make sense too.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:54 PM

These are very high goals. Good luck.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:08 PM

Support and encourage city adoption of deconstruction policies --- not everyone agrees with deconstructionist interpretations. That is how the woke have ruined our society --- hopefully it is temporary.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:50 PM

I would strongly support most of AIM 4 because it's not clear what is meant by deconstruction policies adopted by the city. Specifics are needed here.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 02:05 PM

As a resident in a multi family building, I would love to have better access to composting.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 02:36 PM

City adoption of repairable items and programs for training in this realm is a fantastic step forward that should be mandated! Neighborhood Tool libraries should be considered.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 03:19 PM

Having brick-and-mortar reuse and repair centers sounds AMAZING!

Anonymous

2/28/2023 04:52 PM

every city should do city wide bulk cleanups picked up by city employees once per year built into taxes

Anonymous

3/02/2023 09:33 AM

Love the idea of physical repair centers. I go to the Hennepin County Fix-It clinics and they're awesome

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:01 PM

"conduct a feasibility study" Oh come-on. You don't have to do that to know that all products can be recycled. Again, waste of money. put

the money to good use to fund recycling until it become profitable, and it will if done right. But like all government programs, they fail or never become self-supportive because of government ignorance.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:36 AM

entice recycling companies to build - grants, EDA, etc.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 10:22 AM

Concerned around what feasibility study will actually accomplish

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:54 PM

Sounds like a waste of money.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 09:26 PM

The county might be from partnering with and helping to promote Buy Nothing which aims to build hyper local gifting economies. Things are asked for, borrowed and shared freely. No money. It's a wonderful way to develop neighbor connections as we share from our own abundance, keep items out landfill, and think more intentionally about our consumption.

Anonymous

3/02/2023 04:59 AM

Love the idea of the brick and mortar reuse-fixit locations

Anonymous

3/02/2023 05:46 AM

The innovation hub must center the people currently marginalized, especially Indigenous people. Construct community networks for reuse of materials for free

Anonymous

3/03/2023 05:26 PM

You have little to back this up

Anonymous

3/03/2023 08:24 PM

And again...do it all, do it now!

Anonymous

3/04/2023 10:27 AM

Same types of questions as for Aim 1 list

Anonymous

3/04/2023 02:09 PM

I'm not sure what the "countywide innovation hub" entails but don't see the need for more infrastructure. I'd add "buy local" campaigns to support the local and regional market. I'm also not sure HC needs to establish reuse and repair centers as these are happening at libraries, etc.

Anonymous

3/04/2023 05:43 PM

Establishing (a) re-use/recycling centers (i.e., advertised swap meets; second-hand stores/areas) for items in good order just no longer needed/wanted, (b) fix-it clinics for small appliances or items needing repair should be supported. Some second-hand stores exits as do some fix-it clinics. There is room for more. These areas would be another source for job/economic growth and workforce development.

Anonymous

3/05/2023 08:02 PM

NO

Lily K

3/06/2023 05:42 AM

This seems like more churn. While it's important to apply what you learn from research, it does not require programs, which seem like a waste of money and time (to plan, create, fund, implement, support, dismantle). I support a limited-size working group (3-4 experts and/or advocates) to do a "feasibility study of recovering recyclable materials from the trash." I support establishing "brick-and-mortar reuse and repair centers."

Anonymous

3/06/2023 06:31 AM

Encourage people to ask the right questions of their contractors. Distribute information through local hardware stores, wonderful sources of expertise for residents.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:15 AM

Love the idea of brick and mortar reuse and repair centers!

Anonymous

3/06/2023 09:02 AM

This is really important to me. Right now, I have 4 or 5 big items that I don't know how to recycle- and I'm fairly well informed

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:02 PM

There is no need for an innovation hub funded by the county. There are no goals to the outcome and no clear estimate on how much this will cost.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:00 PM

Brick & mortar repair and reuse centers is an interesting idea. I'm thinking this would be like a dedicated Fix-It clinic space. I think oftentimes people throw something away and re-buy it simply because they lack the knowledge to repair something. What I love about the Fix-It Clinics is that there's an educational component to it when you sit down and chat with the volunteers.

Anonymous

Again there should be an emphasis on reducing plastic production

3/06/2023 12:40 PM

and use. We must stop throwaway plastic production.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 01:44 PM

Incentivize Residents to participate

Anonymous

3/06/2023 02:47 PM

And anything that goes into the trash in a bag must be a compostable bag. Otherwise people will just dump it in the big bin and it will be hard to separate. Plus some of it could be biohazard on the other recyclable stuff and no one will want to have that recovery project.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 04:10 PM

I am particularly interested in the last point about doing a feasibility study on recovering recyclables from the trash. Seems like a stretch, but if it could be done that would be huge.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:16 PM

Deconstruction policies sounds tricky to implement? This may discourage real estate development.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 09:47 AM

love it

jono

3/07/2023 10:34 AM

Do not support studies. Action is needed, not study.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 01:58 PM

Innovation hubs and feasibility studies are nice, but we are in a time of crisis. I would rather see the city use its power and resources to find a replacement for the HERC facility and support more vulnerable communities in making the transitions noted in Aims 1-3.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:24 PM

Re-use and repair is extremely important and crucial to a better future with less waste and less products designed to be used only once. Right to repair is a legal concept that ought to receive strong advocacy during zero-waste conversations and planning.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:50 PM

Mandate restaurants support a standard reusable container (such as Foreverwear or R Cup), which will help consumers have many options to reuse these containers.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 06:48 PM

Pay teachers, cafeteria staff, janitorial staff, and students to be a part of this process, especially from the Minneapolis Public Schools. I'm a substitute teacher, a teacher on disability, and I've never seen so

much food and compostables go into the trash in the cafeterias at every school. In the classrooms, the recycling bins are just another trash bin. No one recycles. This HAS to change, and there has to be buy-in from those who are attending and those who should be enforcing it. What are incentives for any of them to do that, other than it's the right thing to do? Clearly, that hasn't been enough.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 11:43 PM

Not sure if this is 100% relevant to this item but safety in reselling things is important to address, selling things on Facebook marketplace and Craigslist have the (very unlikely) potential for danger.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 10:15 AM

I love all of these point. So important!

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:17 PM

This is my favorite section - love all the building ones and the push for changes in building code, reused materials, reused warehouse, and using the demo permit info to publish materials for salvage. I also love the actions for circularity - all four of the actions are fantastic! Less jazzed about the recyclables being pulled from trash.

jgrosscup

3/08/2023 02:08 PM

Proper organics composting requires compostable bags which are not inexpensive. This needs to be addressed to improve both the participation in organics the quality of compost. Ban #6 and #7 plastics

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:34 PM

This is just so stupid. Anyone who thought of this should be dragged out into the street and public mocked.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 03:47 PM

This is ridiculous. You are asking for " level of support", but there is no information on cost. In order to decide if I would support it, I would need to know a real plan and real cost, not fairytale ideas in a fairytale world. Since there is no real information here, I can provide no support. Next time, provide real information - this survey looks like a middle-school questionnaire. Sadly, many people will "Strongly support" this, and predictably this government agency will send out messaging that this initiative has "Strong Public Support" even though you withheld all of the pertinent information. Typical government. Next time, be better.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 05:22 PM

Minnesotans are terrible about tearing down buildings because they are "outdated". We need to stop that. "Remodeling" just to "update" is

so wasteful!

Anonymous

3/08/2023 08:27 PM

I often find myself searching for places to recycle items such as clothing and batteries, and, having worked in the solar industry, wonder what will become of items such as solar panels at the end of their production. I hope Hennepin County can become a leader in innovation for diverting and repurposing as much waste as possible.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 04:12 PM

I majorly support creating brick and mortar reuse and repair centers with accessible hours.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 05:50 PM

A swift, and proactive shutdown of HERC date needs to be included within this plan in order to gain my support. I need a specific date set for the phase-out and closure of the HERC trash burner to be included within this plan. It has been around for 34 years at this point and continues to contribute to some of the highest asthma rates in the entire state. The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan and shutdown date is not legitimate. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. Anyway, burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal. I will not vote in support of a plan if continuing to poison our most vulnerable communities is still deemed reasonable, even if I'm being told it's temporary. It was unacceptable to begin with.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:21 PM

Also, this part of the plan seems right on target.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:49 PM

There is a huge opportunity to catalyze local wealth and economic development opportunities - particularly by enabling community composting systems - please be sure to not make the mistake of the past which is just to award a contract to a large hauler - you will not fulfill the County's objective to lower disparities if you do that approach.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:47 PM

All of these seem vague and not specific which will lead to no accomplishments

Anonymous

no need to re-invent the wheel here...look to the indigenous of this

3/09/2023 07:23 PM

land - allow them to direct us here.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 09:12 PM

I'm opposed to added costs to businesses and residents created by further expanding these programs. Existing programs are already burdensome. I would support developing local and regional end markets for recyclable commodities.

Anonymous

3/11/2023 12:44 AM

Finding ways to recover recyclable materials -find markets so our recyclable don't get tossed in landfills

Anonymous

3/11/2023 06:12 AM

Supporting ideas to be mindful before waste is generated and using/reusing what is already in the county is paramount.

Anonymous

3/12/2023 11:09 AM

I've often wondered how much reusable metal is in landfills right now. I've wondering if the percentage of nickel and copper in landfills is far greater than the percentage for proposed mines (0.03% is the figure I have heard on that). I wonder if it is economically feasible to recover metals from landfills, so, being able to recover metals from trash before it gets to the landfill is even better

Anonymous

3/12/2023 04:11 PM

Recycling is only successful if there are end markets

Anonymous

3/13/2023 04:52 PM

Moderate support as I believe some of these action items listed could be considered low-hanging fruit and moved up in priority. See other local Counties/Townships for examples of fix-it clinics, etc. Focus on establishing (a) re-use/recycling centers (i.e., advertised swap meets; second-hand stores/areas) for items in good order just no longer needed/wanted, (b) fix-it clinics for small appliances or items needing repair. Some second-hand stores exists as do some fix-it clinics [Anoka County]. There is room for more. These areas would be another source for job/economic growth and workforce development.

Anonymous

3/15/2023 09:55 AM

It's time to make recycling/composting worthwhile initiatives. Mandating is great but can lead to resentment if a strong education/awareness campaign is unsuccessful. Location-location-location - will be critical. How can this material economically and socially benefit Hennepin County communities and residents? Show the benefit and make it local. A global scale approach to reduce GHG doesn't seem to work - it turns folks eyes glassy and they keep doing what they do. Change Management - find your early adopters, identify influential community leaders to promote the programs, get

policy-makers and operators on board.

Anonymous

3/15/2023 07:42 PM

set a different inter-county zero waste goal alignment strategy

Anonymous

3/16/2023 10:48 AM

burning trash and releasing arsenic through the depot do not support this goal

Anonymous

3/16/2023 11:45 AM

Site these reuse and repair centers in low income and working-class neighborhoods.

cam

3/16/2023 02:29 PM

I think we are better off moving directly to action on more of these. we could also indicate how many centers and how evenly distributed they could be for reuse and repair. We need a pilot or pilots to be started this year, or early next, for sorting waste and removing food and recyclables from it before it is landfilled.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 07:51 PM

No HERC. NO burning of trash!

Anonymous

3/17/2023 09:45 AM

Most if this needs all-metro or all-state policy to be successful.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 10:21 AM

Would love to see further abilities to recycle, such as modeling the Coon Rapids municipal drop off site in numerous locations around Hennepin County. Targeting suppliers to reduce waste shouldn't be focused on, as they are international, and Hennepin County alone will not move the needle, and will only increase costs to consumers if regulations of packaging are implemented.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 09:15 PM

Good ideas but you always implement them in the worst totalitarian way

Anonymous

3/18/2023 05:07 PM

Stop burning trash and polluting north and north east mpls neighborhoods!

Anonymous

3/18/2023 05:56 PM

Circularity will only work if producers stop making short-life throwaway products

Anonymous 3/18/2023 06:39 PM	I especially love the brick and mortar reuse and repair centers. Close HERC!
Anonymous 3/18/2023 06:52 PM	We must mandate deconstruction policies
Anonymous 3/19/2023 01:27 PM	The Zero Waste Plan must include a real phaseout and shutdown date for the HERC trash burner by 2025.
Anonymous 3/19/2023 02:30 PM	YES! Reuse and repair! Terrific!
Anonymous 3/19/2023 02:33 PM	Guarantees should be provided that any new zero waste infrastructure that is built or staffed by the County should be labor-represented.
Anonymous 3/19/2023 08:10 PM	D1: I have heard that building code enforcement, especially in smaller communities, have been difficult due to education. I highly recommend the county consider education programs for building code inspectors to ensure that codes are understood and accurately enforced. Overall: A high need for city involvement to achieve actions. It will be important to work with cities to ensure buy-in and cooperation.
Anonymous 3/19/2023 08:46 PM	Establish reuse / refill returnable systems. This is necessary to reduce waste. Compostable containers are an options where a returnable system is not available. Reduce all plastic use. Recycling plastic into more plastic is not a sustainable option for the future. We produce an increasing amount of plastic and need to make hard choices to reduce plastic.
Anonymous 3/19/2023 09:22 PM	D.12 Conduct feasibility study of recovering recyclable materials from the trash ~ ~ I'd like to see the county create a County run "Habitat for humanity" or "Value Village" style shoppe. A great amount of re-usable furniture and bulky home items are sent to the curb for trash pickup. (Access and education is a barrier for Folks. Inability to drop off items at an established re-sale shoppe or lack of knowledge about donation truck pickup) If post evaluation discovers feasibility for county pickup at homes and businesses to reclaim un-wanted bulk items, to be stocked and modestly priced for re-sale, the benefits could be several fold. *Less in landfill *County jobs created *Revenue source for county *or* donated to shelters/ WIC/ Housing assistance

etc *Serving population of inequity

Anonymous

3/19/2023 09:03 PM

rEFILL /rEUSE OPTIONS ARE INPORTANT.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 11:38 PM

However, these actions must not be at the expense of current services that help BIPOC communities and the poor and education, must not place additional expenses on the poor, etc.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 12:21 AM

Provide grants or access to financing for "B" organizations to develop locally that will create products using waste and make them more accessible to local residents.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 07:34 AM

I like the idea of supporting businesses which can re-use products seen as waste here in the county.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 09:59 AM

Create education on Circular economy, create repair clinics and right to repair regulations. Fund grants for things like circular fabrics, packaging. Instead of having to send E-waste out state, create facilities here to do the deconstruction and reuse of materials. Determine what are uses for different plastics and other waste materials, how to collect and reuse, remake. Same with textiles, paper, construction waste.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 10:04 AM

At the state level, we should also support right-to-repair laws

Anonymous

3/20/2023 10:10 AM

More reuse and repair centers would be great, but unless they're extremely accessible/hyperlocal they likely won't make a big difference.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:25 PM

fix it clinics and reward businesses that use the circular economy practices

Anonymous

3/20/2023 03:41 PM

See above

Anonymous

3/20/2023 04:18 PM

I agree at everything to live in a better world and when I think about those ships out in the ocean with waste that we have created and there's no place to put them except to constantly move them back

and forth in the ocean is ridiculous

Melissa Wenzel

3/20/2023 04:51 PM

I'm so thrilled to see such a large effort on building material reuse opportunities. I'm working with several counties and cities outside of Hennepin County. Thank you!

Anonymous

3/20/2023 06:34 PM

Wonderful help towards zero waste and cleaning up after litter bugs.

Anonymous

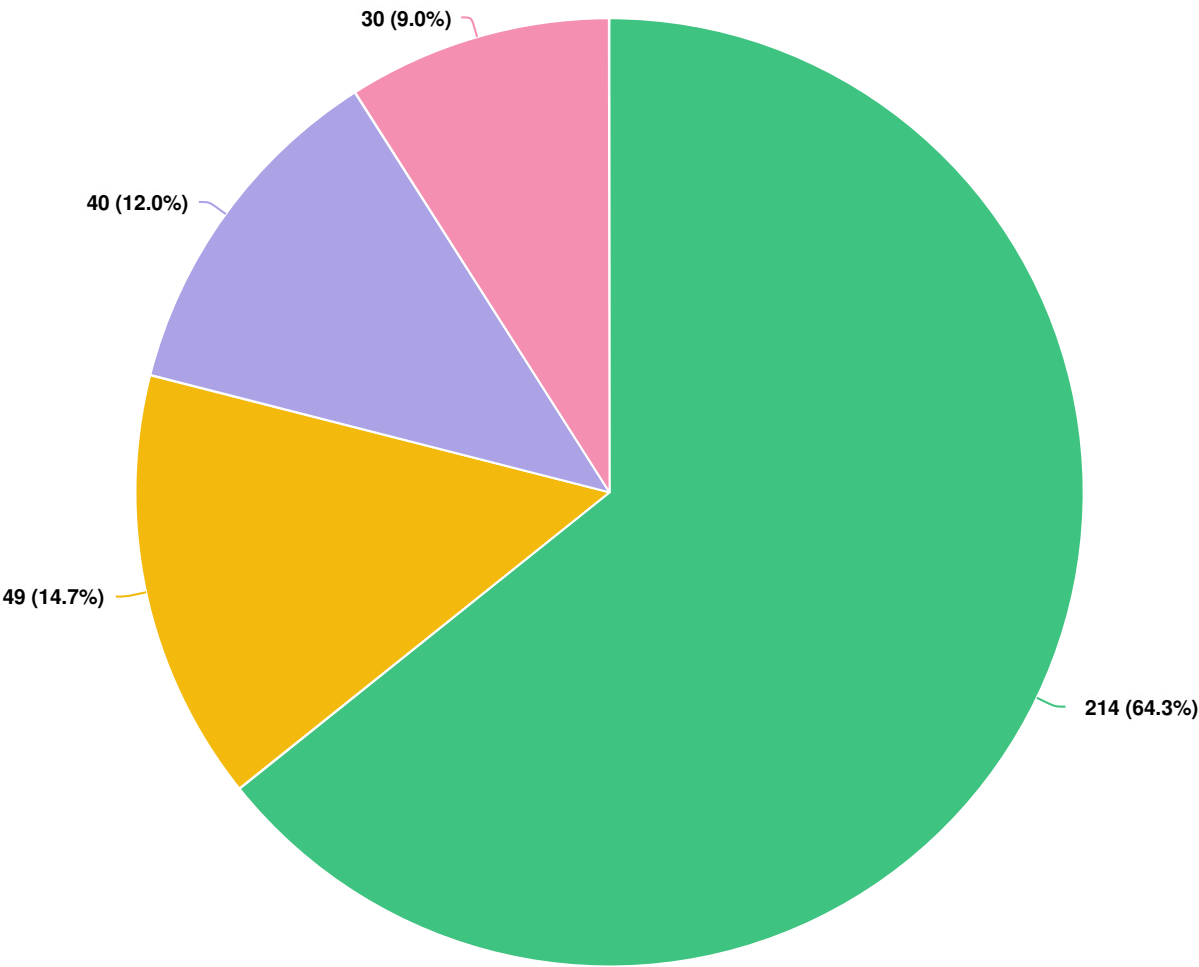
3/20/2023 09:17 PM

I'm supportive of the county partnering with cities to adopt deconstruction policies. I would like to see the county continue and expand fix-it clinics! Maybe some of the fix-it clinics could be held at multifamily buildings or in areas that would be easy for residents in multifamily housing to attend.

Optional question (112 response(s), 221 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q10 Overall, please describe your level of support for the actions in the Zero Waste Plan:

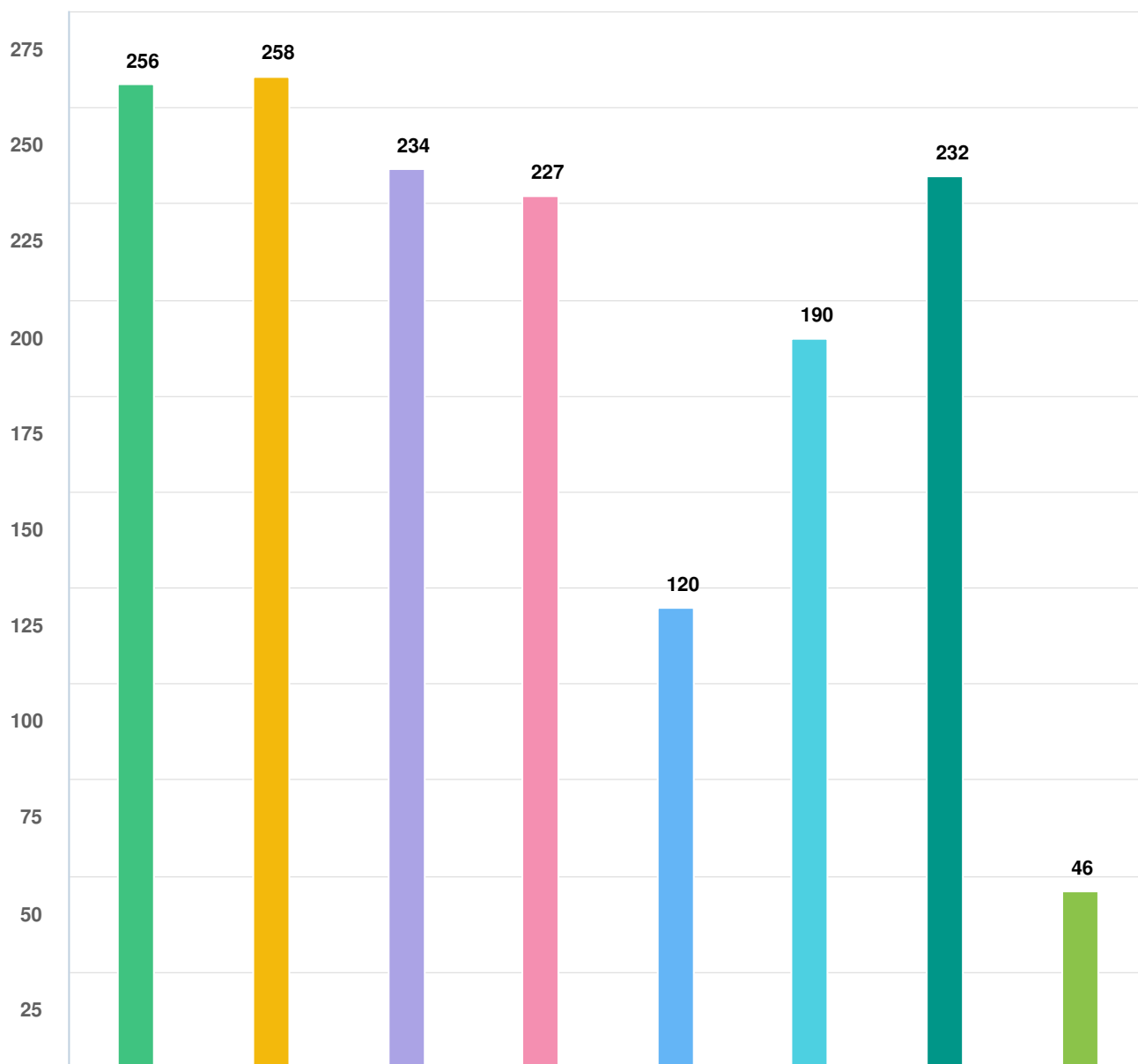


Question options

Strongly support Moderately support Somewhat support Little to no support

Mandatory Question (333 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q11 In what ways will you contribute to implementation of the plan's actions? (check all that apply)



Question options

- Use new or expanding recycling and waste prevention services
- Recommit to looking at the waste produced in your household and take steps to prevent waste before its generated in the first place
- Talk with your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers about reducing waste and recycling more
- Use your power as a consumer to let companies know that reducing waste and reducing climate impacts is important to you
- Explore volunteer opportunities such as Community Recycling Ambassador or Fix-it Clinics
- Advocate for policy changes at the state, county, and city level
- Support the development of zero waste infrastructure (drop-off sites, recycling facilities, etc.) in my community
- Other (please describe)

Optional question (316 response(s), 17 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q12 | Do you have anything else you would like to share about Hennepin County's Zero Waste Plan?

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:04 PM

Greenwashing companies like Ridwell are proof that there is a market for a lower waste lifestyle--county should learn from their success and figure out how to offer the same services but free to all. The zero waste lifestyle is great but it can also be very expensive, especially to reduce food packaging and common household goods. Find a way to make zero waste not just for wealthy white people.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 12:15 PM

make it accessible for households within the communities in HC. Convenience and location are key.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 01:55 PM

Make this a priority.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 02:54 PM

Waste infrastructure needs to be dispersed equitably and the benefits and burdens of this infrastructure and the action plan need to be shared equitably. The plan needs to include strong policy that is backed up with enforcement. Greenwashing goes unchecked and current requirements/ordinances go unenforced.

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:59 PM

I know there are drop off sites already for certain things, but they're not easily accessible in the city. I would love to see these drop off sites easily accessible without a car (which produces its own kind of waste). I would also like the county to explore what we can do about waste water- It's too bad it's taboo to talk about composting toilets, but the ones that are made now are very efficient and do not need to be emptied often. Plus, the composted waste can be used in certain scenarios as fertilizer (orchards, non-food applications). If we REALLY want to reduce waste, we would think about this too- no civilization has survived that put their waste IN their WATER.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:07 AM

Thank you for advocating for a safer and healthier environment!

Anonymous

2/23/2023 11:16 AM

The ambition of it is stunning - exciting, but hard to imagine on this timeline.

Anonymous

So proud that this is happening in our community. Let's also

2/23/2023 12:07 PM

remember to work statewide and try our best to bring broader MN into the fold.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 12:38 PM

Great work!

Anonymous

2/23/2023 01:57 PM

I hope there is a lot of education planned around the term "zero waste" as that is an imperfect and unreachable goal for many many years (or ever). The number of single-use items in the medical field alone can be very intimidating and when folks think they'll never be able to reach zero waste they are less likely to even try. I hope the various "Aims" have their own titles such as reducing waste that are more feasible goals for folks to attempt.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 03:50 PM

I would like to see a cost benefit analysis of this and total costs associated with it. Also - where do recyclers and business stand with this? Do they support or oppose it and why? You need more information from those impacted by the costs of this including how much it will cost taxpayers.

Anonymous

2/23/2023 08:28 PM

There really needs to be a better support for recycling/reuse of construction materials or large items in Minneapolis — the voucher method is not very useful or conducive to reuse

Anonymous

2/24/2023 11:01 AM

Yet another initiative to increase taxes. Not cool

Anonymous

2/24/2023 11:45 AM

I think the government should emphasize solutions that are ZERO cost to the citizens. Instead this is going to be a cost driven solution with little to zero affect. Also - wasn't the incinerator supposed to be a cost offsetting solution? How did that work out? And now you are trying to eliminate the refuse that goes to the incinerator?

Anonymous

2/24/2023 02:12 PM

I'm already doing most of the steps listed above

Anonymous

2/24/2023 04:35 PM

I appreciate how Hennepin County seems to be approaching equity and partnership in this plan and would advocate for continued community touchpoints and work since the unintended consequences of zero waste plans can sometimes hurt underserved communities the most.

Anonymous

2/26/2023 08:30 AM

You need to add food waste to your plan. Not just composting but educating on the American tendency to just plain waste food.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 09:26 AM

As much as policies and products can change to make waste reduction easier for the consumer, the better. Food products like yogurt, for example, should be sold in compostable containers or glass. I put a lot of effort in to recycling as much as I can, but it's just not feasible for everyone, and I struggle to motivate others in my household to care. I have friends with very small children who have expressed the impossibility of plastic free food purchases. I would love to purchase everything in bulk, or in aluminum and glass containers, but it's simply not possible. The laws need to change about how goods are sold. Our lifestyles need to change too to allow people to spend more time on food preparation and be less reliant on convenience items.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 10:40 AM

Thank you for the county's leadership on zero waste!

Anonymous

2/27/2023 05:18 PM

I think you have a good start on a list. Let's begin there and measure progress and reevaluate a year later.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 08:52 PM

I will also use my professional connections to reduce single use plastics in horticulture.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 09:58 AM

I'm just hoping that I will still have access to the site.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 11:00 AM

So many cans and bottles are thrown away instead of recycled. Cans especially should be captured and recycled so we don't have to mine for more aluminum - huge climate and justice issue. We should consider a bottle bill like other states. There's no excuse for allowing these things to go into a landfill or burned.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:31 PM

IN Belgium, the garbage trucks weigh your garbage and charge you for how much you're making them dispose it. (Garbage cans have locks on them.)

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:37 PM

I pleased to see Zero Waste is getting attention! Thank you for giving this a try. We have to continue to improve.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:11 PM

Thank you for your efforts in these realms

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:08 PM

Mandate an all in one recycle cart for every home. I don't want 4 different carts to store in my garage. It would be great to add organics to our cart. Pick-up the recycling cart every week --- our cart gets too full in the two week period. I'm all for a brick and mortar building to repair appliances/machines and resell them to self fund.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:50 PM

Thank you for your work! Please avoid "forced choice" options in future surveys such as wording in #11. I strongly suggest open ended questions or simple check marks for ways a voter is currently supporting single use, recycling and composting. Acknowledging how voters are already helping will get more people to support further actions.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 03:52 PM

Just that it isn't easy and we all need more support to reduce

Anonymous

3/01/2023 03:19 PM

Thank you for taking the health of our planet so seriously and developing a real plan for improvement!

Anonymous

2/28/2023 04:52 PM

Styrofoam is a problem cannot be recycled with comingled pickups so it ends up in trash with all the Styrofoam being used nowadays there should be drop off sites.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 06:01 PM

Just start recycling everything, I mean everything right down to tires. They can be shredded and mixed into asphalt for repaving projects. Need more help, I can consult.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 07:20 PM

I was thrilled to discover the easy composting for my high rise. Your actions make me proud to live here.

Anonymous

2/28/2023 07:39 PM

Thank you for all these important efforts!

Anonymous

3/01/2023 01:21 AM

Thank you for the survey.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:36 AM

Look at the recycling facility in Coon Rapids - they are a better facility then any i have seen and don't turn away anyone. #5 plastic, styrofoam and biodegradable

Anonymous

3/01/2023 10:22 AM

Appreciate the effort, and parsing through the complexity

Anonymous

3/01/2023 11:42 AM

I only need garbage pick up every other week and recycling once a month. I compost so that keeps the smell down in summer and freeze food scraps in 5 gallon pails in the winter stored in my garage. In the spring I layer the overwintered food scraps and start a new compost pile.

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:54 PM

It is a good idea in theory, but will make it harder for folks who are having trouble getting by. It adds extra rules and extra steps.

Anonymous

3/02/2023 05:46 AM

Put these words into action. Too often the City comes out with exciting proposals, only to continue to oppress people of color and build up big business interests.

Anonymous

3/02/2023 09:33 PM

The plan is too drastic and unreasonable.

Anonymous

3/03/2023 05:26 PM

This is ultimately a forced program that will cost jobs and ruin lives.. focus on real problems while making efforts to be 'green'

Anonymous

3/03/2023 08:24 PM

<https://www.storyofstuff.org/> should be required in all organisations.

Anonymous

3/04/2023 05:43 PM

Please keep in mind that what happens in one County impacts neighboring counties. Air emissions [HERC] from an incineration processes travel and contaminate adjacent Counties.

Anonymous

3/05/2023 07:59 PM

This is a good idea. I wish that Hennepin county would ditch the impractical 2040 plan rhetoric, & channel all its abundant resources in a coherent, focused, DOWN TO EARTH solution level as in, "let's deal with the problems and have systems set BEFORE we bring in 50,000 more people to add to the heap. This is not an emotional statement, this is purely based in the logic of business. It is right to criticize the 2040 plan, but to lift up more sensible actions that our bureaucracy endeavors upon.

Anonymous

3/05/2023 08:02 PM

No

Anonymous

3/06/2023 06:31 AM

Go for it!

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:15 AM

Awesome! Let's get it done.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 09:02 AM

Faster!!!!!!

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:02 PM

Zero waste is not feasible. The goals stated are completely unrealistic dubious at best. This is an extreme overreach and completely outside of the responsibilities given to Hennepin county. Nothing about the way the county handles it's trash has any impact as equity. It's completely illogical and a farce used to drum up support.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:00 PM

Thank you, thank you, thank you to those who researched and wrote this report and action plan. Future generations will thank you, too!

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:40 PM

Support a ban on plastic toxins in the EPR bill.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 02:47 PM

Just that it's about time, and we need to overturn MN Statute 471.9998 I would like to see a business report card on compliance, which includes an education program for their employees to be sure they understand why this is done, especially since not all of their employees will be from Hennepin County.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:16 PM

The report doesn't get into the action details. The costs may be high, especially for technologies not yet invented. And some policies may inhibit business development.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:20 PM

Again, close HERC first.

Anonymous

3/06/2023 09:32 PM

HERC has no place within a zero waste plan in the County. The way that many of the questions are summarized gives the idea that I'm

describing my level of support for milestones to phase out HERC, but omits all the conditions you've attached to that phase-out. You also are hiding the fact that A.9. short-term upgrades for HERC, is within this group of actions and is prioritized more. Stop investing in burning garbage and harming people, and shut down HERC!

Anonymous

3/07/2023 09:17 AM

The community is asking the county to shut down the HERC. Giving a goal shut-down date would show that the county is serious about their intention to do this.

jono

3/07/2023 10:34 AM

Thank you for your work for our community.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 10:42 AM

Please allow organics/compost participants the opportunity to access compost soil for our gardens created by the program.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:22 PM

Expand fix it clinics to other entities and larger employers. Start a mending unit of fix it clinics

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:24 PM

Please be aggressive advocates of a zero-waste future, it's a matter of life and death.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 05:50 PM

I have seen that a vast majority of individuals are not motivated to make much effort to do the right thing. I think we have to make it very easy for people! Marking all products with a big sticker to inform them what is recyclable or not in Hennepin County would be helpful, as the rules can be confusing (plastics 1,2,5 only, no black plastics, larger than a fist, frozen food boxes can't be recycled....) it can be a lot even for people who try to do the right thing. Making reusable containers/utensils available everywhere would help cut down on waste to begin with.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 06:48 PM

If I could recycle or compost all the packaging I get from the grocery store, etc., then I most likely wouldn't have any garbage at all (except for dog poop, which apparently there is a way to compost--we should have more innovative ways to get rid of that than in plastic bags that go to the landfill or HERC). But there's so much plastic film, similar to saran wrap, that we apparently cannot recycle. A lot of this has to be dealt with at the level of every company. Also, the black containers companies still use that we can't recycle. And so much more! We need businesses that do take-out to NOT be using plastic bags, to not use styrofoam (yes, I still see that in Minneapolis), and TO use ALL

compostable materials (Herbie's Chicken gets to use items that go in the garbage because apparently there are no products they can use that are compostable that look like a chicken bucket--then maybe the idea of a chicken bucket changes so that we can care for our planet and one another instead). Plastic silverware has to stop, and businesses have to be held accountable for continuing to use garbage. Calling 311 hasn't done any good at the City level. Business owners need to be educated too about what they're expected to use for to-go, delivery and take-home and what they're expected to do (recycle and compost much more than use trash bin and single use plastic) . And then educate them about the consequences of not following through. They should be pretty high stakes because Minneapolis businesses have been getting letters that have done nothing. I've been in businesses that use compostable materials but then don't compost themselves. There are so many changes that need to be made. It is so handy to be able to step outside my house door to place threads/clothing, batteries, lightbulbs, plastic film, a featured category, and now styrofoam (for a fee) inside my Ridwell container. Offer this to every Hennepin County resident, but educate us first block by block. Come out to National Night Out events where people could pick up their container once they've taken the education. Juneteenth, Urban League Day, Native People's Day, etc. But don't make people go to you. Go to them, especially our neighbors who live at Little Earth, North Minneapolis, the Green Zone neighborhoods...People will recycle and compost if it's easy and free. And if they understand what they're doing and why. They have to be taught that, though. Having experts that are youth will often get adults to listen even more. Thank you so much for working on this! Please integrate all or at least some of these ideas into the plan! It really does have to start with our public schools. If our youth aren't learning to compost and recycle there, then they're not going to do it anywhere else (staff too!). This should be a part of the Minneapolis curriculum (can we add a Hennepin County curriculum so it's a part of all the school districts?).

M Johnson

3/07/2023 07:10 PM

Spend money on improving quality of life, safety, and affordable housing. This zero waste program is farcical if it's not safe to walk down your street, ride the bus, or have a home to live in.

Anonymous

3/07/2023 11:43 PM

I found out about this in the Northeaster, I'd be interested in helping so please post any opportunities in there.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 10:54 AM

Good Luck!!

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:17 PM

Already mentioned, but continue to really prioritize equity and continue to really prioritize talking about more than recycling/composting. There are undoubtedly opportunities to increase community commitment to recycling/composting, but there's also been enough info out there about this that for certain communities it is a choice. We need to keep trying new things and talking about more aggressive and progressive goals besides recycling.

jgrosscup

3/08/2023 02:08 PM

Focus on consumer education and create incentives to change behaviors.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:34 PM

We will not comply. We will use the 10th amendment's doctrine of nullification.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 02:39 PM

We recycle and compost and barely fill a paper bag with trash for our weekly pick up, yet pay around \$400 a year for trash pick up, the same as those who have overflowing bins each week. What can be done to decrease the cost for those like us?

Anonymous

3/08/2023 03:47 PM

This is ridiculous. You are asking for " level of support", but there is no information on cost. In order to decide if I would support it, I would need to know a real plan and real cost, not fairytale ideas in a fairytale world. Since there is no real information here, I can provide no support. Next time, provide real information - this survey looks like a middle-school questionnaire. Sadly, many people will "Strongly support" this, and predictably this government agency will send out messaging that this initiative has "Strong Public Support" even though you withheld all of the pertinent information. Typical government. Next time, be better.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 05:22 PM

Gas powered lawn mowers drive me nuts. They are so wasteful and yet every guy on the block wants to own his own. We should promote an electric service that will do all lawns on the block. Ok, that's not garbage related. But it drives me nuts.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 08:11 PM

Burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal. I will not vote in support of a plan if continuing to poison our most vulnerable communities is still deemed reasonable, even if I'm being told it's temporary. It was unacceptable to begin with.

Anonymous

3/08/2023 11:12 PM

No thing is said about yard waste. Separate yard waste service has become so expensive, and we have no drop off option in my community. Everyone here burns their yard waste because they don't want to spend money getting rid of it.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 11:55 AM

The HERC is a glaring example of environmental racism in our city. In no world is it acceptable for waste to be collected from around Hennepin County, driven into the city, and burned so that the pollutants disproportionately impact people of color on the North side. This cannot be our legacy any longer. PLEASE take action and COMMIT to shutting down the HERC before 2025. There is no meaningful zero waste action that does not commit to this. I have suffered from asthma since I was a child. This is a public health crisis that we cannot ignore.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 01:10 PM

A shut down date for HERC is necessary for this to be a serious zero waste plan. This is plan is disingenuous without a concrete shut down date for HERC. I'm less inclined to trust you all to do this right if there is no date written into the plan.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 04:12 PM

I'm excited to be a part of a community taking action against climate change.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 05:26 PM

Without a hard shut down date for the HERC, this contains more aspiration than action.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 05:50 PM

A swift, and proactive shutdown of HERC date needs to be included within this plan in order to gain my support. I need a specific date set for the phase-out and closure of the HERC trash burner to be included within this plan. It has been around for 34 years at this point and continues to contribute to some of the highest asthma rates in the entire state. The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan and shutdown date is not legitimate. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. Anyway, burning trash is not an acceptable method of waste disposal. I will not vote in support of a plan if continuing to poison our most vulnerable communities is still deemed reasonable, even if I'm being told it's temporary. It was unacceptable to begin with.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:49 PM

The reason I listed little or no support for the plan is that it does not set a date for closing the toxic incinerator - this must be changed in the final plan, in order for the County to actually live up to its rhetoric on closing disparities.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:47 PM

The HERC cannot be allowed to continue to poison the Hennepin County community in the name of waste disposal

Anonymous

3/09/2023 06:52 PM

WE NEED A SHUT-DOWN DATE FOR HERC AND A JUST TRANSITION PLAN FOR PEOPLE EMPLOYED BY THE FACILITY.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 07:23 PM

Stop new plastic from entering the system. Close HERC immediately.

Anonymous

3/09/2023 09:12 PM

It is irresponsible for County Commissioners to approve this plan. Timeline is undetermined. Alternatives are undetermined. Costs are undetermined. Please consider and support the future of businesses in Minnesota and the future of residents in Minnesota. Existing requirements are already in place which have already increased costs and administration by businesses and residents.

Anonymous

3/10/2023 11:37 AM

Some of the language in the plan, specifically A9 & A10, are too vague and can be used to extend HERC beyond a reasonable shut-down date. This plan must include a closure date for HERC.

Anonymous

3/11/2023 12:44 AM

Need to have PSAs to explain why we have organics collection and that getting organics out of garbage reduces landfills space and makes garbage burner more efficient. That it will reduce methane gases etc.

Anonymous

3/11/2023 06:12 AM

I think all of the aims are very good ideas, and we will continue to do our best to support the zero waste goals. I'm so glad to live in a county that has a good focus and plan. Thank you!!

Richard Asinger

3/13/2023 03:18 PM

Multifamily senior dwellings are underserved and assistance with education, administrative and physical improvement are necessary but there is an intense interest in obtaining help.

Anonymous

3/13/2023 04:52 PM

I provided comment previously to this plan, however this submission I'm including specific examples of actions. I appreciate the opportunity

to provide feedback.

Anonymous

3/15/2023 09:55 AM

Get HC communities on board early and make it worthwhile. Good luck - this is a significant challenge that needs to be addressed.

Anonymous

3/15/2023 07:42 PM

Please create some "follow the material" "cradle to cradle" content so we know recycling and zero waste is actually working, like where does it go.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 10:48 AM

your efforts won't matter until you challenge those that are actively harming us and upholding environmental injustice/racism; Jacob Frey, local and non-local corporations, banks, lobbied city officials, and the police.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 10:48 AM

I live in a predominantly white, affluent neighborhood of MPLS. We have had composting bins longer than any other neighborhood, to my knowledge. My family of 4 composts every week, recycle and have the smallest sized trash can. Because of our recycling and compost efforts, the small size garbage can is just right for us most weeks. But I'm constantly stunned by how many neighbors do not take advantage of the compost and recycling. I love the idea of zero waste in the county. Thank you for working towards this goal.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 11:10 AM

There is a huge investment for little gain. Utopia is impossible and expensive and you will drive people out

Anonymous

3/16/2023 02:41 PM

love it. Lets go!

cam

3/16/2023 02:29 PM

I would appreciate seeing changes made, or amendments recommended to commissioners, to this draft in response to comments that are being collected, before it is presented for the board to adopt.

Anonymous

3/16/2023 07:51 PM

Yes, the County should stop burning trash.

Rebecca

3/16/2023 09:10 PM

Toxics in packaging needs to be regulated, especially toxics in plastics!

Anonymous

3/17/2023 10:21 AM

It is a good initiative that needs to stay out of politics to be successful. While there may be racial disparities, this plan needs to focus on how to be successful for everyone, and the setup may include provisions to help the underprivileged, focusing on race and inequities will bring divisiveness, and divert people's focus from the core goals the plan is trying to accomplish.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 02:38 PM

Please please please provide better information on how community members can advocate for policy changes. There is always too much focus on the consumer actions and not on the policy changes that make corporations make the change to make it easy for the consumer to comply. I always feel like I do not know where to start with it and I feel like that is a HUGE item we need to educate people on and make sure they are actions that are easy and low effort if possible.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 02:42 PM

While I support all these measures, I think prevention is the most important thing to focus on here. What kind of restrictions can be put in place on businesses that sell products with unsustainable packaging? I think we can only make marginal change on the individual level if everything we buy is encased in plastic, and made of plastic. Businesses that sell in Hennepin County need to be the target demographic of Zero Waste.

Anonymous

3/17/2023 03:12 PM

It's a good start. Think we need to commit to definitively shutting down waste burning--I know it needs to be phased out, so let's set achievable goals :)

Anonymous

3/17/2023 09:15 PM

Spend our tax money on stopping criminals, not this

Anonymous

3/18/2023 09:51 AM

Unrealistic

Anonymous

3/18/2023 03:00 PM

I am thrilled to know that people are organizing in my community around such an important concept as circular living. I have been feeling especially hopeless over climate change for the past few months. To see this in my inbox helped remind me that progress is slow and small, but always happening.

Anonymous

3/18/2023 05:56 PM

May consider volunteer or advocacy

Anonymous

3/18/2023 06:22 PM

Consider that many of our choices as consumers are not really choices at all. If every product is packaged in non-recyclable plastics, the problem is no longer that the consumer made a bad choice - the reality is that the corporations producing and selling those goods are making the bad choice for all of us. Therefore, while education for the consumer and proper labeling of recyclables is important, the most important feature of getting to zero waste will be what rules we enforce for corporate actors. Keep in mind that while recycling plastics is better than them ending up in a landfill, plastics still produce GHG emissions at every stage of their life cycle - from extraction of oil, to processing, to degradation. We need to reduce the amount of plastics that are allowed to enter Minnesota, and make sure the ones that do are recyclable. That only happens when we enforce regulation for businesses to follow.

Anonymous

3/18/2023 06:52 PM

The HERC is the County's largest impediment to zero waste. We must put that in the forefront of all efforts.

Anonymous

3/18/2023 08:12 PM

No more money for HERC. The most cutting-edge science says that incinerating trash is the most harmful method of disposal. We are poisoning kids in North Minneapolis with the continued use of HERC. There are better ways to dispose of trash -- even landfill is superior, as supported by science. Dumping the toxic ash from the HERC into landfills is actually MORE harmful than just dumping the waste itself.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 11:59 AM

If the issues regarding the language in Aim 1 of the plan that I mention in my above comment are resolved and a commitment is made to shut down the HERC in 2025, I would change my level of support for this project from "Somewhat support" to "Strongly Support". I strongly support the ultimate goal of this plan, but I believe that the HERC shutdown is a critical component that must be completed for the plan to work.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 12:01 PM

SHUT DOWN HERC by 2025!!!!

Anonymous

3/19/2023 01:27 PM

The Zero Waste Plan must include a real phaseout and shutdown date for the HERC trash burner by 2025.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:30 PM

Thank you for collecting comments.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 02:33 PM

Shut down HERC by 2025.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 08:10 PM

The proposed plan is very comprehensive and ambitious. It is going to be vital that the county works closely with local governments (cities) on completing actions within the plan and the overall goal. I highly recommend the county puts significant effort into coordinating with local governments in the county.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 04:13 PM

The way to eliminate waste is to shut down HERC. If we shut down where we throw our trash, then we must be more creative and proactive about reducing waste. Trying to reduce waste before shutting it down will only prolong the suffering of North Minneapolis, where I live.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 08:46 PM

Many good ideas were generated by this process but the actions in the plan are not sufficient to reach the goal set by the County. Take the steps to the next level. Ask people to do more. Europe and other areas of the world are doing more and we could use their examples. Germany has some good reuse/refill systems. We must aim higher with all of the actions in the Plan. Set a date to shut down the HERC in 2025 and come up with actions to make it happen.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 06:27 PM

I strongly support the construction of the anaerobic digester. I support legislative efforts for a strong producer responsibility waste bill.

Anonymous

3/19/2023 09:22 PM

This is great! Keep going! Also- can we get recycling picked up more frequently than trash pickup?

Anonymous

3/19/2023 11:38 PM

There are many good goals and actions in the plan. But without shutting down HERC by the end of 2025 at the latest, without real quantitative goals and benchmarks and costs, it is currently inequitable, racist, and unacceptable.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 12:21 AM

I have a fledgling zero waste FB page in Richfield. I would like to ask that workshops be conducted that help citizen activists interested in this area to develop smart ways and best practices for successful advocacy. Also, if the county can hold conferences that bring activists together on a regular basis to network and learn from each other. The plan will only work with a lot of citizen engagement and this needs to be given specific attention in the plan. Thank you.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 07:34 AM

I like the goal of continuing to reduce waste and expand organics collection, but this plan seems way too extreme for the next six years.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 08:41 AM

This plan is not a true reflection of the information gathered and is very misleading. The zero waste plan in its entirety should be placed on hold until accurate information is collected and those that are greatly effected have more input.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 09:59 AM

Ensure that there is follow-through with diverse voices. Do not allow the current City Leadership to break this down into tiny parts and bureaucratize this into having no teeth. Zero Waste needs bold action with full representation. There is no time for NIMBYing this into nothing. This will take money and action and forceful action from leaders to make it happen. Once moving it will not be that difficult.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 10:10 AM

I have strong objections to how this plan was developed and believe it will be wholly ineffective without a specific phase out date for HERC.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:24 AM

PLEASE SHUT HERC DOWN. It is a false solution and should have never been built in the middle of the most densely populated area in the state to begin with. Its closure is long overdue. No more money for HERC.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 11:53 AM

Pick up the recycling we already generate much more frequently, and even more around trageted times of the year like winter holidays. Every other week is insufficient so people trash otherwise recyclable items.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 12:04 PM

A Zero Waste Plan must include a real phaseout and shutdown date for the HERC trash burner by 2025 at the latest.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:01 PM

No more money for the HERC!

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:25 PM

thank you for using the power of local govt to drive action

Anonymous

3/20/2023 02:55 PM

This is critical work for now and our future, thank you for doing this. I urge for a continued focus on this.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 03:53 PM

I think it needs to have more programs for minorities communities

Anonymous

3/20/2023 04:18 PM

No

Melissa Wenzel

3/20/2023 04:51 PM

I hope other counties (inside and outside of MN) follow suit. Thank you for being a leader on this topic.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 04:53 PM

Terrific

Anonymous

3/20/2023 06:34 PM

More help on servicing trash clean up on main streets where there's more litter bugs and waste behind abandoned buildings and neighborhoods

Anonymous

3/20/2023 07:15 PM

My overall support for the plan would be higher if it had included a specific shut down date and specific milestones for shutting down the garbage incinerator.

Anonymous

3/20/2023 06:58 PM

Foolish

Anonymous

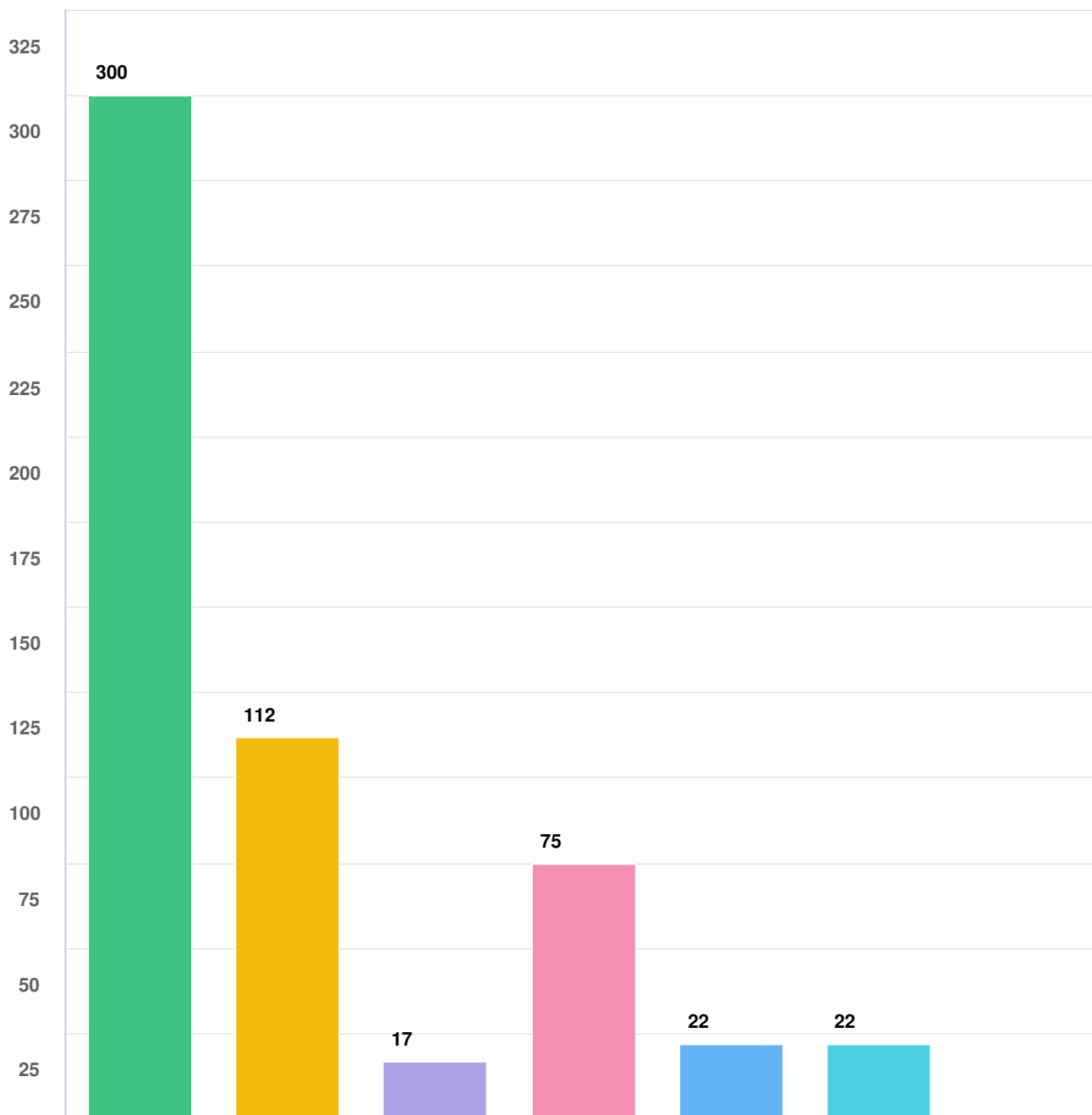
3/20/2023 08:18 PM

Focus on historical injustices caused by the City, County and municipal services and provide material improvements based on these injustices!

Optional question (139 response(s), 194 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q13 How would you best describe your role in taking this survey (choose all that apply)



Question options

- Resident of Hennepin County
- Work for a business, industry or institution in Hennepin County
- Work for a local government or state agency on waste/sustainability issues
- Work with, volunteer with, or are a member of an environmental advocacy organization or city environmental commission
- Hennepin County waste and recycling volunteer (Community Recycling Ambassador, Fix-it Clinic volunteer, etc.)
- Other (please specify)
- Work for a business outside of the county that receives waste from the county

Mandatory Question (333 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q14 City where you live:

Anonymous 2/22/2023 11:18 AM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 2/22/2023 11:52 AM	Independence
Anonymous 2/22/2023 12:04 PM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 2/22/2023 11:59 AM	Maple Grove
Anonymous 2/22/2023 12:15 PM	New Hope
Anonymous 2/22/2023 12:17 PM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 2/22/2023 12:23 PM	Eden Prairie
Anonymous 2/22/2023 12:22 PM	Golden Valley
Anonymous 2/22/2023 12:16 PM	Robbinsdale
Anonymous 2/22/2023 12:21 PM	Brooklyn Park
Anonymous 2/22/2023 12:25 PM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 2/22/2023 01:34 PM	Maple Plain
Anonymous 2/22/2023 01:55 PM	Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/22/2023 01:57 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:15 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/22/2023 02:54 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:20 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:22 PM

Minnetonka

Anonymous

2/22/2023 03:59 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/22/2023 07:34 PM

Bloomington

Anonymous

2/22/2023 09:57 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:07 AM

Deephaven

Anonymous

2/23/2023 10:46 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/23/2023 11:16 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/23/2023 11:31 AM

Maple Grove, MN

Anonymous

2/23/2023 12:01 PM

Richfield

Anonymous

2/23/2023 12:07 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/23/2023 12:38 PM

Edina

Anonymous

2/23/2023 01:57 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/23/2023 03:51 PM

St. Paul (I work for a local gov't in Hennepin County)

Anonymous

2/23/2023 04:32 PM

Richfield

Anonymous

2/23/2023 05:35 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/23/2023 07:03 PM

Robbinsdale

Anonymous

2/23/2023 08:28 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/24/2023 08:36 AM

Bloomington

Anonymous

2/24/2023 11:01 AM

Loretto

Anonymous

2/25/2023 04:02 PM

Minnetonka

Anonymous

2/25/2023 09:29 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/25/2023 11:55 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/26/2023 08:30 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/26/2023 09:19 AM

Brooklyn Park

Anonymous

2/27/2023 09:26 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/27/2023 09:43 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/27/2023 12:54 PM

Saint Paul

Anonymous

2/27/2023 09:46 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/27/2023 10:40 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/27/2023 11:54 AM

Long Lake

Anonymous

2/27/2023 12:30 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/27/2023 05:18 PM

Worked in solid waste at the county level (now retire) but love talking trash.

Anonymous

2/27/2023 02:46 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/27/2023 04:05 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/27/2023 05:30 PM

mpls

Anonymous

2/27/2023 08:52 PM

Golden Valley

Anonymous

2/28/2023 08:03 AM

Minnetonka

Anonymous

2/28/2023 08:07 AM

Anoka County

Anonymous

2/28/2023 09:58 AM

Brooklyn Center

Anonymous

2/28/2023 11:00 AM

Edina

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:07 PM

Hanover

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:14 PM

Mpls

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:12 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:30 PM

Edina

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:31 PM

edina

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:37 PM

Minneapolis & Maple Grove

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:35 PM

Golden Valley

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:48 PM

Bloomington, MN

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:54 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/28/2023 12:59 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/28/2023 01:11 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous
2/28/2023 06:08 PM

Brooklyn Park

Anonymous
2/28/2023 01:50 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous
2/28/2023 01:50 PM

Maple Grove

Anonymous
2/28/2023 02:05 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous
2/28/2023 02:36 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous
2/28/2023 03:52 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous
3/01/2023 03:19 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous
2/28/2023 04:03 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous
2/28/2023 04:52 PM

Burnsville

Anonymous
3/02/2023 09:33 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous
2/28/2023 06:01 PM

MINNEAPOLIS

Anonymous
2/28/2023 07:19 PM

Wayzata

Anonymous
2/28/2023 07:20 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous
2/28/2023 07:39 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

2/28/2023 10:56 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/01/2023 12:11 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/01/2023 01:21 AM

Brooklyn Center

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:36 AM

Brooklyn Park

Anonymous

3/01/2023 07:52 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/01/2023 09:27 AM

Golden Valley

Anonymous

3/01/2023 10:22 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/01/2023 10:42 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/01/2023 11:42 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/01/2023 12:23 PM

Edina MN

Anonymous

3/01/2023 03:32 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/01/2023 04:16 PM

Robbinsdale

Anonymous

3/01/2023 09:26 PM

Edina

Anonymous

Minnetonka

3/01/2023 09:37 PM

Anonymous

Minneapolis

3/02/2023 04:59 AM

Anonymous

Minneapolis

3/02/2023 05:46 AM

Anonymous

Minneapolis

3/02/2023 01:41 PM

Anonymous

Edina

3/02/2023 03:17 PM

Anonymous

Minneapolis

3/02/2023 09:33 PM

Anonymous

Minneapolis

3/02/2023 08:40 PM

Anonymous

Richfield

3/03/2023 12:01 AM

Anonymous

Does not matter

3/03/2023 05:26 PM

Anonymous

Minneapolis

3/03/2023 08:24 PM

Anonymous

Minneapolis

3/04/2023 09:28 AM

Anonymous

Edina

3/04/2023 10:27 AM

Anonymous

Deephaven

3/04/2023 02:09 PM

Anonymous

Anoka County

3/04/2023 05:43 PM

Anonymous 3/05/2023 08:02 PM	Minnetonka
Anonymous 3/05/2023 08:03 PM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 3/05/2023 08:19 PM	Robbinsdale
Anonymous 3/05/2023 10:45 PM	Minneapolis
Lily K 3/06/2023 05:42 AM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 3/06/2023 06:31 AM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 3/06/2023 07:10 AM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 3/06/2023 08:15 AM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 3/06/2023 08:48 AM	Golden Valley
Anonymous 3/06/2023 09:02 AM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 3/06/2023 09:26 AM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 3/06/2023 10:04 AM	St. Paul
Anonymous 3/06/2023 11:20 AM	Minneapolis
Anonymous 3/06/2023 12:02 PM	Maple Grove

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:00 PM

Mound

Anonymous

3/06/2023 12:40 PM

Mankato

Anonymous

3/06/2023 01:44 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/06/2023 02:47 PM

Brooklyn Park

Anonymous

3/06/2023 04:10 PM

Minneapolis, but work in Edina

I don't have one

3/06/2023 05:11 PM

Brookly Park

Anonymous

3/06/2023 07:08 PM

Golden Valley

Anonymous

3/06/2023 07:32 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/06/2023 08:20 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/06/2023 09:32 PM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/07/2023 07:42 AM

St. Paul

Anonymous

3/07/2023 09:17 AM

We have facilities in Golden Valley and St. Paul

Anonymous

3/07/2023 09:47 AM

Minneapolis

jono

3/07/2023 10:34 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

3/07/2023 10:42 AM

Minneapolis

Anonymous

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Brooklyn Park

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Eden Prairie

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Mendota heights

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Richfield: Woodlake Village

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jholub91

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Richard Asinger

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In the Seward Neighborhood of Minneapolis, 55406

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Melissa Wenzel

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Saint Paul

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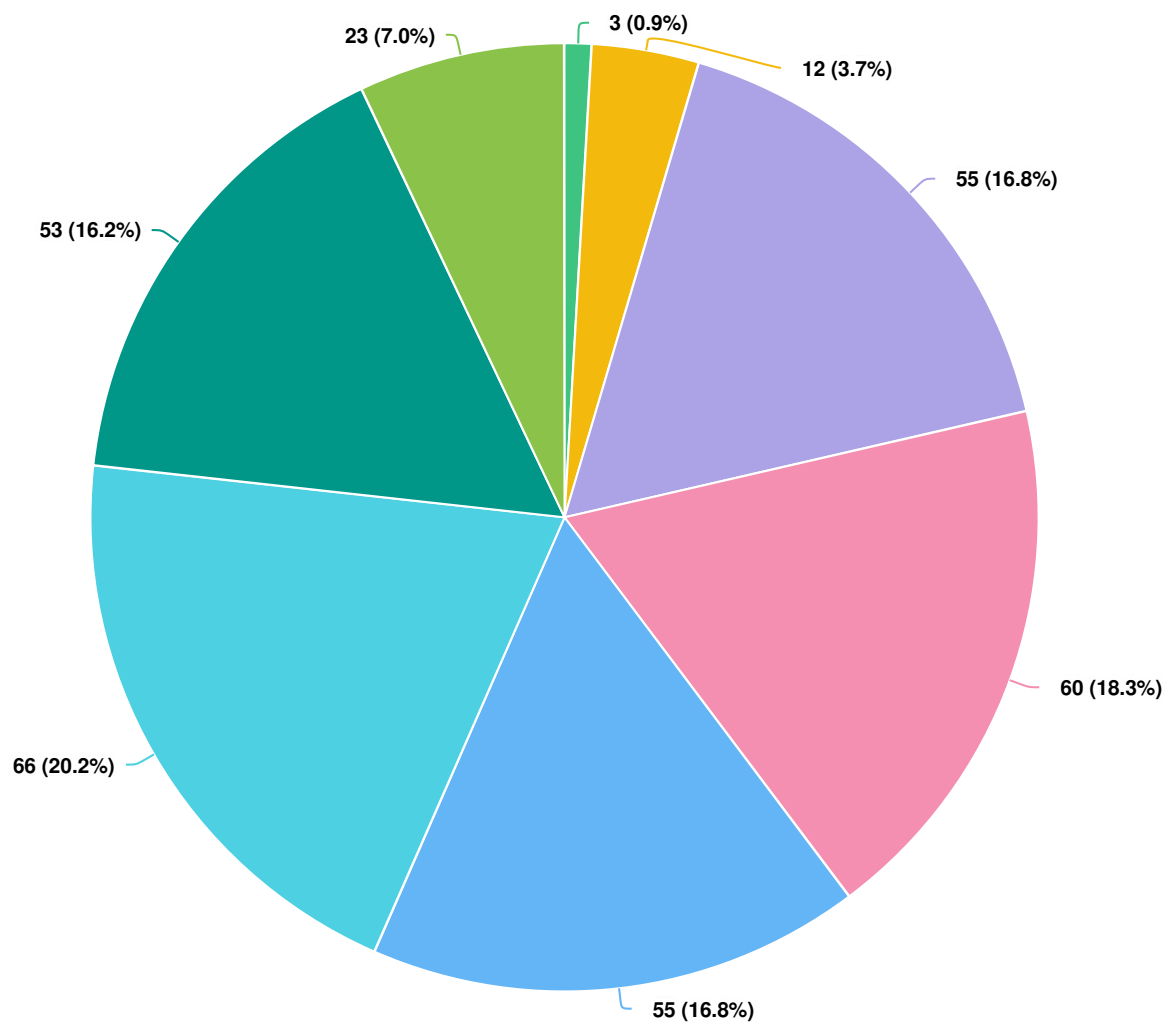
Anonymous
3/20/2023 09:27 PM

Minneapolis

Optional question (301 response(s), 32 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

Q15 Your age:



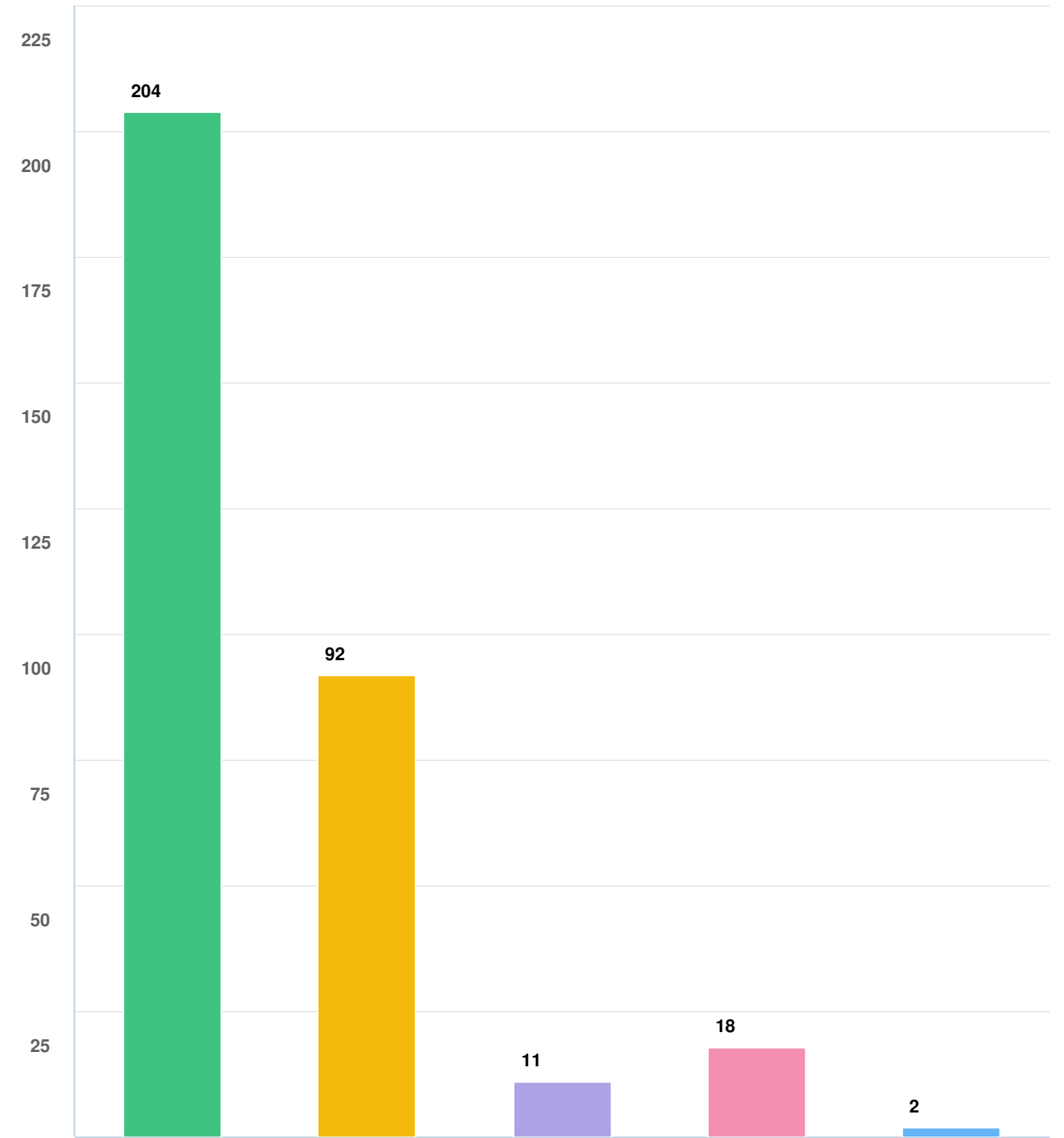
Question options

● Under 18
 ● 18 to 24
 ● 25 to 34
 ● 35 to 44
 ● 45 to 54
 ● 55 to 64
 ● 65 to 74
 ● 75 and older

Optional question (327 response(s), 6 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q16 What gender do you identify with?

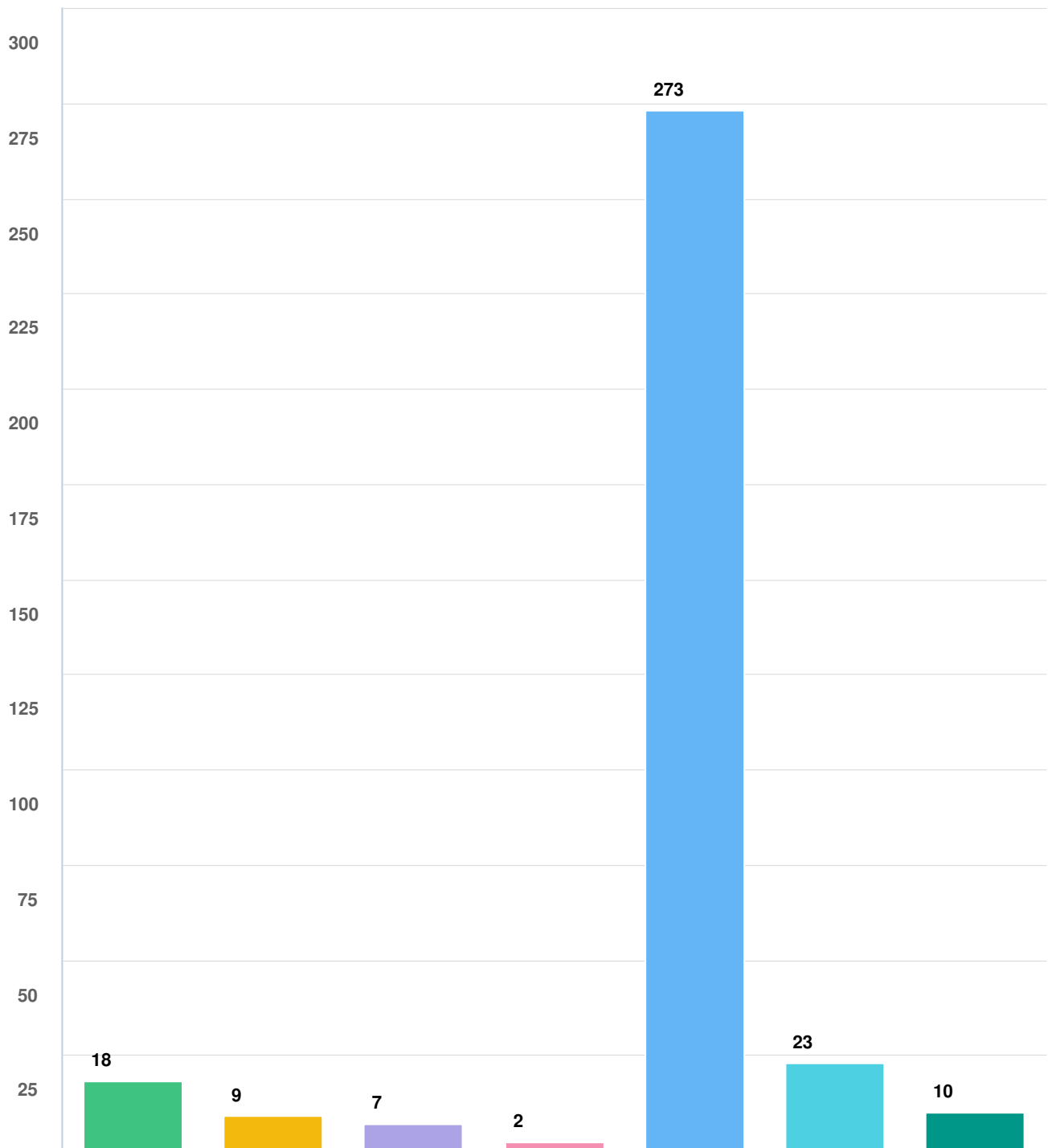


Question options

- Female
- Male
- Nonbinary/third gender
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe (how do you prefer to self-describe?)

Optional question (323 response(s), 10 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q17 What race(s) do you identify with?

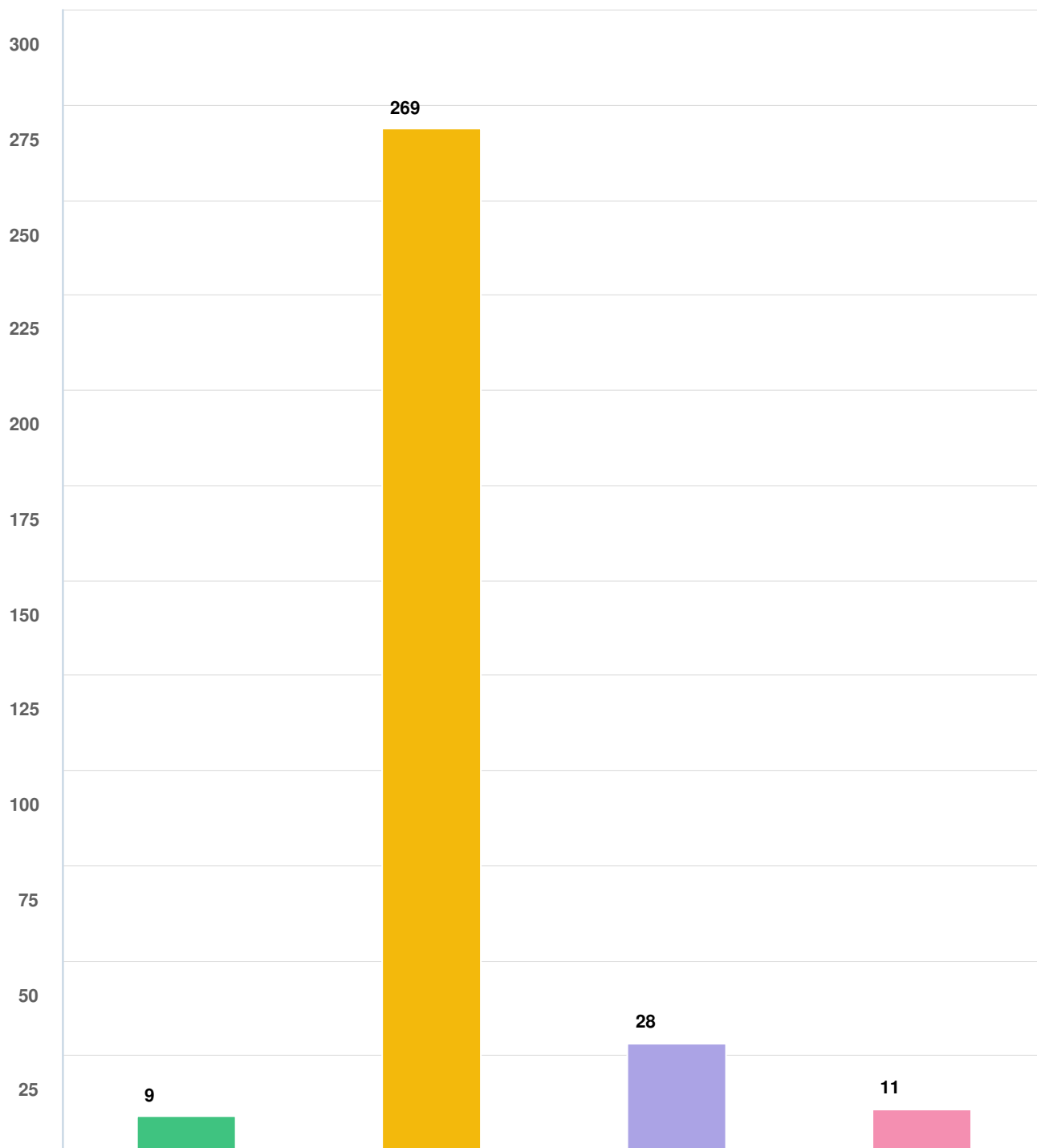


Question options

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
☐ White ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Prefer to self-describe (how do you prefer to self-describe?)

Optional question (326 response(s), 7 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q18 What ethnicity do you identify with?



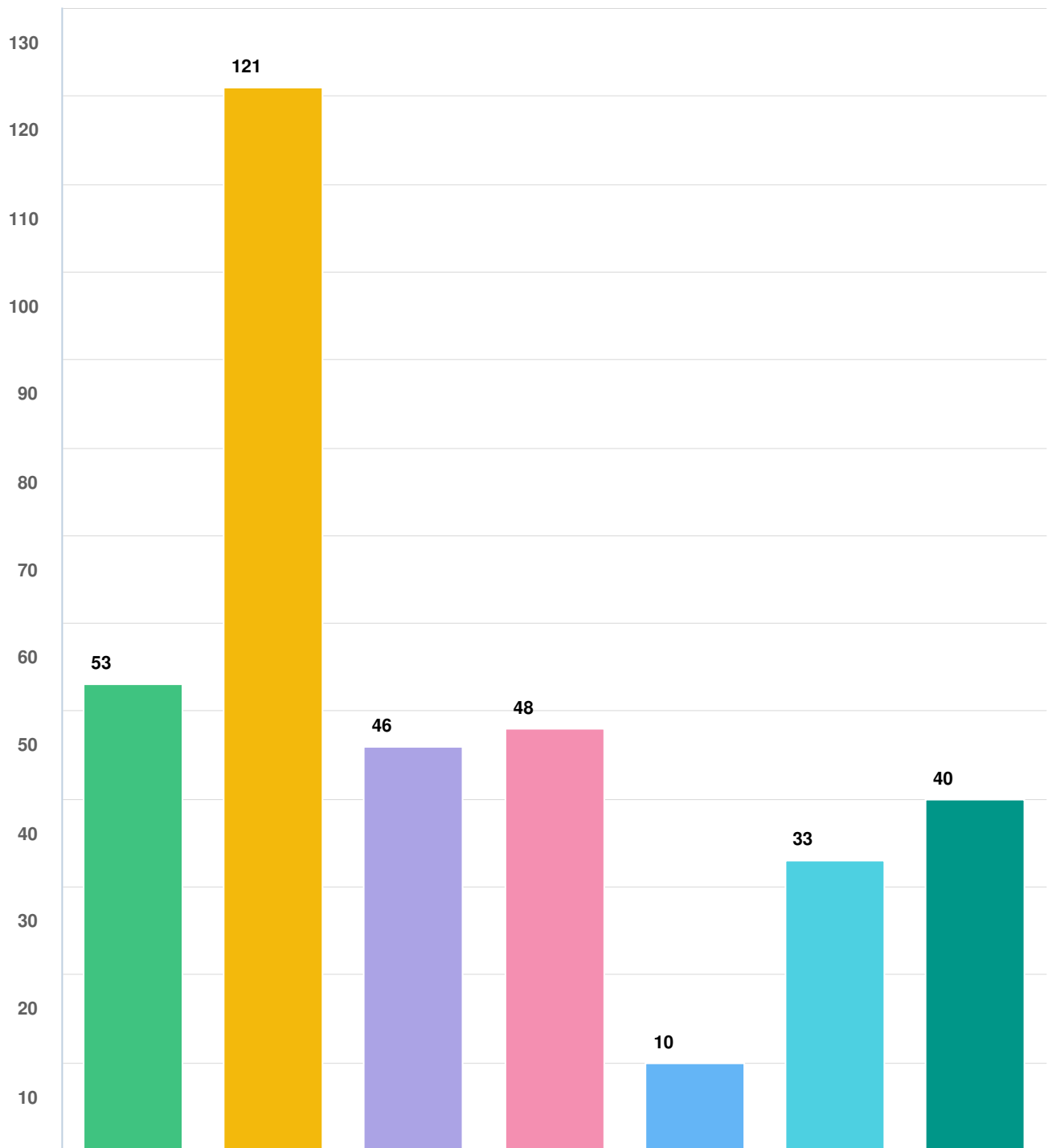
Question options

- Hispanic or Latino
- Non-Hispanic or Latino
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe (how do you prefer to self-describe?)

Optional question (315 response(s), 18 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q19 How did you hear about this survey?



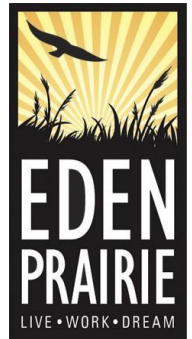
Question options

- Website Newsletter Social media Word-of-mouth At an event
From a Hennepin County staff person From a community group (please specify which community group):

Optional question (328 response(s), 5 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

March 17, 2023

RE: **Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Draft Comments**



Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Planning Team,

The City of Eden Prairie has reviewed the proposed Draft Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan. The County's proposed Zero Waste strategies and actions are an important step towards resource conservation and environmental preservation. We appreciate the opportunity to submit feedback and clarifying questions on the draft plan.

We appreciate Hennepin County's effort to be a leader in solid waste management and are particularly supportive of the following actions as they are identified in the draft plan:

- A.9 – Evaluate HERC upgrades to reduce impacts on community in the short term
- A.10 – Establish milestones to phase out the use of the HERC as county approaches zero waste
- A.12 – Provide financial incentives to increase participation in targeted communities
- B.2 – Expand grants to businesses
- B.3 – Expand grants for deconstruction and building reuse
- B.8 – Expand partnerships to provide culturally relevant outreach
- B.10 – Help schools prevent and divert more waste
- B.11 – Help businesses and multifamily properties prevent and divert more waste
- B.13 – Develop large-scale organics processing infrastructure
- C.12 – Prioritize extended producer responsibility
- D.1 – Advocate for sustainable building codes

We also had several clarifying questions or concerns with the following actions identified in the draft plan. We are particularly concerned with actions that are unclear on who is responsible for implementation or enforcement responsibilities, or actions that expand city responsibilities beyond current practice.

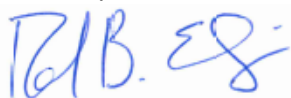
Questions or Concerns:

- A.1 – Expand drop-off options
 - Who would be responsible for running/maintaining expanded drop-off collection sites? What are the specific target materials?
- A.5 – Increase access to organics recycling options for multifamily residents
 - If organics is expanded to be required in MF buildings, how will the County assist existing properties with space and access constraints to add additional waste storage areas? Waste areas in MF properties require screening structure and/or may be underground and site plans are often designed to utilize every square foot of structure.

- A.8 – Improve measurement to track progress and ensure accountability
 - Has the County considered coordinating county-wide waste/recycling data collection and providing haulers with consistent terminology and methodology for data reporting as happens in Washington County?
- A.13 – Implement low-income rate assistance
 - While supportive of efforts to ensure equity in recycling service programs and the general concept of rate assistance, cities do not have the additional staff capacity to identify, verify, provide, or track payments for assistance programs. We do not support the inclusion of “work with cities to design and implement...” in this action. It seems there should be a simple way to integrate this rate assistance as part of existing human services programs at Hennepin County.
- C.1 – Support the transition to organized collection across the county
 - How would resident engagement and feedback be incorporated into an organized collection transition plan considering the high likelihood of unsupportive constituents? Who is responsible for undertaking that engagement process? What role would a city play in the waste collection process if its haulers are decided at a county-wide level?
- C.3 – Evaluate adding multifamily to single-family residential service
 - What improvements or changes are anticipated by adding MF to SF Residential Service? What does cities work with private haulers to provide service mean in practice?
- C.5 – Require events to be zero waste
 - Does this mean all public events or also private events? If so, how would that be enforced?
- C.6 – Mandate participation in recycling and composting programs
 - Who would be responsible for enforcement of this mandate?
- C.15 – Advocate for minimum diversion requirement for construction and demolition projects
 - How would this requirement be supported at the city level? Who is responsible for compliance?
- D.2 – Support and encourage city adoption of deconstruction policies
 - Is this meant to be a voluntary or mandatory policy?
- D.3 – Require building demolition notifications
 - What is the anticipated delay in demolition expected from a notification and salvage process? Is this something cities can require and still comply with MN Building Code requirements?
- D.11 – Adopt city and county specifications and policies to increase demand for finished compost
 - What does local government buyback requirements entail?

Lastly, was mandating every week recycling collection county-wide considered in the Zero Waste Action Plan? This is frequently a topic of concern for our residents and is surprising to not see listed in the actions given its capacity to increase recycling rates.

Sincerely,



Robert Ellis
Public Works Director

Hennepin County Environment & Energy staff,

The City of Minneapolis (City) is grateful that Hennepin County (HC) has engaged community members, cities, and other stakeholders in the development of its draft Zero Waste Plan. We also appreciate that the plan acknowledges that ongoing partnership and involvement from the community is necessary to meet zero waste goals. We support the majority of the draft plan strategies, as they directly align with strategies included in the City of Minneapolis Zero Waste Plan adopted in 2017.

There are a couple of items we have questions and comments on and a few items we feel were not addressed in the plan.

First, the plan indicates an unclear timeline between the actions by identifying them as low-hanging fruit, system transformation and approaching zero waste. One can assume that discussions on how to implement several of the items in the system transformation and approaching zero waste categories will need to begin in the near term. We would appreciate more detail in the timeline for the map to zero waste. For example, is the goal for low-hanging fruit strategies to be completed in the next 3-5 years and system transformation in 5-10 years?

Second, you are aware that our office is funded almost entirely by residential fees for service. Our only non-customer funding comes through our 2022 – 2025 Recycling Refund agreement with the county allocating a portion of the SCORE funds for multi-unit work.

We agree that improving access to programs and education and outreach in multi-units and the commercial sector is necessary to meet City, County and State goals. Strategies that could directly tie the City to collection system changes in the non-residential sectors will take significant staff time over multiple years that we have no funding to cover. To maintain stability in our customers fees for service, Solid Waste & Recycling would not support the allocation of any addition SCORE funds, outside of what is currently allocated to multi-units, to non-residential programs. Additional sustainable funding outside of HC SCORE funding will likely be needed to implement the following non-residential strategies from the plan in Minneapolis. Some of these strategies include:

A5. Increase access to organics recycling options for multifamily residents (low-hanging fruit)

- Considering longer term actions for partnering with cities to adopt requirements for service to multifamily properties or expand the scope of existing requirements in the county's recycling ordinance (Ordinance #13)

B6. Increase compliance with organics requirements in the county's recycling ordinance (Ordinance #13) and expand requirements (low-hanging fruit)

- Consider expanding the applicability of the organics portion of the ordinance to maximize diversion of organics, including a gradual reduction in the minimum thresholds for commercial generators, adding multifamily properties to the organics requirements, an eventually requiring all generators to have organics service.

C1. Support the transition to organized collection across the county (system transformation)

- Depending on the city and sector, this may include the adoption of hauler contracts, franchising, expanded licensing requirements, or other organized collection schemes for multifamily and commercial.

C3. Evaluate adding multifamily to single-family residential service (approaching zero waste)

- Evaluate requiring cities to add all multifamily properties to their residential waste programs.
 - o Cities could work with private haulers to provide the service.
 - o Consider using state recycling (SCORE) or other funds to support the transition for capital equipment (trucks and dumpsters), contracting, marketing, or technical assistance.

C5. Require events to be zero waste (system transformation)

- Work with cities to establish a countywide requirement that all events over a minimum size threshold (for example, 500 people) are required to be zero waste (have recycling, composting, and trash stations with limits or bans on single use and non-compostable products).

C6. Mandate participation in recycling and composting programs (approaching zero waste)

- Work with cities to adopt mandatory recycling and organics participation requirements for all generators. The requirements would ban recyclable or organic materials from the trash and mandate source separation. Enforcement would occur through on-call generator inspections at the point of disposal. Include exceptions for lack of space, provide financial support for those that need it, and develop a monitoring plan/enforcement plan.

Third, page 36 and 37 of the draft Zero Waste plan discuss **local, county and state policies for advancing zero waste**. There are two important items we feel are missing from this list that are necessary to reach the City and County's zero waste goals. They include amendments to the:

- Food Code
 - o Current Food Code does not allow for off-site washing of reusable containers for food establishments including grocery stores for reusable containers for their prepared foods and deli sections.
- Building Code
 - o Current building code does not have adequate space allocation requirements for recycling and no requirements for space for organics. The space allocation for recycling should be at the very least one to one for space allocation for garbage, ideally it should be greater as the volume of recyclables is significantly higher than the volume of items disposed of as trash.

Additionally, the plan discusses a lot of strategies to expand organics recycling programs – from increasing marketing of grants and assistance available, increasing diversion requirements for all generators, and to make events and packaging zero waste. The draft plan includes “**B13. Develop large-scale organics processing infrastructure**” and “**B14 Support growth of community-scale composting sites**” but it does not mention ongoing collaboration or support for these facilities nor the need for ongoing education and outreach for all sectors on materials accepted in composting programs.

If mandatory organics diversion for all generators and events is implemented without ongoing education, it's possible that composters may choose to no longer accept food-service packaging. If this were to happen, it would not be feasible to implement several of the strategies identified in the plan. Since it's also assumed the digestate from an anaerobic digester would go to a composting facility, ongoing collaboration and support for composters should be included in the plan – like is mentioned for MRFs (Strategy B4) – to ensure low contamination arrives at their facilities and they can continue to process and compost food-service packaging.

Minneapolis Public Works Division of Solid Waste & Recycling is grateful for our partnership with Hennepin County's Division of Environment and Energy. We are happy to see the County solidify many future plans that correlate directly to the City's future Zero Waste goals as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please let us know if you have any questions,



David Herberholz
Director
Solid Waste & Recycling



Kellie Kish
Recycling Coordinator
Solid Waste & Recycling

Subject: FW: [External] Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan

From: Drew Ingvalson <dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 7, 2023 2:57 PM

To: Amy N Maas <Amy.Maas@hennepin.us>

Cc: Julie Wischnack <jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov>; Will Manchester <wmanchester@minnetonkamn.gov>; Loren Gordon <lgordon@minnetonkamn.gov>; Darin Ellingson <dellingson@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kelly ODea <kodea@minnetonkamn.gov>

Subject: RE: [External] Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan

Amy,

Good afternoon. Yes, I apologize. We are a bit late with our comments. Please forward our comments below to the appropriate person so that they can hopefully be included for the county's review of Hennepin County's Draft Zero Waste Plan.

The City of Minnetonka supports the goal of Hennepin County's effort to create a Zero Waste Plan. The county continues to be a leader in waste reduction and management. The county goal to divert 90% of waste from landfills and incinerators is ambitious; however, the city understands the high level goal of the draft Zero Waste Plan creates a path for the county to begin to work towards this goal.

There are several actions within the plan that will require city and county cooperation. The City of Minnetonka finds that some of these actions require additional information and/or support from the county prior to approval of the plan. Please see the action and bullet comments from the City of Minnetonka below.

A.13 Implement low-income rate assistance

- Having cities provide payment assistance programs for trash and recycling collection services would be a resource intensive initiative and would require additional city staff capacity, which is not available for most cities. The city recommends that the county consider moving this action to be completed by an existing human services program at the Hennepin County.

C.1. Support the transition to organized collection across the county.

- The plan seems to indicate there may be the creation of geographic hauler areas. The city would like clarification about if the county would establish and provide these areas to local governments and mandate them to provide organized collection by law. Action for a change of this type is a council level decision.
- The city has concerns about how specifically the county would assist cities with a transition to organized collection across the county including what assistance the county would provide to cities.
- The document seems to indicate the county is considering an organized hauler requirement county-wide. The city is requesting information if that is accurate, or if not, this type of decision would need to be made at the city council level and more specifics would be needed on how the county will support this item.

C.3 Evaluate adding multifamily to single-family residential service.

- The City of Minnetonka currently does not have a multi-family servicing program. The city recommends that the county provide more detailed information on how the county will assist cities with achieving this action item.

C.5 Require events to be zero waste.

- The City currently offers compost at events, but would need to work with individual vendors to complete this action. The city has funding concerns for our event vendors. It would be helpful if this action included zero waste funding (for compostable materials, reusable materials, etc.) for small businesses.
- The city recommends the county provide education opportunities for both businesses and event attendees as part of this action. This could include financial assistance programs from the county or other organizations (like MN Chamber of Commerce's Waste Wise program)

C.6 Mandate participation in recycling and composting programs.

- This action will be very difficult to enforce and would require cities to create new inspection positions within their organization or add a large task on to existing positions. This would be a particularly difficult mandate for cities within Hennepin County. This action item should address funding opportunities to lessen these financial burdens.
- This action would need to be made at the city council level and more specifics would be needed from the county on monitoring and enforcement best practices.

C.15 Advocate for minimum diversion requirement for construction and demolition projects.

- The city endorses advocating to contractors to salvage as many usable materials as possible from a demolition and construction site, but has concerns about the process of a minimum diversion enforcement policy.
- The city requests additional information on the mechanics of enforcing a mandatory minimum diversion requirement.
- It is clear how deconstruction over demolition would result in both waste reduction and reduce reliance on new materials. However, the city questions the feasibility of capturing 50% of landfill waste from new construction projects. The city recommends that the county add new construction scrap material collection research information to this action item. The assumption is that contractors would keep usable materials for future projects and only discard scrap materials. The plan should include research and findings that show it is appropriate to expect this amount of materials to be salvaged from a new construction site.

D.1 Advocate for sustainable building codes.

- This action must be done at the state level and the plan should note working with the state to complete it.

D.3 Require building demolition notifications.

- The City of Minnetonka already completes this action.

D.11 Adopt city and county specifications and policies to increase demand for finished compost.

- The City of Minnetonka is working on creating an ordinance that requires the use of soil amendment with sod installation and landscape projects.
- The city suggests the county creates a communication path for local governments to communicate actions they have already taken in this area. This information could make it easier for other local governments to replicate or complete this action.

Please let me know if you need anything additional from me.

Thank you again for all of your help.



Drew Ingvalson | He, Him, His
 Associate Planner/Sustainability Coordinator
 City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
 Office: 952-939-8293

From: Amy N Maas <Amy.Maas@hennepin.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:54 PM
To: Drew Ingvalson <dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan

Hi Drew,

I understood your question to mean the time frame when the commissioners will be reviewing the plan but what it sounds like you actually wanted was the public comment period- that did end on March 20. We sent information about that timeline out to CRCs so I'm sorry if you didn't see it! If you want to send any comments you have to me I can forward them on to our group but I can't guarantee how or if they'll make it into the official feedback.

Amy Maas (she/her)
Amy.maas@hennepin.us
612-348-6848

From: Drew Ingvalson <dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Amy N Maas <Amy.Maas@hennepin.us>
Subject: RE: [External] Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan

Amy,

Thank you so much for the update. I shared the document with some of our staff members at the city and we may want to submit some comments. Good to know that we will have a little time to put our thoughts/comments together. If we decide to send comments, do you know who the appropriate person would be to send those to?

Again, thank you so much for the info.



Drew Ingvalson | He, Him, His
Associate Planner/Sustainability Coordinator
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8293

From: Amy N Maas <Amy.Maas@hennepin.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Drew Ingvalson <dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan

Hi Drew,

You didn't miss a date- I even had to ask about it! The response was "probably sometime in May but could be longer." We've been bumped on their agenda a couple of times already so it is a bit hard to predict.

Amy Maas (she/her)
Amy.maas@hennepin.us
612-348-6848

From: Drew Ingvalson <dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 3:42 PM

To: Amy N Maas <Amy.Maas@hennepin.us>

Subject: [External] Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan

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Amy,

Good afternoon. First, thank you for all the work that you and you're co-workers have put into the Zero Waste Plan. I attended the workshops and I was really impressed with the county's commitment to get input from the community.

Second, do you know what the timeline will be for having the county commission to review/approve the plan? I apologize if it was on the project page and I missed it.

Thank you,



Drew Ingvallson | He, Him, His
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March 20, 2023

Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Government Center A2400
300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0240



Re: Hennepin County Draft Zero Waste Plan

Dear Hennepin County Commissioners,

We appreciate Hennepin County's inclusion of a [zero waste plan](#) as part of its broader Climate Action Plan. In addition to eliminating landfilling and incineration, an effective zero waste plan will keep resources in the ground, support our local economies, build more stable supply chains, create good jobs, and result in a healthier environment.

However, for the zero waste plan to be successful we need specific, bold, policies that create new systems of production and consumption. While we agree with many of the broad goals in the plan, we believe that if zero waste is to be achieved, there needs to be additional specificity added to the policy changes proposed.

A number of proposed zero waste policies should be further fleshed out, including:

1. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Effective EPR policy could move producers towards reduction and redesign of packaging; address inequities in access to reuse, recycling, and composting; reduce toxics in packaging; and move the cost of waste management from taxpayers to producers. A poorly designed EPR policy will do nothing to address our waste crisis and could, in fact, weaken our existing infrastructure. However, a well-designed EPR program could be a key driving policy for the larger zero waste plan. However, the draft plan does not clearly layout the necessary components of an effective EPR plan, beyond transitioning costs of waste management to producers. The county should be a leading voice in the state, advocating for an EPR plan that includes:

- **Enforceable Targets:** targets should be set for source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.
- **Effective and Transparent Oversight of the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO):** Producers should be held accountable for the toxic, wasteful, and unnecessary packaging. If targets are not met and gaps in access are not met, producers should be held accountable within the EPR system. Industry-run PROs should be limited to development of the plan, monitoring the producers covered by the policy, collecting fees, and paying local governments. Programs must be designed with high accountability of PROs through strong public oversight such as multi-stakeholder oversight commissions, and with a high level of state enforcement to ensure transparency, accountability, compliance and clearly defined goals.

- **Eco-modulation:** Eco-modulation fees should be implemented with the aim of achieving reduction and redesign – moving us toward less packaging, less toxics, and packaging and products that are reusable / refillable, recyclable, or compostable.
 - **Build on existing infrastructure and providers.** Private waste and recycling companies, local governments, and state governments have made substantial investments in our current recycling infrastructure, including recycling trucks, curbside carts, drop-off center facilities and equipment, processing equipment at MRFs, and other capital expenses. In addition, government and private companies have trained and employed thousands of workers to operate and manage these systems. These government-run programs, as well as services provided by private companies and existing equipment should be the backbone of the future recycling system, and EPR programs should build on these assets.
 - **Strong Definitions:** For EPR policy to achieve its aim of reducing waste, moving toward reuse, and increasing recycling and composting rates, the program needs strong definitions for “reuse,” “composting,” and “recycling,” among others. Recycling does not include landfilling, ‘beneficial uses,’ or energy recovery/energy generation, including combustion, incineration, gasification, pyrolysis, solvolysis, waste-to-fuel, or any technology that does not demonstrate an improvement over mechanical recycling in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, toxics emissions, and material quality and recovery.
- 2. Truth in Labeling Recycling:** Confusion about recycling stems, in large part, from misleading labeling used by producers to make their products seem sustainable when in reality their packaging is not recyclable. These materials then overwhelm and overtax the recycling systems. The County should further flesh out their statement related to support for truth-in-labeling, to include:
- **Limiting the Use of the Chasing Arrows Symbol:** Since consumers equate the “chasing arrows” symbol with what is accepted in their recycling bins, the “chasing arrows” symbol must be reserved for materials which are accepted in residential programs and do not cause contamination.
 - **Creating a Statewide Recyclability List:** The MPCA will maintain a list of products and packaging that can be considered recyclable, and thus be labeled with the “chasing arrows,” based on a materials ability to be safely and effectively collected, sorted, and recycled in sufficient quantity and quality. This list will not prohibit local governments from determining whether or not a material can be accepted by their local recycling program
 - **Reducing Toxics in Recyclable Products including “Forever Chemicals”:** Products and packaging that include chemicals of concern for human and environmental health, including PFAS, will be prohibited from using the “chasing arrows” symbol.

Additionally, the county should consider supporting the following state policy changes:

- 1. Bottle Deposit Program:** A key zero waste policy missing from the draft plan is a statewide bottle deposit program. States with bottle deposits have much higher recycling rates than other states, including 77% recycling rate for aluminum (versus 41% in non-bottle bill states), 62% for PET bottles (13% in non-bottle bill states), and 64% for glass bottles (12% in non-bottle bill states). These

recycling rates are far greater than what can be achieved through curbside recycling alone. However, bottle deposit policies should not be positioned against curbside recycling. It is not an either-or scenario: to truly scale up recycling rates, we need both effective curbside programs and bottle deposit policies. In order to improve the recycling system and support a circular economy, the zero waste plan should support a statewide bottle deposit policy that includes:

- A broad range of beverage containers, including all carbonated and non-carbonated beverages, all alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and aseptic cartons;
- A minimum 10-cent deposit on containers;
- The expansion of reusable and refillable beverage containers;
- A transition plan to help curbside recycling programs and MRFs;
- Minimum recycled content standards to increase bottle-to-bottle recycling; and
- Fair and inclusive standards for informal workers.

2. Electronics Waste Recycling: The draft zero waste plan is lacking comprehensive systems change that can address the low electronics recycling numbers in the state. In addition to comprehensive right-to-repair legislation and expanded fix-it clinics, the zero waste plan should include support for reforms to the current EPR system. These changes should include point of sale fees that will cover collection costs for all electronic waste, ensuring free and accessible recycling for all Minnesotans.

Finally, the County must more effectively center the voices, experiences and knowledge of Environmental Justice communities as it continues to develop and strengthen the Zero Waste plan. Once the plan has had further community input and revisions, we believe it should be voted on by the Hennepin County Board. This will further legitimize the plan and ensure proposed actions are followed through and efforts towards zero waste are measured and improved upon.

The zero waste plan could be an empowering blueprint for real change – effectively addressing our waste crisis. We ask that you continue to revise the plan in ways that are informed by impacted communities. Thank you for consideration of our comments. We are happy to meet with you to discuss the plan further and welcome Commissioners and staff to tour our Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Minneapolis to see zero waste work in action.

Sincerely,



Lynn Hoffman,
Co-President of Eureka Recycling
(612) 455-9110
lynnh@eurekarecycling.org



March 20, 2023

Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Government Center A2400
300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0240

VIA EMAIL

RE: Comments on Hennepin County's Draft Zero-Waste Plan

Dear County Commissioners:

Thank you for your attention to these comments submitted by Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy regarding Hennepin County's Draft Zero-Waste Plan. We commend the County's commitment to a zero-waste future. However, the plan is not complete without a closure date for the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center ("HERC").

Zero-waste is defined by the draft plan as diverting 90% of discarded materials away from landfilling and incineration.¹ Naturally, achieving that goal coincides with reduced need for incineration and landfilling. The draft plan recognizes that "as the County approaches zero-waste, the need for disposal will be reduced but will not disappear entirely."² The County appears to reason that it's too soon to plan for a closure date. We encourage the County to re-evaluate its decision to delay identifying a closure date for the HERC until particular milestones toward zero-waste are achieved. Rather, because of the striking disparate health impacts on North Minneapolis residents, shutting down the HERC must be the *first* consequence of adopting the Zero-Waste Plan.

In particular, we would like to draw the County's attention to the environmental justice implications of continued operation of the incinerator. The HERC takes the pollution burden from the County and concentrates the harm on an already-overburdened community in Minneapolis. Furthermore, continued operation of HERC is not aligned with Minnesota policy on carbon-free energy generation. Including a closure date for the HERC will encourage the County to diligently pursue a more equitable solid waste management plan. It will also more fairly reflect the ample feedback the County received in its community conversations, where community members overwhelmingly called for closure of the facility.

¹ Hennepin County, Draft Zero-Waste Plan at 3 (2023) ("Draft Plan").

² Draft Plan at 22.

I. The focus on equity in waste management programs is becoming increasingly prominent within the shifting landscape of environmental justice

The landscape of environmental justice is changing. For years, advocates have pushed for recognition of the unequally high pollution burdens borne by under-resourced and BIPOC communities. In its most recent environmental justice guidance, the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) recognizes that “[r]esearch has reaffirmed what underserved and environmentally overburdened communities have for years expressed – that many communities in this country that are underserved are also exposed to higher pollution burdens and as a result have higher rates of morbidity and mortality.”³ Research shows that “[c]ompared with white Americans, people of color in the United States suffer disproportionately from exposure to pollution.”⁴ Some of these disproportionate pollution impacts are the result of redlining by the federal government in the 1930s. Redlining was the discriminatory federal practice of “drawing lines around Black and immigrant areas that denoted them as risky sites for mortgages.”⁵ According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, those neighborhoods are now more impacted by poor air quality.⁶

Since taking office, President Biden has taken several actions to address environmental justice. The administration issued Executive Order 14008 to establish a White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and direct federal agencies to prioritize environmental justice in their decision-making processes.⁷ The administration has also proposed significant funding for environmental justice initiatives in its infrastructure and budget plans. In addition, the EPA has been directed to strengthen its enforcement of environmental laws and regulations to protect communities that have historically faced disproportionate environmental harm.

The Biden administration’s focus on environmental justice expands outside of the President’s office. The Department of Justice recently announced the creation of a new

³ EPA Legal Tools to Advance Environmental Justice, Env’tl Protection Agency (May 2022), available at: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-05/EJ%20Legal%20Tools%20May%202022%20FINAL.pdf> (“EPA EJ Tools”).

⁴ Hiroko Tabuchi and Nadja Popovich, *People of Color Breathe More Hazardous Air. The Sources Are Everywhere*, N.Y. Times (April 28, 2021).

⁵ Laurel Wamsley, *Even many decades later, redlined areas see higher levels of air pollution*, NPR (Mar. 10, 2022).

⁶ *The Air We Breathe*, Minn. Pollution Control Agency, 7 (Jan. 2021) available at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/lraq-2sy21.pdf>.

⁷ Exec. Order 14008 (Jan. 27, 2021) available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>.

Environmental Justice Office, reflecting the Biden administration's emphasis on addressing environmental justice concerns.⁸ This new office will be dedicated to enforcing environmental laws and ensuring that communities that have historically been disproportionately impacted by pollution and environmental degradation are protected. The office will be responsible for coordinating with other federal agencies to advance environmental justice goals and will focus on conducting outreach to affected communities to better understand their needs and concerns. The creation of this new office is an important step in advancing environmental justice and reflects the administration's commitment to addressing the systemic inequalities that have long plagued marginalized communities in the United States.

And the Department of Justice is using this new office to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which is discussed more in Section II of these comments. In particular, the Department has launched at least two environmental justice investigations that focus on the disparate impacts of waste management systems. First, in Lowndes County, Alabama, the Department of Justice is investigating the State's failure to provide adequate sewage treatment systems, which has disproportionately affected Black residents.⁹ And, second, the Department is currently investigating the City of Houston to determine whether its solid waste management operations have resulted in disparate impacts for Black and Latino residents, particularly due to the harms of illegal dumping.¹⁰

II. The County's current solid waste management presents a problem of disparate impact

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits entities receiving federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of "race, color, or national origin" in their program administration.¹¹ This applies to "all of the operations of . . . a department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or of a local government . . . any part of which is extended Federal financial assistance."¹² "[I]f any

⁸ U.S. Dep't of Justice, Office of Env. Justice, *available at*: <https://www.justice.gov/oelj>.

⁹ *Justice Department Announces Environmental Justice Investigation into Alabama Department of Public Health and Lowndes County Health Department*, U.S. Dep't of Justice Press Release (Nov. 9, 2021), *available at*: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-environmental-justice-investigation-alabama-department-public>.

¹⁰ *Justice Department Launches Environmental Justice Investigation into the City of Houston, Texas*, U.S. Dep't of Justice Press Release (July 22, 2022), *available at*: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-launches-environmental-justice-investigation-city-houston-texas>.

¹¹ 42 U.S.C. § 2000d.

¹² 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-4a; 45 C.F.R. § 80.13(g).

part of a listed entity receives federal funds, the entire entity is covered by Title VI.”¹³ This means that any local government that receives federal funds must comply with Title VI regulations in all program areas, even if the federal funding does not go to the specific program at issue.

On this basis, any County receiving federal funding must ensure that their programs and activities are not discriminatory. To comply with Title VI, local governments must take steps to identify and eliminate any discriminatory policies or practices and ensure that all individuals have equal access to their programs and activities. Failure to comply with Title VI may result in enforcement action by the Department of Justice.¹⁴ While Title VI prohibits practices of intentional discrimination, it also bars recipients of federal funding discriminating unintentionally. That means, in program administration, recipients of federal funding can’t disproportionately affect members of a group identified by race, color, or national origin when there’s an alternative that would achieve a legitimate objective with a less discriminatory impact.¹⁵

Hennepin County is a recipient of federal funding,¹⁶ and as such, the County has a duty to ensure that its solid waste program does not have a discriminatory effect. When examined as a whole, the Hennepin County Solid Waste Plan unfairly concentrates the pollution burden of waste on BIPOC County residents through toxic point source pollution from the HERC, as well as added mobile source pollution from the 200 trucks going to and from the HERC each weekday.

In 2021, the County produced about 1.3 million tons of waste. Of that, 39% was recycled or composted. The remaining approximately 800,000 tons of waste was managed as trash, and about 45% of that trash was sent to the incinerator. A significant portion of what arrived at the HERC as “trash” could have been diverted. Approximately 70% could be diverted with more recycling and composting. According to Hennepin County, the waste it receives, by weight, is 16% paper, 2% glass, 5% metals, 15% plastic, 32% organics, and 30% “other.” With better systems in place, the paper, glass, metals, and some of the plastic could all be recycled if diverted (up to 38%); the organics could be composted.¹⁷

¹³ *Ass'n of Mexican-Am. Educators v. State of Cal.*, 195 F.3d 465, 475 (9th Cir. 1999), rev'd in part on other grounds, 231 F.3d 572 (9th Cir. 2000).

¹⁴ 28 C.F.R. § 50.3.

¹⁵ Dep’t of Justice, Title VI Manual Section 7, *available at*: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/fcs/T6Manual7>.

¹⁶ Hennepin County, Minnesota, 2022 Budget, III-12.

¹⁷ Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy, HERC Factsheet (Nov. 2022), commissioned by Minnesota Environmental Justice Table, (“PSE Report”).

But that waste is not diverted. The garbage is burned at the HERC, releasing toxic air pollution. The facility emits a quarter of Hennepin County's total nitrogen oxide emissions, 14% of the county's sulfur dioxide emissions, and 7% of the county's particulate matter emissions. The EPA estimates the HERC released 173,254 tons of carbon dioxide, 404 tons of nitrous oxide, and 44 tons of particulate matter in 2019 alone.¹⁸ The HERC releases carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter in much higher concentrations than landfills. And, in addition to these direct emissions, the HERC is adding to existing mobile sources of pollution. An estimated 200 trucks deliver waste to the facility each weekday, and around 100 trucks during each weekend.¹⁹

These point source and mobile source emissions contribute to health problems such as asthma, heart conditions, and cancer. The facility also emits lead pollution, which can cause organ and brain damage, particularly in children.²⁰ Incineration at the HERC has also become increasingly harmful as more plastic is used, discarded, and incinerated. Incineration of plastic creates dioxins, a carcinogen.²¹ An independent study by Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy estimated that health impacts from the HERC's particulate matter emissions alone from 2019 alone resulted in \$11 - 24 million per year in health costs.²²

All of these pollution impacts are not being shared equally. This pollution is unfairly impacting BIPOC residents of the County. Of the residents living within a three-mile radius of HERC, where the pollution impacts are strongest, 49% are people of color. However, only 26.5% of residents in the entirety of Hennepin County are people of color, meaning HERC operates in a part of the county that is populated by almost twice the average number of BIPOC residents as the rest of the county. The area directly surrounding the HERC has a higher concentration of low-income households than 89% of the state, as well as a higher percentage of people of color than 90% of the state.²³ The ZIP codes just north and east of the HERC have the second and third highest rates of asthma in the Minneapolis metro area. The directly surrounding community has a higher concentration of particulate matter than 95% of the rest of the State, and more nearby traffic than 96% of the state.²⁴ The pollution burden is not being equally shared; rather, the County's operation of the HERC is harming people already most burdened by pollution.

¹⁸ PSE Report at 2-3.

¹⁹ PSE Report at 2.

²⁰ PSE Report at 2.

²¹ PSE Report at 2.

²² PSE Report at 2.

²³ PSE Report at 3.

²⁴ PSE Report at 3.

Despite the County's facially neutral waste management practices, the Solid Waste Program's continued reliance on the HERC results in disproportionate and adverse impacts on BIPOC residents. The County should seriously consider its obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act when weighing how to proceed with its Draft Zero-Waste Plan. The current system unfairly burdens BIPOC County residents. However, the Zero-Waste planning process presents the County with an appropriate venue for addressing the inequity caused by the HERC by planning for a closure date.

III. In addition to public health impacts, the continued operation of HERC is not aligned with Minnesota policy on carbon-free energy generation

The Zero-Waste Plan "was developed to complement the county's newly adopted Climate Action Plan."²⁵ The County's Climate Action Plan is similarly noncommittal on the HERC. On one hand, it positions "waste to energy" facilities as a climate solution. On the other hand, the climate plan says, "[n]either the county nor other local governments or utilities see the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) or waste to-energy as the solution to meeting renewable energy goals."²⁶ Ultimately, neither of these plans grapple with the health and climate impacts of the HERC.

Due to Minnesota's advancing climate policies, the HERC cannot be a long-term solution to our waste problem. Minnesota policy favors carbon-free energy and is rapidly moving toward a carbon-free future. The new 100% Clean Energy Law requires rapid transformation of our energy sector to remove all carbon-generating resources. The HERC is the third largest carbon emitter in Hennepin County. It emits approximately 173,254 tons of carbon dioxide each year. And the HERC isn't just a carbon emitter; it also uses fossil fuel during operation of the facility.²⁷ Ultimately, the HERC is incompatible with our State's clean energy future. As such, it was recently removed from the State's renewable energy definition. It is not a question of whether the HERC will close, but *when* it will close. As such, the County should be planning for that future now instead of deferring planning to a later date.

²⁵ Draft Plan at 3.

²⁶ Hennepin County, Climate Action Plan at 47 (May 2021).

²⁷ HERC's air permit includes both waste and natural gas as fuels used for operation of the facility.

IV. As called for by the participants in the planning process, the Zero-Waste Plan must include a closure date for HERC

A. Participants in the process called for HERC closure, but the plan does not deliver any real action items on HERC

The County's Draft Zero-Waste Plan names racial equity as a core aim of the plan. But regarding the HERC, which is contributing to racial inequity, the Plan includes two *non-action* items. First, the County plans to "Evaluate HERC upgrades to reduce impacts on community in the short term."²⁸ This action item raises concerns for a few reasons. The plan stops short of identifying any available upgrades that would have a measurable impact on surrounding community members. Additionally, this item raises concerns that the County plans to invest more money in an aging facility that is far past its retirement date. Without more details about what types of upgrades the County plans to make and whether they would have a measurable public health impact, the County should not invest more money in a facility that is 14 years past its planned retirement date. Rather, those investments should be focused on how to transition away from the HERC.

Second, rather than including a planned shutdown date, the County plans to "[e]stablish milestones to phase out the use of HERC as County approaches zero waste"²⁹ but doesn't state what those milestones are. This approach ignores the concerns voiced during the zero-waste planning process. Hennepin County held community conversations to inform this plan. A central concern of many of the participants was the urgent need to shut down the HERC and address the health impacts of the facility.³⁰ However, that sense of urgency is not reflected in this plan. The plan itself does not phase out the HERC or even establish milestones to do so. It leaves that work for a later date.

B. The County should plan now for closure to better inform impending contractual decisions

Leaving the timing of HERC closure for a later date is not good governance. As the owner of the incinerator, the County is party to many long-term contracts. For example, the County and Xcel Energy have an active Power Purchase Agreement which is currently in force until the end of 2024. Presumably, the County is currently, or will soon be, renegotiating the renewal of that contract, or seeking an alternate buyer for HERC's energy. Those decisions would be more informed by a planned shutdown date for HERC, so that the County does not commit to sell energy for longer than the facility

²⁸ Draft Plan at 22.

²⁹ Draft Plan at 22.

³⁰ Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan, Community Conversations, Equity Strategies, LLC (June 29, 2022).

is running. Similarly, the facility is currently operated by Great River Energy, whose operating contract expires in 2025. The County's plan for a shutdown date will undoubtedly influence how the County approaches the end of that contract period.

And, ultimately, deadlines are action-forcing. The current language in the Zero-Waste Plan, "establish milestones to phase out the use of HERC," is far too uncertain to guide the County in closing the HERC, despite the urgent public health implications. Including a deadline for shutting down the HERC will instill confidence that the County truly intends to move toward zero-waste.

For the foregoing reasons, MCEA recommends the County sets a December 2025 closure date for the HERC and moves forward in developing a community-led transition plan as soon as possible. The HERC is a huge source of pollution in Hennepin County, and the health impacts are unfairly distributed on BIPOC residents. In order to ensure compliance with Title VI, the County should swiftly move toward HERC closure and begin planning to end its contractual obligations related to the HERC. Furthermore, closing HERC will move the County further toward alignment with Minnesota's carbon-free energy policy.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

/s/Stephanie Fitzgerald

Stephanie Fitzgerald

Staff Attorney

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

sfitzgerald@mncenter.org

Attachment: PSE Report

Angie Timmons

From: Nazir Khan <nazir@mnejtable.org>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 11:58 PM
To: Jessica B Nyaribo; Ben Knudson; Carolyn E Collopy; Joseph M Vital; Antonia Apolinário-Wilcoxon; Angie Timmons
Subject: [External] comments on draft Zero Waste Plan

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear all,

I submit these comments in lieu of the survey because I found the survey design confusing and problematic, in particular with regard to Aim A (questions 2 and 3). While I do support zero waste as defined by the Zero Waste International Alliance, I do not support a county zero waste plan or goal that entails a long-term future for HERC.

I strongly support all Aims except Aim A, which I do not support overall for specific reasons that I'll detail below. In fact, I support all actions with Aim A, except A.9 and A.10 for reasons I'll explain below. I also strongly support a phase-out for HERC, but without the condition "as county approaches zero waste." I support Aim C except that I believe EPR legislation must not allow loopholes for the corporations responsible for our waste crisis.

It is impossible to support Aim A and this overall Zero Waste Plan if the county does not include a deadline for HERC's shutdown. First and most important by far, HERC is a major environmental injustice and one of the biggest polluters in the county. It harms some of the most pollution-burdened communities in the state, particularly people living in zip code 55411. Hand-waving about wind patterns does not overcome the sheer proximity of HERC to North Minneapolis and its contribution to cumulative pollution in that area. Secondly, if the county is serious about moving to Zero Waste, shutting down HERC is essential. A clear transition plan that rapidly shuts HERC down would enable the county to stop wasting tens of millions of dollars (and staff resources) on this extremely old facility and instead spend that money on waste diversion and reduction efforts. There is a ~20 million dollar contract with GRE that is up for renewal in December 2025. This is an ideal timeframe for shutting down HERC. Furthermore, if county residents also knew the whole truth about how HERC harms people and obstructs progress to zero waste, they would be more incentivized to take action to reach zero waste.

As has happened elsewhere, a shutdown date and transition plan would create concerted effort across government and mobilize the county's resources and will towards moving genuinely to zero waste. Instead, the county wastes money and time defending and propagandizing this outdated facility, as well as a technology that has a well-evidenced history across the country of harming vulnerable communities and obstructing progress to zero waste. For example, the county's "zero waste to landfills" slogan in the 2018 Solid Waste Master Plan helps to incentivize and promote incineration instead of moving to real zero waste.

Trash incineration is a technology that is not appropriate for dealing with waste in the middle of a climate emergency. Landfilling is inferior to waste diversion/reduction, but it is far superior to incineration. This is why Europe is closing down incinerators, planning to count their emissions in its emissions trading scheme (<https://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/legal-updates/energy-from-waste-to-be-included-in-the-eu-emissions-trading-system/>), and upgrading landfill regulations. Separating and composting organic waste can reduce methane emissions from landfills by 62%. When coupled with other initiatives like biologically active landfill covers, methane emissions are lowered to 95%. (https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/zero-waste-to-zero-emissions_full-report.pdf). This is also why the waste hierarchy is under review by the EPA.

The actual language of A.10 regarding HERC "phaseout" in the zero waste draft plan is full of loose commitments,

conditions, and loopholes. Tying HERC's shutdown to "performance metrics," "reduction in per capita waste generation, and diversion rates" is a recipe for never shutting down HERC. It is a catch 22 wherein the county will never be able to commit the resources to actually get to 90% diversion because they are tied up with HERC, and therefore never have to shut down HERC. The only condition in A.10 that makes sense is "reduction in disposed tons." But there needs to be specifics and a defined phase-out, such as "reduce to 500 tons per day burned at HERC by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2025.

Additionally, the county must not use this plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. Aim 1 above in the survey omits A.9 from the draft plan about "HERC upgrades." Yet the county/consultant ranked upgrades as having a much higher "impact" than phase-out (page 18 of draft plan). Why not include a much higher priority item (as defined by the county/RRS)? This is confusing. It would also be deeply deceptive if someone were to vote favorably for Aim 1 overall thinking they are voting for HERC's phaseout when they are actually voting for more money being spent on HERC. Instead of putting in place an actual phaseout, there seems to be real risk that the county will use a supportive vote for Aim 1 to justify further money for HERC. This is why I voted against Aim. To be clear, I am very in favor of a HERC phase-out and shutdown, but against more money going to HERC (especially when it is as loosely defined as it is in A.9)

Proposed Alternate Language for Zero-waste equity and access actions (Aim A):

System need: Eliminate reliance on incineration and instead rely on landfill disposal in facilities that meet standards established by the European Union, or better, and create a more equitable system for managing discarded materials.

The Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) is a waste incineration facility located in downtown Minneapolis. The facility incinerates garbage and recovers energy and metal but destroys valuable materials that can be reused, recycled, and composted. The HERC is a part of the county's integrated solid waste system, which should now become a Zero Waste system. Although incineration is considered above landfill disposal in the state's hierarchy of waste management, as a result of this Plan it is now considered unacceptable, following the Hierarchy of Highest and Best use developed by the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA). Incineration falls below all other options including waste reduction, recycling, and composting in both hierarchies.

Throughout the community and industry stakeholder engagement process, the HERC was identified by most stakeholders as a barrier to the formation of a fully equitable zero-waste system and there were calls for the immediate closure of HERC. The emissions of toxic chemicals, associated major health impacts, noise, and truck traffic associated with the facility were specifically identified as concerns. The county is currently disposing of over 800,000 tons of trash per year, with approximately 45% being sent to the HERC and a majority going to landfills within Minnesota. The County should decide to shut now so no more staff time or financial resources are wasted and staff focus instead on implementing Zero Waste policies and programs.

The county should work with the state to develop regulations and funding for upgrading landfills that the county uses to meet the European Union Landfill Directive standards or better. That should also include funding for reuse, recycling, and composting facilities to be sited at those facilities to create Resource Recovery Parks.

The following set of actions would accomplish this goal.

A.9 DO NOT INVEST IN HERC UPGRADES; INVEST IN ZERO WASTE

Stop evaluation of the potential for short-term upgrades and operational improvements at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC). Investments in source separation collection and processing systems are more cost-effective and will result in higher quality materials than improvements in the pre-sorting of mixed trash at HERC. Reducing pollution from HERC could be more efficiently and effectively done by closing the facility as soon as possible. Reducing pollution from landfills should be supported by state regulations and funding and County contracts.

A.10 ESTABLISH DEADLINE AND MILESTONES TO STOP THE USE OF HERC

Decide now to stop the use of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) by December 2025. Do not extend the operating contract for HERC beyond its current term. Establish specific milestones to achieve that target date for the closure of HERC. Invest in Zero Waste initiatives on an accelerated basis, including providing universal service for recycling and composting, and requiring all generators and haulers to participate in those programs. Expand existing County contracts for landfilling to dispose of materials not reduced, reused, recycled or composted. Work with all communities in the county and stakeholders to detail how Zero Waste programs and enterprises will be integrated into the economic, environmental and social needs of every community.

Thank you,
Nazir Khan
MN Environmental Justice Table

Angie Timmons

From: Emily Barker <emilybarker@reusemn.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:00 AM
To: Carolyn E Collopy
Cc: Angie Timmons; Ben Knudson; Olivia A Cashman
Subject: [External] Re: Hennepin County Draft Zero Waste Plan

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Hello,

So, I completely missed the deadline on this, too much going on and thought it was further out. No idea if I can still submit for consideration, but wanted to send you my feedback anyway (sorry if that's annoying, and I totally understand if its not possible to be included).

B12 - Not sure why this is a "approaching zero waste" level action, given you are already doing this work and the potential impact is huge. At the very least, this should be a system transformation level action.

C7 - This one is confusing. Is the ban on single-use or non-compostable/non-recyclable? Compostable and recyclable food packaging IS single-use. Is the goal to support reusables AND compostable/recyclable or just reusables (non-single-use)? From our perspective, it needs to be the latter, but I have a feeling it is meant to continue embracing compostable and recyclable single-use items. Either way, would appreciate clarity in the wording.

C11 - Support this, but really hope lids count for the cart color compliance, otherwise some communities are going to generate a massive amount of waste having to convert, which seems counter to overall goals.

C15 - Glad to see this is a system transformation level item.

C16 - This should be a "low hanging fruit" action given the county already supports RTR through PWE.

D2 - Excellent, Reuse Minnesota will gladly support and assist however we can!

D4 - would LOVE to see this.

D5-D8 - all excellent!

D10 - this is definitely important to increase the benefits of deconstruction

Page 38, this sentence is confusing "The U.S. EPA's systems-based greenhouse gas emissions inventory, which accounts for the emissions that result from the production, transportation, use, and disposal of materials, shows that 42% of the greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. are from **materials management**." - Should the word "management" be "production/processing"? Materials mgmt sounds more downstream and does not seem reflective of the following sentence which discusses extraction.

Page 38, the Austin info is useful, but the 2022 Reuse Minnesota study found that reuse related activities generate about \$5 billion in economic activity and 45,000 jobs in Minnesota. :)

Thanks for your work on this!

Emily

Emily Barker (she/her)
Executive Director | Reuse Minnesota
emilybarker@reusemn.org | (612) 314-6872
www.reusemn.org
[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

On Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 5:13 PM Carolyn E Collopy <Carolyn.Collopy@hennepin.us> wrote:

ZWP Work group participants -

Tomorrow we will be releasing the draft Zero Waste Plan (attached) for public comment. We will be gathering feedback through March 20 with a survey at beheardhennepin.org and hosting an online community meeting in early March. The plan being released tomorrow includes the actions that were shared for the board briefing, along with additional context about the county waste system, the process to develop the plan, guidance on the resources needed to implement the actions, and priorities for tackling the actions. After the public comment period ends, we'll review the feedback and finalize the plan.

Please submit your thoughts on the plan at beheardhennepin.org and share with others. Thank you again for all of the time and ideas you contributed to develop this plan!

Carolyn Collopy

Hennepin County

Department of Environment and Energy

701 Fourth Ave S, Suite 700

Minneapolis, MN 55415

612-596-0993

Disclaimer: If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please immediately notify the sender of the transmission error and then promptly permanently delete this message from your computer system.

To whom it may concern,

We are providers practicing in North Minneapolis, and we are concerned about an industrial facility that is negatively impacting the health of our patients, who are predominantly Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

This facility, the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC), is a trash incinerator located between Downtown and North Minneapolis where 49% of surrounding residents are low-income and 49% are people of color. This population is cumulatively exposed to more dangerous PM2.5 particulate matter than 92% of state residents and more automobile traffic than 93% of state residents.¹ Meanwhile, the HERC burns more than 1000 tons of trash every day from all over Hennepin county and beyond, including suburban communities such as Edina and Minnetonka, and in the process releases significant amounts of particulate matter, along with being a top 3 emitter of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides, lead, and climate warming carbon dioxide. The "Life and Breath" report from the Minnesota Department of Health details how these exposures lead to higher rates of negative health outcomes including worsening cardiovascular and respiratory disease, more hospital visits, and even death.² As physicians, we come face to face every day with the negative consequences of all this pollution.

The inequality of exposure is a nationwide problem. According to a study from Yale University, white people had the lowest exposure rate for 11 of 14 pollutants included in the study while Black people had higher exposure rates than whites for 13 out of 14 pollutants.³ This trend is confirmed repeatedly - communities of color are more likely to have polluting facilities in close proximity and are more likely to have adverse health effects caused by pollutants.

An analysis based on an EPA developed tool estimated that HERC's emissions resulted in 1-2.3 premature deaths (in one year), as well as \$11-25 million per year in health impacts. This does not take into account the individual suffering caused by respiratory exacerbations; such as children of parents who are frequently hospitalized, children who can't play on the playground with their friends, and grandparents who can't participate in family events because their health is more fragile than it should be. Beyond the immediate and more easily measured effects such as asthma hospitalizations, toxic exposures from burning trash are associated with cancer and birth defects. It's not just the HERC itself either, as there is continuous traffic of heavy-duty, diesel trucks moving the trash through a residential area - on average more than 200 trucks every weekday plus 100 more over the weekend.

We mention the traffic for another reason as well; it has been claimed that "mobile sources" contribute more to the total pollution in the area than the HERC itself. However, there are many other areas in the city with similar exposure to highways and traffic that do not have the health

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/airmarkets/power-plants-and-neighboring-communities>

² <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/docs/2015/other/150687.pdf>

³ Bell ML, Ebisu K. Environmental inequality in exposures to airborne particulate matter components in the United States. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2012 Dec;120(12):1699-704. doi: 10.1289/ehp.1205201. Epub 2012 Aug 10. PMID: 22MN Environmental Justice Table 889745; PMCID: PMC3546368.

outcomes we see around the HERC. Officials must also take into account the cumulative impact of adding the HERC to an already overburdened community.

Despite our knowledge of the consequences, polluting facilities continue to be intentionally built where they will face the least public resistance. We need a solution to the problem of trash disposal, such as decreasing use of plastics and using better materials in our products, even landfills in the meantime, but burning trash in this way is not the solution. Communities that are denied representation by design, though they do resist, are able to be ignored. The people of North Minneapolis adamantly resisted the building of the HERC in the 1980's, and they were ignored. Today, as this facility ages well past its estimated 30 year life expectancy, it is our responsibility to stand with community members who continue to say enough is enough. If we are truly committed to improving our nation and addressing the wrongs of the past, we will LISTEN this time. We the undersigned providers ask you to join us in demanding it's time we let the people of North Minneapolis BREATHE.

Aaron Rosenblum, MD
Loretta Akpala, MD
Laura Lara, MD
Catherine Pang, MD
Kacey Justesen, MD
Danielle Day, DO
Rebekah Fiers, MD
Darien Jourdain, DO
Adjoa Kusi-Appiah, MD
Rachel Feliciano, MD
Katie Casty, MD
Emily Lund, MD
Andrea Westby, MD
Nardos Dawit, MD
Helen Thomas, MD
Andrew Slattengren, DO
Lonzale Ramsey Jr, MD
Robert Levy MD
David M Marshall, MD, MPH



SIERRA CLUB

NORTH STAR CHAPTER

Sierra Club North Star Chapter
2300 Myrtle Avenue, Suite 260
Saint Paul, MN 55114

March 20, 2023

To: Hennepin County, environment@hennepin.us

Re: Zero Waste Plan Public Comments

The Sierra Club represents over 50,000 members and supporters in Minnesota working to help our state's communities flourish through environmental protection. We believe everyone in Minnesota deserves to be safe and healthy.

But residents have been suffering needlessly from illness caused or exacerbated by pollution, including from the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC), the state's largest trash incinerator.

Hennepin County must set a deadline for phasing out the HERC in its Zero Waste Plan, if they are serious about zero waste goals. The retirement date should be by December 2025 at the latest, which is the date of its contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator.

Please see the attached public comments from Hennepin County Sierra Club supporters about the Zero Waste Plan.

Sincerely,

Margaret Levin, State Director
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

Put a stop to poisoning our air!

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. for too long we have disregarded our health and safety when it comes to can air and water. We must stop burning trash and poisoning the lives of people forced to live near the HERC. Profits over public safety is wrong.

Thank you,

Jackie Smolen
11309 Oakvale Rd N
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

As a resident of Hennepin County who has adverse health effects from toxic air pollution, I am deeply concerned about the health impacts of the county's trash incinerator.

Hennepin County needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste.

They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Gretchen Bratvold
3444 Edmund Blvd
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

Step up for clean air and healthy living...

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Steven Mills
6318 Pillsbury Ave S
Richfield, MN 55423

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

I go to church just down the road. I don't want my fellow church goers, this important community of the Philips neighborhood, or anyone else to experience the terrible consequences of pollution like this. If we truly want to be a great city, we must do great things like creating a sustainable and equitable plan for Zero Waste.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Trevor Skorburg
2020 W Lake of the Isles Pkwy
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

Zero Waste Plan with no phase-out plan does not make sense. My grandchildren need clean air. We need a reduction in waste. Real solutions are needed not loopholes.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Karen Sandberg
6711 Lake Shore Dr S Apt 607
Richfield, MN 55423

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

Due to lung/breathing issues shut down the burner ASAP. THANK YOU

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

J Hayek
14319 Stewart Ln Apt 105
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

We're running out of time. We need to think of ways to reduce, reuse and not use incinerators. The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Susan Fredrickson
17816 Susan Ln
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

It is 2023 and there are better solutions to dealing with our waste in the Twin Cities.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Neil Hall
5929 Fremont Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The HERC is no longer a viable way to handle waste. We need to formulate a plan to reach zero waste rather than continue to burn what we should be eliminating.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Jeanne Tazzioli
5615 Girard Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

Taxpayers built that with the understanding it would eliminate the pollution in the air and in the landfill. What could it be used for?

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Richard Arnevik
3706 Urban Ave N
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

Clean air matters!

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Rob Menti
16794 66th Ave N
Osseo, MN 55311

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

Justice must be a priority in our city and what that means is immediate action to plan the HERC's shutdown.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Matisse Bolstrom
3657 43rd Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The time to act is now.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Donald Fulton
4908 Cedar Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

Protect our children, close the HERC

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Lisa Mills
230 Upton Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

I want to see people in this city have clear air and water and see our communities thriving. Our neighbors who live close to HERC should not have to deal disproportionately with the impacts of toxic smoke and the waste that their fellow county-members produce. Their lives matter. Their vision for how this city can be matters. I urge the county to make a clear plan, in collaboration with the most affected communities and their allies, for a shutdown date for the HERC. I urge the county to hear the voices of community members and to begin working toward zero waste and real environmental justice.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Courtney Gildersleeve
3833 10th Ave S Apt 2
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

We NEED CLEAN AIR!!! NO trash burner in Hennepin County!

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

James Maggi
10239 Benjamin Drive
Pine City, MN 55063

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

I cannot abide by this plan as a father of three small children who will grow up directly affected by this. I myself suffered asthma, urticaria and other health issues due to my family's proximity to air pollution. It's insane to have to ask kindly for this to be avoided, but, please.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Samuel Beddow
5100 16th Ave So
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

No one should be condemned to breathe in the air that is spewed with chemicals and waste from the HERC. No one should have to suffer from asthma or any other disease because they live in a certain zip code, have a certain financial status or because they have black or brown skin. We need to step it up and come up with a clean solution to replace the HERC now.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

April Narcisse
8140 Rhode Island Circle
Bloomington, MN 55438

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

I am deeply disappointed that Hennepin County, in many ways a wonderful place to live, is unwilling to face up to the fact that the HERC is releasing tons of poison into our atmosphere and then do something positive about it!

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

David Wee
1920 South 1st St. Apt 406
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

I have asthma and need clean air to breathe where I live in Hennepin County!

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Susanna Henry
2809 East Minnehaha Parkway, Apt 308
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

PFAS treated products are being burned at the HERC. These chemicals are not being destroyed but are emitted into the air contributing to the global PFAS crisis. These chemicals are toxic at extremely low levels. Rain water contains PFAS at levels near what is considered a health hazard. We must stop burning PFAS-treated products. Plastics and other products that contain toxic chemicals are also a risk for our health and the environment. We need to have a deadline to shut down the HERC and focus on reducing waste and reducing toxic chemicals in products.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Lori Olinger
25 Deer Hills DR
North Oaks, MN 55127

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

Shut down the HERC. Let Minneapolis breathe! Invest in recycling and green jobs.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Jennifer Munt
5261 Beachside Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. Thank you.

Thank you,

Peggy Erickson
2515 S 9th St Apt 1809
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

I'm a Brooklyn Park resident and my trash likely goes to HERC. The pollution from e-waste, plastics and more is being dumped on lower-income people before being spread around to share with all of us. This is not right. The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Steve Chesney
8172 Zenith Ct N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Thank you,

2515 S 9th St, Apt 1809, Apt 1809
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Ted Duepner
5501 Aldrich Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Lori Ekholm
6801 14th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55423

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

David Schuchman
3125 Buchanan St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Joan Hughes
4088 Utica Ave S
St Louis Park, MN 55416

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Matthew Schaut
3720 27th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Janette Corcelius
2300 24th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

September Steinolfson
6711 Canterbury Ln
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Marck Oconnell
1201 Yale Pl Apt 1001
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Kiara Serafin
647 Pierce St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Mary Lou Hoff
17844 Townline Rd
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Kimberly Bea
22 E 22nd St Apt 505
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Cheryl Ritenbaugh
4917 Oliver Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Karen Sandberg
6711 Lake Shore Dr S #607
Richfield, MN 55423

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Ann Wyer
3215 Lafayette Ridge Ct
Wayzata, MN 55391

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Aaron Mlynek
4551 Grimes Ave N
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Kristie Eklund
10100 38th Ct N
Minneapolis, MN 55441

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Arthur Rosenberg
2109 Harriet Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Miriam Karmel
15 Greenway Gables
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Randy Nies
4525 Nicollet Ave Apt 4
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Carol Weber
5223 Silver Maple Cir
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Larry Margolis
3916 Avondale St
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Edward Sisola
4300 W River Pkwy Apt 121
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Lyn Pegg
4300 W River Pkwy Apt 371
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Karen Peters
3420 Cleveland St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Kathleen Kaysinger
4754 Winterset Dr
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Jean Greenwood
4515 Garfield Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Judy Gregg
21280 Minnetonka Blvd
Excelsior, MN 55331

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

A Piri
1027 16th Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Liz Hickerson
15808 27th Ave N
Plymouth, MN 55447

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Terry Richmond
2900 County Road 19
Maple Plain, MN 55359

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Nan Corliss
10300 Morris Rd
Bloomington, MN 55437

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Kimberly Swenson-Zakula
4650 Saint James Gate
Excelsior, MN 55331

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Lisa Barry Richards
5857 Maryland Ave N
Crystal, MN 55428

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Larry Weiss
3952 12th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Chad Martin
3241 Portland Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

lisa bergerud
3132 Longfellow Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Shelly Bell
4525 Harriet Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Richard Holcomb
2130 Decatur Ave NO
Richard, MN 55427

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Jane Gfrerer
7520 Cahill Road #323A
Edina, MN 55439

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

Linda Weber
10543 XYLON RD S
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55438

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

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Thank you,

3038 40th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

1687 Hillview Rd
Shoreview, MN 55126

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Kathleen Kaysinger
4754 Winterset
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Lori Ekholm
6801 14th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55423

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Pam Martin
3241 Portland Av
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Dirk Durant
1355 Phalen Blvd, Apt 105
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Mary Helmin
3941 Pillsbury Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Kathleen Todd
3660 35th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Dave Logsdon
2929 35th Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

Paula Fischer
3406 E 40th St
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

John Krenn
200 Dakota ave
Golden valley, MN 55416

Re: Comments on Zero Waste Plan

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC. The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025. The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you,

lisa bergerud
3132 longfellow ave
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Angie Timmons

From: Aaron Mlynek (mn16twins@aim.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 3:26 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Aaron Mlynek
4551 Grimes Ave N
Robbinsdale, MN 55422
mn16twins@aim.com
(763) 535-2824

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Miriam Karmel (mirkarmel@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 3:36 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Miriam Karmel
15 Greenway Gables
Minneapolis, MN 55403
mirkarmel@gmail.com
(612) 375-9440

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Christopher East (me@cgeast.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 3:41 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Christopher East
3038 40th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406
me@cgeast.com
(612) 790-8965

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Fran Sullivan (mnmufonfs@lycos.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 3:54 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Fran Sullivan
1687 Hillview Rd
Shoreview, MN 55126
mnmufonfs@lycos.com
(612) 300-2273

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Ted Duepner (tedduepner@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 3:56 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

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Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Ted Duepner
5501 Aldrich Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419
tedduepner@gmail.com
(952) 913-0420

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Karen Peters (kkpeters@usfamily.net) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 4:20 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Karen Peters
3420 Cleveland St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
kkpeters@usfamily.net
(612) 781-2775

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Pamela Martin (pzambert@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

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Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Pamela Martin
3241 Portland Av
Minneapolis, MN 55407
pzambert@gmail.com
(507) 339-7926

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Dirk Durant (rejoice8bgld@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 4:49 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

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Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

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The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Dirk Durant
1355 Phalen Blvd, Apt 105
Saint Paul, MN 55106
rejoice8bgld@gmail.com
(651) 444-5341

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Edward Sisola (sesisola@msn.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 4:59 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Edward Sisola
4300 W River Pkwy Apt 121
Minneapolis, MN 55406
sesisola@msn.com
(612) 799-4595

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Peggy Erickson (dr.whopeggy@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:04 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Sincerely,

Peggy Erickson
2515 S 9th St, Apt 1809, Apt 1809
Minneapolis, MN 55406
dr.whopeggy@gmail.com
(612) 349-9139

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Sam Beddow (beddo018@umn.edu) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:32 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

I cannot abide by this plan as a father of three small children who will grow up directly affected by this. I myself suffered asthma, urticaria and other health issues due to my family's proximity to air pollution. It's insane to have to ask kindly for this to be avoided, but, please.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Sam Beddow
5100 16th Ave So
Minneapolis, MN 55417
beddo018@umn.edu
(612) 413-5114

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Mary Kaysinger (kkaysinger2002@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:38 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

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Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Mary Kaysinger
4754 Winterset
Minnetonka, MN 55343
kkaysinger2002@yahoo.com
(952) 215-2856

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Jean Greenwood (green104@umn.edu) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

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Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Jean Greenwood
4515 Garfield Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55419
green104@umn.edu
(612) 825-4927

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Larry Margolis (margolislaurence@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:49 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

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Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Larry Margolis
3916 Avondale St
Minnetonka, MN 55345
margolislaurence@gmail.com
(952) 931-9606

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Mary Helmin (mkhelmin@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:56 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

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Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Mary Helmin
3941 Pillsbury Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55409
mkhelmin@gmail.com
(612) 823-2858

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Kathleen Todd (kathleentoddsfa@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 6:00 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Todd
3660 35th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406
kathleentoddsfa@gmail.com
(612) 276-1157

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: A Piri (pewter1of6@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 6:25 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

A Piri
1027 16th Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
pewter1of6@yahoo.com
(218) 897-5063

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Richard Arnevik (rarnetik@comcast.net) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 6:55 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

Taxpayers built that with the understanding it would eliminate the pollution in the air and in the landfill. What could it be used for?

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Richard Arnevik
3706 Urban Ave N
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
rarnetik@comcast.net
(763) 561-3944

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Dave Logsdon (dlvfp27@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 7:50 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Dave Logsdon
2929 35th Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
dlvfp27@gmail.com
(612) 203-9768

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Liz Hickerson (beaconlh14@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 8:48 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Liz Hickerson
15808 27th Ave N
Plymouth, MN 55447
beaconlh14@yahoo.com
(763) 559-0372

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Terry Richmond (t_rich_49@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:43 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Terry Richmond
2900 County Road 19
Maple Plain, MN 55359
t_rich_49@yahoo.com
(763) 479-1518

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Nan Corliss (ncorliss41@aol.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:50 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Nan Corliss
10300 Morris Rd
Bloomington, MN 55437
ncorliss41@aol.com
(952) 835-6832

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Rob Menti (mentirl@fidnet.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 6:10 AM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

Clean air matters!

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Rob Menti
16794 66th Ave N
Osseo, MN 55311
mentirl@fidnet.com
(715) 989-1550

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: David Wee (david_j_wee@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 9:47 AM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

I am deeply disappointed that Hennepin County, in many ways a wonderful place to live, is unwilling to face up to the fact that the HERC is releasing tons of poison into our atmosphere and then do something positive about it!

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

David Wee
1920 South 1st St. Apt 406
Minneapolis, MN 55454
david_j_wee@yahoo.com
(612) 359-0902

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Kimberly Swenson-Zakula (jamie3040@msn.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 10:24 AM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Swenson-Zakula
4650 Saint James Gate
Excelsior, MN 55331
jamie3040@msn.com
(952) 470-0285

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Lisa Barry Richards (lisabarry515@hotmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 10:43 AM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Lisa Barry Richards
5857 Maryland Ave N
Crystal, MN 55428
lisabarry515@hotmail.com
(651) 246-2239

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Donald Fulton (revdfulton@comcast.net) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 10:50 AM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The time to act is now.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Donald Fulton
4908 Cedar Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55417
revdfulton@comcast.net
(612) 721-8820

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Larry Weiss (larrymweiss@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 11:33 AM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Larry Weiss
3952 12th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407
larrymweiss@gmail.com
(612) 532-4246

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Lisa Bergerud (lbergerud@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 1:08 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bergerud
3132 longfellow ave
Minneapolis, MN 55407
lbergerud@yahoo.com
(651) 646-4343

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Courtney Gildersleeve (giode001@umn.edu) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 1:09 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

I want to see people in this city have clear air and water and see our communities thriving. Our neighbors who live close to HERC should not have to deal disproportionately with the impacts of toxic smoke and the waste that their fellow county-members produce. Their lives matter. Their vision for how this city can be matters. I urge the county to make a clear plan, in collaboration with the most affected communities and their allies, for a shutdown date for the HERC. I urge the county to hear the voices of community members and to begin working toward zero waste and real environmental justice.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Courtney Gildersleeve
3833 10th Ave S Apt 2
Minneapolis, MN 55407
giode001@umn.edu
(612) 300-8737

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Chad Martin (chad.e.martin@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Chad Martin
3241 Portland Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55407
chad.e.martin@gmail.com
(612) 208-7379

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Susanna Henry (shenry@mninter.net) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 1:42 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero waste burning in Hennepin County!

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

I have asthma and need clean air to breathe where I live in Hennepin County!

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Susanna Henry
2809 East Minnehaha Parkway, Apt 308
Minneapolis, MN 55417
shenry@mninter.net
(612) 600-8125

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Lori Olinger (olingers25@msn.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:41 AM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

PFAS treated products are being burned at the HERC. These chemicals are not being destroyed but are emitted into the air contributing to the global PFAS crisis. These chemicals are toxic at extremely low levels. Rain water contains PFAS at levels near what is considered a health hazard. We must stop burning PFAS-treated products. Plastics and other products that contain toxic chemicals are also a risk for our health and the environment. We need to have a deadline to shut down the HERC and focus on reducing waste and reducing toxic chemicals in products.

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Lori Olinger
25 Deer Hills DR
North Oaks, MN 55127
olingers25@msn.com
(612) 718-6412

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.

Angie Timmons

From: Maggie Brown (maggiebrown93@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 4:03 PM
To: Environment
Subject: [External] Zero Waste plan comments

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

Dear Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan Team,

The county needs to have a deadline for HERC if they are serious about moving to Zero Waste. They cannot attach loose commitments, endless conditions, and loopholes. A Zero Waste plan without a defined phase-out plan (such as "500 tons per day by 2024, 250 tons by 2025, 0 tons by end of 2026") and shutdown date is not legitimate, and the county must not use this survey and plan to justify more money being wasted on HERC.

The county has a ~\$20 million contract renewal with Great River Energy, the company that operates the incinerator, in December 2025.

The incinerator must be shut down at the latest by then.

Sincerely,

Maggie Brown
1345 Morgan Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411
maggiebrown93@gmail.com
(651) 237-7400

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.