

Appendix G. State of Minnesota Diversion Measurement Information

The SCORE Report

An annual evaluation of Minnesota's recycling, reduction and waste management programs

Since 1990, the Office of Environmental Assistance has produced **The SCORE Report**, an annual report on Minnesota's recycling and waste management programs.



What is SCORE?

In 1989, the Minnesota Legislature adopted comprehensive waste reduction and recycling legislation based on the recommendations of the **Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment**. This set of laws, commonly referred to as SCORE, is a part of Minnesota's Waste Management Act (WMA). The SCORE legislation has provided counties with a funding source to develop effective waste reduction, recycling and solid waste management programs. Ambitious goals for recycling and waste reduction were set for Minnesota counties, which have typically been met — and often exceeded.

In the report

The SCORE Report is an annual examination of Minnesota programs and data. The figures are gathered through a formal survey of county solid waste officers. Analysis and evaluation of this data helps the OEA report on:

- Statewide recycling rates.
- Waste reduction efforts.
- Waste generation figures.
- Waste processing and disposal.
- SCORE finance and administration.

Statewide trends are examined, as well as providing detailed data by county.

Search SCORE Data: Recycling and MSW Disposal

The OEA has data on over ten years of recycling and waste disposal in Minnesota. This simple interface allows you to get summary information from the SCORE databases for 2003 and previous years.

Recycling data

All counties

Solid waste disposal data

All counties

**SCORE Survey:
Enter CY2004
data**

**Search SCORE
Data**

Reports

- ▶ **2003 Programs**
- 2002 Programs
- 2001 Programs
- 2000 Programs
- 1999 Programs
- 1998 Programs
- 1997 Programs

Related Resources

OEA's **Solid Waste Policy Report** is done every odd-numbered year. It provides an analysis of the status of the state's solid waste system, and makes recommendations regarding policies, improvements and research.

The **Minnesota MSW Composition Study** is a detailed examination of what Minnesotans throw away as garbage. Despite recycling 46% of waste in the state, Minnesotans threw away **3 million tons** of garbage in 1998. (March 2000)

Report on 1999 SCORE Programs

The **Report on 1999 SCORE Programs** (January 2001) presents data and analysis of state, county and municipal solid waste management activities in Minnesota that involved SCORE funding.

The report was prepared using data from all 87 counties in Minnesota, and the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District. Information was submitted to the Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) through the annual SCORE survey, which contains sections for annual program information, finance and administration, source reduction, recycling, and waste generation.



1999 Recycling Rates

Statewide	47.2%
▶ Metro Area	48.2%
▶ Greater Minn.	46.7%

- ▶ [Highlights](#)
- ▶ [Search SCORE Data](#)
- ▶ [Related Resources](#)

Download the Report

- [Full Report \(1.3Mb\)](#)
- [1999 SCORE Reporting Form \(100Kb\)](#)

If you cannot download the report, the OEA can mail you a copy. Contact the OEA's **Education Clearinghouse** by **email**, or call 651-215-0232. In Greater Minnesota, call 800-877-6300 toll free.

Highlights

Waste generation

Minnesota continues to produce more municipal solid waste (MSW). In 1999, over 5.4 million tons of mixed MSW were generated in Minnesota. Statewide, this represents a nearly three-percent increase over 1998, and a 29-percent increase since 1993.

	1997	1998	1999
Greater Minnesota Metropolitan Area	1.96	2.08	2.16
Statewide	3.05	3.22	3.30
	5.01	5.30	5.46

(Millions of tons)

The average Minnesotan is creating more waste, too — 2260 pounds per year. Since 1993, waste generation increased by 29 percent, while the population grew by just 6 percent.

Recycling

Minnesota's statewide recycling rate grew to 47.2 percent in 1999. Over 2.1 million tons of recyclable materials were collected, a 3-percent increase from 1998.

Paper	803,320 tons	Metal	335,724 tons
Glass	112,383 tons	Plastic	42,288 tons
Food waste	169,402 tons	Problem Materials	101,025 tons
Textiles & carpet	19,700 tons	Other	593,483 tons

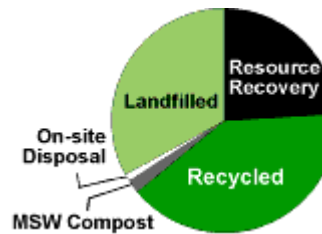
Related Resources

The **Minnesota MSW Composition Study** (March 2000) is a detailed examination of what Minnesotans throw away as garbage. Despite recycling 47.2% of waste in the state, Minnesotans threw away **3 million tons** of garbage in 1999.

Waste disposal

Waste from Minnesota goes to processing facilities, landfills, or is handled by on-site disposal.

Although it is last on the "solid waste heirarchy," landfilling of Minnesota garbage is on the rise. Over 33 percent of Minnesota's MSW goes to landfills in Minnesota and surrounding states – 1.8 million tons.



1999 SCORE Data

The OEA has data on nearly ten years of recycling and waste disposal in Minnesota. This simple interface allows you to get summary information from the SCORE databases for 1999 and previous years.

Recycling data

All counties

Solid waste disposal data

All counties

On-site disposal data

All counties

Posted February 2001

[Email questions](#) for OEA's Local Government Assistance unit

Sources of data

Data for this *Report on 1999 SCORE Programs* was collected from all 87 counties in Minnesota and the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD)¹ using the annual SCORE survey.

This detailed form is completed by county solid waste staff, providing details on local programs for solid waste and recycling:

- MSW delivered to transfer stations, processing and land disposal facilities.
- Estimates of wastes managed on-site or illegally disposed.
- Residential, commercial and institutional materials collected for recycling.
- A general survey section covering county efforts toward recycling, household hazardous wastes, yard wastes and source reduction.
- County revenues and expenditures relating to SCORE programs.

In addition to the data collected through the SCORE survey, counties in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area — Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington — also submit annual Waste Certification Reports to the OEA, which provide added detail on waste processing in the region.

Analyzing the data

The OEA uses the data and information from these county reports to determine the state's recycling rates and detail trends in waste generation and disposal.

The OEA's analysis of county progress in recycling and waste reduction is restricted to wastes aggregated for collection as MSW; recyclable materials are limited to those that would otherwise be disposed in MSW. The OEA excludes wastes that are separated for disposal (such as most non-hazardous industrial wastes), and excludes materials recovered for recycling that are not considered MSW (such as concrete). The OEA also excludes wastes that historically have been managed and recovered separately, such as auto hulks, most scrap metal, and mill scraps.

The OEA has developed a formula for calculating recycling rates for the counties and the state, which is explained in Chapter Three.

¹ WLSSD is a special-purpose subdivision of the state that is charged with addressing water pollution, solid waste collection and disposal of sewage. WLSSD, established in 1971, covers nearly 500 square miles in St. Louis County, and includes the cities of Duluth, Cloquet, Carlton, Scanlon, Wrenshall, Hermantown, Proctor and Thompson. It coordinates programs for nearly 115,000 people in the region — nearly 60 percent of the county's population.

② Waste Generation in Minnesota

Total generation of the state's municipal solid waste (MSW) includes wastes discarded and recycled, including tons sent to disposal and resource recovery facilities, all materials collected for recycling, and tons disposed on-site (burn barrels or farm dumps).

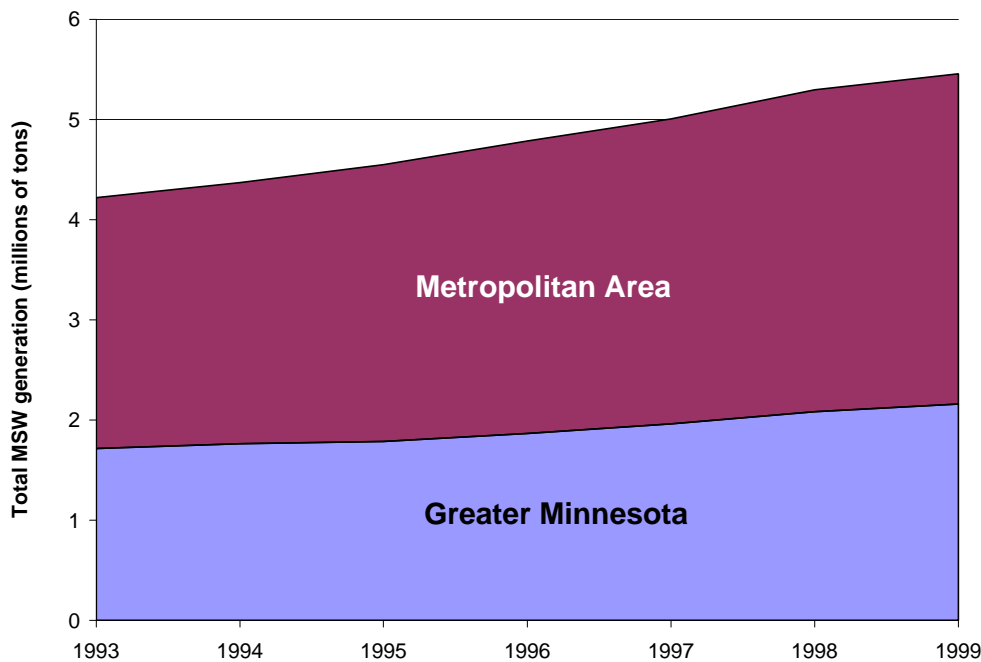
Mixed MSW is defined by statute as "garbage, refuse, and other solid waste from residential, commercial, industrial, and community activities that the generator of the waste aggregates for collection." MSW does not include auto hulks, street sweepings, ash, construction debris, mining waste, sludges, tree and agricultural wastes, tires, lead acid batteries, motor and vehicle fluids and filters, and other materials collected, processed, and disposed of as separate waste streams, but *does* include source-separated compostable materials. (Minn. Stat. § 115A.03, subd. 20)

Statewide totals and trends

Since the state first collected SCORE data in 1989, Minnesota has shown a steady growth in MSW, reflected in both total MSW generation and per capita figures.

In 1999, over 5.4 million tons of mixed MSW were generated in Minnesota. Statewide, this represents a nearly three-percent increase over 1998, and a 29-percent increase since 1993.

Figure/Table 2-1: Minnesota total MSW generation, 1993-1999 (millions of tons)



For 1993-1999, statewide generation of MSW has grown at a significantly higher rate than Minnesota's population.

The average Minnesotan creates over 2200 pounds of waste and recyclable materials each year.

Figures are shown in millions of tons.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Changes 1993-1999	
								MSW	Population
Greater Minnesota	1.72	1.76	1.79	1.87	1.96	2.08	2.16	+26%	+6%
Metropolitan Area	2.50	2.61	2.76	2.92	3.05	3.22	3.30	+32%	+8%
Minnesota	4.22	4.37	4.55	4.79	5.01	5.30	5.46	+29%	+7%

Waste generation figures include OEA estimates of problem materials not collected for recycling

Waste generation by region

- **Metropolitan Area.** In 1999, the Metropolitan Area — Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington Counties — generated about 61 percent of the state’s MSW — nearly 3.3 million tons of MSW. This is nearly a 2.5-percent increase from 1998. Hennepin County reported the largest percentage of the region’s total MSW at 46 percent. Carver County reported the lowest share at less than two percent.

From 1993 to 1999, MSW generation in the Metro increased by 32 percent, while population grew by 8 percent in that same time period.

- **Greater Minnesota.** In 1999, Greater Minnesota counties generated about 39 percent of the state’s MSW — nearly 2.2 million tons of MSW. This is a 3.6-percent increase from 1998 tonnages.

From 1993 to 1999, MSW generation in Greater Minnesota has increased by 26 percent, while population has grown by just 6 percent.

See the Appendix A for county-by-county details.

Per capita MSW generation

In 1999, Minnesota’s per capita figure for waste generation grew to 1.13 tons/person. This figure is calculated by dividing the state’s total generation of waste (including materials recycled) by the state’s population.

From 1993 to 1999, Minnesota’s population grew by 7 percent. Logically, additional people in the state would generate additional garbage. However, in that same period, the total generation of MSW grew by nearly 29 percent.

The rise in waste generation per capita shows that the average Minnesotan is discarding more — almost 400 pounds more waste per person since 1993.

What’s in Minnesota’s Garbage?

The Statewide MSW Composition Study (March 2000) is a detailed examination of what Minnesotans throw away as garbage.

By sorting samples at eight locations around the state, the study offers a comprehensive look at materials that are going to landfills, MSW composting operations and incinerators.

The data and analysis are especially useful for identifying materials in waste that offer opportunities for increased recycling or targets for waste reduction.

The full report is online at www.moea.state.mn.us/policy/wastesort.cfm, or contact the OEA for a printed copy, 651-296-3417 or 800-657-3843.

Table 2-2: Minnesota per capita MSW generation, 1993-1999 (in tons)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Per capita change 1993-99
Greater Minnesota	0.80	0.82	0.82	0.85	0.88	0.93	0.96	+20%
Metropolitan Area	1.05	1.08	1.13	1.18	1.21	1.26	1.28	+22%
Minnesota	0.93	0.96	0.98	1.02	1.06	1.11	1.13	+21.5%

Although actual yard waste tonnages were counted and included in county waste totals through 1994, these per capita numbers do not include yard waste. This was done to keep the per capita numbers consistent and comparable over the years.

The ten-percent reduction goal

In 1993, the Legislature set a minimum ten-percent per capita reduction in the amount of MSW generated in the state by 2000, based on the amount of MSW generated in 1993. (Minn. Stat. § 115A.55, subd. 4)

While this goal has not been met, the OEA and Minnesota counties continue to search for the right combination of techniques that will successfully reduce waste in the state.

See Chapter 5 for details on source reduction efforts in Minnesota.

3 Recycling in Minnesota

The heart of SCORE is Minnesota’s recycling efforts, and programs around the state are among the nation’s most successful. The statewide recycling rate rose to 47.2% in 1999, collecting nearly 2.2 million tons of recyclable materials — paper, metals, glass, plastic and more.

Recycling rates

For 1999, the OEA calculates a statewide recycling rate of 47.2 percent.

- The state’s base recycling rate — tons recycled divided by tons of MSW generated — is 39.9 percent.
- Counties are eligible for credits of up to 8 percent for local programs dedicated to yard waste (5 percent) and source reduction (3 percent). Statewide, these credits averaged 7.3 percent for the 87 counties and WLSRD.

While the 1999 recycling rate is nearly one percent higher than 1998, part of this increase can be attributed to revisions to the formula the OEA uses to calculate the recycling rate. A new method was used to calculate the source reduction credit which increased the average credit per county from 1.8 percent in 1998 to 2.6 percent in 1999. Read “Calculating Minnesota’s Recycling Rate” for more information on the revised source reduction checklist and credit formula.

- **Greater Minnesota.** As a region, Greater Minnesota recycled 46.7 percent of its MSW, up 1.6 percent from 1998. While part of this significant increase can be attributed to the revised source reduction credit formula, the base recycling rate for Greater Minnesota counties increased one percent to 39.7 percent in 1999.
- **Metropolitan Area.** The Metropolitan Area’s 1999 recycling rate was 48.2 percent, dropping 0.4 percent from 1998. Although overall tons collected for recycling increased in 1999, they were exceeded by the increase in MSW generation in these seven counties.

The geographic distribution of 1999 county recycling rates is shown in Figure 3-1 (facing page). Recycling rates and tonnages for individual counties are also listed in Appendix A.

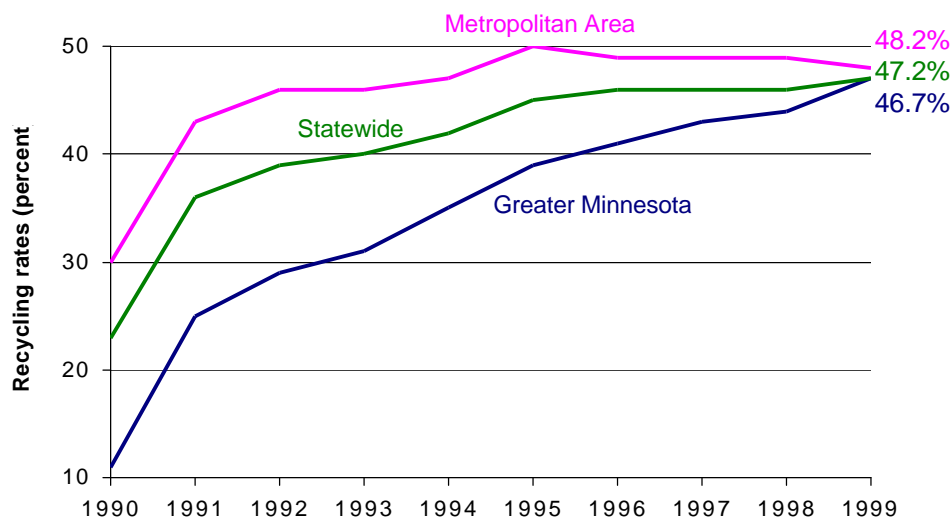
1999 Recycling Rates

	1999	Change 1998-99
Statewide	47.2%	+0.9%
Metro Area	48.2%	(0.4%)
Greater Minnesota	46.7%	+1.6%

Recyclables collected (tons)

	1999	Change 1998-99
Paper	803,320	+36,101
Metal	335,724	+10,275
Glass	112,383	+7,842
Plastic	42,288	+732
Food Waste	169,402	(3,721)
Problem Materials	101,025	+9,937
Textiles & Carpet	19,700	+2,788
Other	593,483	+2,927
Total	2,177,324	+66,867

Figure 3-2: Minnesota’s recycling progress, 1990-1999



Since the SCORE legislation was enacted in 1989, Minnesota’s statewide recycling rate has climbed by 24 percent. After aggressive growth in the early 1990s, recent increases in the recycling rate have been much smaller, although the tons collected for recycling continue to rise.

Minnesota's recycling rate: Smaller rates of increase

The statewide recycling rate has more than doubled since SCORE programs began, increasing by 24 percentage points between 1990 and 1999. As Figure 3-2 shows, much of that increase came in the early 1990s, followed by slower growth and smaller rates of increase. This trend has several explanations.

- **Maturity of collection programs.** Recycling systems in the state have become established, funded for nearly ten years. Collection programs in the Metropolitan Area grew rapidly, thanks in part to a more densely populated region and early funding from the 1985 Metropolitan Landfill Abatement Account. Counties in Greater Minnesota have gradually caught up with the Metro, building comprehensive collection programs that fit local needs. Statewide, collection programs have been able to grow by adding additional recyclable materials; after ten years, much of the “low-hanging fruit” is gone. Additional tons can be added — for example, an estimated 78,000 tons of wooden pallets are discarded in the state annually — but improved targeting of generators takes time.

Recycling programs continue to increase the number of Minnesotans served by recycling programs, but the rates of increase have slowed. For example, curbside recycling programs now include nearly 76 percent of the population. Counties are challenged to find ways to serve additional customers in a cost-effective manner.

- **Increase in waste generation.** The annual tons of recyclables collected by cities and counties continue to grow. However, as shown in Chapter 2, the amount of waste generated in the state also continues to grow. The rate of increase in MSW is outpacing the collection of recyclables.
- **Market issues.** Traditional recyclables such as glass may require new applications as traditional markets disappear or become too expensive due to transportation or processing costs. Non-traditional materials may have limited markets, require longer storage time, require greater processing and result in lower per-ton revenue.
- **Material shift.** Many products that were once packaged in glass are now in plastic. Such changes in consumer packaging have reduced the total weight of the recyclable materials collected, even as the number of recycled containers has increased.
- **Financial challenges.** While volumes of waste and recyclables have significantly increased, state funding has remained the same since the early years of the SCORE program. Counties must shoulder the cost of program changes and additions. Adding additional materials to collection programs can be expensive. Often, new materials add significant incremental cost while adding little or no revenue.

The OEA will continue to work with county programs to improve and expand collection efforts, highlighting opportunities as well as providing leadership to expand the markets for recyclable materials.

Calculating Minnesota's recycling rate

Minnesota's formula for calculating county, regional and statewide recycling rates (Figure 3-3) was developed in 1989. It has evolved over the years, with refinements that are meant to better reflect local efforts to collect, recycle and prevent waste.

Base recycling rate. This is calculated by dividing the tons of material collected for recycling by the tons of total materials disposed. This uses actual weights of collected recyclables and solid waste, as well as tonnage estimates of wastes that are not recorded — on-site disposal of waste and problem materials that are improperly disposed.

Credits. Counties can earn credits, in the form of percentage points added to their base recycling rate, by including activities for waste reduction and yard waste in their solid waste programs. The state places great emphasis on such programs, but measuring their impact on the disposal of MSW is a serious challenge. To reward counties that put effort into these

programs, and to simplify the year-end calculations, the annual SCORE survey includes sections (checklists) dedicated to waste reduction and yard waste composting efforts

- **Source reduction credit.** In 1993, the Minnesota Legislature adopted a three-percent source reduction credit to reward counties that make an effort to reduce overall waste volumes — waste prevention or “source reduction.” This “all-or-nothing” credit of three percent was awarded to counties that conducted at least 16 of the specific activities in the Source Reduction Checklist portion of the annual SCORE survey.

Beginning with 1999 data, the credit was changed to credit of one, two or three percent based on responses to a new, expanded checklist. In 1999, the average credit rose from 1.8 percent to 2.6 percent, as counties with smaller waste reduction programs received some reward for their efforts; all but two counties received some credit.

- **Yard waste credit.** In Minnesota, yard waste was officially banned from disposal in MSW by 1992. However, such wastes do require some type of disposal, and most counties operate one or more yard waste composting sites.

Due to a statutory change, 1994 was the last year that counties reported actual tons of yard waste recycled. Beginning in calendar year 1995, counties answered a series of questions on yard waste programs in the annual SCORE survey instead of providing tonnage data.

Under the yard waste credit, qualifying counties receive a credit of up to five percent.

Impact of the credits

Without credits, Minnesota’s base recycling rate for 1999 is 39.9 percent. The U.S. EPA reports that the average national recycling rate was 28.2 percent in 1998.

The credits for source reduction and yard waste activities increase Minnesota’s reported recycling rate by 7.5 percent. The OEA feels that this adjustment is justified, and better reflects the impacts of efforts to reduce and recycle waste in Minnesota.

- **Reducing the reporting burden placed on counties.** Both waste reduction and yard waste recycling are difficult for county offices to measure in terms of tons. Questions about programs help the OEA and counties make reasonable estimates of tons diverted or prevented without complicated new record-keeping procedures.

Some counties do have data for the impacts of waste reduction. For example, Crow Wing County received a 6.5-percent credit for quantifiable source reduction activities. This option is available to any county that is able to demonstrate actual tons of MSW that have been reduced.

- **Accounting for yard waste.** Thanks to education efforts at the local level, many residents have begun home composting and changed their landscaping efforts to reduce yard waste. Although yard waste is banned from disposal as garbage, waste sorts have shown that it makes up about 2 percent of Minnesota’s MSW.

The revised Source Reduction Checklist is Appendix C.

The complete 1999 SCORE Survey can be downloaded from the OEA’s Web site, or call the OEA at 651-296-3417 or 800-657-3843 toll free to request a printed copy.

www.moea.state.mn.us/lc/score.cfm

Minnesota’s 1999 Recycling Rate

Minnesota’s reported recycling rate rises to 47.2% using the credits, adding 7.5% to the statewide average.

Base recycling rate	39.9%
Average Yard Waste credit	4.7%
Average Source Reduction credit	2.6%

Figure 3-3: Minnesota’s formula for calculating county recycling rates

$$\text{Recycling Rate} = \left(\frac{R + PMr}{MSW + \text{Onsite} + PM\text{not}r + R + PMr} \right) + YWcr + SRcr$$

R = Materials collected for recycling

PMr = Problem materials banned, by statute, from disposal that are recycled (based on OEA estimates)

MSW = County-reported mixed municipal solid waste managed and land-disposed

Onsite = County-reported estimate of MSW disposed on-site or illegally disposed

PM not r = Problem materials banned, by statute, from disposal that are not recycled (based on OEA estimates)

YWcr = Yard waste credit (based on yard waste management programs and county education programs)

SRcr = Source reduction credit (based on answers to source reduction survey)

Table 3-1: Materials collected for recycling by grade, 1999

County-by-county details on materials recycled in Minnesota are found in Appendix A.

Material/Grade	Tons	Change 1998-99
Corrugated (OCC)	292,095	3%
Mixed paper	213,157	11%
Newsprint	198,365	6%
Office paper	41,519	(3%)
Magazine/catalog	27,687	26%
Other paper	27,209	61%
Phone book	3,039	(15%)
Computer paper	248	(98%)
Ferrous & non-ferrous	224,872	(3%)
Commingled metals	45,476	26%
Steel/tin cans	37,729	26%
Aluminum	27,648	(2%)
Mixed plastic	31,618	11%
Film plastic	3,152	(32%)
HDPE	2,822	(6%)
Other plastic	2,147	(37%)
PET	1,327	21%
Polystyrene	1,222	52%
Container glass	71,629	4%
Other glass	40,754	13%
Food waste	169,402	(2%)
Textiles	16,380	6%
Carpet	3,320	137%
Major appliances	36,610	6%
Vehicle batteries	30,636	3%
Waste tires	15,402	28%
HHW	6,699	33%
Used oil	6,160	9%
Used oil filters	2,416	(2%)
Electronic appliances	1,550	101%
Fluorescent/HID lamps	1,090	75%
Antifreeze	462	68%
Unspecified or Other	593,483	0%
TOTAL	2,177,324	+3%

Materials collected for recycling: Tons and trends

Nearly 2.2 million tons of recyclable materials were collected in 1999, a statewide increase of 3 percent from the previous year. Counties in Greater Minnesota showed the greatest growth, rising more than six percent, while Metropolitan Area counties collected 1.5 percent more material.

Highlights

For 1999, counties reported the largest increases in electronics, carpet, HID/fluorescent lights, and various grades of paper.

- Total tons of textiles and carpet collected for recycling increased to nearly 20,000 tons in 1999, a 3000-ton increase from 1998.
- Significant increases were seen in the tons collected of the categories banned materials (+10 percent) and glass (+8 percent) from 1998 figures.
- Collection of electronics doubled (+101 percent), with 1,550 tons collected in 1999. The OEA included electronics recycling as part of the SCORE survey for the first time in 1998. Part of this significant increase can be attributed to an electronics recycling pilot project conducted in 32 counties in Minnesota by Sony, Panasonic, Waste Management–Asset Recovery Group, the American Plastics Council and the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance. The OEA is publishing a final report on this project.

Minnesota’s recycling programs

When the Minnesota Legislature adopted the SCORE legislation, it provided counties with broad discretion in developing programs for recycling and the effective management of solid waste, household hazardous wastes and problem materials.

Minnesota has implemented a goal-driven recycling system, where each individual county is expected to develop appropriate programs that will help its residents meet mandated recycling goals set by the Legislature. Counties determine which materials will be collected for recycling, and are given much freedom in targeting waste generators in order to achieve the greatest collection of recyclable materials.

Such flexibility has allowed many counties and cities in the state to develop nationally recognized programs that provide unique opportunities to recycle and achieve high rates of local participation.

Minnesota’s recycling goals

The original 1989 SCORE legislation established recycling goals of 25 percent in Greater Minnesota and 35 percent in the Metropolitan Area, which counties were expected to meet or exceed by December 31, 1993. Amendments to SCORE raised these goals to 35 percent for Greater Minnesota counties and 50 percent for the Metropolitan Area by December 31, 1996.

In measuring county progress toward the recycling goals, the OEA focuses on wastes aggregated for collection as MSW, restricting recyclable materials to those that would otherwise be disposed in MSW. The OEA excludes wastes that are separated for disposal (such as most non-hazardous industrial wastes), and excludes materials recovered for recycling that are not considered MSW (such as concrete). The OEA also excludes wastes that historically have been managed and recovered separately, such as auto hulks, most scrap metal, and mill scraps.

The recycling goals do include credits for yard waste programs (up to three to five percent) and source reduction (up to three percent), which are awarded based on county program activities (Minn. Stat. § 115A.551, subd. 2a. (2)).

In 1999, 56 counties met the revised recycling goals, two more counties than 1998.

- **Metropolitan Area.** Three of the seven Metro counties met the current 50-percent recycling goal.
- **Greater Minnesota.** Fifty-three (53) counties in Greater Minnesota met their 35-percent recycling goal.

No new recycling goals have been established by the Legislature; the OEA will use the 1996 goals until they are attained statewide or are revised in statute.

The OEA will continue to work with county solid waste officers — in particular, the 32 counties that did not meet their recycling goals in 1999 — to achieve the best recovery rates possible.

Recycling program requirements

While county recycling program coordinators are given great flexibility in developing local programs that will achieve the state's recycling goals, the Legislature did establish some minimum requirements that all counties must meet. These conditions ensure some consistent access to recycling opportunities around the state.

Residential recycling

In 1999, roughly 25 percent of the materials collected for recycling in Minnesota came from residential sources, an increase of nearly 60,000 tons from 1998.

By law, Minnesota counties must promote recycling and ensure that all residents, including those in multi-family dwellings, have the following opportunities to recycle (Minn. Stat. § 115A.552).

- At least one recycling center in each county that is convenient for residents to use. This includes being open to the public year-round (at least 12 hours per week), accepting at least four broad types of materials, with posted highway signs identifying the center's location. In 1999, there were 103 material recovery facilities (MRFs) in the state.
- Convenient sites for collecting recyclable materials, with at least one recycling opportunity (drop-off or curbside collection) in cities with populations of more than 5,000. In 1999, Minnesota counties sponsored 597 recycling drop-off centers and 711 recycling stations.
- Curbside collection of recyclables in Greater Minnesota cities with populations of more than 20,000 and Metropolitan Area cities with populations of more than 5,000. In Minnesota, 758 residential curbside recycling collection programs currently provide service to more than 3.6 million people, nearly 76 percent of the state's population.

Many local programs have additional local recycling requirements or laws. In 1999, 21 counties required residents to participate in recycling programs and 20 counties required haulers to provide recycling collection services. In addition, 104 cities required residents to recycle and 150 cities required haulers to provide recycling collection services.

For the purposes of SCORE reporting, there are 88 "counties," which includes the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD).

5 Efforts to Reduce Waste in Minnesota

Minnesota's efforts are not restricted to managing waste. The state's steady increase in waste generation has environmental impacts, and is a burden on Minnesota's integrated waste system. As a result, state and local efforts are also focused on reducing waste. Preventing waste at its source is at the top of the waste management hierarchy because it is the most beneficial waste management strategy, both economically and environmentally.

Waste that is prevented at its source need not be managed or recycled, which means fewer costs and less pollution from transporting, recycling, processing or landfilling wastes. Waste reduction helps sustain the longevity and economic viability of the state's waste management systems.

Source reduction checklist

The annual SCORE survey includes the source reduction checklist, which helps the OEA assess county efforts to reduce waste at the local level. County programs can earn a credit of up to three percentage points which is added onto their recycling rate; this helps counties meet the Legislature's recycling goals.

The checklist has grown to include 42 questions, divided into five categories:

- Promotion
- General education/information
- Outreach to county departments and local governments
- Technical assistance
- Policy initiatives

Counties across the state are making an effort to bring the message of waste reduction to Minnesota residents and businesses. Some counties have been able to collect data on specific waste reduction efforts in their area. These efforts, coupled with the new checklist, have increased the average source reduction credit in 1999 to 2.6 percent.

The updated Source Reduction Checklist is Appendix C.

The complete SCORE Survey can be downloaded from the OEA Web site: www.moea.state.mn.us/lc/score.cfm

Statewide waste reduction media campaign

In 1999, the OEA launched an ambitious statewide education campaign focused on waste reduction. *Reduce Waste: If not you, who?* focuses on the opportunities that people have to reduce their everyday production of waste and recyclables. The target audience is Minnesota families with children.

As demonstrated in this report, Minnesotans have embraced the ethic of recycling and proper disposal of waste. The underlying goal of *If not you, who?* is to make the ideas of reducing and reusing social "norms," changing individual behaviors and attitudes about producing and disposing of waste.



Reduce Waste
If not you, who?

Scope

If not you, who? is a multi-level education effort consisting of mass media, public relations, and grassroots education.

- Television and radio commercials
- Newspaper advertising
- Billboards
- A campaign Web site: www.reduce.org

Appendix C

Source Reduction Checklist

This information will be used to determine which counties will receive up to a three percent source reduction (SR) credit toward recycling goals. Questions pertain to SR activities in 1999 unless stated otherwise. Cooperation with local units of government such as cities or multi-county efforts are considered eligible if they meet the various criteria listed in the activities below. SR credit will be awarded using the following ranges: 6 or more "Yes" = 1%, 12 or more = 2%, and 18 or more = 3%. If you would like to receive credit for actual tons of MSW that has been reduced, report that information separately using the enclosed SR reporting form.

The complete 1999 SCORE Survey can be downloaded from the OEA's Web site, or call the OEA at 651-296-3417 or 800-657-3843 toll free to receive a printed copy.
www.moea.state.mn.us/lc/score.cfm

Promotion (check all that apply)

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| 1. Advertise business source reduction success through a county awards program or through local newspapers, radio, television, or other media. (attach case study) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Advertise residential source reduction success through a county awards program or through local newspapers, radio, television or other media. (attach case study) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. In the last three years, conduct focus groups or a survey of businesses and institutions about source reduction activities and assistance needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. In the last three years, conduct focus groups or a survey of residents about source reduction activities and assistance needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5. Establish an ongoing source reduction recognition program for county employees. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 6. Promote materials exchange through mailings, presentations or other media including the internet. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 7. Promote SR through television and radio appearances. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

General Education/Information (check all that apply)

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| 8. Hosted events for Pollution Prevention Week. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 9. Distributed materials (brochures, flyers, fact sheets, posters, etc.) to at least 25 percent of county businesses in the last 3 years. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 10. Distributed materials (brochures, flyers, fact sheets, posters, etc.) to at least 25 percent of county residents through county events, mailings or publications in the last 3 years. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 11. Developed/updated a solid and hazardous waste directory for county residents and/or businesses within the last three years. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 12. Integrated source reduction into county employee training and education programs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 13. Promote OEA's What-A-Waste Curriculum or other source reduction curriculum or activities in schools. Please list materials or activities promoted:
<input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 14. County staff has used resources from the OEA's Source Reduction Toolkit to implement SR programs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 15. Staffed a SR display at a county fair or similar event. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 16. Incorporate SR information into a county website. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 17. Distributed <u>home composting</u> educational materials to county residents. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Outreach to County Departments & Local Governments (check all that apply)

- 18. A team that meets at least quarterly, including representatives from major county departments, that discusses SR as a formal part of the agenda. Yes No
- 19. Cooperate with other counties to fund regional SR programs to promote source reduction. Yes No
- 20. Attend 2 or more Counties and Cities Involved in Source Reduction and Recycling (CISRR) meetings or a regional SR workshop. Yes No
- 21. Attend 4 or more Counties and Cities Involved in Source Reduction and Recycling (CISRR) meetings. Yes No

Technical Assistance (check all that apply)

- 22. Conduct site visits to 1-10 businesses. Yes No
- 23. Conduct site visits to 11-40 businesses. Yes No
- 24. Conduct site visits to 40+ businesses. Yes No
- 25. Conduct a training session, workshop, or presentation at a business, institutional, or community event. Yes No
- 26. Collaborated on a multi-county SR event (not limited to workshops and trainings). Yes No
- 27. Conduct a waste audit or survey of at least 10 percent of county facilities within the past three years to target SR. Yes No
- 28. Actively promoted and provided technical assistance for Minnesota Waste Wise. Yes No
- 29. Developed a home composting bin distribution program for county residents. Yes No
- 30. Conducted (or co-sponsored) workshops demonstrating proper home composting techniques. Yes No
- 31. Offer permanent home composting demonstration sites. Yes No
- 32. Refer organizations to an existing materials exchange program. Yes No
- 33. Coordinate materials exchange through a HHW program. Yes No
- 34. Coordinate, work with, or provide funding or in-kind support to a local materials exchange program. Yes No
- 35. Actively assist in the exchange of materials between organizations. Yes No
- 36. Work with targeted sector of business community to reduce waste Yes No
- 37. Incorporate green building goals/requirements in county construction, remodeling, and maintenance bid specs and contracts. Yes No
- 38. Coordinate reuse project (other than materials exchange). Please List: Yes No

Policy Initiatives (check all that apply)

- 39. Resolution passed by county board on environmentally responsible purchasing guidelines for county facilities. Yes No
- 40. Implement and promote a variable rate pricing system through county ordinance, licensure, or contract for collection. Yes No
- 41. Developed an implementation strategy in county solid waste management plan that is designed to achieve a minimum of 10% per-capita source reduction. Yes No
- 42. Resolution passed by county board on "green building" guidelines for construction, remodeling and maintenance of county facilities and grounds. Yes No