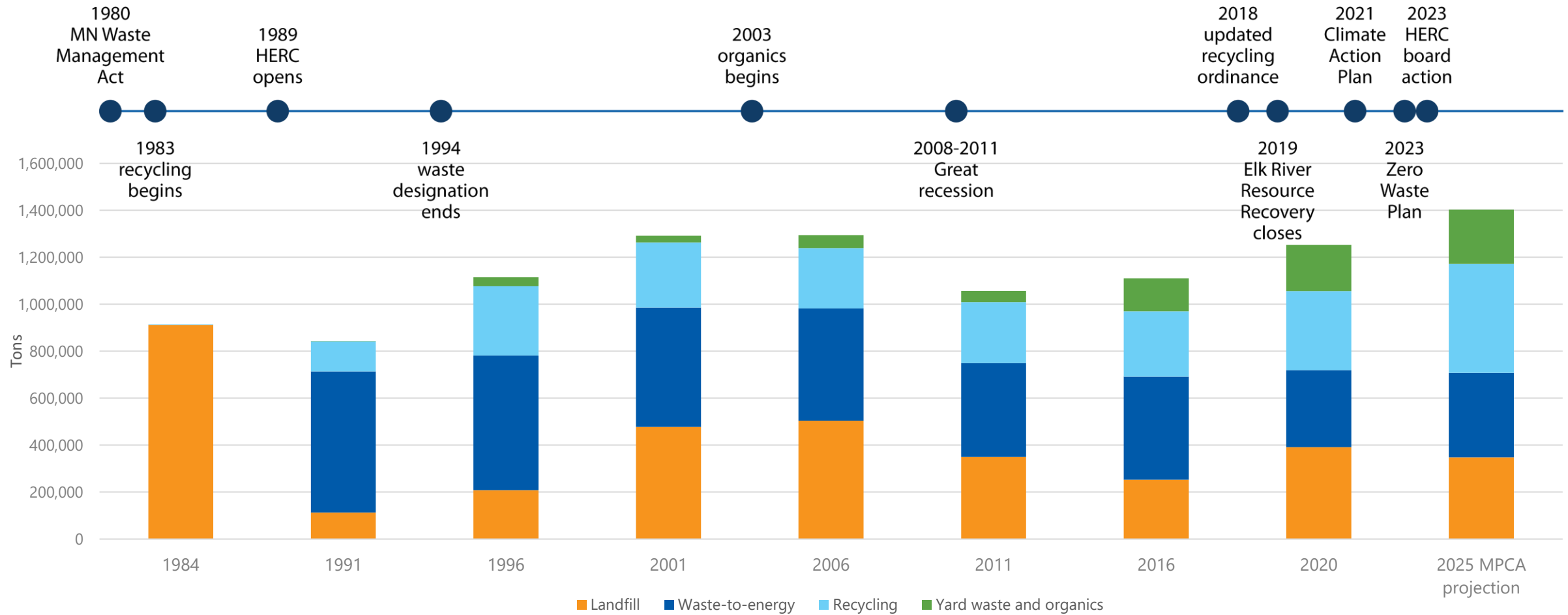




Reinventing Hennepin County's solid waste system

Waste management in Hennepin County

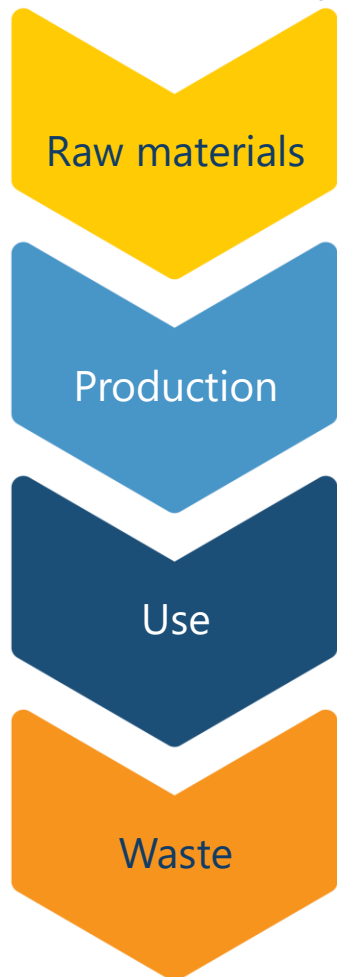


The trash produced
in the county is
enough to fill
Target Field
6 times a year



Why? Solid waste system is driven by consuming and discarding

Linear economy



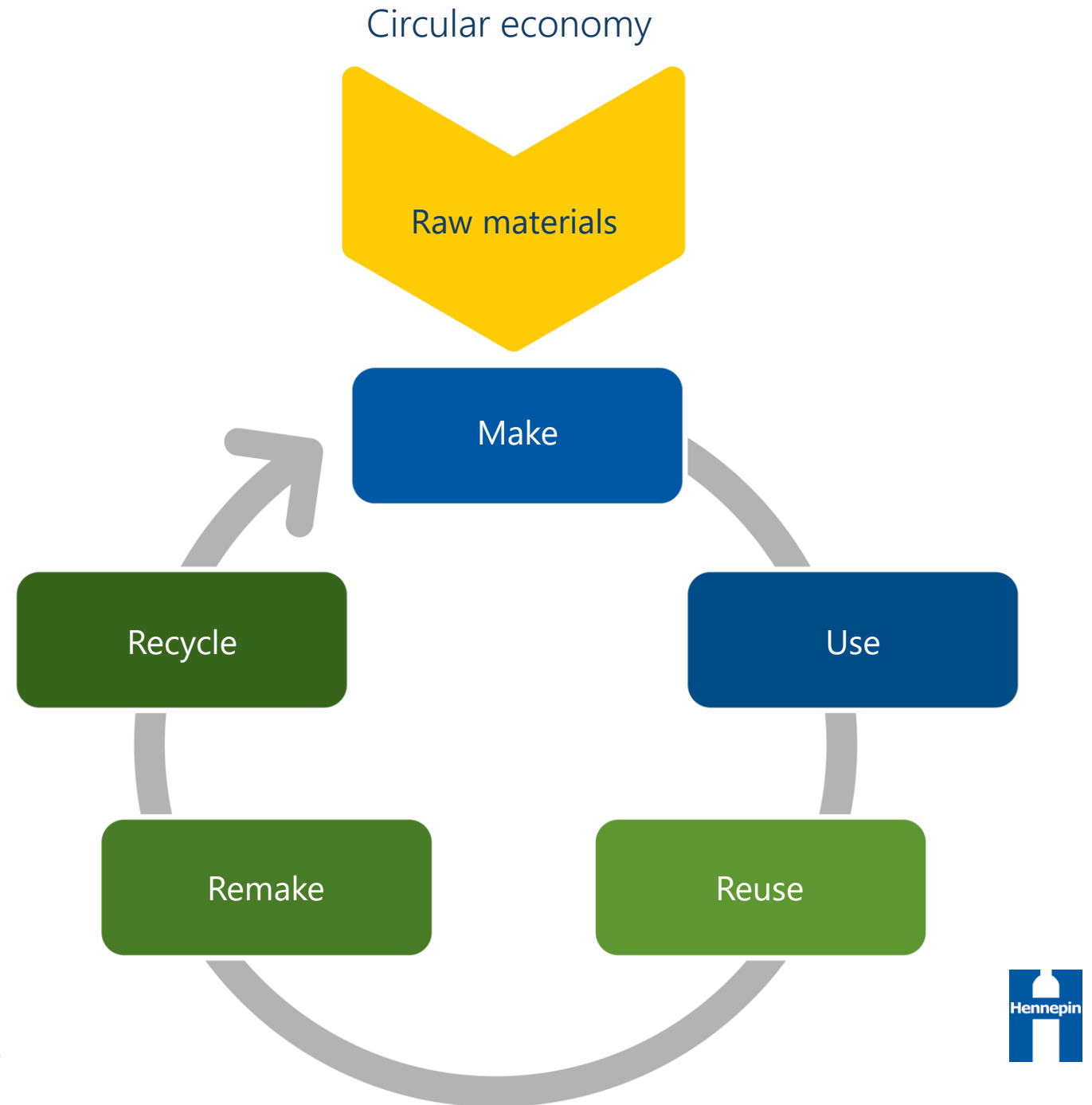
Who benefits?

- Multinational waste industry that makes big profits from landfilling
- Manufacturers and retailers
- Businesses that generate a lot of waste
- Residents that consume and dispose excessively

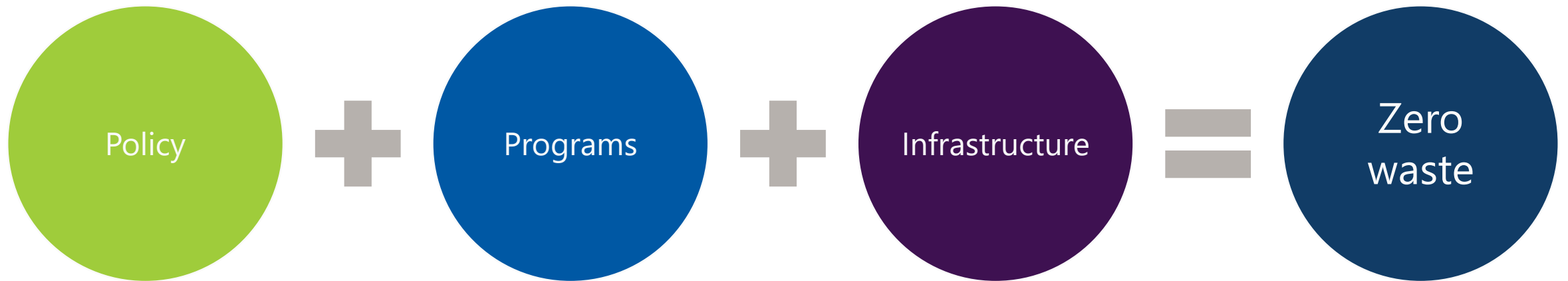
Who is burdened?

- Residents who live near trash facilities
- Residents who live in multifamily housing that don't have access to recycling services
- Local governments that must deal with the trash problem

Climate and zero-waste goals require a shift that values materials and prioritizes reuse



Reinventing our solid waste system



Highest impact zero-waste actions

- Prioritize extended producer responsibility
- Secure adequate funding for zero-waste initiatives through SCORE and other sources
- Ban recyclable and organic materials from landfills
- Recover recyclable materials from the trash – recycling recovery facility
- Support the transition to organized collection across Hennepin County
- Increase compliance with Ordinance 13 and expand requirements
- Develop and implement county plan to eliminate food waste
- Expand collection and drop-off options for hard to recycle items
- Reduce single-use plastics and plastic packaging
- Increase the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste
- Mandate participation in recycling and composting programs
- Ensure every individual has equitable access to zero-waste tools

Hennepin County 2024/2025 priorities

- Increase organics recycling participation rates
- Revise Recycling Ordinance 13 to clarify and expand requirements
- Conduct pre-development work for a Recycling Recovery Facility, including an evaluation of technology and end markets, and visit leading facilities
- Expand collection and drop-off options – assess existing options, identify gaps, develop a program plan
- Engage with partners on organized collection to define goals, scope, and implementation phases
- Set food waste prevention target and finalize plan for reaching target
- Develop plastic prevention plan
- Launch Community Zero Waste Grant Program
- Partner with cities to expand MPCA grant funded community swaps

Recommendations for Minneapolis

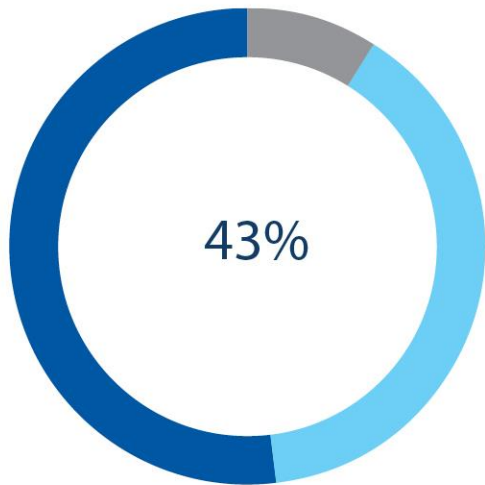
More control over the system means greater likelihood of getting to zero waste

- Establish organized commercial collection, including multifamily
- More involvement in multifamily to address equitable access.
- Better compliance with existing ordinances (commercial recycling and green to go)
- Create a funding mechanism, such as a clean community fee, to support zero waste initiatives
- Require mandatory large generator waste reduction and diversion plans
- Increase hauler accountability by requiring reporting and service standards
- Improve options for managing large items and specialty recyclables in the multifamily sector
- Provide waste reduction community grants to support innovative, community-based efforts
- Adopt specifications to increase the use of food-derived compost in city projects
- Develop a construction and demolition waste diversion ordinance requiring the recycling of a portion of construction and demolition debris

Zero-waste dashboard – 2023 results

Recycling rate

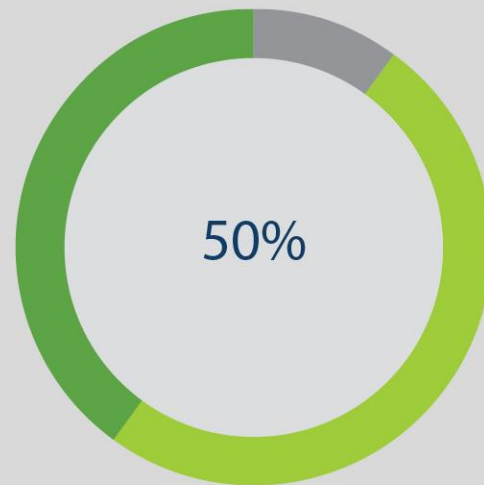
Goal: 75%



✓ State statute goal

Amount of food, paper and other biogenic materials in the trash

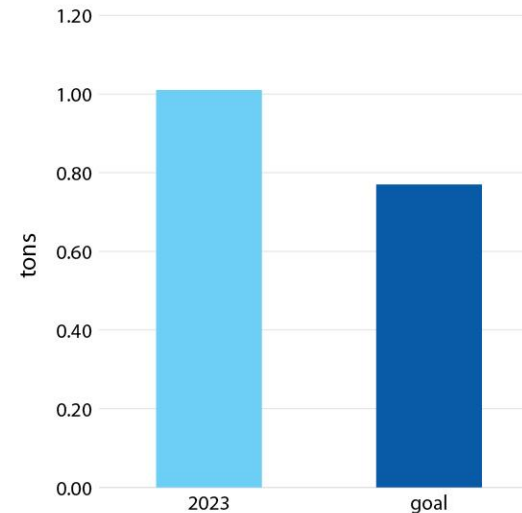
Goal: less than 10%



✓ Climate driven
✓ Critical to meeting recycling goals

Waste generated per capita

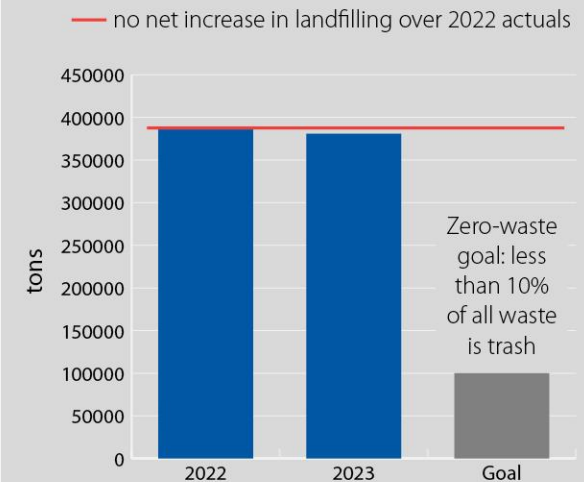
Goal: reduce waste generated per capita by 22%



✓ Climate driven
✓ Critical to meeting zero-waste goal

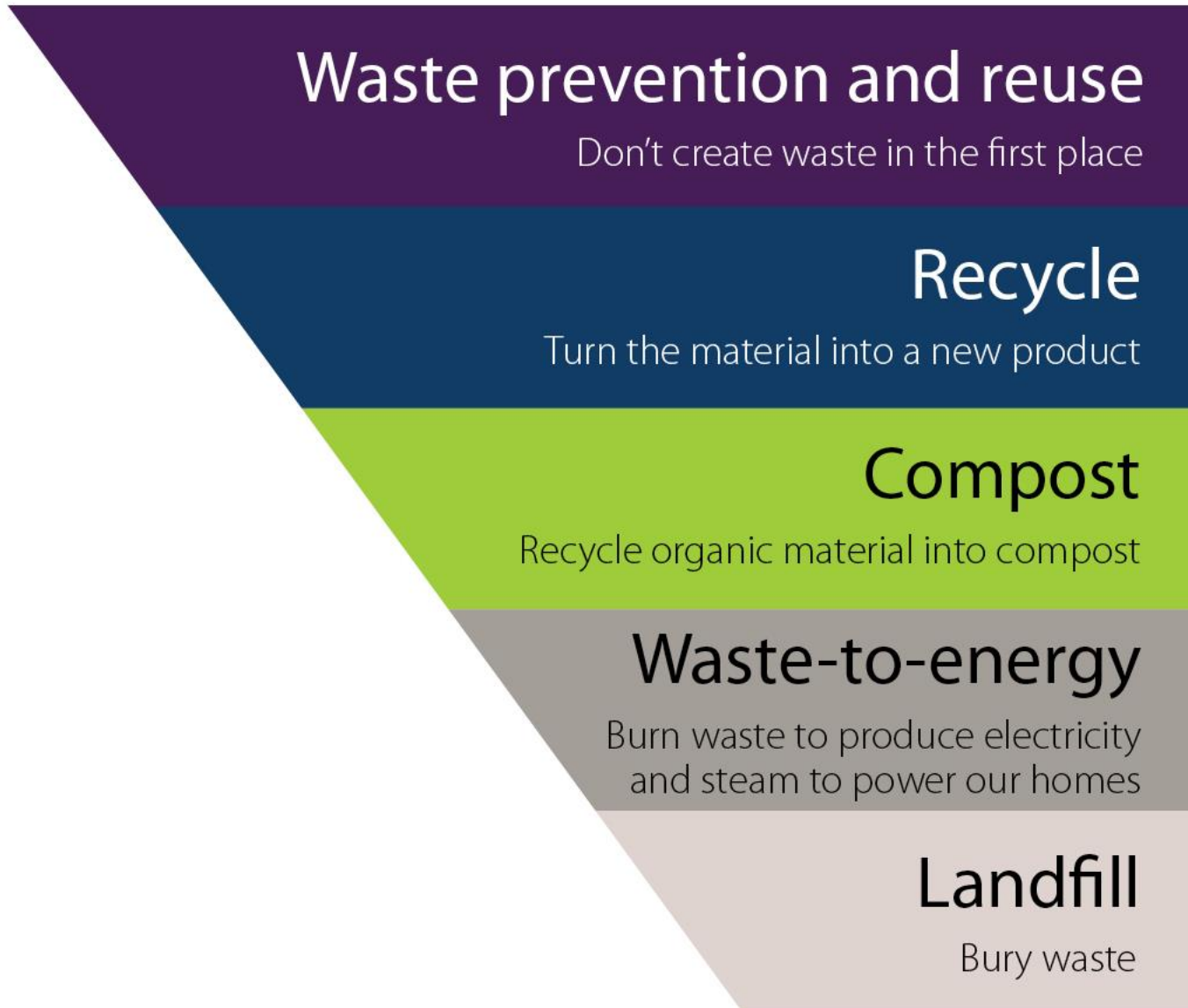
Landfill rates

Goal: no net increase in landfilling rates over 2022 actuals



✓ Climate driven
✓ Critical to meeting zero-waste goal

State waste management hierarchy



- Waste management hierarchy is defined by state law
- Share responsibility - government, waste management industry, residents, businesses, manufacturers of products, retailers and environmental groups
- Essential component of a sustainable community
- Designed to protect public and environmental health, support a vibrant economy and wise use of resources.

There is still
a lot of trash
in our trash

Composition of the trash

Percent by weight

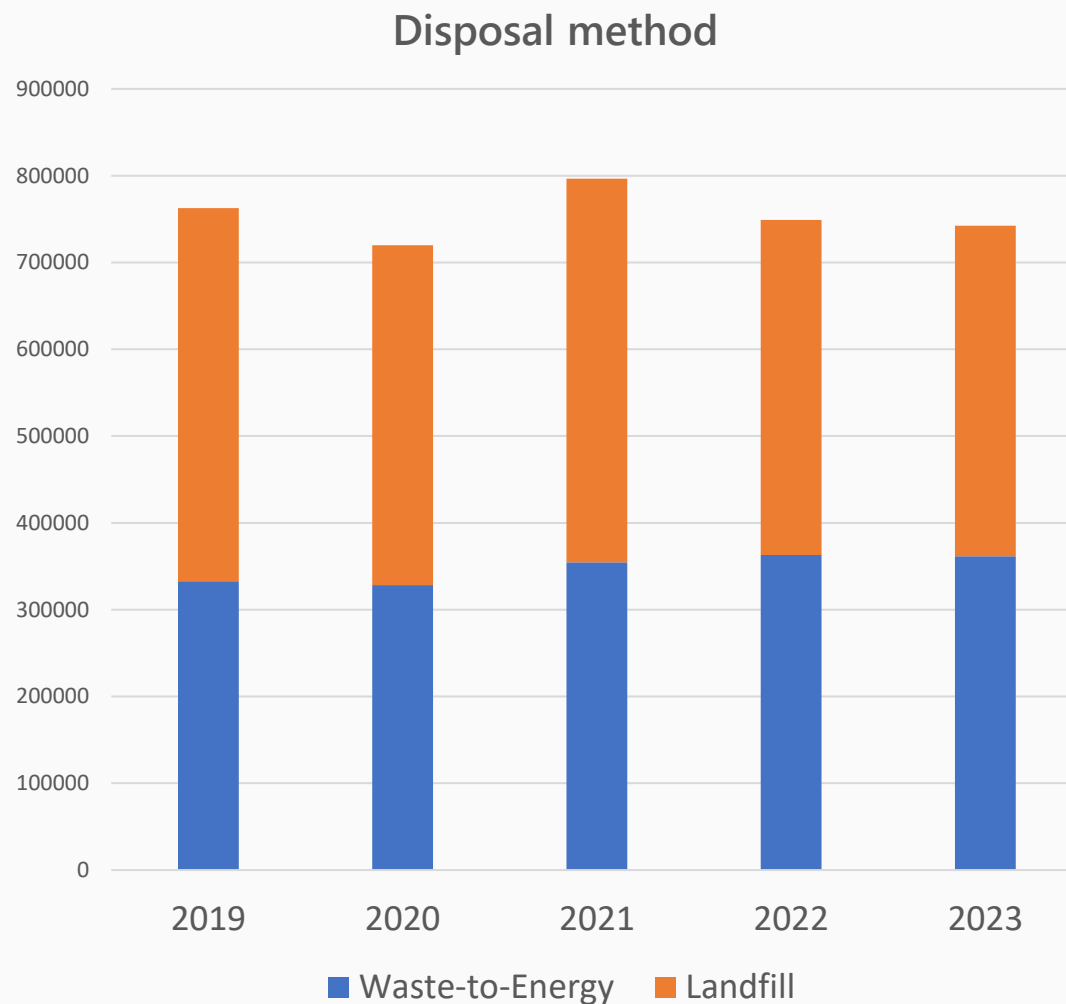


How should we manage the more than
2,000+ tons of trash discarded today
in Hennepin County?



How the solid waste system managed the trash

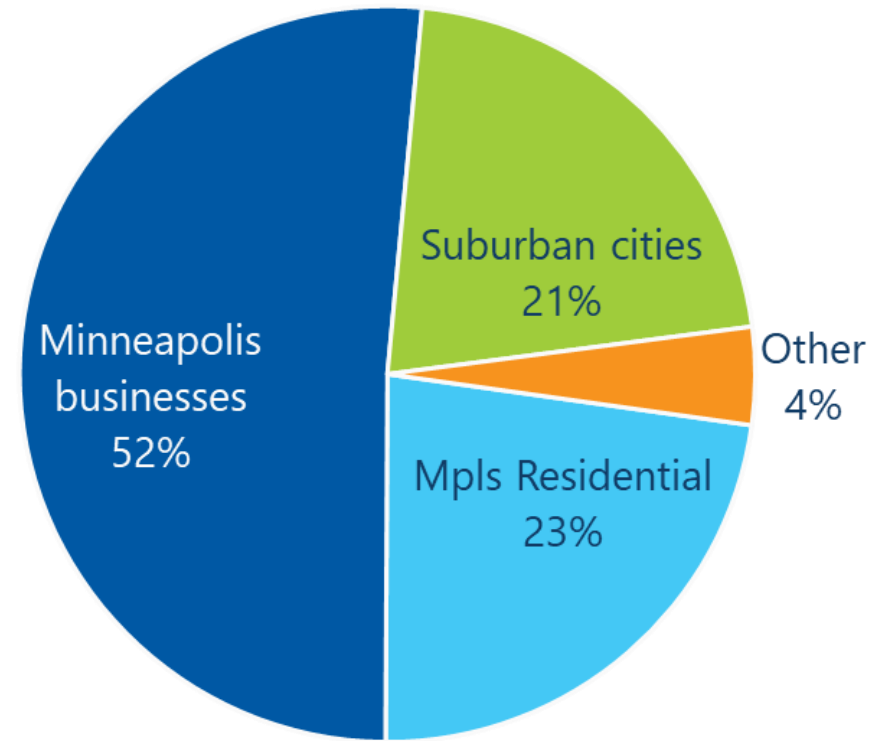
- 742,536 tons of trash produced
- 51% of trash landfilled
- Communities outside of the county that received our trash
 - MN: Burnsville, Elk River, Glencoe, Inver Grove Heights, Newport, Rushmore
 - WI: Eau Claire, Sarona
 - IA: Lake Mills



Where does trash at HERC come from?

Trash processed close to where it is produced minimizing transportation, which save money on garbage bills and the associated truck emissions.

Source of trash processed at HERC



Cities that rely on HERC for waste disposal

Bloomington, Champlin, Deephaven, Excelsior, Hopkins, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, Minneapolis, Minnetonka Beach, Osseo, Robbinsdale, Richfield, St. Bonifacius, St. Louis Park, Tonka Bay, and Wayzata

Our vision of a reinvented solid waste system

Less waste

Shared
responsibility

Easy access
to services

Social norms
align with
zero waste

This vision
depends on:

Minnesota joining
national leaders in
zero-waste policies

State funding that
matches the scope of
the challenges and
ambition of the goals

Residents and businesses
support a
zero-waste future

With these
dependencies
met, we can:

Create a circular
economy

Ensure an
equitable system

Stop trashing
valuable
resources and
close HERC

Reach climate
and zero-waste
goals

Accelerating a zero-waste future



Waste prevention
Fix-it Clinics,
Zero waste
challenge



Recycling initiatives and requirements
Organics recycling



Grants and assistance
Businesses,
schools,
apartments



Hazardous waste management
Drop-off facilities

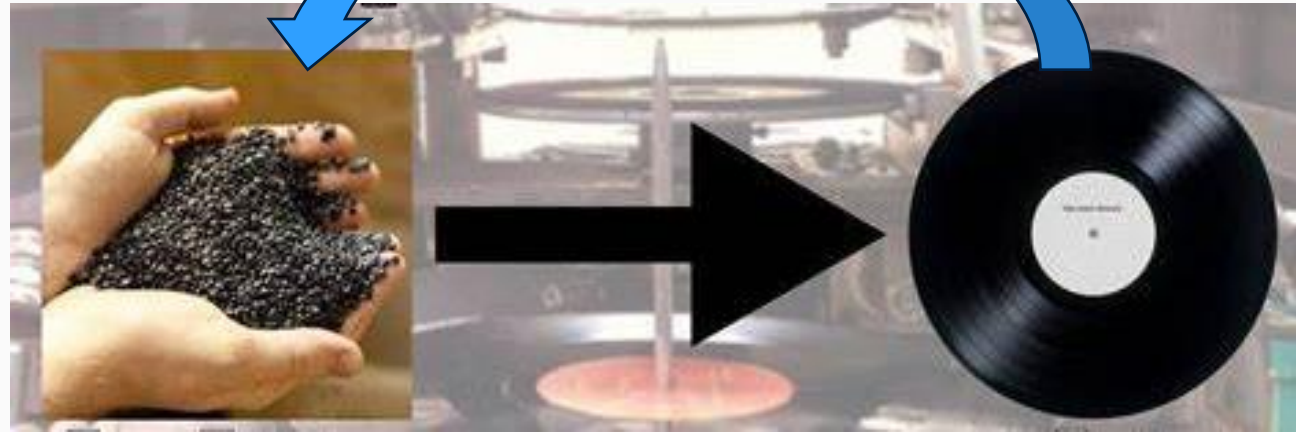


Education Campaigns

Business resources



Business resources (grant examples)



Assistance for multifamily properties

- Funding
 - Grants to start or improve recycling or organics recycling
- Resources
 - Free signage and educational materials
- Technical assistance
 - Resident trainings
 - Recommendations to improve building's recycling program

