

Recycling requirements for businesses



Most businesses in Hennepin County are required to recycle

Businesses that contract for weekly collection of four or more cubic yards of trash are required to provide recycling service for their employees or tenants.

How to comply

1. Have recycling hauling service

There are two options to meet this standard:

a. Have single-sort recycling service where all recyclables are mixed.

-or-

b. Have hauling service in place for at least three types of materials that are collected separately. For example: cardboard, cans, plastics. The material types do not need to be traditional recyclables. You can choose to recycle materials that are specific to your business, such as textiles.

The county has a best practices guide that outlines how to set up recycling services at your business.

2. Pair recycling bins with trash bins

Wherever there is a trash container, place a recycling bin immediately next to the trash or close by it. The recycling bin must be large enough so it doesn't overflow and result in recyclables being placed in the trash instead.

The county offers grants to help businesses purchase recycling containers.

3. Label bins

Label each bin with the waste type to be collected (e.g. trash, recycling, cardboard). Labels must also:

- Be color coded (blue for recycling and red, gray or black for trash)
- Include images showing acceptable items
- Include preparation instructions if applicable (e.g. flatten cardboard)

Replace labels if they become unreadable or show items that are no longer accepted in that waste stream.

Labels that meet these requirements are available from the county.

Who is responsible?

The building owner or whoever contracts for waste services must make sure service is provided and adequate for the recyclable material collected. They will need to increase service levels if carts or dumpsters are overflowing.

Enforcement

The county will have the authority to inspect properties. Businesses will first be given an opportunity to comply before warnings or citations for noncompliance are issued.



Take advantage of free resources available

Site visits



A county staff person can come to your location and help you determine how to improve recycling or set it up at your work place.

Presentations or training



Staff are available to come to your site to train employees about recycling and waste through hands-on and interactive trainings. Webinar and remote learning options are also available.

Posters, signs and labels

Order free posters, signs and stickers so you can label bins at your business.

