Hennepin County City Recycling Coordinators Meeting

September 10, 2025

Minutes

Attendance

Kirsten Wahlberg, Kristin Pierskalla, Ben Knudson, John Jaimez, Katie Stelzner, Quynh Akers (Hennepin County); Kelly Thelen (Deephaven), Amy Benting (Dayton), Lizzie Miller (Hopkins), Kevin Larson (Maple Plain), Fawn Gage (Minnetonka Beach), Brett Powers (Robbinsdale), Tim Pratt (Brooklyn Park, HRG), Mikala Larson (Hopkins), Sarah Mielke (Hanover), Kala Fisher (St Louis Park), Kellie Kish (Minneapolis), Twila Singh (Edina), Kayla Kirtz (Robbinsdale), Claire Pardubsky (Bloomington), Jennifer Fierce (Eden Prairie), Laura Horner (Bloomington), Charlie McChesney (St Louis Park), Addison Tansom (St Louis Park), Reidun Zollicoffer (Champlin), Chris McKenzie (Plymouth), MK Anderson (Plymouth), Caitlyn Walker (Medina), Emma Olson, Zachary McCarty (Richfield), Christine Lusian (Orono), Steven Tourney (Champlin), Eric Wilson (Shorewood), Solvei Wilmot (Edina), Angiulo Damiani (Minneapolis)

Agenda Items

1) **Minneapolis BAR:** Ben Knudson – update on Board Action from 9/9/25. Reporting requirements for the City of Minneapolis. No additional changes to the proposed funding policy except for Minneapolis.

2) **Furniture Collection Events:** Katie Stelzner, Hennepin County HC Board approved furniture collection events for the next three years. Partnering with Bridging. Partnering with cities that don't already have this activity.

3) **Hennepin updates:**

- Staffing updates (Maggie, Kat, Quynh, Kristin new programs)
- Re-Trac – making some clarifications to match with the MPCA SCORE reporting
- Funding policy – BAR is planned to go to HC Board on September 18
- SCORE payments – plan to receive payments late again this year.

4) **Swap-It Program:** Kirsten Wahlberg, Hennepin County. Introduction to new program. Currently there is an article on the Choose to Reuse website about the swaps, eventually there will be a web page on the HC website. Please send us swap events to post on either page.

5) **Upcoming County Programs, Grants and Events HHW Events** (Household hazardous waste collection events | Hennepin County)

- Swap-It Events (Event page)
- Backyard Compost classes
- Fall food tour in October: MNimize
- Activities and education kits
- *Ongoing/Year-Round:* Fix It Clinics - Fix-It Clinics | Hennepin County
- Choose to Reuse - | Choose to Reuse (hennepin.us)
- Deconstruction Grants

6) Additional Items

- Next CRC meeting: December 10
- ARM workshop: October 9th, Scharr's Bluff, Hastings
- REC meeting: September 24, 2025 in Hutchinson/remote
- Reuse MN Conference October 22nd
- No Trash Talk Social Hour September 24th
- RAM Young Professionals Tour September 12th at Vonco and Liberty Paper

7) Round Table Updates – *(Recent highlights, upcoming events, questions for the group, etc.)*

- Bloomington – City council approved more aggressive sw rates, every other week garbage pick up. Citywide city-wide cleanup. Tour at WM MRF for city staff. The pickling workshop went well. Finalizing new sw collection at parks and facilities contract.
- Brooklyn Park/HRG – Curbside/bulk waste cleanup fourth week, drop off day Oct 11, Fix it clinic Oct 11, Green Corp member starting in October working on organics/food recovery at city locations, swap events at all four cities.
- Champlin – organics kicked off, ironing out issues. Environmental commission toured SMSC.
- Corcoran
- Dayton

- Deephaven
- Eden Prairie
- Edina – Halloween costume swap, plugging away.
- Excelsior
- Golden Valley
- Greenfield
- Greenwood
- Hanover – Advertising organics collection, updating website
- Hopkins
- Independence
- Long Lake
- Loretto
- Maple Grove
- Maple Plain – no updates
- Medicine Lake
- Medina
- Minneapolis – started recycling class for residents to get carts back, recycling awareness campaign, funding study on the way, lost Green Corps member due to contract up
- Minnetonka
- Minnetonka Beach
- Minnetrista
- Mound
- Orono – clean up day coming up Sept 20, brush site hours reduced with fall season, updating website, organics drop offs were having dumping/contamination issues and had to install locks with combo. Monitoring revealed nearby residents were dropping organics, but others dumping non-organics. Open trash but organized recycling – renewing recycling contract.

— Osseo

— Plymouth – shred event (plus other things) in October, curbside organics going well with average one signup per day. Pumpkin drop in October – fed to pigs in neighboring farm. Holiday lights collected at drop-off site (couple hundred pounds per year). Improvements to drop site. Improve the site with more accessibility. Yard waste site – after reviewing options it's decided best option to keep existing site. MPCA grant for climate action plan.

— Richfield – Multi family building code passed. The council expressed interest in green to go policies. Monitoring organics drop offs. First ever swap this weekend for winter clothing. Deconstruction is complete at Woodlake nature center. Open Streets fest, pumpkin smash, website being updated as well.

— Robbinsdale – organic drop off grant applicant. Green Corps member starting later this fall to work on organics. Looking in to deconstruction of one of park buildings. Work with sustainability committee on events this fall. New utility billing specialist.

— Rockford

— Rogers

— Shorewood – Transition from Rep to WM for curbside recycling, pumpkin drop event, used coat drive at same time

— Spring Park –

— St. Anthony

— St. Bonifacius

— St. Louis Park - fall clean up, shred events, multifamily postcards being sent out, environment/sustainability comm. Working on mailing to residents not signed up for organics

— Tonka Bay

— Wayzata

— Woodland