

The State of Solid Waste in Minnesota



Katrina Kessler | MPCA Commissioner Solid Waste Administrators Association Winter Training Feb. 16, 2022



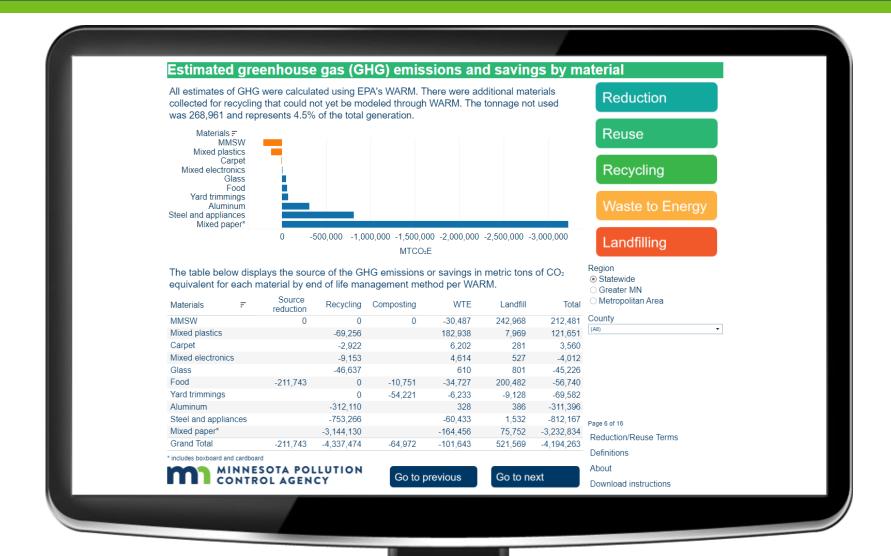
Climate: A statewide plan



Putting Minnesota on track to meet or exceed greenhouse gas reduction goals and prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change

mn.gov/framework

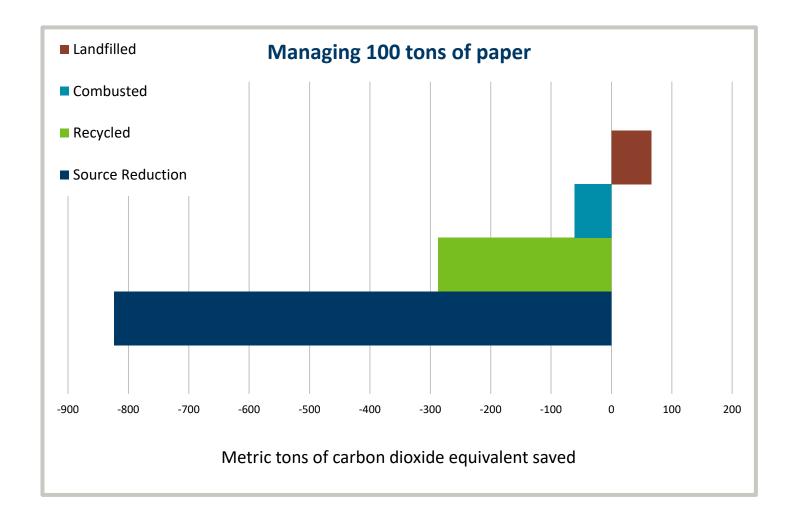
Climate: Impacts of the solid waste system



Climate: Reducing climate impacts

Highest potential to reduce climate impacts:

- Prevention
- Reuse

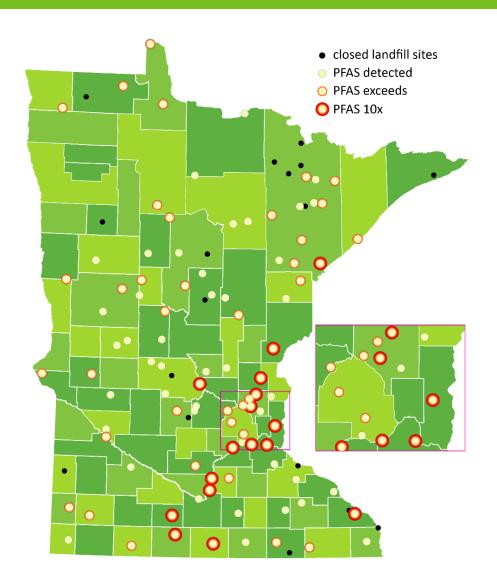


Climate: Environmental review pilot





PFAS: A statewide issue



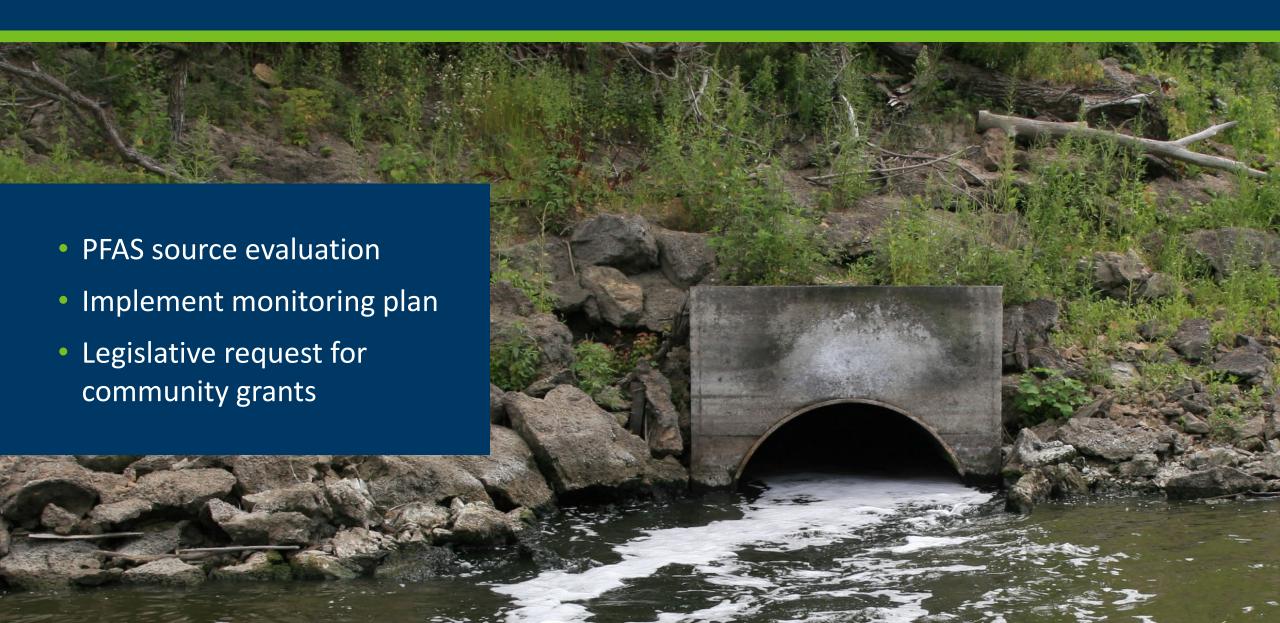
- 97% of closed landfills have PFAS contamination
- Nearly 60% of them exceed state PFAS guidelines
- 15% reach 10x the guideline level

PFAS: Progress on Blueprint



- Preventing PFAS pollution
- Improving measurement
- Ensuring safe drinking water
- Verifying fish, game are safe to eat
- Incorporating new science

PFAS: What comes next?





Legislative priorities: Capital Assistance Program

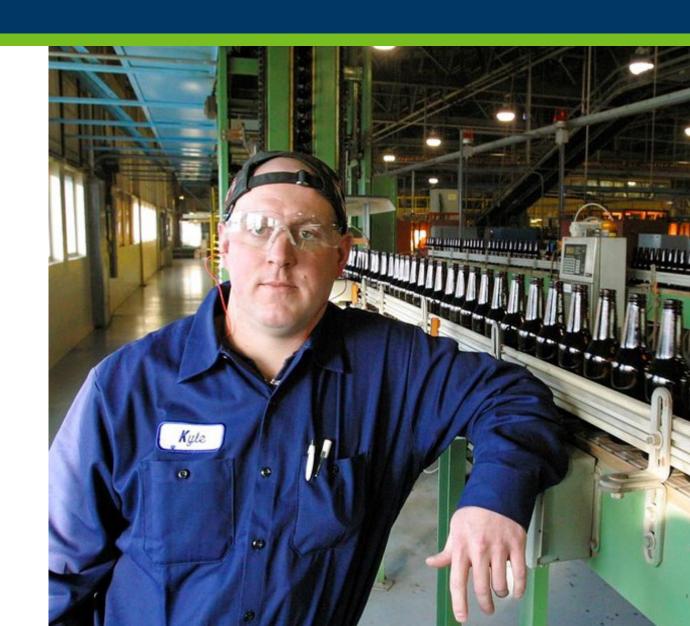


- Organics Capacity (\$10 million)
- Pope and Douglas counties (\$5.9 million)
- Scott and Dakota counties (\$3.8 million)
- Olmsted County (\$10 million)
- Polk County (\$2.4 million)
- Chisago County (\$281,000)
- Cass County (\$2 million)

Legislative priorities: Expand grant limit, eligibility

Raise Capital Assistance Program grant limit to \$5 million/project

- Expand to waste prevention, reuse projects
- Consider social, environmental impact



Legislative priorities: Investments to reduce waste



\$18.9 million for waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting grants

- Wasted food/food rescue
- Recycling market facility development
- Compost and anaerobic digestion facilities
- Sustainable building and materials management

Legislative priorities: Reduce solar panel waste

Establish program for reducing waste from discarded solar panels

- Collection service to keep panels out of landfills
- Recover valuable materials in the process



Legislative priorities: PFAS community grants



\$2 million to help communities, businesses prevent PFAS contamination

- Replace PFAS-containing firefighting foams
- Offset monitoring costs
- Support pollution prevention

Upcoming opportunities



- Greater MN recycling/composting
- Prevention of wasted food/food rescue
- Recycling market development
- Become a MN GreenCorps host site
- Comment on Metro Solid Waste PolicyPlan



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Climate

Climate Action Framework

Solid waste prevention, reuse

Environmental review



PFAS

PFAS Blueprint progress

Source evaluation work

Monitoring plan



Legislative priorities

County infrastructure projects

Capital Assistance expansion

Waste reduction grants

