



Minnesota County engagement on source reduction & reuse

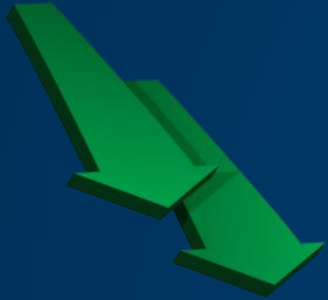
Colleen Hetzel & Annika Bergen | MPCA

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Overview



Definitions



REDUCE

Source reduction

“Waste reduction” or “source reduction” means an activity that prevents generation of waste or the inclusion of toxic materials in waste, including:

- reducing material or the toxicity of material used in production or packaging or
- changing procurement, consumption, or waste generation habits to result in smaller quantities or lower toxicity of waste generated.

Recycling

Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials into a feedstock that can be used in manufacturing new products and materials, offsetting the need for virgin material extraction.

This survey did not include a focus on county-run recycling (including organics recycling) efforts.



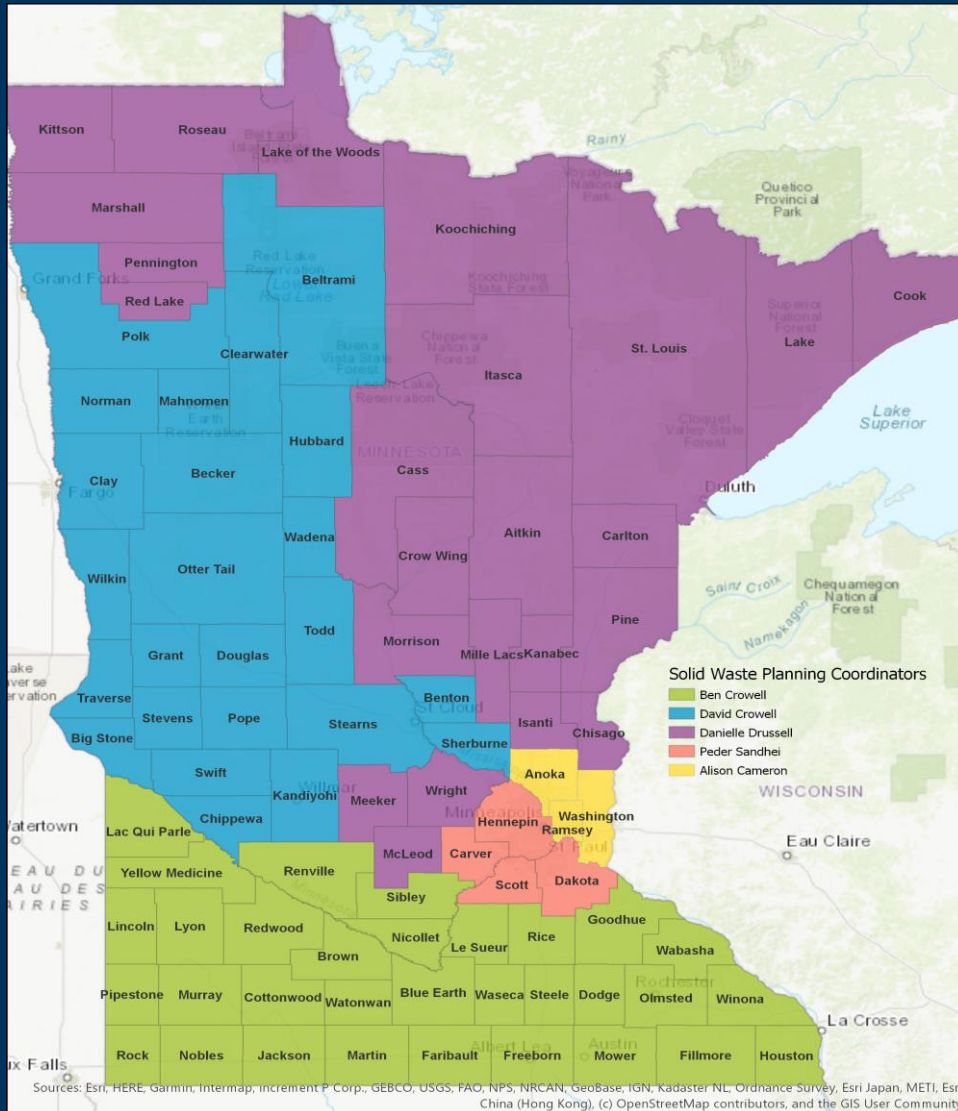
REUSE

Reuse

Reuse involves extending the useful life of a product in its original form, including resale, repair, and rental. Reuse has the environmental benefits of avoiding the need to create new products.

Reuse currently counts towards the state recycling rate goals.

Survey participation






64 surveys submitted
63 or **72%** of counties participated

	Submitted	Total	% of counties participated
GM Counties	56	80	70%
Ben Crowell	25	32	78%
Danielle Drussell	15	24	63%
Dave Crowell	16	24	67%
Metro Counties	7	7	100%
Alison Cameron	3	3	100%
Peder Sandhei	4	4	100%
WLSSD*	1	1	100%

*In the rest of the survey summary, WLSSD is included in the GM County data and percentages are calculated as 57 GM counties and 64 total county participants.

Source reduction & reuse

 Current programming and barriers	 Incentives and solutions	 Legislation	 Future opportunities
100	100	100	100
300	300	300	300
500	500	500	500*



Current programming and barriers

100 Question

44% of Minnesota counties offer public community reuse events/opportunities.

Which of these options is the most implemented for both Greater Minnesota and Metro counties?

- Community drop-off events or collection of household furnishings/items to be donated to a local reuse store
- Community swaps for clothing, media, tools, etc.
- Fix-it clinics
- Community reuse opportunities at Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection sites, such as a reuse table
- Publicly owned/operated reuse “marketplace” (either physical or virtual) for the community to access free or purchase used goods (such as building materials, household furnishings, equipment, consumer products, etc.)





Current programming and barriers 100 Answer

Community reuse opportunities at Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection sites, such as a reuse table.

Tied for second most implemented across the state are:

- Community drop-off events or collection of household furnishings/items to be donated to a local reuse store
- Publicly owned/operated reuse “marketplace” (either physical or virtual) for the community to access free or purchase used goods (such as building materials, household furnishings, equipment, consumer products, etc.)





Current programming and barriers

300 Question

Greater Minnesota and Metro counties had two of their three top barriers in common for source reduction and reuse programming.

Which of these options were the two shared barriers?

- Challenge of changing behaviors to purchase less and reuse more
- Challenge of measuring progress with source reduction and reuse, and limited data on impacts (quantifying reduction, track reuse)
- Cost of new programs/limited funding for source reduction and reuse programming
- Lack of county leadership buy-in
- Lack of guidance for successful programming
- Lack of state and local legislation requiring or incentivizing source reduction and reuse
- Limited space to physically facilitate reuse
- Limited staff capacity



Current programming and barriers

300 Answer

Greater Minnesota

1. **Limited staff capacity**
2. **Challenge of changing behaviors to purchase less and reuse more**
3. Cost of new programs/limited funding for source reduction and reuse programming

Metro

1. Lack of state and local legislation requiring or incentivizing source reduction and reuse
2. **Limited staff capacity**
3. **Challenge of changing behaviors to purchase less and reuse more**





Current programming and barriers

500 Question

Greater Minnesota and Metro counties had their three lowest (least prohibitive) barriers in common for source reduction and reuse programming.

Which of these options were the three shared barriers?

- Challenge of changing behaviors to purchase less and reuse more
- Challenge of measuring progress with source reduction and reuse, and limited data on impacts (quantifying reduction, track reuse)
- Cost of new programs/limited funding for source reduction and reuse programming
- Lack of county leadership buy-in
- Lack of guidance for successful programming
- Lack of state and local legislation requiring or incentivizing source reduction and reuse
- Limited space to physically facilitate reuse
- Limited staff capacity





Current programming and barriers

500 Answer

Greater Minnesota

6. Challenge of measuring progress with source reduction and reuse, and limited data on impacts (quantifying reduction, track reuse)
7. Lack of guidance for successful programming
8. Lack of county leadership buy-in

Metro

6. Lack of county leadership buy-in
7. Lack of guidance for successful programming

OR

Challenge of measuring progress with source reduction and reuse, and limited data on impacts (quantifying reduction, track reuse)





Incentives and solutions 100 Question

Greater Minnesota and Metro counties had the same top three priorities for Funding & Staffing solutions.

Which of these options were the top three priorities?

- a. Additional funding allocated for source reduction and reuse only, passed along to the counties similar to SCORE
- b. Additional funding at the state level for source reduction and reuse grants, available to counties and other organizations statewide
- c. Additional funding for statewide source reduction and reuse campaigns
- d. Additional staffing at the local level to implement source reduction and reuse programs
- e. Additional staffing at the state level to support source reduction and reuse programs



Incentives and solutions

100 Answer

Greater Minnesota

1. Additional funding allocated for source reduction and reuse only, passed along to the counties similar to SCORE
2. Additional staffing at the local level to implement source reduction and reuse programs
3. Additional funding at the state level for source reduction and reuse grants, available to counties and other organizations statewide
4. Additional funding for statewide source reduction and reuse campaigns
5. Additional staffing at the state level to support source reduction and reuse programs

Metro

1. Additional funding allocated for source reduction and reuse only, passed along to the counties similar to SCORE
 2. Additional staffing at the local level to implement source reduction and reuse programs
 3. Additional funding at the state level for source reduction and reuse grants, available to counties and other organizations statewide
- OR
- Additional staffing at the state level to support source reduction and reuse programs
5. Additional funding for statewide source reduction and reuse campaigns





Incentives and solutions

300 Question

Greater Minnesota counties had their third ranked solution as:
“Statewide education campaigns on source reduction and reuse
with materials for counties to promote locally.”

**What was the most recent statewide source reduction or reuse
education campaign launched in 2004?**

Hint: The campaign focused on a commercial audience instead of
residential.



Incentives and solutions

300 Answer

In 2004, MPCA and partners launched the Office Paper Reduction campaign, which aimed to reduce the use of paper in commercial office settings.

The first and second ranked choices for Greater Minnesota counties were:

1. Additional funding (pass through funding, grant opportunities, etc.)
2. Additional staffing

The top ranked choices for the Metro counties were:

1. Source reduction and reuse legislation
2. Additional staffing
3. Additional funding (pass through funding, grant opportunities, etc.)





Incentives and solutions

500 Question

What was the most popular new funding option for source reduction and reuse programming with 84% of counties indicating they were “very interested” or “somewhat interested.”

Hint: There is currently a proposal in the Governor’s Budget for the FY24 / FY25 biennium for this.





Incentives and solutions

500 Answer

84% of counties indicating they were “very interested” or “somewhat interested” in establishing a permanent statewide source reduction and reuse grant program.

The Governor’s budget recommendations includes grants and loans for the 2024 -2025 biennium for:

- \$3.5 million per biennium for prevention of wasted food and food rescue efforts
- \$2.4 million per biennium for overall waste prevention and reuse projects
- \$2 million per biennium for sustainable buildings and materials programs and projects





Legislation 100 Question

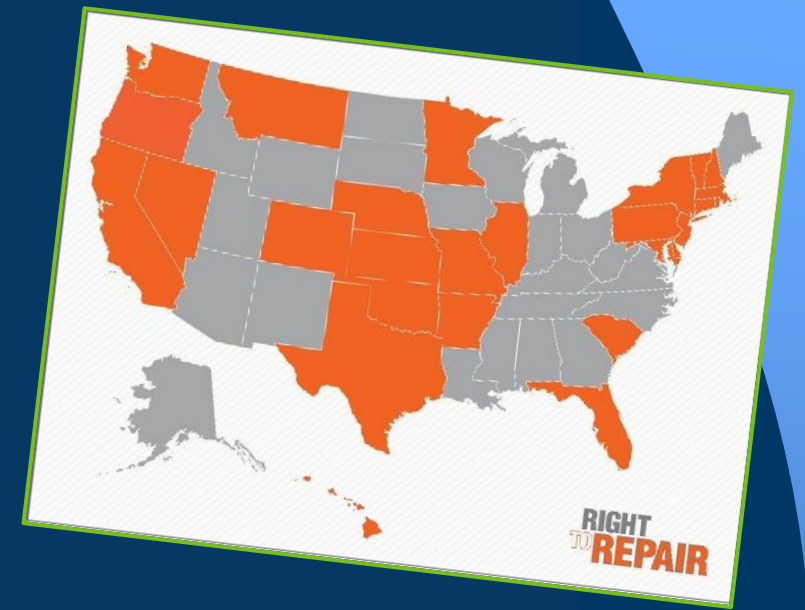
Minnesota has had a bill pending on this source reduction or reuse topic for electronics for nearly a decade. Both CO and NY passed versions of this legislation last session.

What legislative topic connected to source reduction and reuse was ranked as the second highest interest for Metro counties?





Legislation 100 Answer



Right to repair

Right to repair, or digital fair repair, require manufacturers of electronic devices, appliances, and machinery to make the information, parts, and tools necessary for repairs available to individuals and independent repair shops.





Legislation 300 Question

What legislative topic connected to source reduction and reuse was ranked as the top interest for both Greater Minnesota and Metro counties?

Hint: Partnership on Waste & Energy (PWE) has been leading a stakeholder effort over the past year to introduce a new bill on this during the current session.



Legislation 300 Answer

Extended producer responsibility/product stewardship

EPR can be applied to a wide range of products – the stakeholder process led by PWE has focused on packaging and paper products (PPP).





Legislation 500 Question

With wider adoption of sustainable materials management (SMM), the MPCA has been exploring how to better set targets and measure efforts based on how beneficial they are for the environment. Counties indicated whether establishing an environmental impact target would make it easier, harder, etc. to work on source reduction and reuse.

What percentage of counties responded to the following? (match)

- | | |
|--|-------|
| • <u>Easier</u> for to focus on source reduction and reuse | • 8% |
| • <u>Harder</u> to focus on source reduction and reuse | • 16% |
| • <u>No change</u> in focus on source reduction and reuse | • 17% |
| • Not sure, <u>need more information</u> | • 59% |



Legislation 500 Answer

- Easier for to focus on source reduction and reuse → 8%
- Harder to focus on source reduction and reuse → 16%
- No change in focus on source reduction and reuse → 17%
- Not sure, need more information → 59%

More discussion is needed with this concept and the MPCA plans to engage with counties that expressed interest in being involved.





Future opportunities 100 Question

WLSSD was one of the first areas to actively embrace this source reduction or reuse activity, serving as a model for the state. Both Greater Minnesota and Metro counties ranked this as their top choice for seeing the greatest benefit from the **state** providing support, necessary resources, or guidance.

What was that top ranked choice?





Future opportunities 100 Answer



County-run reuse hubs or warehouses (virtual or physical)

WLSSD's center opened in 2002 and has continued to grow and develop with thousands of customers and more than a hundred thousand dollars in savings.





Future opportunities 300 Question

Greater Minnesota and Metro counties had two top priorities in common for source reduction and reuse programming they'd like to pursue in the future.

What are these two priority topics?



Future opportunities 300 Answer



Food

Diet changes
Prevention of wasted food
& food rescue



Building

Preservation
Deconstruction & material reuse

Greater Minnesota

- Community reuse events (e.g., swaps, lending libraries for items like tools, etc.)
- **Prevention of wasted food and food rescue (both commercial and residential)**
- **Sustainable building (such as building preservation/maintenance, adaptive building reuse, deconstruction, material reuse)**

Metro

- **Prevention of wasted food and food rescue (both commercial and residential)**
- **Sustainable building (such as building preservation/maintenance, adaptive building reuse, deconstruction, material reuse)**
- County-run reuse hubs or warehouses (virtual or physical)





Future opportunities 500 Question

What percentage of counties expressed interest in being involved in a process to develop a proposal for a new statewide funding source for source reduction and reuse?

- a. <25%
- b. 25-49%
- c. 50-74%
- d. >75%



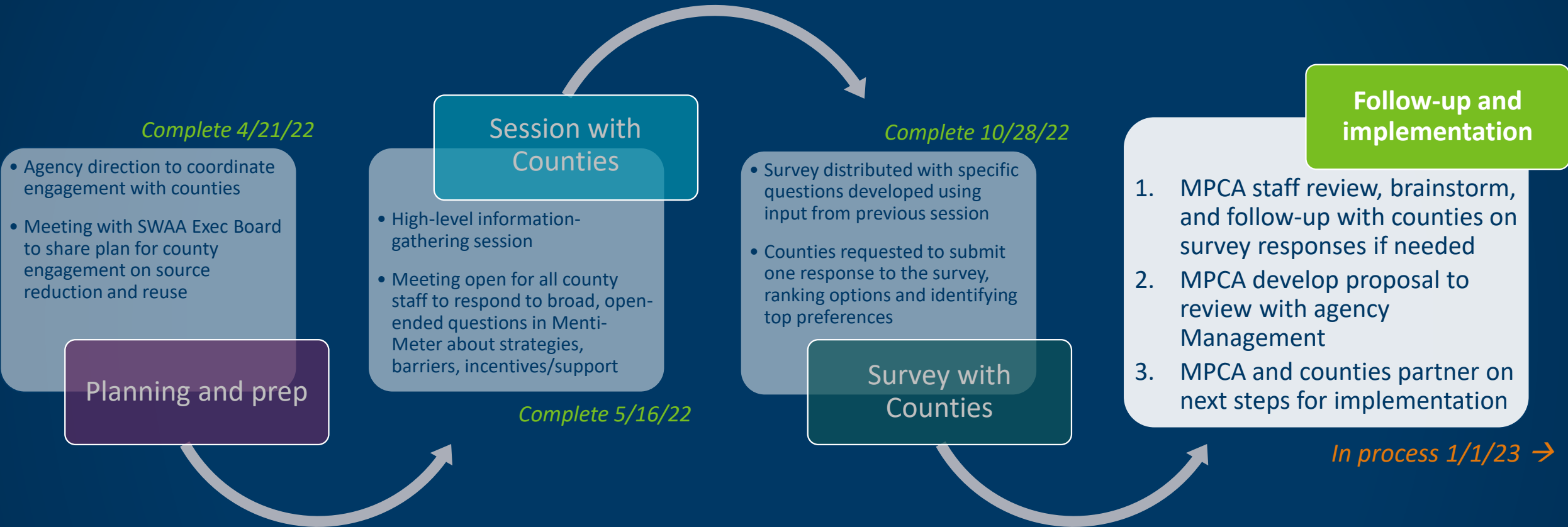


Future opportunities 500 Answer

44% of counties expressed interest in being involved in a process to develop a proposal for a new funding source for source reduction and reuse.

Stay tuned!

Next steps



How would you like to be engaged and updated?

- Actively involved in meetings?
- Emailed updates on developments?
- Other?



Questions?

Thank you!

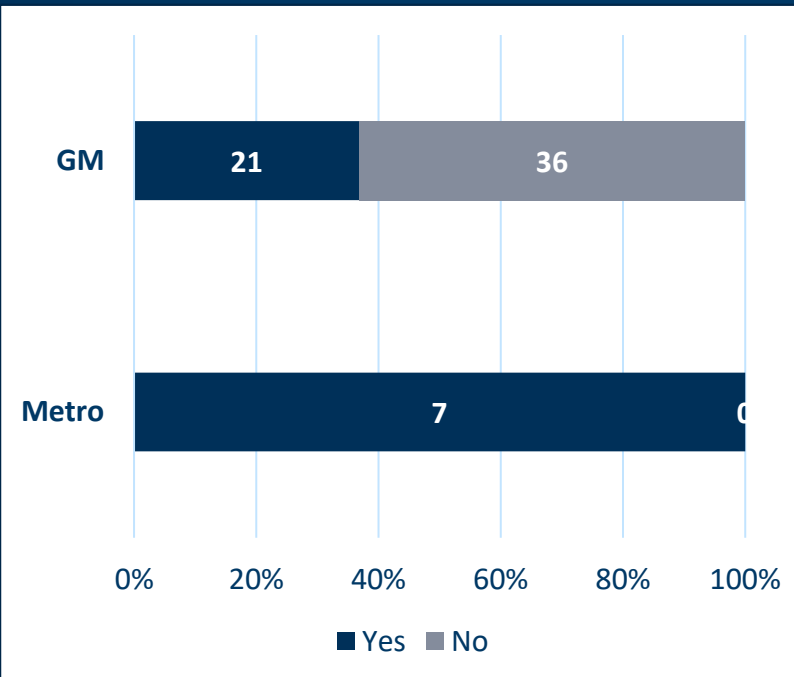
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Current programming

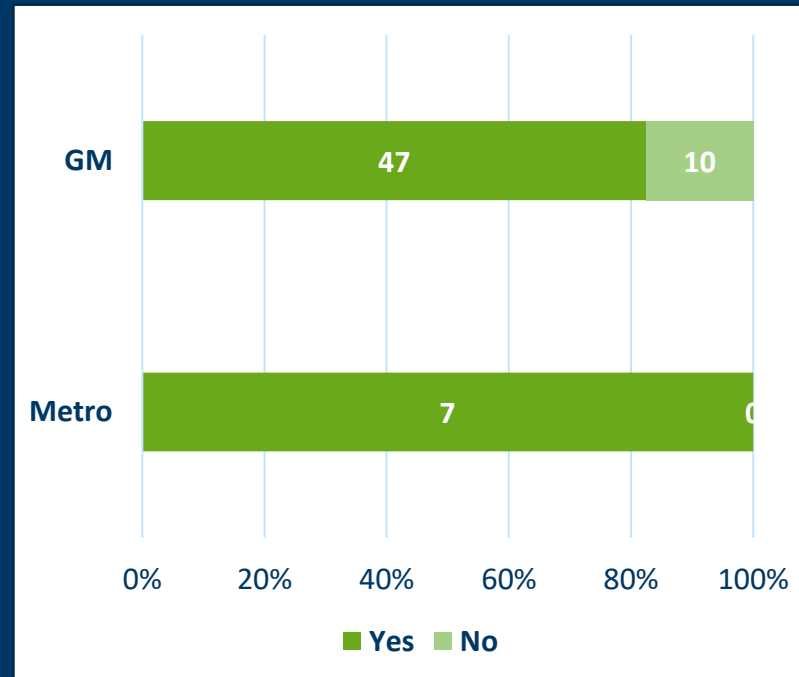
Does your county currently offer public reuse community events?

Of the participating counties, 44% responded "yes" and 56% responded "no."



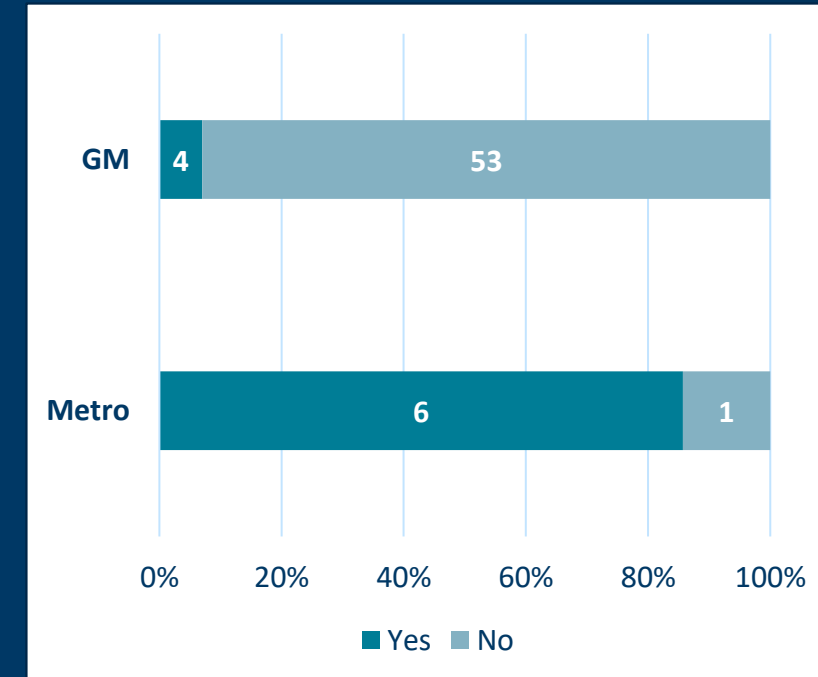
Does your county currently offer source reduction or reuse outreach and education to the public?

Of the participating counties, 84% responded "yes" and 16% responded "no."



Does your county currently offer source reduction or reuse grants?

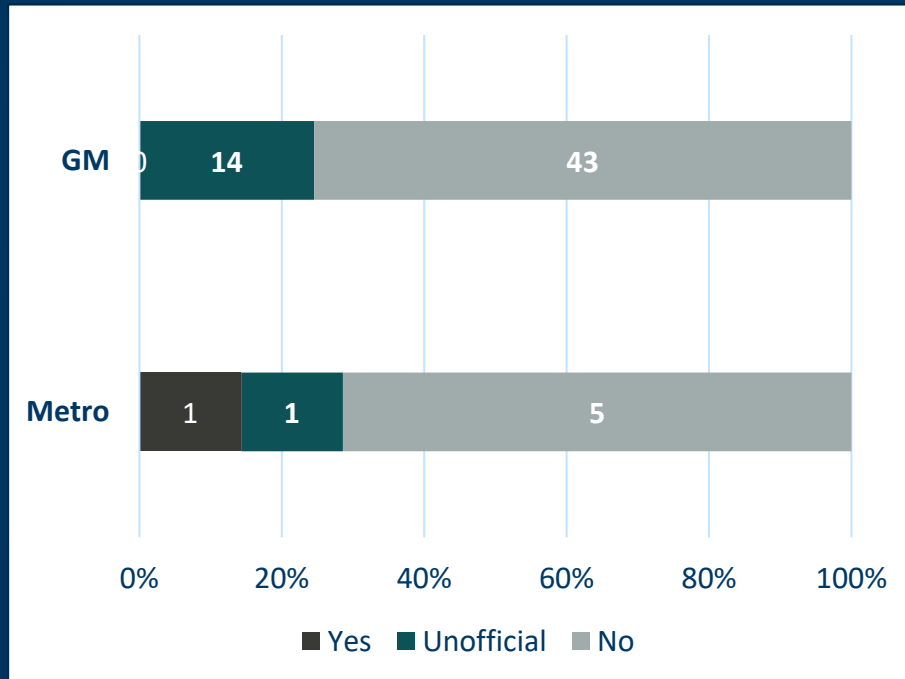
Of the participating counties, 16% responded "yes" and 84% responded "no."



Current programming

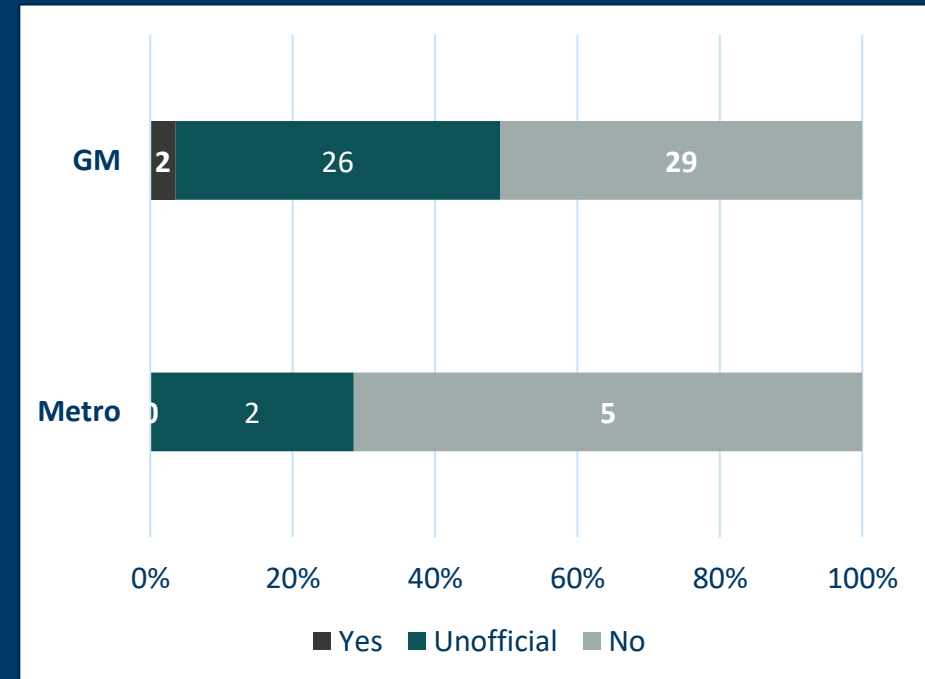
Does your county have a green meeting policy that requires reusables at county events/buildings?

Of the participating counties, 2% responded “yes,” 75% responded “no,” and 23% have an unofficial policy.



Does your county have an internal policy specifying surplus materials must be used first prior to purchasing new?

Of the participating counties, 3% responded “yes,” 53% responded “no,” and 44% have an unofficial policy.



Of the “yes” and “unofficial policy” responses, >50% are unsure if it results in less new purchasing as it isn’t tracked.

Most prohibitive

Greater Minnesota

1. Limited staff capacity
2. Challenge of changing behaviors to purchase less and reuse more
3. Cost of new programs/limited funding for source reduction and reuse programming
4. Limited space to physically facilitate reuse
5. Lack of state and local legislation requiring or incentivizing source reduction and reuse
6. Challenge of measuring progress with source reduction and reuse, and limited data on impacts (quantifying reduction, track reuse)
7. Lack of guidance for successful programming
8. Lack of county leadership buy-in

Metro

1. Lack of state and local legislation requiring or incentivizing source reduction and reuse
2. Limited staff capacity
3. Challenge of changing behaviors to purchase less and reuse more
4. Cost of new programs/limited funding for source reduction and reuse programming **OR** Limited space to physically facilitate reuse
6. Lack of county leadership buy-in
7. Lack of guidance for successful programming **OR** Challenge of measuring progress with source reduction and reuse, and limited data on impacts (quantifying reduction, track reuse)

Least prohibitive

Incentives and solutions to programming

Most helpful

Greater Minnesota

1. Additional funding (pass through funding, grant opportunities, etc.)
2. Additional staffing
3. Statewide education campaigns on source reduction and reuse with materials for counties to promote locally
4. Coordination between public and private entities to execute source reduction/reuse projects
5. Source reduction and reuse legislation
6. Reuse business network and assistance/Reuse Minnesota engagement
7. Coordination between public entities to execute source reduction/reuse projects
8. Support for measuring progress with source reduction and reuse (methodology)
9. Updated statewide data (waste composition/recycling capture rates)

Metro

1. Source reduction and reuse legislation
2. Additional staffing
3. Additional funding (pass through funding, grant opportunities, etc.)
4. Updated statewide data (waste composition/recycling capture rates)
5. Coordination between public and private entities to execute source reduction/reuse projects
6. Reuse business network and assistance/Reuse Minnesota engagement **OR** Statewide education campaigns on source reduction and reuse with materials for counties to promote locally
8. Support for measuring progress with source reduction and reuse (methodology) **OR** Coordination between public entities to execute source reduction/reuse projects

Least helpful

Legislative topics

Highest priority

Greater Minnesota

1. Extended producer responsibility/product stewardship
2. Tax incentive for purchasing used items, such as sales tax exemptions, tax rebates, etc.
3. Clarification of policies for donation of publicly owned items, as current language is vague on requirements and results in restrictions for donation/reuse
4. Source reduction and reuse goals including specific environmental impact measurements, such as greenhouse gas emissions
5. Right to repair
6. Update Minnesota's Statute 115A.965 PROHIBITIONS ON SELECTED TOXICS IN PACKAGING. to include additional toxic chemicals.
7. Exemption on the Solid Waste Management Tax for businesses classified as a secondhand business

Metro

1. Extended producer responsibility/product stewardship
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7. Exemption on the Solid Waste Management Tax for businesses classified as a secondhand business

Lowest priority

Future opportunities

Highest priority

Greater Minnesota

1. Community reuse events (e.g., swaps, lending libraries for items like tools, etc.)
2. Prevention of wasted food and food rescue (both commercial and residential)
3. Sustainable building (such as building preservation/maintenance, adaptive building reuse, deconstruction, material reuse)
4. County-run reuse hubs or warehouses (virtual or physical)
5. Community repair events (e.g., fix-it clinics)
6. Single-use swaps for reusables (e.g., durable dishes in schools to replace Styrofoam trays)
7. Sustainable purchasing including contract restrictions and environmental product declarations

Metro

1. Prevention of wasted food and food rescue (both commercial and residential)
2. Sustainable building (such as building preservation/maintenance, adaptive building reuse, deconstruction, material reuse)
3. County-run reuse hubs or warehouses (virtual or physical)
4. Community repair events (e.g., fix-it clinics) **OR** Community reuse events (e.g., swaps, lending libraries for items like tools, etc.)
6. Single-use swaps for reusables (e.g., durable dishes in schools to replace Styrofoam trays)
7. Sustainable purchasing including contract restrictions and environmental product declarations

Lowest priority

State support, resources, guidance

Most beneficial

Greater Minnesota

1. County-run reuse hubs or warehouses (virtual or physical)
2. Sustainable building (such as building preservation/maintenance, adaptive building reuse, deconstruction, material reuse)
3. Community reuse events (e.g., swaps, lending libraries for items like tools, etc.)
4. Prevention of wasted food and food rescue (both commercial and residential)
5. Sustainable purchasing including contract restrictions and environmental product declarations
6. Single-use swaps for reusables (e.g., durable dishes in schools to replace Styrofoam trays)
7. Community repair events (e.g., fix-it clinics)

Metro

1. County-run reuse hubs or warehouses (virtual or physical)
2. Prevention of wasted food and food rescue (both commercial and residential) **OR** Sustainable building (such as building preservation/maintenance, adaptive building reuse, deconstruction, material reuse) **OR** Sustainable purchasing including contract restrictions and environmental product declarations
5. Community reuse events (e.g., swaps, lending libraries for items like tools, etc.)
6. Community repair events (e.g., fix-it clinics) **OR** Single-use swaps for reusables (e.g., durable dishes in schools to replace Styrofoam trays)

Least beneficial

New funding interest

Establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system for packaging and paper products (PPP) with a requirement that specific funds generated be directed at source reduction and reuse programming.

80% responded “**very interested**” or “**somewhat interested**” in EPR for PPP for new funding.

Establish an EPR system for other product categories with a requirement that specific funds generated be directed at source reduction and reuse programming.

78% responded “**very interested**” or “**somewhat interested**” in EPR for other products for new funding.

Increase the Solid Waste Management Tax with a requirement that the additional funds generated be directed at source reduction and reuse programming (i.e., SCORE for source reduction and reuse).

59% responded “**very interested**” or “**somewhat interested**” in increasing the SWMT.

Establish a permanent statewide source reduction and reuse grant program.

84% responded “**very interested**” or “**somewhat interested**” in a statewide grant program.

Require all land disposal facilities partner with and financially support source reduction and reuse organizations.

42% responded “**very interested**” or “**somewhat interested**” in a land disposal partnership and financial support program.

Establish a carbon tax on high impact products/materials and a requirement that the additional funds generated must be directed at source reduction and reuse programming.

39% responded “**very interested**” or “**somewhat interested**” in a carbon tax on high impact products/materials.