

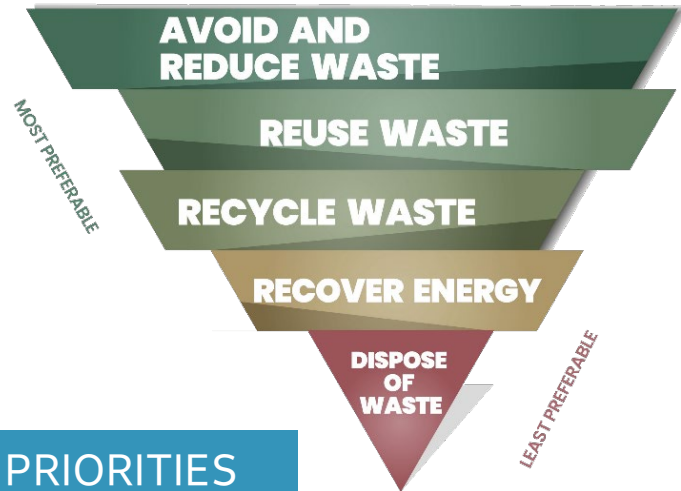
MINNESOTA
SOLID WASTE
 ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION



The Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) represents and promotes the interests of county and district solid waste administrators and their programs, and promotes environmentally sound, cost-effective waste management systems.

Counties and solid waste districts across the state have the statutory responsibility to manage solid waste in their jurisdictions and achieve state recycling goals in the process.

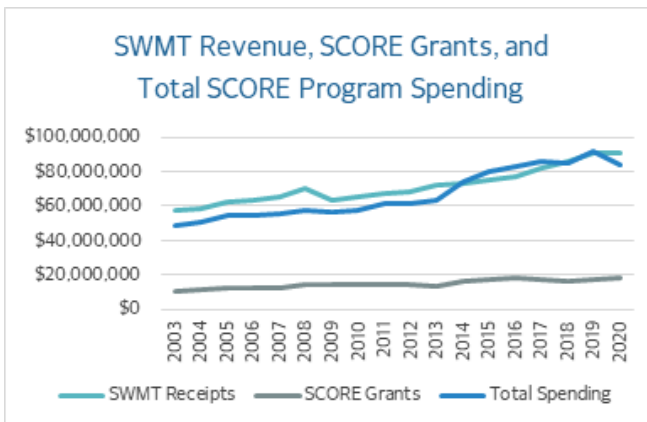
SWAA supports the long-established waste hierarchy to improve environmental outcomes, protect public health and minimize landfilling.



SWAA'S 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SCORE Funding HF1785 (Hornstein)/SF1587 (Dibble)

SCORE grants provide funding for recycling programs, food waste management and prevention, composting and compostable management, waste reduction and management of household hazardous wastes and other problem materials.



SCORE is an important part of solid waste budgets, but it is insufficient to achieve our waste reduction goals.

In 2020, **Minnesota posted a greenhouse gas savings of 4,280,365 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent** by reducing waste and reusing and recycling materials through locally-operated SCORE programs.

Minnesota's recycling industry adds \$15.7 billion to the state's economy and employs 37,000 workers – with room to grow.

The Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) is a user tax and 100% of it should be used for waste management, but 30% goes into the General Fund.

HF1785/SF1587 would recapture the 30% of the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) that is currently being diverted to the general fund and redirect it to the environmental fund for distribution of these dollars to counties as part of their SCORE grants. ♻️

This legislation will move us closer to a zero-waste future with benefits to public and environmental health and the economy.

Solid Waste Capital Assistance Program

The Solid Waste Capital Assistance Program (CAP) helps local governments finance recycling and waste reduction infrastructure. **Minnesota needs to address aging facilities and buildout its infrastructure to maintain and even increase recycling and resource recovery levels.**

SWAA supports full funding of solid waste management projects in the 2023 Capital Investment bill, \$49 million (see chart at right). This funding is a partial match to the local government investments.

The cost of this infrastructure has grown over time, and CAP plays an important role in keeping facilities viable and creating additional opportunities.

Modernizing Minnesota’s statewide composting and recycling infrastructure will increase waste diversion efforts, create jobs, reduce landfill costs, and prevent harmful climate impacts. ♻️



2023 Projects	Request
Pope/Douglas Solid Waste - Material Recovery Facility	\$12.833 million
Dakota and Scott Counties - Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Recycling Facility	\$8 million
Olmsted County - Materials Recovery Facility	\$10 million
Polk County - Materials Recovery Facility	\$2.4 million
Chisago County - Household Hazardous Waste Facility	\$281,000
Cass County - Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling Operations Center	\$3.5 million
Organics Capacity - Statewide	\$12 million

Extended Producer Responsibility

SWAA supports product stewardship among manufacturers, retailers, and consumers, with an emphasis on industry through an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework. EPR creates producer-led material and toxicity reductions, reuse, repair, and recycling programs, to reduce a product’s life cycle impacts from design through end-of-life management. Programs must include transparency and accountability measures, maximize use of existing infrastructure, and provide local governments with a voluntary role in development and implementation. Programs must not rely on local government financing.



E-Waste

SWAA supports efforts to make improvements that would maximize the e-waste recycling program. The MN Electronics Recycling Act (115A.1310) was passed by the Legislature in 2007, to address dumping, stockpiling and toxic issues with e-waste.

The e-waste law worked great at first, but costs have shifted on to local governments and SWAA is currently working with our partners at the MPCA on an improved e-waste program.

These improvements will require manufacturers to fully reimburse county collection and recycling costs and reduce the end-of-life costs to residents. ♻️

For more information, please contact Brian Martinson, Environment & Natural Resources Policy Analyst, at bmartinson@mncounties.org or 651-246-4156.