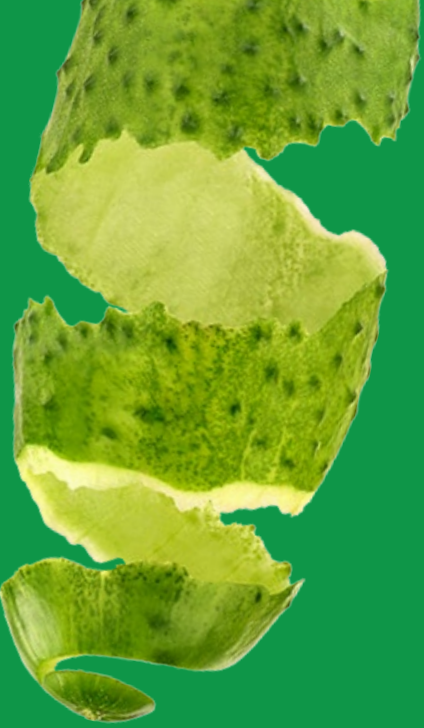




Food Scraps  
**PICKUP**  
Program™

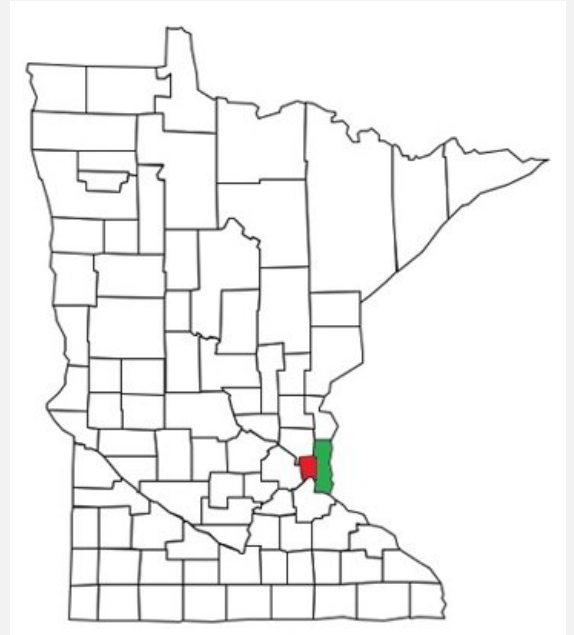
## Program Overview



# Background

# Ramsey and Washington Counties

- Over 820,000 residents and 70,000 businesses
- 14% of state's population
- Ramsey County: most densely populated and second most populous county in state
- Washington County: rural communities as well as fast-growing suburban communities
- Ramsey and Washington counties have worked together since the 1980s to manage trash responsibly – today, they work together through Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E)



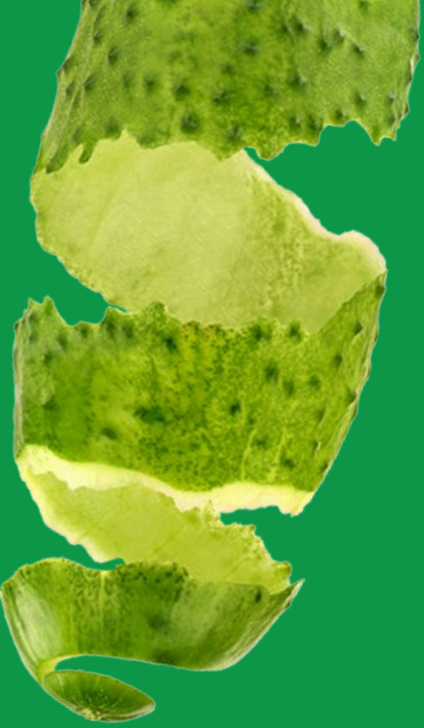
# Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E)

- Organization through which Ramsey and Washington counties collaborate to reduce and manage waste
- Operates under direction of joint powers board that includes commissioners from both counties
- R&E staff works closely with each county's staff to implement projects
- Vision: vibrant, healthy communities without waste
- Food scraps pickup program is being developed jointly by R&E and the two counties



**RAMSEY/WASHINGTON  
RECYCLING & ENERGY**  
CONNECTING VALUE TO WASTE





# Why Collect Food Scraps?

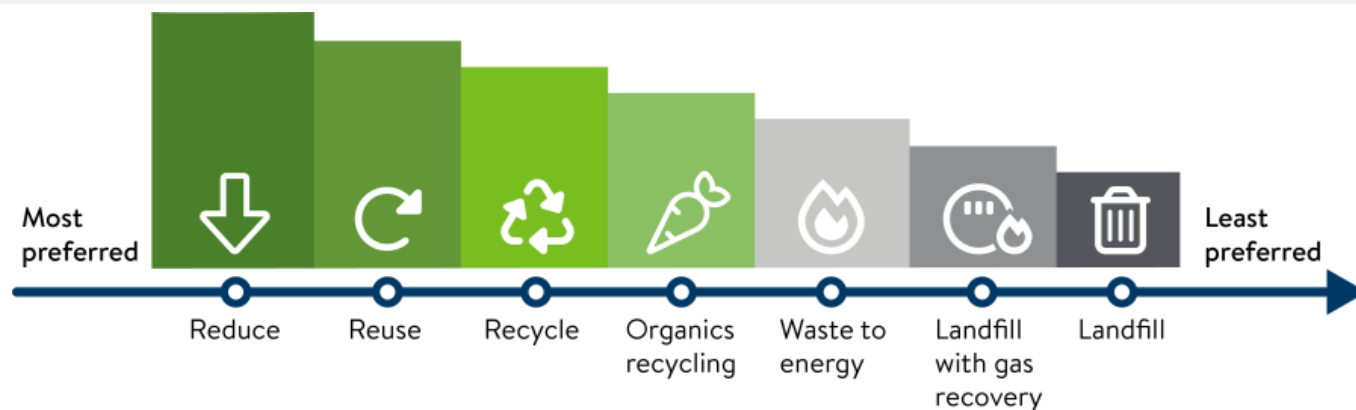
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Washington  
County

# Why Collect Food Scraps?

- Food scraps comprise over 20% of household trash by weight
- By separating this material, residents can help turn it back into soil instead of becoming waste, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving resources
- Collecting food scraps will help meet state recycling goals by moving materials up the waste hierarchy



# Food Scrap Recycling Options in Ramsey/Washington

## 1. At Home Composting

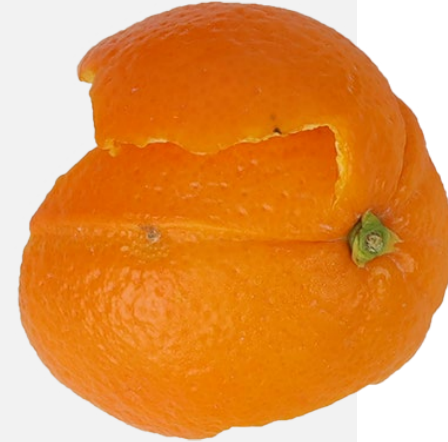
Accepted items: fruit and vegetable scraps.

- Residents can collect food scraps and compost on their own
- Many methods

## 2. Collection programs

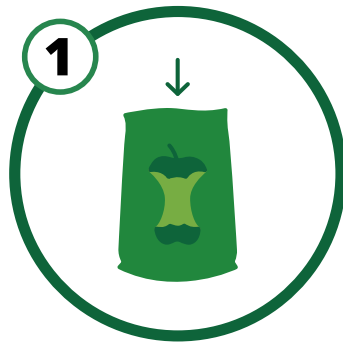
Accepted items: **all food** (fruit, vegetable, meat, bones, etc.). Brought to industrial compost facility.

- **Drop-off sites:** Sites where residents can bring collected food scraps.
- **Food Scraps Pickup Program:** Pickup program from your home.



# Food Scraps Pickup Program

## How It Works



**Collect your food scraps** in the bags.



Once a week or when the bag is full, **tie a single knot** at the top to close the bag.



**Place your bag** inside your trash cart or dumpster for collection.



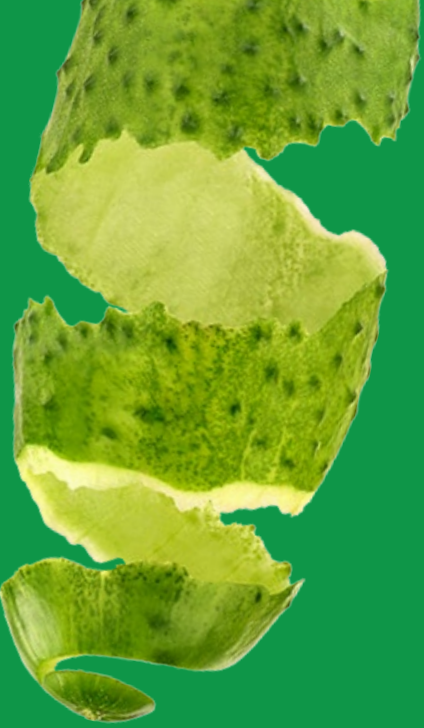
**Done!** The food scraps will be composted.



# Program Funding

- This program is supported through three funding sources:
  - ✓ Grant from MPCA funded by 2020 State of Minnesota bonding bill
  - ✓ Service charge on the price of trash collection
  - ✓ Tipping fees that haulers pay to deliver trash to the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center





# Building a Program

Food Scraps  
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Washington  
 County

# FSP System View

Composting and/or Digestion

FSBs delivered to end-markets

FSB Bag Recovery

Delivered to R&E Center + TSS

Ongoing (Vendor)

Website built and maintained

Data reporting to R&E

Customer Service

Garbage with FSBs collected

Resident orders FSBs online

Delivered to resident

Orders confirmed

Order placed with warehouse

Processed at warehouse

Shipped to resident

Warehouse stock maintained

Stock ordered when low

FSBs manufactured

Shipped to refill stock

Ongoing (Ramsey/Washington R&E)

Stock ordered by coordinator when low

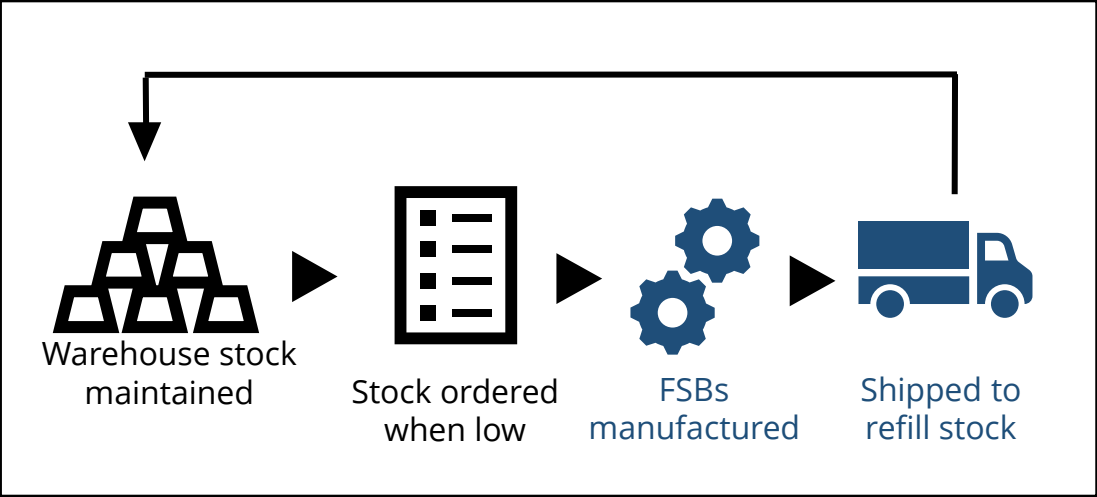
FSBs available at county drop-off sites (long term)

Contract/Vendor management

Education development

Outreach & Engagement

Program tracking



**Manufacturing,  
Warehousing, &  
Distribution of  
Food Scrap Bags**

# Food Scrap Bag Manufacturing & Specs

## Design

Bags are specially designed to withstand the trip in garbage truck and then eventually break down with their contents.

## Specifications

**Thickness:** 1.4 mil thick (about 3x thicker than a grocery store bag).

**ASTM standards:** compostability, strength, penetration resistance.

**Compostability:** BPI-certified.

**Testing:** bags tested in actual loads of trash.

**Color:** green with compostable ink.

## Sizes

6-gallon and 13-gallon.

Households will get 60 bags per order (expected to last about one year).

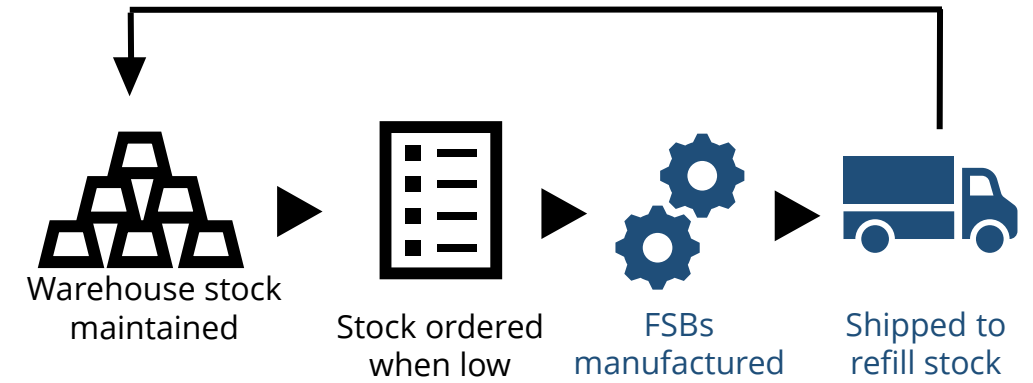
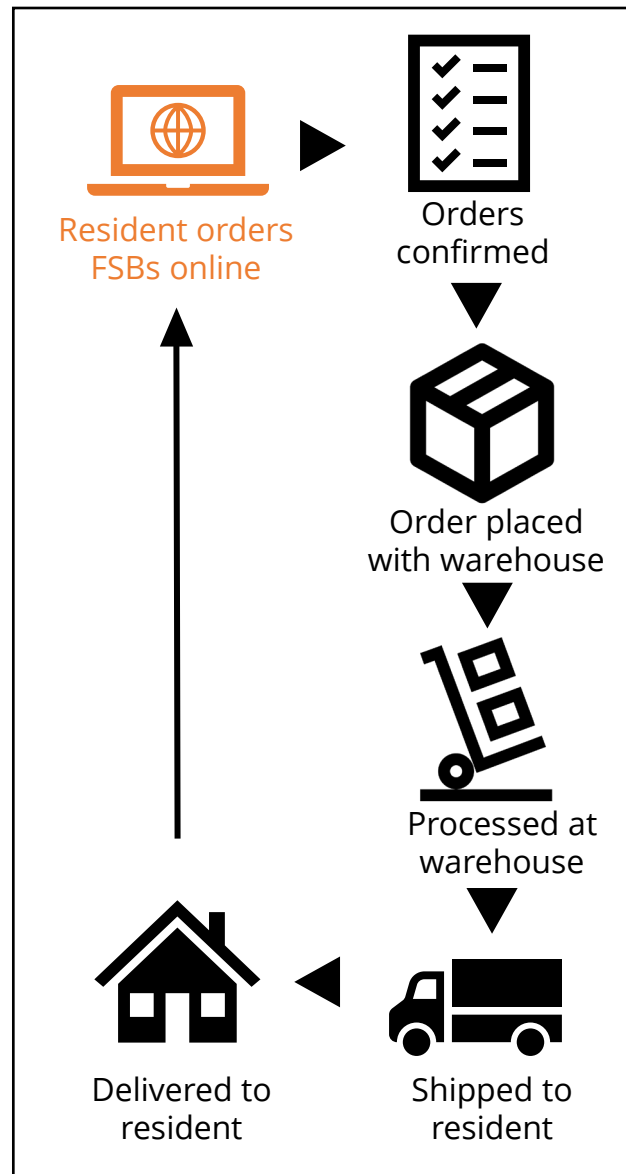




# Warehouse & Fulfillment

- Contracted with a local warehouse to:
  - Store food scrap bags
  - Process/fulfill orders
  - Oversee distribution of orders
- Orders are fulfilled daily and shipped to residents





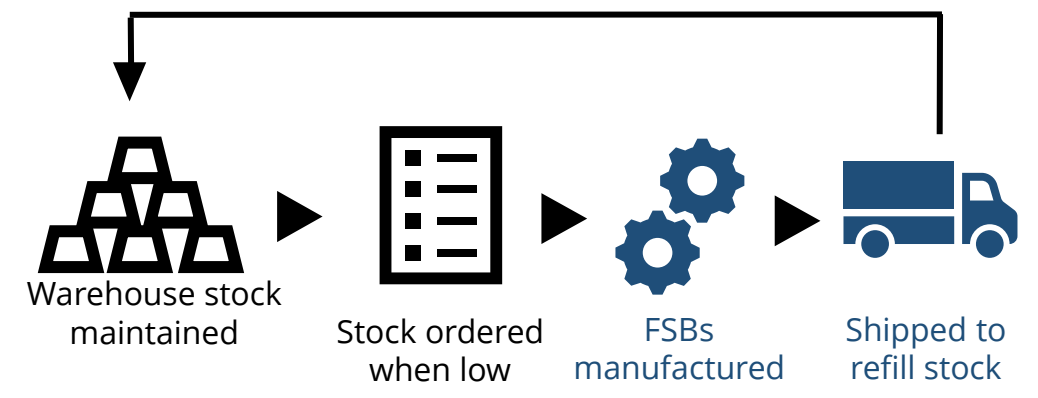
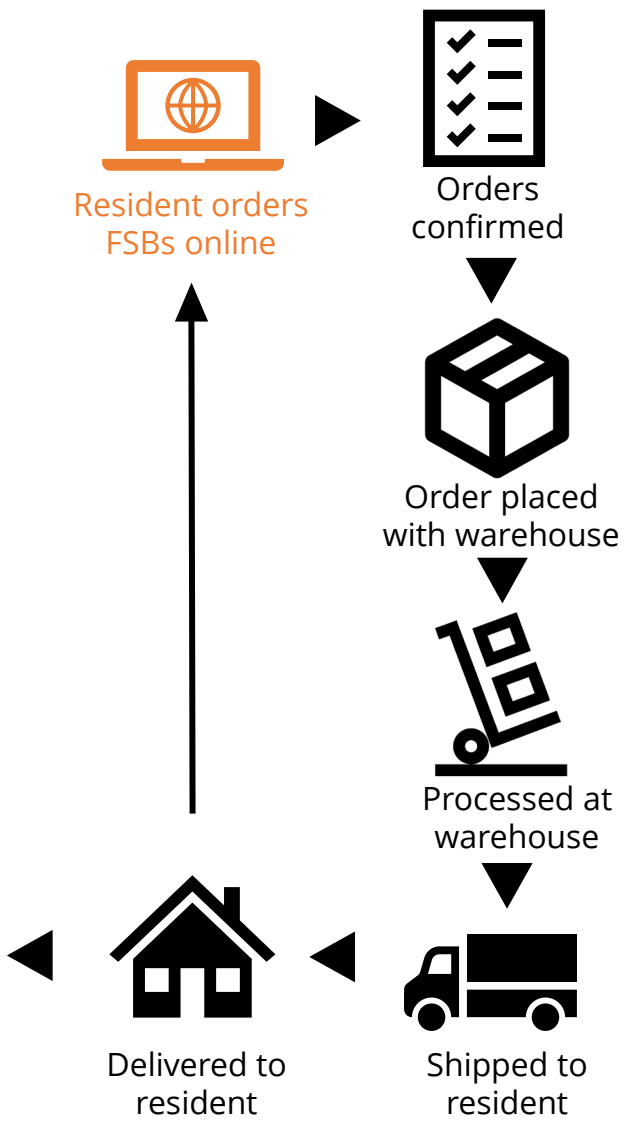
**Bag Order  
Fulfillment &  
Delivery**

# Resident Experience

- To participate, residents create account and order bags on program website or by calling customer service line
- Bags ship to residents' homes
- Residents collect food scraps and place bag in trash cart or dumpster

The program will be available to all residents in Ramsey and Washington counties, whether they live in an apartment, condo, townhome or single-family home

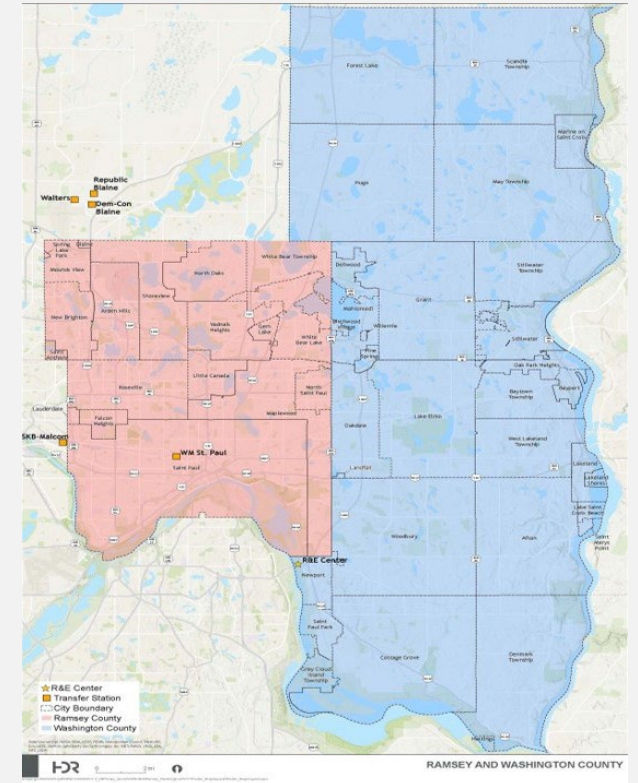




**Waste Processing & End Markets**

# Waste Collection & Post-Pickup Processing

- Coordination with haulers and municipalities
  - Identification of hauler routes
  - Analysis of waste flow in Ramsey & Washington counties
  - Notifying relevant stakeholders
- MSW delivered to R&E or transfer stations for processing
- Expanding infrastructure to support program rollout

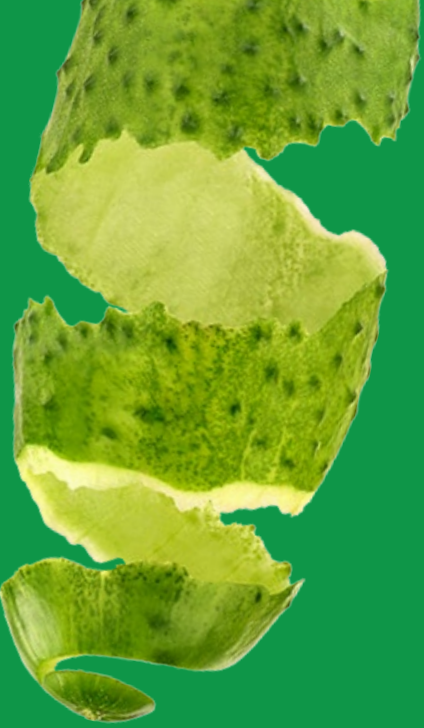




# Where do Food Scrap Bags Go?

- Trash from Ramsey and Washington counties is delivered to the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center), where it is processed to recover value
  - ✓ Metals recovered for recycling
  - ✓ Fuel produced to make electricity
  - ✓ Keeps trash out of landfills
- Food scrap bags will be mechanically separated from trash at the R&E Center (and potentially transfer stations)
- From there, food scrap bags will be delivered to compost facilities (and to an anaerobic digestion facility in the future)





# Sustaining the Program

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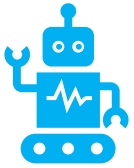
 Washington  
County



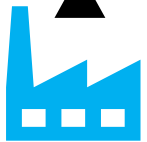
Composting and/or Digestion



FSBs delivered to end-markets



FSB Bag Recovery



Delivered to R&E Center + TSS



Garbage with FSBs collected



Delivered to resident



Shipped to resident



FSBs available at county drop-off sites (long term)

Ongoing (Vendor)



Website built and maintained



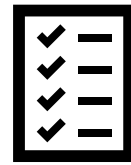
Data reporting to R&E



Customer Service



Resident orders FSBs online



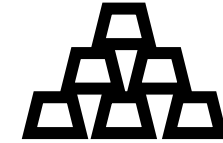
Orders confirmed



Order placed with warehouse



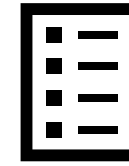
Processed at warehouse



Warehouse stock maintained



Stock ordered by coordinator when low



Stock ordered when low



FSBs manufactured



Shipped to refill stock

Ongoing (Ramsey/Washington R&E)



Contract/Vendor management



Education development



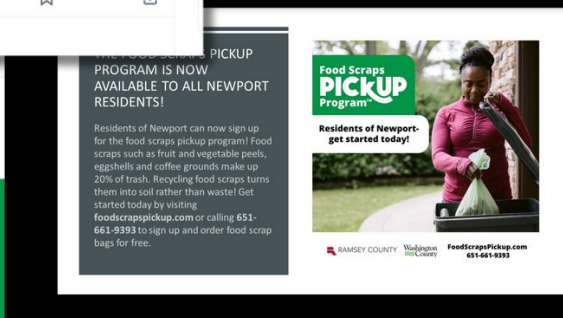
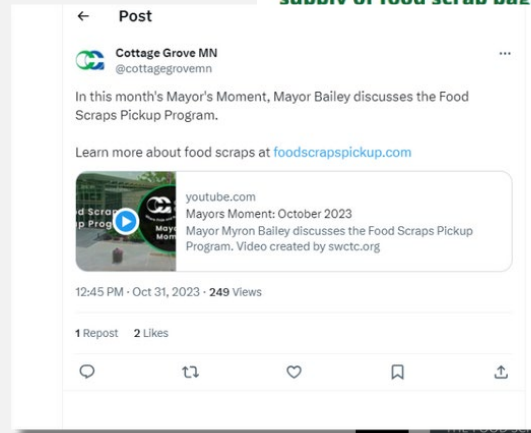
Outreach & Engagement



Program tracking

# Setting up for long-term success

- Communication and & education campaigns
- Community engagement projects
- Program tracking
  - Participation
  - Engagement
  - Participant behaviors
  - Waste sorts/audits





# Thank you!

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