

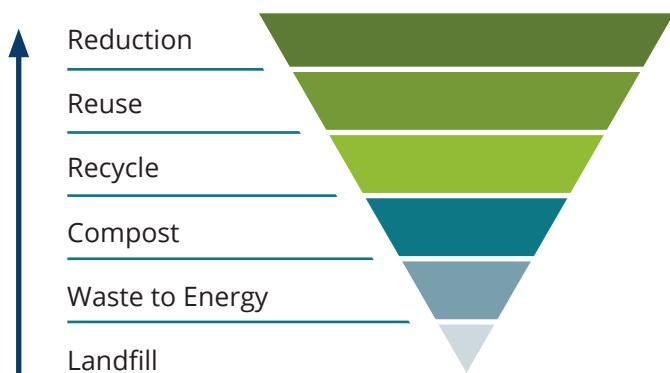
Maintain the Waste Management Hierarchy

Minnesota prioritizes using discarded materials to their highest potential, with landfilling being the last choice. Counties are committed to reducing and managing waste at the top of the hierarchy to avoid burdening future generations with permanent mountains of trash.

- To achieve zero waste and protect our climate, the current hierarchy must be maintained. Climate benefits grow with each step up the hierarchy.
- Without waste-to-energy, Partnership counties would send 815,000 more tons of trash to landfills each year – enough to line up garbage trucks bumper to bumper from St. Paul to St. Louis, Missouri.
- Waste-to-energy creates additional value from today's discarded resources and reduces pollution.

Minnesota's Waste Hierarchy

Most preferred for environment



Least preferred for environment

Landfills are costly and bad for the climate

Minnesota needs a sustainable, circular economy that manages materials to their greatest potential. That means maintaining the current hierarchy.

- Landfills pose threats to our air and water, releasing toxics and climate-threatening methane and leaking chemicals like PFAS.
- Siting a new landfill in Minnesota is politically impossible. That means trash must be hauled further away, with higher costs and climate impacts. The last landfill permitted in Minnesota was in the 1990s.
- Landfills appear less expensive in the short run but have hidden costs and liabilities. Cleaning up closed landfills has cost taxpayers \$500M – those costs will keep piling up in the long run.

The hierarchy is backed by science and consistent with other policy

Landfilling is the least preferred waste management option in federal and Minnesota law. The current hierarchy reflects sound science for protecting public health, the environment and climate.

Need more information?

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The Partnership on Waste and Energy—a collaboration between Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties—seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.