



# 2020 – 2022 Zero Waste Action Plan

October 30, 2019

Minneapolis Department of Public Works  
Division of Solid Waste & Recycling

# 2020 – 2022 Minneapolis Zero Waste Action Plan

## Introduction

The City of Minneapolis has been an environmental leader since it began one of the nation’s first curbside recycling programs in 1982. Since then, many programs have been adopted and plans have been made to reduce our impact on the environment from separate collection of yard waste (1988), the adoption of the Environmentally Acceptable Packaging ordinance (originally adopted in 1989 modified to today’s Green to Go ordinance in 2014), the City’s Climate Action Plan (adopted in 2013), the switch from multi-sort to one-sort recycling (2014), the organics recycling program (pilot 2008, drop-offs 2014, curbside 2015) and many more.

In 2014, when the State of Minnesota increased Twin Cities Metro Area recycling and composting goal to 75% by 2030, the City followed suit showing its commitment to helping meet those goals. In 2015, the City adopted recycling and composting goals of 50% by 2020 and 80% by 2030 and set a zero-percent growth rate for waste generated. The adoption of City goals also initiated the development of the City’s Zero Waste Plan (ZWP).

Adopted in December 2017, the ZWP was developed with stakeholder engagement as a priority. Stakeholders (residents from all cultures and businesses) were encouraged to provide comments prior to the development of the plan, on the draft plan and they will continue to be engaged as each action item in the Zero Waste Action Plan (ZWAP) is implemented. The ZWP, ZWAP, and supplemental information can be found online at [minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste](http://minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste).

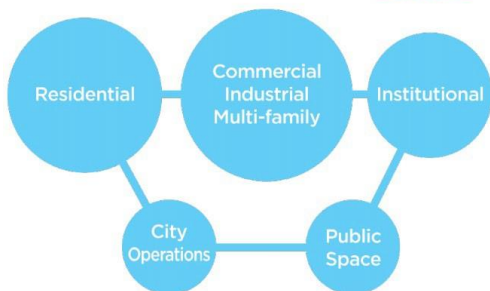
## Pathway to Zero Waste

The City believes that combining access to waste diversion programs and education and outreach is necessary to increase diversion and meet the City’s zero waste goals.



The ZWP identified program strategies for solid waste management sectors within the City to help meet the City’s recycling and composting goals. In addition to the sectors identified in the diagram below, Construction and Demolition debris is included in the Zero Waste Plan as a separate sector as it crosses all other Solid Waste Management Sectors.

### Solid Waste Management Sectors



Each strategy identified in the ZWP was evaluated by the following criteria:

- Increased diversion potential
- Difficulty of implementation
- Ongoing cost to the City

In addition, the ZWP identifies a timeline for each strategy and reiterates the need for adequate funding to implement strategies. Lastly, the ZWP identifies which department(s) should take the lead on various activities.

With the adoption of the ZWP, City Council directed Solid Waste & Recycling to take the lead on the development of a three-year implementation plan. This 2020-2022 Zero Waste Action Plan (ZWAP), is the result of Solid Waste & Recycling collaborating with representatives from the Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), Regulatory Services and the Health Department to select feasible strategies for 2020-2022.

## Focus of 2020-2022 Action Plan

Focus areas for the 2020-2022 Action Plan include:

1. Obtaining data to determine baseline and evaluate progress
2. Understanding current waste diversion programs for all sectors
3. Promoting benefits of reducing and diverting waste and available resources

Each of these focus areas is described in detail below.

### Establishing a baseline

Accurate data is needed to establish a baseline and show progress toward meeting zero waste goals. Currently the City has good data for the residential sector as collection and educational services are performed by the Public Works Division of Solid Waste & Recycling (SW&R). In 2018, the residential sector serviced by Solid Waste & Recycling achieved a 36.99% diversion rate. Data on waste generation and diversion is not well-known for the other sectors. Per Minnesota Statute 115A.93, beginning January 1, 2017 all haulers were required to report garbage, recycling, organics (yard waste and organics) by City each month. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is responsible for aggregation and evaluation of the data. In 2018 the MPCA provided education and support to haulers to come into compliance with the law. Based on feedback from haulers, the MPCA also updated the reporting framework to make submitting data for various communities easier for commercial haulers. The City intends to use State required hauler reporting to establish a baseline for the Commercial and Multifamily sectors. The 2020-2022 ZWAP also includes strategies to make hauler reporting mandatory at the City level should data received at the State level is not satisfactory to evaluate progress.

### Understanding current waste diversion programs

While there are many businesses, multifamily properties, and events that have well-developed internal waste and recycling programs, many of these are not shared outside of the individual organization. Compiling lists of all schools, institutions, public housing, hospitals and nursing homes, other governmental facilities, sporting and entertainment facilities, quasi-public, etc.; identifying a contact person and understanding their current system is necessary to identify opportunities to reduce waste and increase diversion in the future. Understanding current waste diversion programs in place will allow the City to connect with the diverse stakeholders and identify barriers and policies and tools to overcome barriers in the future.

## Promoting benefits of waste diversion and resources available

Coinciding with both data gathering and information on successful programs, many are not clear on the environmental, social, and economic benefits of diverting waste. Educating all sectors on these benefits, promoting existing resources to assist in implementation of waste diversion programs, and working with stakeholders to understand what is needed to assist them in diverting more waste is another focus of this Action Plan.

Hennepin County offers free technical assistance, signage, and other resources to improve waste reduction and diversion programs in businesses, schools, and multifamily buildings. In addition, they operate grant programs for organizations to add or improve recycling or organics recycling programs. On average, businesses receiving recycling grants increase their waste diversion to 55%. The County also has a public space recycling grant program available for municipalities and park districts to purchase containers to expand recycling in public spaces.

Due to the success of word-of-mouth communications from participating businesses, the County has had to do minimal promotions on the grant opportunities available. The City began actively promoting the County's resources directly to business when educating food establishments following the Green to Go ordinance adoption.

## Moving forward

The ZWAP includes a brief overview of current conditions for each sector and identifies strategies from the Zero Waste Plan the City intends to implement in 2020-2022.

Every three years, SW&R and other appropriate Departments will report activates completed within the ZWAP timeline and include recommendations for the next three years. The focus areas for the 2020-2022 ZWAP 1. Increased data collection, 2. increased in knowledge of existing programs, and 3. increased education and outreach are all necessary to meet the City's goals.

## Residential Sector

Focus for 2020-2022 Action Plan

The Solid Waste & Recycling Division of Public Works collects garbage, recycling, organics recycling, yard waste, and large items from all buildings with four or fewer dwelling units within the City per City ordinance. Its customers also have access to use Vouchers to bring excess garbage, Construction and Demolition Debris and other items to the City's South Transfer Station. Additional information on residential education, collection services and statistics can be found SW&R's webpage at [minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste](http://minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste).

In 2018, Solid Waste & Recycling surveyed residents to evaluate their knowledge and usage of existing programs and gauge their support for potential future program changes. Some programmatic changes evaluated included changes to the following programs:

- Fee for collection services (rate structure)
- Collection frequencies

- Mandatory participation in the recycling and/or organics recycling program
- Large and problematic item collection
- Voucher program

The results from this survey can be found on Solid Waste & Recycling’s website.

In addition, SWR hired a consultant to evaluate potential modifications to the South Transfer Station to be able to maximize the potential use of the space and divert more materials from the garbage.

Action items for the Residential Sector for 2020 – 2022 include continuing to educate residents on benefits of diverting waste and programs available to do so. SW&R will continue to have conversations with residents on potential program changes and complete necessary studies to evaluate program modifications to increase diversion.

Year(s)	Residential - City Collection Services Action Items	Lead Department
ongoing	Education and outreach for waste reduction, reuse/repair, recycling, organics, etc.	SW&R
ongoing	Support product stewardship (EPR) activities in the City’s Legislative Agenda	SW&R, Intergovernmental Relations, Sustainability
ongoing	Promote existing opportunities for disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) and infectious wastes including needles and sharps	SW&R
2018-2020	South Transfer Station usage study	SW&R
2020-2021	Evaluate additional drop-off/collection opportunities for difficult to recycle items (ex. carpet, film, bulbs, HHW, textiles)	SW&R
2020	Residential waste sort	SW&R
2020-2021	Create voucher program for residents participating in organics recycling program to have access to finished compost	SW&R
2021	Rates study including collection frequencies, cart capacities, large item, mandatory recycling	SW&R
2021	Evaluate potential for mandatory recycling participation	SW&R
2022	Begin mandatory recycling (if decide to implement)	SW&R

Additional details on strategies identified for the 2020-2022 Action Plan can be found on pages 9-27 in the Residential Sector portion of the ZWP at [minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste](http://minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste).

## Commercial Sector

Waste management in the Commercial, Industrial and Multifamily (CIM) Sector is vastly different than in the Residential Sector, however, there are some similarities. The biggest differences are in the need for varying and larger container sizes, collection frequencies, and educational challenges due to the wide variety of items that make up the waste stream. Additionally, there may be differences in those occupying a space (renters) from those who are able to make decisions regarding operations for the property (managers or building owners). The Commercial and Residential Sectors are similar in that many residents who participate in waste diversion

activities in their homes, expect to be able to participate in these activities at their place of work and while out and about in the City.

In November 2018, the Hennepin County board amended their Solid Waste Ordinance (Ordinance 13) with additional requirements for large organics generators, multi-family properties, businesses and municipalities. Modifications to the ordinance include:

- Requiring large organics generating businesses to add food diversion programs by 2020
- Setting service level standards and education and labeling requirements for multi-family properties
- Requiring all businesses to meet state recycling requirements, service level standards and labeling requirements
- Requiring all cities in the County to develop organics recycling programs by 2022

These changes will help increase awareness, increase the need for assistance and increase diversion throughout the Commercial Sector. Action items for the 2020 – 2022 ZWAP that cross all Commercial subsectors include:

Year(s)	Commercial, MultiFamily & Industrial Action Items	Lead Department
ongoing	Education and outreach for waste reduction, reuse/repair, recycling, organics, etc.	SW&R
ongoing	Promote Hennepin County assistance, resources and grants	SW&R
ongoing	Encourage to use Hennepin Country styled signage on all containers	SW&R & Health
2020	Modify City hauling license to clarify what materials are collected by each hauler and require license for recycling haulers	SW&R & CPED
2020	Evaluate hauler reporting provided to MPCA for baseline diversion calculations	SW&R
2020-2021	Evaluate modifications to City hauling license to require reporting requirements (similar to requirements per State Law) (if decide to implement)	SW&R & CPED
2020	Develop hauling renewal insert detailing reporting requirements to be required beginning in 2021 (if decide to implement)	SW&R & CPED
2020	Evaluate business recycling practices and if business recycling plans will help track progress toward meeting City goals	SW&R & CPED
2021	Hauler begins reporting to City (if decide to implement)	SW&R
2021	Modify commercial building and/or business licenses to require submittal of recycling plan and tonnages collected (if decide to implement, phase in by building size)	SW&R & CPED
2021	Evaluate enactment of Clean Community Fee (similar to Austin, TX) to fund Zero Waste activities, grant programs, and more	SW&R & Utility Billing
2022	Business recycling plans and volumes reported to City (if decide to implement, phase in by building size)	SW&R & CPED

Due to the size and variety of establishments in the Commercial Sector, additional action items for 2020-2022 have been broken down for several sub-sectors. These sub-sectors include:

- Multifamily buildings
- Large commercial buildings
- Food establishments
- Lodging establishments

A brief overview of each sub-sector and action items for each are described below. Additional details on strategies identified for the 2020-2022 Action Plan can be found on pages 28-48 in the Commercial Sector portion of the ZWP at [minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste](http://minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste).

### Multifamily Buildings

Multifamily buildings with four or more units are able to contract for collection services with any licensed hauler in the City. This, in addition to renters often times not being able to make operational decisions for the building, leads to wide differences in the access and opportunity to participate in waste diversion programs. Action items for 2020-2022 are to provide education, promote existing resources to improve diversion programs, and to evaluate potential changes using existing policy tools to make access and opportunity to those living in multifamily buildings as equitable to options for residents whose collection services are provided by SW&R.

Year(s)	Multifamily Buildings Action Items	Lead Department
2020	Rental License renewal letter insert notifying applicants that the City will begin actively enforcing multifamily recycling requirements	SW&R & Reg. Services
2020	SW&R training for Fire Inspectors to verify compliance	SW&R & Reg. Services
2020	FIS & Housing Inspectors verify compliance and writes orders for non-compliant properties	Reg. Services
2020-2022	SW&R & Hennepin County provide follow up technical support/outreach for non-compliant properties	SW&R
2020	Evaluate building code requirements for multi-family and mixed-use properties to add requirement to have chute or collection plan for organics at new developments (in addition to chute for trash and recycling that is already required)	SW&R & Reg. Services
2020	Evaluate options to require existing multi-family properties to add organics upon request of a certain number or percent of tenants in building	SW&R & Reg. Services
2020	Evaluate ordinance and rental license modifications (volume of recycling available to tenants, organics)	SW&R
2020	Evaluate organics drop-offs for multifamily / small commercial	SW&R
2021	Evaluate mandatory recycling plans submitted to City for multifamily properties	SW&R & CPED
2022	Modify rental license to require submittal of recycling plan and volumes collected (if decide to implement, phase in by building size or number of units)	SW&R & CPED
2022	Recycling plans and volumes reported to City (if decide to implement, phase in by building size or number of units)	SW&R & CPED

### Large Commercial Buildings

Similar to multifamily buildings, large commercial buildings are able to contract for collection services with any licensed hauler in the City. Additionally similar to multifamily buildings, individual businesses within large commercial buildings often times are not able to make operational decisions to increase their ability to participate in waste diversion programs. Action items for 2020-2022 include: ensuring compliance with the City’s commercial recycling ordinance and Hennepin County Solid Waste Ordinance, providing education and promoting existing resources to improve diversion programs to businesses and to evaluate the necessity of individual building or business recycling plans as a tool to increase awareness and inspire action to reduce

waste. The necessity of recycling plans will be determined in part by the evaluation of hauler reporting submitted to the State of Minnesota each year.

Year(s)	Large Commercial Building Action Items	Lead Department
2020	License renewal insert notifying properties that the City will begin actively enforcing commercial recycling requirements	SW&R & Reg. Services
2020	SW&R training for Fire Inspectors	SW&R & Reg. Services
2020	FIS verifies compliance and writes orders for non-compliant buildings	Reg. Services
2020	Evaluate how to assist Hennepin County with the implementation of organics requirements	SW&R & Health / CPED
2020-2022	SW&R & Hennepin County provide follow up technical support/outreach for non-compliant properties	SW&R
2020	Evaluate mandatory business recycling reporting (plans and volumes) to verify compliance with ordinance	SW&R & CPED
2021	Modify large building and/or business licenses to require submittal of recycling plan and volumes collected (if decide to implement, phase in by building size)	SW&R & CPED
2022	Recycling plans and weights reported to City (if decide to implement)	SW&R & CPED
2020-2022	Continued outreach and education, enforcement and assistance for Green to Go ordinance and Hennepin County organics requirements if adopted	SW&R & Health

### Food Establishments

The City’s Green to Go ordinance went into effect April 22, 2015. It requires food prepared for immediate consumption to be in reusable, recyclable or compostable containers. An exemption was given for #6 plastic (polystyrene; PS) lids for hot and cold food and beverage containers and for polyethylene (PE) lined paper items used for hot and cold liquids and to-go containers until April 22, 2019. The City’s Health Department estimates 90% compliance with the ordinance. The Green to Go ordinance also includes a requirement for collection containers to be available for products used and that the material collected be brought to the appropriate facility (ex. recyclables shall be recycled, compostable items shall be composted). It is important to note that the ordinance only requires organics collection if compostable plastic items are used.

The identified 2020-2022 action items for Food Establishments aim to assist food establishments to come into compliance with the exemption removal of the Green to Go ordinance and modifications to Hennepin County ordinance 13.

Year(s)	Food Establishment Action Items	Lead Department
2020	Encourage local supply companies to carry more compostable products for businesses	SW&R
2020	Promote food donation	Health
2020	Health Dept. exemption for plastic lined items, polystyrene lids ends. Begin enforcing collection containers piece of Green to Go.	Health
2020	Evaluate feasibility for City to coordinate a bulk buying program for food-service items; if not feasible, encourage local business associations to do the same	SW&R & Health
2020	Evaluate how to assist Hennepin County with the implementation of organics requirements	SW&R & Health / CPED
2020-2021	Hire interns/temp. FT positions to educate on requirements, promote food donation, and go to all affected establishments (including lodging)	Health



2020-2022	Continued outreach and education, enforcement and assistance for Green to Go ordinance and Hennepin County organics requirements if adopted	SW&R & Health
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### Lodging (Hotels/Motels)

Minneapolis is recognized for being a national leader and an environmentally friendly City. This message is supported by waste diversion opportunities across the City, including in public spaces and at events. To continue that message, Action Items for 2020-2022 ensure visitors will have the opportunity to divert waste in the places they stay while visiting the City.

Year(s)	Lodging Establishments Action Items	Lead Department
2020	Evaluate how to assist Hennepin County with the implementation of organics recycling requirements	SW&R & Health
2020-2021	Evaluate modifications to Lodging License to require recycling in guest rooms and public areas by 2020	SW&R & Health / CPED
2020-2021	Letter notifying Health will enforce recycling in guest rooms and public areas beginning in 2020 (if decide to implement)	SW&R & Health
2021	Health begin enforcing recycling in guest rooms and public areas at Lodging establishments (if decide to implement)	Health
2021-2022	Continued outreach and education, enforcement and assistance for recycling requirements and Hennepin County organics requirements	SW&R & Health

### City Operations

Across 55 buildings, approximately 4,600 people work for the City of Minneapolis. Within City owned buildings there is a standardized program for the collection of recycling, organics and trash. The City currently tracks and reports energy usage as part of the City’s Energy Benchmarking Program which is derived from its Climate Action Plan, but it does not currently track its overall waste stream.

As the City is in the design stages of a new office building that would bring most employees working in the downtown area from both City-owned and leased spaces under one roof, there is an opportunity to standardize its waste diversion program, provide additional education and access to new diversion opportunities. The action items for 2020-2022 would help the City continue to lead by example and show other organizations that meeting the City’s waste and recycling goals is possible.

In addition, the City can lead by example by closing the loop and using compost in its operations and encouraging partners such as Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Minneapolis Public Schools and Minneapolis Public Housing (listed in other sections of the ZWP and ZWAP) to incorporate the use of compost in their operations. Compost not only reduces soil erosion and watering needs, but it also helps bind and break down pollutants. Incorporating compost into public projects would alleviate tax dollar spending in sending staff, watering, etc. to ensure ground cover is restored following many street and facility projects.

Additional details on strategies identified for the 2020-2022 Action Plan can be found on pages 49-57 in the City Operations Sector portion of the ZWP at [minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste](http://minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste).

Year(s)	City Operation Action Items	Lead Department
ongoing	Expand compost use in City projects and encourage compost use among partners	PW & Property Services
2020-2021	Educate staff on the City's existing Environmental Procurement Policy (EPP) which does not allow purchase of non-compostable food service items by departments or for City catered events	SW&R, Property Services & Sustainability
2020-2021	Evaluate hiring internal Zero Waste Aide	SW&R & Property Services
2021	Develop internal zero waste work group (representatives from various Departments) to meet quarterly to discuss current practices and additional opportunities to divert waste.	SW&R & Property Services
2021	Annual waste and recycling reporting by facility	SW&R & Property Services
2021	Change EPP to allow purchase of second hand goods	SW&R & Property Services
2021	Encourage donation of unwanted items. Create internal / external listing of items available or evaluate selling surplus items on regular schedule (ex. 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of each quarter)	SW&R & Property Services
2021	Expand reuse program in City buildings	SW&R & Property Services
2021	Designate reuse areas in City buildings	SW&R & Property Services

## Institutions

Due to the different regulatory authority the City has over institutions, they were included as a separate sector in the ZWP. This sector includes a mix of public and private generators that, in most cases, the City does not license or inspect. Institution sub-sectors identified by the ZWP include:

- Schools (primary, secondary, and higher education)
- Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA)
- Hospitals and nursing homes
- Other governmental facilities

Action items for each institutional sub-sector are described below. Action Items for all institutions are consistent with other sectors, to continue to provide education and promote resources available for waste diversion activities.

Year(s)	Institution Action Items	Lead Department
ongoing	Education and outreach for waste reduction, reuse/repair, recycling, organics, etc.	SW&R
ongoing	Promote Hennepin County assistance, resources and grants	SW&R
ongoing	Encourage to use Hennepin Country styled signage	SW&R & Health

Additional details on strategies identified for the 2020-2022 Action Plan can be found on pages 58-73 in the Institutions Sector portion of the ZWP at [minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste](http://minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste).

## Schools (public, charter, higher education)

Schools are unique in that they are large generators of waste and they have a built-in audience that may be more readily engaged than individuals in other sectors. The City has a unique opportunity to partner with Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), charter schools and higher educational outlets to not only increase their waste reduction and diversion activities but also to educate students and staff to adopt waste reduction and diversion behaviors outside of school to reduce their overall environmental impact.

In 2018, the City began working with Minneapolis Public Schools to educate students on how to properly manage their waste through its Clean City Classroom program. In 2019, the SW&R held a hands-on training for MPS educators on how to use Keep America Beautiful's Waste in Place curriculum and intends to continue offering this training and the curriculum for use in educational settings.

Action items for 2020-2022 are as follows.

Year(s)	School Action Items	Lead Department
ongoing	Encourage primary and secondary schools to participate in the City's Clean City Classroom program	SW&R
2020	Develop list of all schools in City, contacts (admin & custodial), and current waste operations	SW&R
2020	Clarify which Department should take the lead on MPS oversight	SW&R
2021	School waste audits (school that does not recycle, school that does recycle, school that has organics - weight and cost evaluated)	SW&R
2021	Evaluate legal authority to require recycling and organics recycling programs at schools	SW&R & City Attorney
2021	Promote and support school waste diversion programs and activities and evaluate feasibility for supplemental funding from City to boost Hennepin County's resources.	SW&R
2021	Evaluate how to assist the Hennepin County with the implementation of organics recycling requirements	SW&R & Health
2021-2022	Continued outreach and education, enforcement and assistance for recycling requirements and Hennepin County organics requirements	SW&R & Health

## Minneapolis Public Housing

Minneapolis Public Housing (MPH) owns and manages over 6,000 public housing units, primarily for low-income residents. Buildings they own and manage include single-family, townhomes and large apartment complexes. MPH also has buildings designated for senior citizens. Due to the mix of housing types and infrastructure for waste diversion activities, educational opportunities and modifications to add waste diversion activities are directly relatable to both the Residential Sector and the Commercial sub-sector for Multifamily Housing discussed earlier in the 2020-2022 Zero Waste Action Plan. Additional strategies for Minneapolis Public Housing for 2020-2022 are as follows.

Year(s)	Minneapolis Public Housing Action Items	Lead Department
2020	Develop list of all MPH properties in City, contacts (admin & custodial), and current waste operations	SW&R
2020	Evaluate regulatory framework to influence diversion at MPS	SW&R & City Attorney
2020	Clarify which Department should take the lead on MPS oversight	SW&R
2020	Evaluate current waste management practices and encourage consistency across all MPHA buildings	SW&R
2020	Encourage the development of waste reduction and diversion training for onsite management and facilities management staff	SW&R
2020	Evaluate how to assist the Hennepin County with the implementation of organics recycling requirements for senior buildings where food is served	SW&R & Health
2020-2022	Continued outreach and education, enforcement and assistance for waste diversion activities including Hennepin County organics requirements	SW&R & Health

### Hospitals & Nursing Homes

The large, diverse and specialized waste streams found in hospitals and nursing homes, in conjunction with the multitude of owners (universities, non-profits, Health Maintenance Organizations, private, state, etc.) make hospitals and nursing homes a unique challenge. Action items for 2020-2022 focus on gaining a better understanding of existing conditions and promoting opportunities for hospitals and nursing homes to reduce waste and increase diversion.

Year(s)	Hospitals & Nursing Homes Action Items	Lead Department
2020	Develop list of all hospitals and nursing homes, current waste practices, and appropriate contact at each location	SW&R
2020	Encourage food donation	SW&R
2020	Evaluate how to assist the county with the implementation of organics recycling requirements	SW&R & Health
2021	Evaluate blue wrap quantities and promote collection and diversion	SW&R
2021	Evaluate how to assist Hennepin County with the implementation of organics recycling requirements	SW&R
2020-2022	Continued outreach and education, enforcement and assistance for waste diversion activities including Hennepin County organics requirements	SW&R

### Other Governmental Facilities

The City does not have direct authority over non-City governmental facilities located within City limits including Hennepin County, State of Minnesota, and federal facilities; however, the State's Public Entities Law does apply to all of these facilities. Many governmental institutions often prioritize environmentally responsible business practices and may be willing partners to lead by example on zero waste activities. Action items for 2020-2022 include obtaining a better understanding of existing conditions and promoting additional opportunities to reduce waste and increase diversion.

Year(s)	Other Governmental Action Items	Lead Department
2020	Develop list of all other governmental facilities in City, contacts (admin & custodial), and current waste operations	SW&R
2020	Ensure are aware of public space law requiring recycling by all public entities and promote Hennepin's assistance, resources and grants	SW&R
2020	Ensure compliance with public entities law and encourage to add organics	SW&R

## Public Spaces

Minneapolis is well-known for having green events and offering recycling away from home, yet there is still more that can be done to improve access and opportunity to divert waste while out and about in the City. The ZWP identified a variety of spaces where people gather around town as sub-sectors of the Public Waste Sector. Public responsibilities for waste activities in the sub-sectors identified are both public and private, leading to a variety of tools and regulatory options to increase access and opportunities for waste diversion in these spaces. Sub-sectors of Public Spaces identified in the ZWP include:

- City permitted special events
- Parks
- Special Service Districts (SSDs), organized business corridors
- Sporting and entertainment facilities
- Mobile food vendors
- Public transit stations and shelters
- Quasi-public spaces, privately owned public spaces

Action items for all public spaces include education and promotion of existing resources to increase waste diversion. In addition, activities involving gasoline filling stations and parking ramps are included in the overall Public Space Sector.

Year(s)	Public Space Action Items	Lead Department
Ongoing	Education and outreach for waste reduction, reuse, repair, recycling, organics, etc.	SW&R
Ongoing	Promote Hennepin County assistance, resources and grants	SW&R
Ongoing	Encourage to use Hennepin Country styled signage	SW&R & Health
Ongoing	Evaluate existing Adopt-A-Recycling Container areas for cleanliness of recyclables diverted and promote expansion of Adopt-A-Litter Container and Adopt-A-Recycling Container	SW&R
2020	Evaluate requiring gasoline filling stations to have recycling at each fuel pump	SW&R & CPED
2021	Modify Gasoline Filling Station license to require a recycling container at each fuel pump (if decide to implement)	SW&R & CPED
2021	Develop list of parking ramps, current waste practices, and appropriate contacts for each location	SW&R & CPED
2022	Evaluate requiring recycling at parking ramps	SW&R & CPED

Additional details on strategies identified for the 2020-2022 Action Plan can be found on pages 74-91 in the Public Space Sector portion of the ZWP at [minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste](http://minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste) and additional strategies for each of the Public Space sub-sectors are identified below.

### City Permitted Events

Each year the City permits hundreds of large and small public and private events. The City’s current event recycling ordinance requires all parades and races, and all large block events with 2,500 attendees per day to submit a recycling plan prior to the event and report waste collected and recycled following the event. The ordinance also encourages event organizers to divert organics if food is served at the event. Recycling plans are requested as part of the permitting process and SW&R participate in the City’s Block Event Special Event (BESE) committee reviews applications for special events regularly. Action plan strategies for 2020-2022 include enforcement of the reporting requirements piece of the existing Event Recycling ordinance and to evaluate modifications to permit documents and a reduction of the current 2,500 attendee per day threshold.

Year(s)	City Permitted Event Action Items	Lead Department
ongoing	Enforce reporting requirements and track tonnages collected at events	SW&R
2020	Modify Block Event and Parades & Races Permit Applications and Ordinances to include additional information on event recycling requirements and to allow for zero waste events	SW&R & CPED
2020-2021	Health Department verify if recycling on site during all applicable events	SW&R & Health
2021	Evaluate threshold reduction to require recycling to 200 attendees per day	SW&R & CPED
2021	Evaluate incentives for events who choose to hold zero waste events	SW&R & CPED
2022	Modify Block Event Application and Ordinance to reduce the threshold for events required to comply with the Event Recycling ordinance (if decide to reduce threshold)	SW&R & CPED

### Special Service Districts

There are 16 organized business corridors in Minneapolis known as Special Service Districts (SSDs). Businesses within a SSD pool resources for activities that improve the streetscape and provide a good experience for patrons. For examples, SSDs may choose to use funding to provide public garbage and recycling services, snow and ice removal, repair and maintenance for landscaping and sidewalks, promotion of special events, and more.

Currently, SSDs are not required to provide public garbage or recycling containers, however, several locations who have public garbage containers have taken advantage of Hennepin County Event Recycling grant funds to add public recycling containers. Action plan items for 2020-2022 includes working with SSDs to identify best methods to divert waste while continuing to promote assistance and resources available to reduce waste.

Year(s)	Special Service District Action Items	Lead Department
ongoing	Encourage SSDs to use compost in streetscapes (where applicable)	SW&R & Streets
2020	Develop 3-5 question survey to give to all SSDs on what they'd like to see or what would help divert waste	SW&R & Streets
2020	Collaborate w/ SSDs to identify specific program issues and mechanisms to incentivize waste diversion	SW&R & Streets

Year(s)	Special Service District Action Items	Lead Department
2021	Evaluate feasibility to require SSDs who provide public garbage containers to provide public recycling containers	SW&R & Streets

## Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is a national recognized park system that maintains and regulates 179 parks, and many lakes, recreation centers, gardens, bird sanctuaries, historical sites, trails, and parkways within the City of Minneapolis. In addition, MPRB partners with MPS to distribute over 130,000 meals annually at 39 sites through after school and summer meals programs. Garbage, recycling and organics recycling services at neighborhood parks are provided through SW&R. MPRB collects from its regional parks and has contract with private haulers for dumpsters at several locations. Furthermore, MPRB contracts with several private businesses to operate the restaurants at regional parks. Waste collection and disposal from their restaurants is the responsibility of the individual business.

MPRB regulates the use of Park spaces and has its own event permitting process which requires recycling at all events held at parks, similar to the City's Event Recycling Ordinance for large block events.

Action items for MPRB include to expand upon existing programs and educational opportunities and combine City neighborhood park collection and MPRB regional park collection data to establish a baseline and to encourage MPRB to modify their event ordinance following amendments to the City's Event Recycling Ordinances for consistency.

Year(s)	Minneapolis Park and Rec Board Action Items	Lead Department
ongoing	Encourage compost use on MPRB property	SW&R
ongoing	Encourage MPRB to incorporate Clean City Classroom curriculum into after school and Rec Plus programs	SW&R
ongoing	Partner with MPRB to incorporate waste and recycling education for all new employees	SW&R
2020-2021	Encourage MPRB and MPS to evaluate number of meals served for meals program and evaluate donation opportunities for uneaten meals	SW&R
2020-2021	Work with MPRB to combine City and MPRB collection information to determine baseline waste diversion rate for parks and annual tracking method	SW&R
2021	Encourage MPRB to modify existing special event ordinance and to expand Events Go Green certification to include organics	SW&R

## Sporting and Entertainment Facilities

Sporting and entertainment facilities bring thousands of people into Minneapolis for events each year. Many have well-established waste reduction and diversion programs but information on diversion from this sub-sector of the Public Space sector has not been calculated. In addition, school sporting and entertainment events are great venues to reiterate the City's and its resident's commitment to environmentally beneficial behaviors.

Action items for 2020-2022 for Sporting and Entertainment Facilities revolve around compliance with the State's Stadium Recycling Law and evaluating current waste practices and diversion rates to determine policy tools available to continue to encourage diversion.

Year(s)	Sporting and Entertainment Facility Action Items	Lead Department
2020	Develop list of all sporting and entertainment facilities, current waste practices, and appropriate contact at each location	SW&R
2020	Verify compliance with commercial recycling & Green to Go requirements	Health
2021	Encourage recycling at K-12 sporting and entertainment events	SW&R & Health
2021	Encourage announcements of waste diversion efforts	SW&R
2021	Develop list of parking lots and other spaces used for tailgating activities, current waste practices, and appropriate contacts for each location	SW&R & CPED
2022	Evaluate requiring recycling at tailgating parking lots	SW&R & CPED
2022	Require recycling at tailgating parking lots (if decide to implement)	SW&R & CPED

## Mobile Food Vendors

Mobile food vendors operate in public spaces, regularly as part of public events but also on their own. In accordance with the City’s Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance, they are responsible for all litter and garbage left by customers, however, they are not allowed to bring containers with them to collect garbage, recycling and/or organics.

Action plan items for 2020-2022 for Mobile Food Vendors aims to evaluate how Mobile Food Vendors can be allowed to bring containers with them and to encourage waste diversion, particularly organics, from their food preparation kitchens and places they frequent with their mobile business.

Year(s)	Mobile Food Vendor Action Items	Lead Department
2020-2021	Clarify City ordinance/State Food Code and evaluate opportunities to allow mobile food vendors to bring collection containers with them	SW&R & Health
2020	Encourage waste diversion (particularly organics) from food prep kitchens, places where mobile food vendors frequent, possibly bring containers with them)	SW&R & Health

## Public Transit Stations and Shelters

The Metropolitan Council operates the public transit bus and lightrail system for the Twin Cities Metro Region known as Metro Transit. With over 250,000 riders on an average weekday and more than 700 transit stations and shelters throughout the region, they have a great opportunity to reach thousands of people daily to promote waste diversion behaviors. Currently recycling is available at almost all of the lightrail platforms and in some transit stations.

Action items for 2020-2022 include evaluating the cleanliness of recyclables collected at locations with recycling and evaluate expansion of recycling collection to high-traffic bus routes, particularly in the downtown area.

Year(s)	Public Transit Stations and Shelters	Lead Department
2020	Evaluate existing recycling at light rail and transit stations	SW&R
2020	Evaluate existing recycling in downtown Minneapolis on Nicollet mall, Hennepin Ave & other DID locations	SW&R
2021	Encourage DID to expand recycling in downtown and identify streets for expansion	SW&R



## Quasi-Public Spaces

Quasi-Public Spaces are those that are privately owned but are used by the public frequently as gathering areas. The City has limited policy tools to use to require recycling in these locations. Mobile Food Vendors frequently set up next to these spaces, so activities for the two Public Spaces sub-sectors should be evaluated simultaneously. Action items for Quasi-Public Spaces in 2020-2022 are to aid in evaluating the City's abilities to regulate these spaces and also to encourage the use of compost within them.

Year(s)	Quasi-Public Spaces	Lead Department
2020-2021	Evaluate methods to require quasi-public spaces to pair containers	SW&R
2021-2022	Encourage use of compost in quasi-public spaces	SW&R

## Construction & Demolition Debris

Construction & Demolitions Debris (C&D) was included as a separate category in the ZWP as it touches all sectors. While C&D is not considered part of municipal solid waste (MSW), it makes up a significant portion of the waste stream by weight. Studies from around the country have shown that upwards of 80% of any structure could be recycled or reused. Strategies identified for C&D for 2020-2022 are to work with CPED and Hennepin County to take steps to work towards building material reuse and recycling requirements and promote the benefits to homeowners, contractors, architects, and developers.

Additional details on strategies identified for the 2020-2022 Action Plan can be found on pages 92-98 in the Construction and Demolition Debris portion of the ZWP at [minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste](http://minneapolismn.gov/zerowaste).

Year(s)	Construction & Demolition Debris Action Items	Lead Department
2020	Work with Hennepin County to promote salvage, deconstruction and recycling of C&D at private properties	SW&R & CPED
2020	Evaluate modifications to permit/ordinance to allow time for salvage and/or deconstruction	SW&R & CPED
2020	Work with CPED, Hennepin County and industry to evaluate building material recycling and reuse requirements	SW&R & CPED
2020 – 2021	Modify demolition permit and develop City ordinance to establish phased in requirements for reuse and recycling of building materials from various job sites	SW&R & CPED
2020	Additional pilot for recycling and/or deconstruction of CPED or other City properties	SW&R, CPED & Property Services
2021	Work with CPED and Hennepin County to establish deconstruction training for industry professionals	SW&R & CPED
2021	Support market development activities for building material reuse and recycling	CPED

## Conclusion

The 2020-2022 ZWAP has a focus on obtaining data, understanding current conditions, and promoting benefits of reducing and diverting waste for all sectors. Increasing awareness and opportunity for others to divert waste will lead to additional diversion and aid the City in meeting its diversion goals. Exemplifying organizations and promoting resources available to help others do the same is critical to encouraging others to also make changes to divert waste.

Due to the focus on promoting existing programs and resources available, funding for Zero Waste activities is minimally discussed for 2020-2022. A long-term funding mechanism to support Zero Waste activities needs to be identified to educate, implement or enforce action items identified in this plan outside of the residential sector.

Lastly, as the ultimate goal is to reduce the amount of waste to be managed, the City should begin to re-evaluate its success metrics. The weight-based metric of a recycling rate used to evaluate progress does not reflect current market conditions, manufacturing trends, nor the overall goal of waste prevention and reduction. As packaging continues to be light-weighted and changed from recyclable materials to non-recyclable materials, evaluating the total amount of an item recycled of from the total amount available to be recycled, known as a capture rate, should be evaluated as a better metric to measure progress.

The strategies identified in the 2020-2022 ZWAP should aid the City in understanding policy and regulatory tools available to incentivize and/or require actions in various sectors to help meet its goal to recycle or compost 80% of the waste stream by 2030 and achieve a zero-percent growth in waste generated from 2010 levels. SW&R staff will provide an update to City Council in 2022 on activities outlined in this ZWAP and strategies for 2023-2026 to continue efforts to achieve zero waste.

## List of abbreviations

BESE	Block Event Special Event, a City committee used to streamline review and approve permits for special events
C&D	Construction & Demolitions Debris
CIM	Commercial, Industrial and Multifamily sector
CPED	Community Planning and Economic Development, a City Department
DID	Downtown Improvement District, the downtown business core, managed by the Minneapolis Downtown Council
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, a State of Minnesota regulatory agency
MPRB	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, owner and manager of public parks in Minneapolis
MPS	Minneapolis Public Schools
SW&R	Solid Waste & Recycling, a Division of the Public Works Department
ZWP	Zero Waste Plan, adopted by City Council on December 8, 2017
ZWAP	Zero Waste Action Plan, this document