

# Division of Solid Waste and Recycling

2021 Factsheet

## Mission

To provide services in a customer orientated and environmentally protective manner that keeps the city clean, safe and attractive for our residents. We relentlessly integrate field, office and educational programs to maximize efficiency and complete duties in the most cost effective and efficient manner. **A Clean City is Job One!**



## Services Provided by Solid Waste & Recycling Division

Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling provides service to all residential buildings containing fewer than four dwelling units, some townhomes and a small number of larger buildings, parks, commercial and municipal properties. All residential customers are required to have garbage collection, but are not required to participate in the City's free recycling services. Services provided to our 107,000 customers include:

- Garbage (weekly)
- Recycling (every other week)
- Organics recycling (weekly)
- Large items (weekly)
- Yard waste (seasonal)
- Excessive materials management
  - ◊ Voucher program
  - ◊ Requested cleanups
- Clean City Programs

## Monthly cost for services

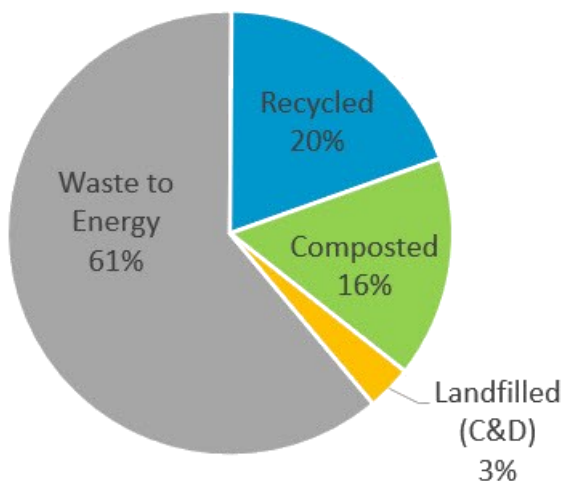
The base fee covers the programs and services identified above and the processing costs for recycling, organics and yard waste. The garbage cart fee covers disposal costs for garbage. Fees are paid through the City of Minneapolis Utility Bill.

- 2022 base fee (per dwelling unit): \$26.46

There is no extra charge for one or more recycling or organics recycling carts.



## 2021 Waste Diversion Overview



Material Type	Tons
One-Sort	25,249
Mattresses	837
Appliances & Scrap Metal	1,122
C&D	72
Tires	132
Electronics	228
Organics	5,838
Yard waste	22,884

### 2021 noteworthy items:

Overall pounds per household decreases means people are generating less garbage and eating the food they buy:

- Garbage: 1.74 lbs
- Organics: 0.2 lbs

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### Recycling

Recycling is collected every other week. Participation is voluntary with 97% of customers having recycling carts. The One-Sort recycling program allows for all recyclables to be placed loose in the cart, or within paper bags. Plastic bags are not accepted. Collection crews regularly leave educational tags for contamination and do not service contaminated carts. Accepted recyclables include plastics, glass, metal, paper, cartons and cardboard cans.

[minneapolismn.gov/recycling](http://minneapolismn.gov/recycling)

### Recycling Contamination Rate

Recycling contamination is calculated from 2 system audits and 25 hand sorts per quarter by the City's recycling processing contractor. Education and outreach is ongoing to address common contaminants found in recycling carts.

2017	7.36%
2018	9.86%
2019	8.51%
2020	9.32%
2021	10.59%

Calculation of the contamination rate changed from 2020—2021 to include process residuals and scrap metal. Excluding those items the contamination rate would be 8.84%



### Organics Recycling

Organics recycling is collected weekly. Residents are provided a cart and Welcome Kit upon signing up for the program. Organics must be contained in compostable plastic or paper bag. Accepted materials include all food, food-soiled paper, compostable plastics, and other compostable items. Yard waste is not accepted. SW&R also collects from 17 residential organics drop-offs, 5 of which are sponsored by neighborhood groups.

[minneapolismn.gov/organics](http://minneapolismn.gov/organics)

*City achieved a 50% sign-up rate on February 10, 2021!*

#### Organics Roll-out Timeline

- Pilot Program 2008
- Consultant Study 2012-2013
- Drop-offs 2014-2015
- Citywide roll-out 2015-2016

Year	Sign-up rate	Annual tons
2015	31.82%	825
2016	40.54%	3,385
2017	43.66%	4,763
2018	46.18%	4,844
2019	48.24%	5,301
2020	49.94%	6,088
2021	51.22%	5,838



### Yard Waste

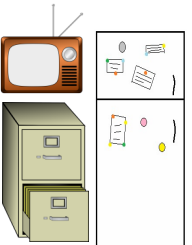
Yard waste is collected seasonal from April through November. No cart is provided. Residents can use their own container, or set out Kraft paper or compostable plastic yard waste bags. State law, Minnesota Statute 115A.931(c), prohibits using conventional plastic bags for yard waste.

### Clean City Programs

Clean City offers many programs residents to get involved in keeping the City litter and graffiti free. The programs include:

- Neighborhood CleanSweeps
- Adopt-A-Litter/Recycling or Ash Receptacle
- Adopt-A-Block/Street or Highway
- Graffiti Paint-Over
- Request for Litter Cleanup Supplies
- Clean City Classroom

[minneapolismn.gov/cleancity](http://minneapolismn.gov/cleancity)



### Large Item Collection

Two burnable or non-recyclable large or items such as wood furniture and carpeting can be set out each week on garbage day. Two large recyclable items such as appliances, mattresses, electronics, and metal items can be set out each recycling day. There is no additional charge for these services. Residents are encouraged to donate items that can be reused.

### Voucher Program

Solid Waste & Recycling customers are given six vouchers annually to dispose of excess material at the City's South Transfer Station. Each voucher is good for up to 2,000 pounds of garbage, scrap metal and construction and debris, plus two appliances, electronic items or mattresses. SW&R customers are also given two tire vouchers per year. Each tire voucher is good for disposal of up to eight tires.