

City of Minneapolis

2024 Residential Organics Sort

October 30 and November 1, 2024

Overview

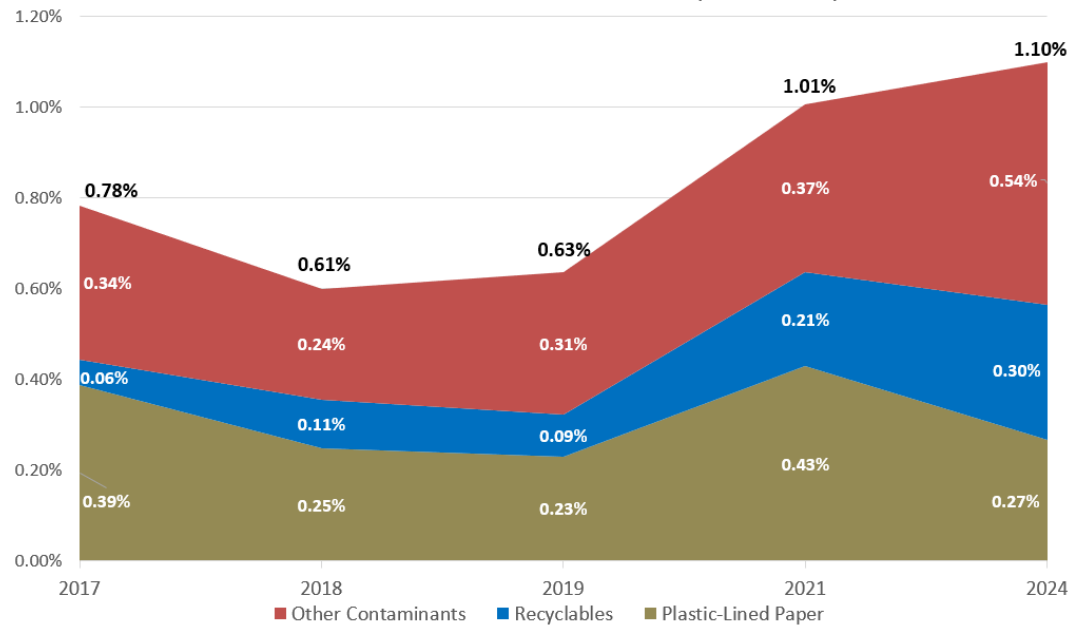
Volunteers sorted through 4 truck-loads of organics (11.08 tons) from pre-selected routes from around the City; two routes have been sorted every year, and two new routes were selected. This is the first time sorts have been conducted in the fall. Bags were ripped open and any contamination, edible food or packaging was separated from the rest of the pile. The contamination, edible food and packaging were then sorted into different sub-categories.

Sorts categories were expanded upon from previous years to gather information on how much of a residential organics load was paper products and on compostable product labeling. The major categories and sub-sort categories are listed below.

Overall Organics Composition	
Organics 88%	Food Scraps
	Pizza Boxes
	Egg Cartons
	Napkins
Edible Food 7%	Fruits
	Vegetables
	Bread /Grains
	Eggs/Meat
	Dairy
	Prepared Food
	Food in non-compostable packaging
	Other
	Plastics
	Poly-lined Paper
Compostable Packaging 4%	Molded Paper
	Recyclables
	Poly-lined Paper
Contamination 1%	Poly-lined Paper
	Other



Breakdown of Contamination Trends (2017-2024)



Contamination rates

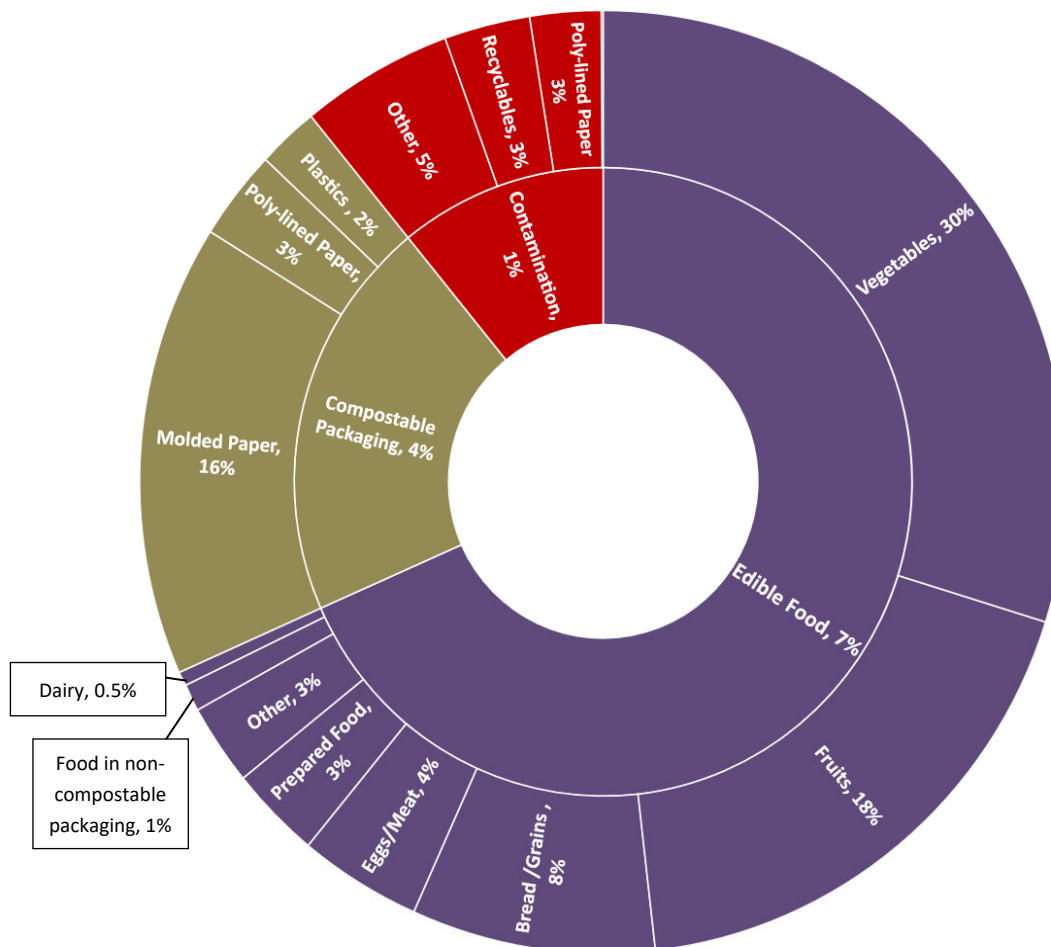
The chart above shows a breakdown of the most common types of contamination found in Minneapolis Organics sorts over the last 5 times back-of-truck sorts were conducted. Contamination rates have slightly increased since the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic when staff were not able to educate residents at neighborhood and community events as often as in the past years. The overall contamination rate for 2024 sorts was 1.10% Plastic-lined paper, as a single category, continues to be the number one contaminant by type found in organics recycling carts.

Edible food, paper packaging and contamination sub-sorts

On the first day of the 2024 sorts, sorters attempted to separate paper products to evaluate the percentage of a load that will be subject to the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act, an EPR law that passed in the 2024 Minnesota state legislative session. Sorters had an incredibly difficult time removing and identifying many paper items as they had already started to degrade and were soaking wet.

The group agreed that it will be very challenging for the Producer Responsibility Organization to calculate what portion of the organics stream should be eligible for reimbursement under the new EPR system.

Composition of Sub-Sorts



Last updated 8/13/2025



Molded food-service packaging (60% BPI certified)



Compostable plastics (68% BPI certified)

Compostable product labeling

Effective 1/1/25, the State's Compostable Product Labeling law for bags is expanded to food-service items and packaging. The sort was used to also evaluate what percentage of each type of product that claimed to be compostable had a BPI certification logo on the product.

Sorts found that 60% or more of molded food-service paper and compostable plastics had a BPI logo on the product. Plastic-lined paper that was not BPI certified was sorted as a contaminant.

Edible food

The percentage of edible food increased considerably from 2011 back-of-truck sorts. Additional sorts shall be completed in fall to determine if the amount of food wasted is higher in the fall than in the spring months.

Year	% edible food
2022	7.11%
2021	5.60%
2019	2.79%
2018	4.14%

