

# STATE POLICIES TO ELEVATE REUSE

Minnesota's Metro Policy  
Plan in Action

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# WHY REUSE / WHY NOW?



Reduce

Reuse

Organics

Waste to  
energy

Landfill  
with gas  
recovery

Landfill

# **STATE LAW (STATUTES & RULES)**

→ Provides authority + statewide/metro goals



## **METRO POLICY PLAN (MPP)**

→ Sets standards + requirements for metro counties



## **COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLANS**

→ Translate requirements into programs + budgets



## **IMPLEMENTATION & ACCOUNTABILITY**

→ Grants, contracts, ordinances, reporting, EJ reviews



# REQUIRED REUSE STRATEGIES

## Sustainable Consumption Challenges

- Launch bi-annual challenges for residents around reducing waste
- Zero waste
- Tracking food waste at home
- Repairing durable products
- Acknowledge barriers of cost

## Why this is required:

- Addresses residential waste
- Supports long-lasting consumer choices
- Promotes waste prevention
- Raises reuse awareness

# REQUIRED REUSE STRATEGIES

## Sustainable Purchasing Policy

- Implement a formal county policy using MPCA guidance
- Increase purchases of durable and reusable goods
- Analyze county-wide spending for redundancies
- Collaborate and forecast purchases

## Why this is required:

- Reduces environmental impacts
- Supports social responsibility
- Improves financial efficiency



# REQUIRED REUSE STRATEGIES

## Reusable Food & Beverage Service Ware Grants

Counties must offer grants or rebates for organizations to transition from single-use to reusable service ware

- Purchase of durable food service items
- Dishwashing, storage, and cleaning infrastructure
- Building modifications needed to support reusables

Why this is required:

- Significant upstream emissions reductions
- High-impact, low-barrier waste reduction strategy
- Reduces reliance on single-use systems
- Supports institutions in overcoming cost barriers

# REQUIRED REUSE STRATEGIES

## Waste Reduction, Reuse & Repair Grants

- Counties must offer grants or rebates to broaden or establish reuse and repair programming
- Waste prevention initiatives
- Expand or strengthen reuse networks

## Why this is required:

- Provides access to financial resources
- Drives reuse market development
- Reduces reliance on disposal



# REQUIRED REUSE STRATEGIES

## Green Meeting Policy

County meetings organized and implemented to minimize impacts on the environment

- Reduces resource consumption
- Promotes a positive social impact for the host community

Why this is required:

- Reduces impact of county-hosted meetings
- Normalizes reuse in the workplace
- Can serve to support local economy

# OPTIONAL STRATEGIES

## REDUCE RELIANCE ON SINGLE-USE ITEMS

**Reusable  
Service Ware  
Policy**

**Single-Use  
Fee or Ban**

## SUPPORT & EXPAND NETWORKS

**Participation  
in Reuse  
Network**

**Repair  
Ambassador  
Program**

## EXPAND ACCESS

**Reuse Drop-  
-Off  
Pick-Up Site**

**Curbside Reuse  
Set-Out Day**



# STATE-LED STRATEGIES

- Develop standardized guidance for tracking waste reduction and reuse benefits
- Research and pursue financial strategies to best incentivize waste reduction and reuse



# GREENCORPS: REUSE PROJECTS

MN GreenCorps members are diverting tons from the landfill through book swaps, fix-it clinics, campus move-out donation programs, and more reuse initiatives.

- Hosted clothing swap reusing over 5,000 pounds of items
- Identified reuse opportunities in the hospital system
- Promoted repair workshops and organized tool library
- Developed a County reuse program
- Evaluated large item reuse in collection program



# Grant Programs

**MPCA offers grants across many topic areas. Some RFPs focus specifically on reuse, including reusable foodware, rental and swap programs, repair initiatives, and building material reuse.**

**Recent and current RFP focus areas:**

- Waste Reduction and Reuse
- Sustainable Built Environment
- Waste reduction, reuse, recycling, or composting projects in Greater Minnesota
- Environmental Assistance (EA) Grants and Loans



# Waste Reduction and Reuse

## **FY2022-2023:**

Funding supported two pilot rounds of Waste Reduction and Reuse Grants, demonstrating strong statewide interest and demand for additional support.

## **FY2024-2025:**

In 2023 the Legislature allocated one-time funding for waste reduction and reuse. This supported two additional statewide solicitations rounds.



## **2025 Grant Round:**

- 27 applications received
- Over \$4.75 million requested
- Just over \$1 million awarded
- Seven projects funded

## **Examples of eligible project types:**

- Establishing reuse rooms
- Training repair workers
- Implementing reusable foodware systems
- Reducing waste through manufacturing process changes

## **Recent Grantees:**

- [2025: Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community; Two Rivers High School](#)
- [2024: Grandma's Marathon; Minneapolis Toy Library](#)

# Sustainable Built Environment



## FY2022-2023:

State Environmental Assistance (EA) funding supported a pilot round of Sustainable Built Environment Grants, demonstrating strong statewide interest in building material reuse and management.

## 2024 Grant Round:

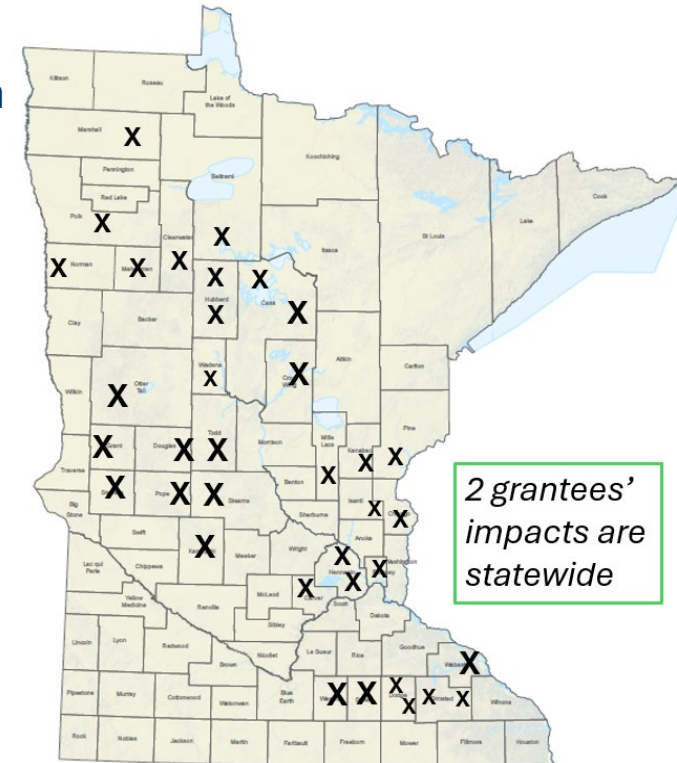
- 12 applications received
- Over **\$3.2 million** requested
- Just over **\$2 million** awarded
- **Eight projects funded**

### Examples of eligible project types:

- Establishing diversion and reuse programs
- Deconstruction training
- Grants supporting deconstruction efforts
- Building material reuse
- Relocating structures for reuse

### Recent Grantees:

[MPCA invests over \\$2.4 million to support sustainable building and material management efforts in Minnesota](#)



# Greater Minnesota

## Ongoing Support:

The State of Minnesota has long provided grants to Greater Minnesota projects that advance waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.

## FY2025 Grant Round:

9 eligible applications received

Nearly **\$1.5 million** requested

**\$1 million** awarded

**Six projects funded**

## Examples of eligible project types:

Reducing waste and improving collection of traditional recyclables

Reusing bulky items such as construction materials or mattresses

Expanding local reuse and recycling infrastructure

## Recent Grantees:

**2025:** [MPCA invests \\$1 million to expand waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting across Greater Minnesota](#)

**2024:** Red Lake Tribal Nation constructed a reuse facility and enhanced recycling collection

**2023:** Lincoln County built a new reuse and recycling facility, including staffing to operate the program





# Upcoming Environmental Assistance Grants & Loans

## Environmental Assistance (EA) Grants

A new RFP is expected in **early 2026**, with funding anticipated to support reuse-related projects... stay tuned!

## Environmental Assistance (EA) Loan Program

- Revolving loan fund; available dollars vary as past recipients repay their loans
- Supports capital purchases (e.g., machinery, equipment) to advance technologies or processes

### ***Priority is given to projects focused on:***

- Green chemistry
- Pollution prevention
- Source reduction
- Recycling
- Organics recycling

Example: purchasing a commercial dishwasher to support a reuseable foodware system

### **Loan amounts:**

- No minimum amount (MPCA uses discretion for very small loans)
- Up to **\$600,000 maximum**
- **Repayment period: up to 7 years**

# Thank you!

**Alison Cameron**

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