

A dark teal silhouette of Washington County with a white, torn-paper-style border on its right side.

Recycling Coordinator Meeting

December 15th, 2025

Agenda

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. 2025 Mattress Collection and 2026 Plans**
- 3. Food Scraps Pickup Program Update**
- 4. Program Updates for 2026**
- 5. Other Updates/Reminders**



**Public Health
and Environment**



What has been your favorite memory of 2025?



Happy New Year

Washington County



2025 Mattress Collection and 2026 Plans



RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY

Mattress Recycling Options for Municipalities

2025 & 2026

2025 Impact

In Ramsey and Washington counties...

- 11 cities participated in cleanup events to recycle **1,061** mattresses
- 15 cities participated in curbside recycling programs to recycle **9,826** mattresses
- Two cities participated in collection of mattresses dumped on public property, resulting in **1,016** mattresses collected
- 169 multi-unit buildings participated in collection of **1,825** mattresses
- **1,163** mattresses diverted from the tip floor at R&E Center
- Two pilot programs – Washington County Environmental Centers collected **1,580** and junk haulers collected **115**
- Total mattresses/box springs collected YTD: **16,586** (compared to 12,727 in 2024)



Background

- Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy has worked with cities and multi-unit managers to implement pilot programs around mattress recycling since 2021
 - **The goal:** Understand how mattress recycling compares to other disposal methods and understand how to increase recycling in a way that is sustainable for municipalities, multi-units and service providers
- Second Chance Recycling has provided recycling service for these programs while providing employment and supportive services for individuals facing barriers to employment. Read more about them [here](#).
- In 2025, R&E is sharing costs with municipalities to help make programs more sustainable while keeping costs affordable for residents.



Survey results

- City newsletters and social media were the most effective promotion mechanisms
- Convenience ranked as the most important factor for participants, followed by timing (cost previously most important factor)
- 42% of respondents said \$15 was the maximum they would be willing to pay for curbside, while 33% said up to \$25
- Biggest barrier to disposal was difficulty with transport or didn't have transportation, followed by uncertainty of where to take them
- Most mattresses are used between 5 and 10+ years before a new one is purchased
- 64% of respondents were not influenced to buy a new mattress knowing they had an easy disposal method



2026 Program options for municipalities

- Assistance with cleanup events
- Curbside recycling
- Programs for multi-unit residents and managers



Cleanup/drop-off events

- Substitute recycling for disposal, if your city doesn't currently recycle or
- Receive services for reduced costs, even if you currently recycle
- In 2026, mattress recycling will be provided by Second Chance Recycling for **\$10 per item** (mattress, box spring, crib mattress).
- R&E will cover the remaining costs for items collected, transportation and Second Chance staffing
- Items can be collected on site on the day of event or on the following Monday



Curbside recycling

- Curbside recycling for **\$15/item** for residents of municipalities during a specific timeframe
 - City/township decides on a timeframe with Second Chance Recycling (typically 2-4 weeks) and how much they would like to charge residents or take on themselves
- City promotes the collection to residents
 - R&E will provide some stock language, images, socials you can utilize if you'd like
- Residents request a date for pickup through Second Chance website
- Residents set out item(s) on selected date
- Second Chance collects the item(s)
- City and R&E are billed for their portion of expenses*
 - *Residents may be billed directly if cities choose
- Residents complete a brief survey (emailed to them after event)



Multi-unit property collection

- Multi-unit programming
- Sustainable Synergy Solutions (SSS) connects with multi-unit buildings/managers
- MU managers pay \$15/item + \$10 fee per stop (except in St. Paul)
- Cities/townships can help promote this option to properties



Next steps – sign up early!

Contact Michelle if:

- You wish to participate in any of the options mentioned
 - **Curbside collection will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis until capacity has been reached**
- You have questions and/or want to meet with R&E and Second Chance to discuss options
- You have a specific budget you are working with and want help deciding which activities will fit best for you



Contact for signing up and questions

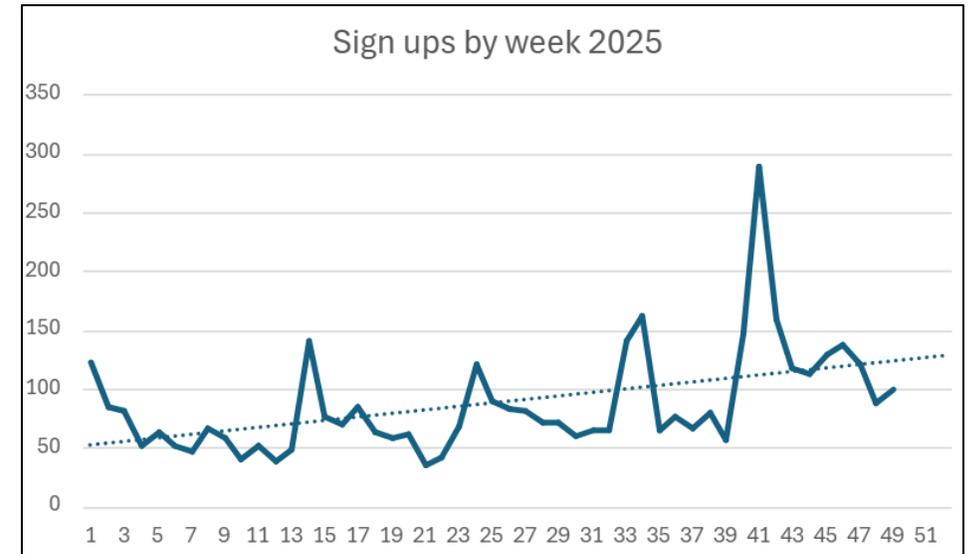
- Michelle Palm
 - Michelle.Palm@recyclingandenergy.org
- Max Dalton (Washington County)
 - Max.Dalton@washingtoncountymn.gov



Food Scraps Pickup Program Update

General Program Stats

- 13% participation in Washington County thru 11/30/2025
 - 11,458 HH of 90,157 in Washington County
 - Highest participating community is at 21% participation
 - Lowest participating community is at 7% participation
- 165.64 tons recycled (YTD)
 - Average weight of food scraps bag ~3-4lbs
- Top motivators for signing up: Keep food scraps out of landfills and incinerators, Reduce waste, Improve the environment



Bag Policy Starting January 2026

- Each household can receive up to two free orders each year
- An order includes 60 bags
- If you use up your two free orders, you can buy more bags at an additional cost
- Update and provide clear communication to residents on how to use bags
 - Recommend number of bags to use per week
 - Food scrap bags are stronger and larger than regular compostable bags, so you can put more food scraps in them.
 - Food scrap bags are designed to last a week
- Small amounts of additional free bags will be available at the Environmental Centers



What's New?

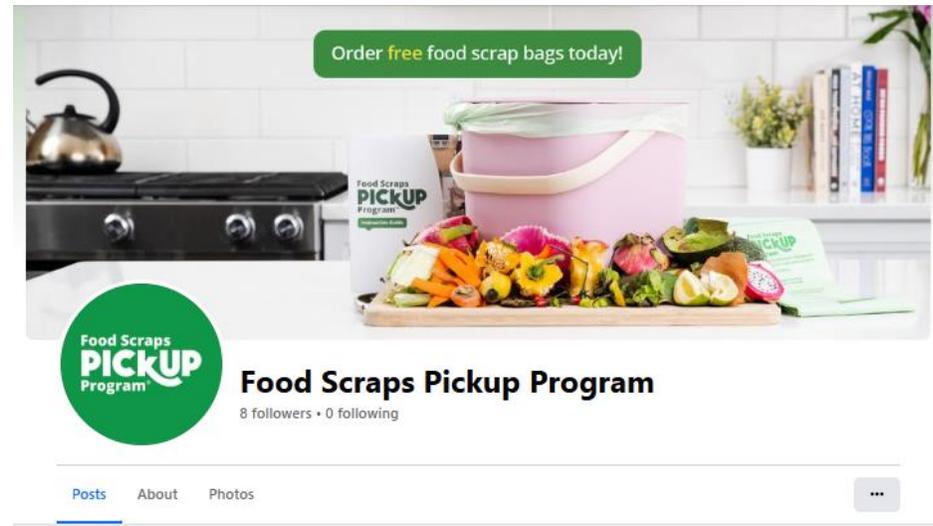


Non-participant postcard

Food scrap tip videos:



Food scrap tip videos: Link to watch here: [here](#)



FSPF Facebook page now live! See [here](#)



Door Hangers



RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY

What's New?

Partner Resource Hub: Link [here](#)



Trial Kit Display Stand

PARTNER RESOURCE HUB

MATERIALS TO DOWNLOAD

R&E offers waste reduction programs and public education campaigns that support safe, responsible waste management. This Partner Resource Hub makes it easy for partners to share accurate, ready-to-go information with the public.

Instructions for Use:

All content is free to use and customizable for your platforms. Download graphics, copy/past sample captions or newsletter blurbs and share these messages with your communities. Please link back to our website where applicable and reach out if you need additional formats, languages or co-branding.



Tabling



Yard Signs



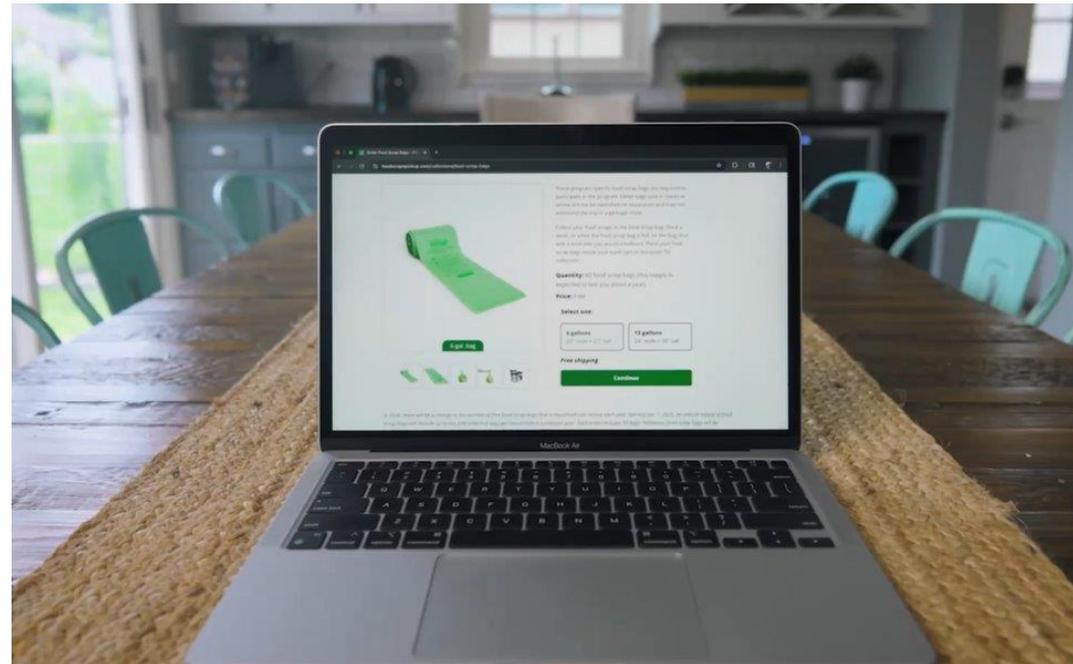
Stop Food Waste Assembly

- School assembly with Twin Cities Road Crew
 - 20 Washington County FSPP eligible elementary schools
 - Take home bags with FSPP trial kits, produce bag, and activity booklet
- If you have a contact at an elementary school, please share!



Journey of a Food Scrap Bag

[Full video](#)

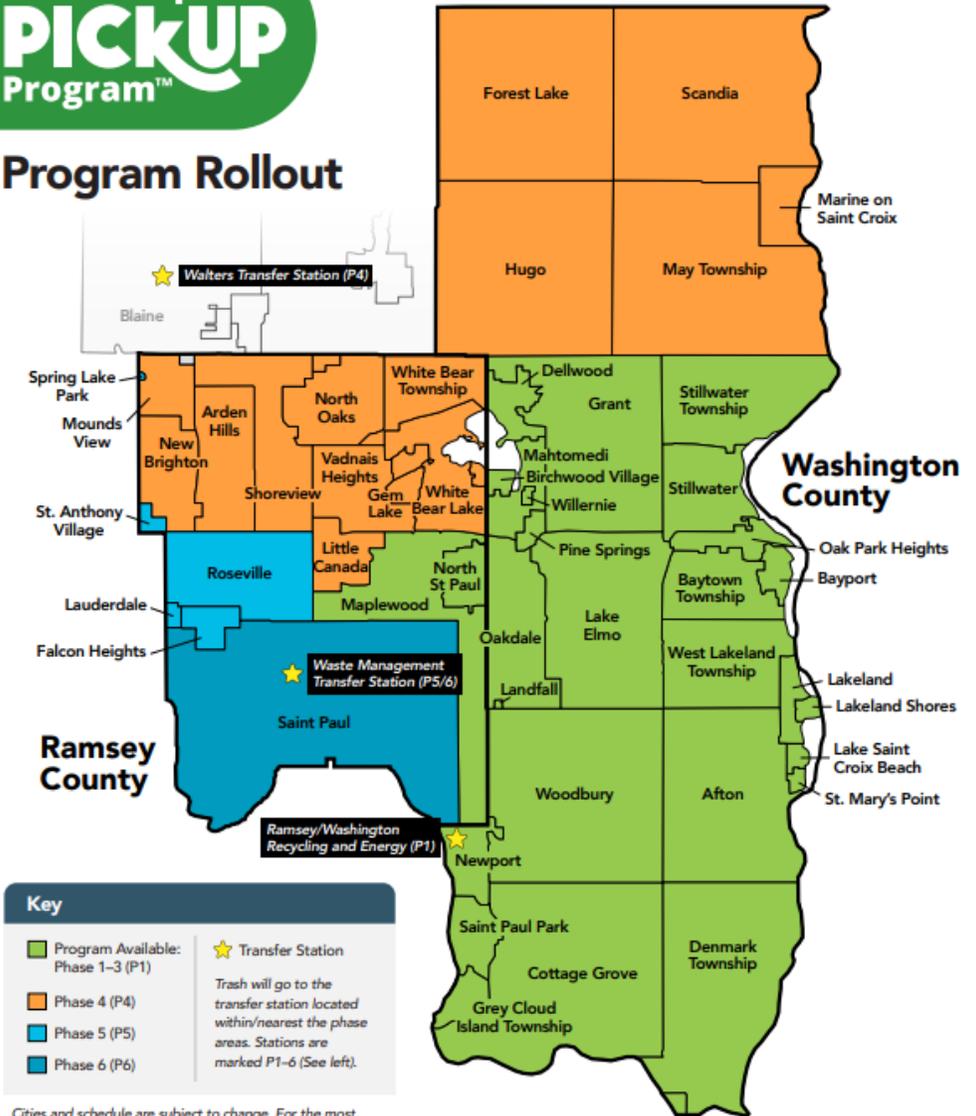


Rollout update

Stage 1: Direct Haul	Phase 1 (October 2023)
	Phase 2 (April 2024)
	Phase 3 (October 2024)
Stage 2: North Transfer Station - Walters	Phase 4 Q2/Q3 2026
Stage 3: Central Transfer Station - WM	Phase 5&6 Early 2027



Program Rollout



Cities and schedule are subject to change. For the most up-to-date schedule, visit the program website.



Thank you!

FoodScrapsPickup.com

[Hannah Keller, Hannah.Keller@WashingtonCountyMN.gov](mailto:Hannah.Keller@WashingtonCountyMN.gov)

Program Updates for 2026

General Reminders

- 2025 Reporting
 - Open Now!
 - Due January 31st
- 2026 Applications
 - Open January 1st
 - Close February 27th
- Incentive Funding still rolling application
- Applications reviewed by end of March, contracting during April
- Questions? - leave applications in draft and connect with Max

ReTRAC Updates

- Will update population estimates
- Mattress Collection Numbers



Actual tons collected/recycled at event:

Row	Identify material:	Amount:	Units:	
1	Mattresses		# of mattresses	

+ ADD

Guidelines Updates

- New Format
- Eligibility Requirements – new standards for Base Funding
 - Minimum website requirements include the following:
 - Link to the Washington County Disposal Directory
 - Link to the Ramsey/Washington Food Scraps Pickup Program webpage
 - Link to the Washington County Environmental Center webpage
 - Link to the R&E BizRecycling webpage
 - Link to the Washington County container loan webpage

Washington County Municipal Recycling Grant Continuum

Base Funding	Improved Project	Advanced Project
Administrative		
Actively participate in municipal recycling grant program	Engage in professional development around recycling best practices	Provide professional development opportunities to municipal leadership and staff on recycling best practices
Participate in two recycling coordinator or other meetings with staff per year	Develop partnerships within the community to create more widespread knowledge of recycling best practices	Establish partnerships with other municipalities
Establish a curbside recycling program by ordinance or contract	Update solid waste/recycling ordinance and/or contract with County assistance to meet current state requirements	Update solid waste/recycling ordinance and/or contract with County assistance to incorporate best practices
Require collection of County standard list of recyclables	Support community wide efforts to increase recycling of non-standard or hard to recycle items	Adopt municipal policies to support waste reduction, reuse, and recycling for non-standard or hard to recycle items
Support state efforts in obtaining hauler reports through ordinance, contract or license requirements	Audit hauler collection reports and tonnages collected	Advance initiatives as part of the <u>GreenStep Cities Program</u>
Capital Expenses		
Establish and update signage or update signage for collection best practices	Replace worn/torn/missing signage <u>Update materials to reflect culturally specific and ADA compliance</u>	Establish signage and communication materials that are location, culturally specific and ADA compliant
Provide recycling in municipally owned/operated public spaces	Expand recycling in municipally owned/operated public spaces	Establish permanent-away-from-home <u>drop-off</u> recycling opportunities
Provide recycling in municipally owned/operated buildings (non-public facing)	Expand recycling in municipally owned/operated facilities (public-facing <u>non-public</u>) for collection of non-standard materials	Establish programs or policies that target reuse
Education & Information		
Establish and maintain community specific web page with recycling and waste information that meets minimum requirements set by the County (outlined in grant guidelines)	Improve information on municipal web page to encourage waste reduction and reuse	Provide resources on municipal web pages for materials that are not collected by haulers, the municipality or the County
Share designated County created communications	Share County or other partner created communication resources that promote hard to recycle items or problematic materials	Establish recycling targets for the community and communicate these efforts in a climate or sustainability plan
Update County resources as shared by the County	Encourage special events in community to utilize the County's special event resources	Encourage special events in the community to utilize <u>or create</u> municipal-owned special event resources
Reach 50% of resident population with municipal waste and recycling information and programs	Conduct outreach specifically to new residents with city and County solid waste and recycling information	<u>Conduct targeted outreach to underserved populations within the community using resources such as trusted messengers</u> Table or provide direct mailings to 100% of residents with city and County solid waste and recycling information in addition to reuse programs or an equipment library
Provide one educational material to residents with information on the Food Scrap Pickup Program	Provide targeted information to new residents to participate in the Food Scrap Pickup Program	Provide food scrap recycling for events hosted or sponsored by the municipality or located on public property
Multi-Unit Dwellings		
Ensure all <u>new construction</u> multi-unit dwellings (4 or more units) have recycling services available	Provide educational materials to existing interested properties and refer property managers <u>and refer them</u> to County staff <u>for expanding opportunities</u>	<u>Target education to specific multi-units and/or property managers. Host clean-up events for multi-units based on multi-unit turnover</u>

Project Ideas

- Ordinance or contract reviews
- MN Composting Council organics composting toolkit campaign
- Hosting swap events
- Mattress or other specific item collection
- Shredding Events
- Battery Hero Campaign promotion
- Parks assessments with WC consultants
- Water bottle fill stations

Other Updates/Reminders

Other Updates/Reminders

- Yard waste site winter hours (12/1 – 3/31)
 - Monday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (*or dusk*)
 - Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 - Saturday: 8 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Pumpkin Collection Totals
- Plastic Free Challenge
- Bins available
- Christmas Tree Collections
- Updated Recycling at Home Rack Card
- WM Plastic Cup Collection



Recycling at Home
Empty and rinse all containers

Glass
Bottles & Jars

Metal
Food & Beverage Cans

Plastic
Bottles & Containers

Cartons

Paper & Cardboard

When in doubt, keep it out. Putting these items in your recycling cart does more harm than good.

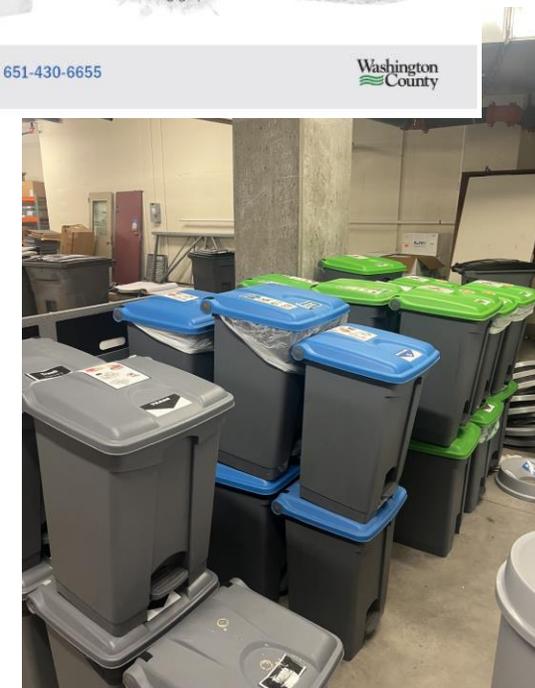
NO!

- Do Not Bag Recyclables
- No Plastic Bags or Wrap
- No Tangles (No hoses, wires, or string lights)
- No Shredded Paper

www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth | 651-430-6655

Washington County

Location	Year	Tonnage	Pounds
Stillwater	2025	1.8	3600
Cottage Grove - Public Works	2025	2.45	4900
Cottage Grove - Service Center	2025	1.04	2080
Oakdale	2025	2.18	4360
Lake Elmo	2025	4.27	8540
Woodbury	2025	3.88	7760
Mahtomedi	2025	2.66	5320
		18.28	36560



Washington County Socials

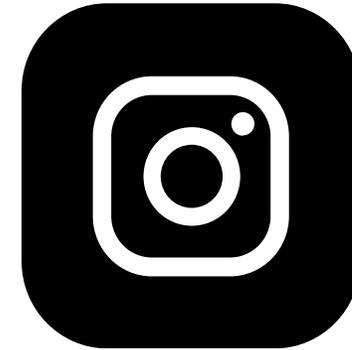
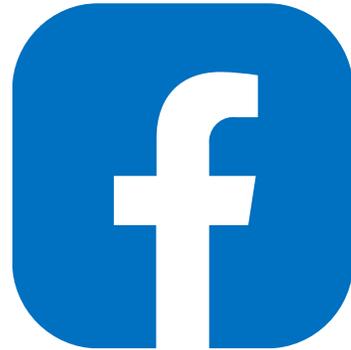
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Questions?

Thanks for Joining!