



2017 Legislative Platform

Opportunity to Recycle: 5th Recyclable

The MNCC supports changes to 115A.552 that add source separated organic material as a 5th materials type to be collected in the Metropolitan Area and in cities with populations of 40,000 or greater (Moorhead, Duluth, St. Cloud, Mankato, and Rochester).

Collection & Transportation of Recyclable Materials

Statute makes Counties responsible for assuring that source separate recyclable materials are actually delivered to a recycling processing center. As a recyclable material, source separated organics are given protection in statute. Clarification in 115A.553 is needed to specify that SSOM must be delivered to a compost facility.

Yard Waste: Extending Metro law Statewide

Extending statewide the requirement that yard waste be placed in a compostable bag meeting ASTM D6400 or D6868 or being debagged at a transfer site is critical in reducing plastic film contaminants in finished compost.

Plastic Bag and Food Service Labeling

The proposed amendment to 325.046 expands the requirement that any plastic sold in MN, for either film or food service ware, be labeled compostable only if it meets the ASTM D6400 for film or food service ware and ASTM D6868 for plastic coated paper food service ware.

The Minnesota Composting Council is a 501c, 3 dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry based upon sound science, principles of sustainability and economic viability.



2017 Policy Platform & Priorities

Compost use in Public Road Projects

MNDOT specifications should allow SSOM and livestock manures as acceptable feedstocks and use the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance testing protocol. The Class 1 standard should be replaced with various market standards for compost applications. The MNCC would like to work with MNDOT to rewrite those standards.

115A.93 Licensing and collection

115A.93 prohibits haulers from imposing a greater fee on residents who recycle than those who do not recycle. MPCA should be required to enforce this statutory provision and provide a timeline to bring haulers into compliance with regulation in organized collection systems.

Mixed Waste Processing

The States past experience with mixed waste processing to remove recyclables and organic materials were unsuccessful. The State should be very cautious in its evaluation of these types of facilities. Compost facility operators and compost end markets that purchase and use the final product must be included in the evaluation of these facilities.

Organized Collection

Organized collection allows LGUs to obtain cost-effective and efficient collection services for organic materials for their citizens. A LGU should be able to move forward with organized collection procedures identified in MN. Stat. 115A.94 if they choose.

Education

Successful recycling programs depend on strong educational programs that provide frequent and ongoing education regarding appropriate materials to recycle, methods of collection and the benefits to recycling. State supported educational efforts in traditional recycling have declined and organics recycling education efforts are minimal, yet recycling and organics recovery goals have statutorily increased. The State needs to support recycling and organics management programs with systematic and ongoing educational efforts.

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