



**PARTNERSHIP ON  
WASTE AND ENERGY**  
HENNEPIN | RAMSEY | WASHINGTON

## 2018 Legislative Platform

Topic	Policy Position	Policy Issue
<b>Waste Management Act Goals and the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy</b>	The Partnership supports the waste management goal of the state and the integrity of the order of preferred waste management practices, known as the solid waste management hierarchy.	The waste management goal of the state is to foster an integrated waste management system in a manner appropriate to the character of the waste stream, in order to protect the state's land, air, water and other natural resources and public health.
<b>Solid Waste Management Tax</b>	The Partnership supports allocating all of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to waste management activities, and increasing SCORE funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCORE funding improves the environment, increases jobs, enhances economic development, and encourages counties to achieve State recycling goals</li> <li>• About 30% of the \$70 Million collected by the SWMT is to the General Fund and is not allocated to waste management activities</li> </ul>
<b>Incentives For Waste Processing Services</b>	The Partnership supports additional state funding or incentives, such as waste processing credits, to counties that are providing or financially supporting waste processing.	Metropolitan counties are required by state law to plan and implement systems to achieve state goals contained in the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan. The Partnership counties have developed <b>fully integrated</b> waste systems, which are more challenging and expensive.
<b>Sales Tax Rebates for Processing Facilities</b>	The Partnership supports solid waste management tax rebates to entities that recover, recycle, or reuse material from which the solid waste management tax has already been remitted.	The state's Solid waste management taxes (SWMT) is not assessed on services for the collection, processing and marketing of recyclables, but is assessed on recyclables that are collected with trash. Processing facilities separate metals for recycling and recycle them. A sales tax rebate for facilities that separate recyclables from trash is an incentive to continue and increase recycling this material.

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<p><b>New Technologies for Waste Processing</b></p>	<p>The Partnership supports financial incentives by the state, as well as reduced barriers, for the development and permitting of new or alternative technologies for waste reduction, reuse, recycling, beneficial reuse, and waste processing, including use of new technology and methods to recover materials, energy and biofuels from waste.</p>	<p>Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington Counties have invested substantially to achieve state recycling, organics, processing and landfilling targets. All three are examining new technologies and methods to recover resources from waste. State support for this activity will result in increased recycling and recovery of resources, and, therefore, better environmental protection and economic development opportunities</p>
<p><b>Solid Waste as a Renewable Fuel</b></p>	<p>The Partnership supports continued state recognition of solid waste as a renewable fuel, as well as state financial support for waste and energy industries to use public and private solid waste facilities as a part of their sustainable, renewable energy resource programs, including production of biofuels</p>	<p>Solid waste is considered a renewable fuel, and as new technologies emerge that are more effective at capturing energy or fuel in different forms, it is important that the state continue to support this recognition.</p>
<p><b>Opposing preemption of local control</b></p>	<p>The Partnership opposes legislation that limits, prohibits or interferes with a county's ability to implement any component of its solid waste master plan as required by Minnesota Statutes Chapters 115a and 473. It further opposes preemption of local control and unfunded mandates that would restrict, hinder, or impair a local unit of government's ability to implement its solid waste plans.</p>	<p>Managing waste is a necessary public service, like managing wastewater, providing drinking water, and assuring public safety. Counties are the accountable local unit of government for waste management, and in carrying out this responsibility use methods that best meet local needs. Laws that preempt local control hinder the ability of counties and cities to meet their statutory responsibility.</p>
<p><b>Update Solid Waste Statutes and Rules</b></p>	<p>The Partnership supports revision of state law related to solid waste planning to address discrepancies that exist between the waste management act, existing policy/rules and current practices/trends in the waste industry.</p>	<p>The statutes related to solid waste planning in the metropolitan area were last amended in the early 1990's. Waste management has changed substantially since that time, and the law should be updated to reflect the solid waste system as it now functions and the current role of counties in that system.</p>

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<p><b>Market Development</b></p>	<p>The Partnership supports a public/private partnership to identify the key steps to be taken by the public and private sectors to assure markets for recyclables that are local, reliable, economically viable, and protective of Minnesota’s resources.</p>	<p>Local recycling efforts that succeed rely upon strong markets for collected recyclable commodities. Market development efforts are economic development opportunities for Minnesota. The work to assure strong markets and good prices for recyclable materials are best accomplished by state and regional efforts working in partnership with the private sector.</p>
<p><b>Product Stewardship</b></p>	<p>The Partnership supports product stewardship programs, with an emphasis on an Extended Producer Responsibility framework approach, to provide environmental protection, county cost recovery, indemnification of counties from product liability, and measurable and enforceable goals.</p>	<p>Product stewardship programs allocate responsibility to manufacturers, retailers and consumers, and this approach creates a producer-led approach to reduce, reuse and recycle products through the management of the product at the end of its useful life, and does not rely on county programs and finances.</p>
<p><b>Electronic Waste</b></p>	<p>The Partnership supports efforts to make improvements that would maximize the e-waste recycling program, and the use of manufacturer payments to fully reimburse county collection efforts, and make progress toward a more complete product stewardship program.</p>	<p>The current e-waste law places a burden on counties that collect e-waste, because manufacturers do not fully reimburse county collection efforts. Requiring greater transparency from manufacturers and recyclers, and requiring manufacturers to disclose payments for materials and credits, and requiring recyclers to disclose actual costs of recycling to satisfy manufacturer obligations would address this.</p>
<p><b>Waste Hierarchy Goal and Measurement</b></p>	<p>The Partnership supports implementation of a waste hierarchy goal that identifies progress in meeting solid waste system performance by measuring the volume and characteristics of waste managed by land disposal, and also monitoring the policy goals of the Waste Management Act such as reducing the toxicity of waste, separating materials and energy, reducing greenhouse gases and orderly development of the system.</p>	<p>The historic method of measuring progress in meeting State waste management goals has been to try to count tons of waste managed through a variety of different waste management methods. There has been a continual struggle with this method, and it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from the gathered data. A measurement system is needed to more accurately track progress in meeting State goals.</p>

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