Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Facility

Ramsey County

Waste Reduction Advisory Committee

May 14, 2024

Michael Reed, Division Manager, Recycling & Energy

Vision

Vibrant, healthy communities without waste

Mission

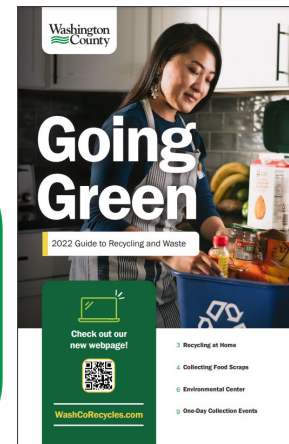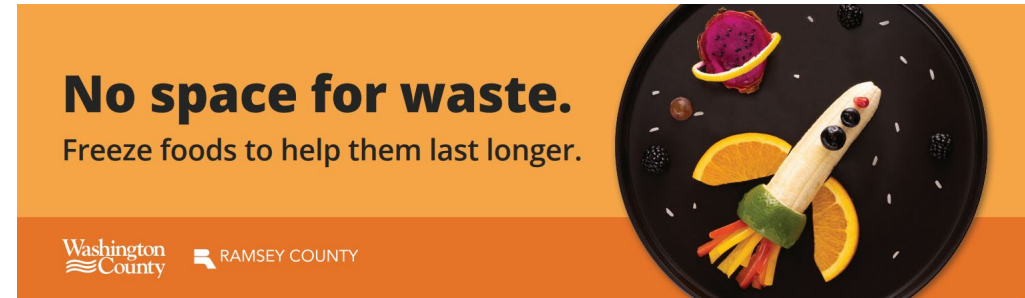Enhancing public health and the environment by creating value from waste through partnerships

R&E Programs

R&E programs complement county efforts and help the community move materials up the waste management hierarchy.
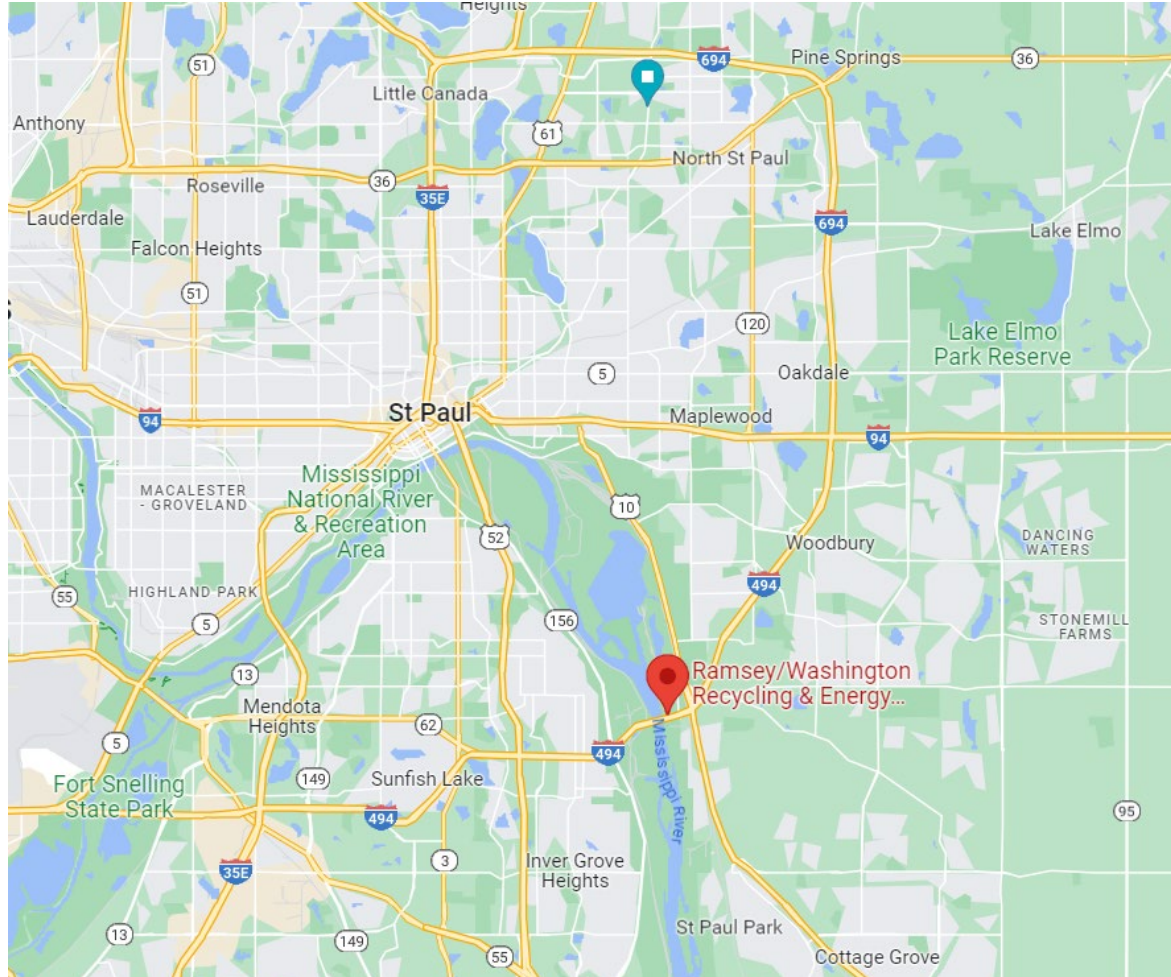
Joint Activities: Shared Programming

- R&E Center is part of the system, but collecting upstream is still top priority.
  - BizRecycling
  - Multi-Unit Residential Recycling
  - Food Scrap Pickup Program
  - Business Pollution Prevention
  - Food Waste Prevention
  - Compost Market Development
  - Deconstruction/C&D Recycling
  - Outreach and Education

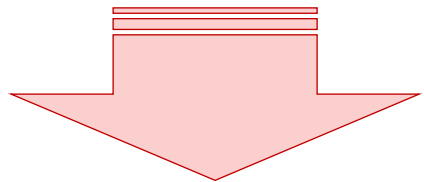# Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center)

R&E Center – Newport, MN

Partners in the Solid Waste System

R&E's business relationships and partnerships are key to ensuring the solid waste system in Ramsey and Washington counties runs smoothly every day.

810,000 residents
70,000 businesses

450,000+ tons of trash annually

Over 90 waste haulers in Ramsey/Washington counties

Hauling to one of five transfer stations or direct to R&E Center

Transporting waste from transfer stations and R&E Center

End uses for R&E Center products

Waste-to-Energy

Recycling

Composting

Future technologies

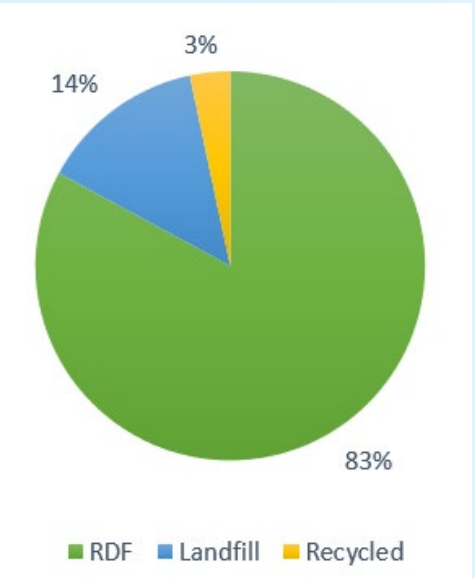Annual intake: Approx 400,000 tons. (1,100 tons/day or 7,700/week)

START HERE

Loader

Grapple Crane

Hammer Mill

Magnetic Separators

Hazardous Waste

Bulky Trash

Residue

62 trailers/week

Trash that can't be made into fuel

Disc Screens & Air Classifiers

Ferrous Metal

Eddy Current

Non-Ferrous Metal

28 bales/week

14 trailers/week

Secondary Shredder

Compactor

Yard Tractor

Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF)

311 trailers/week

3%

14%

83%

RDF   Landfill   Recycled

Some Take-aways

- Everything has to go somewhere, there is no such thing as "away" and "somewhere" decisions all have costs and implications.

- Over 55% of landfill gas is generated by burying food waste, presenting a significant risk to climate change.

- The R&E Center in Newport is a **waste processing facility** that manages all of the trash generated in Ramsey and Washington counties.

- This processing approach allows us to recover up to 70K tons of recyclables

- Having many upstream _and_ downstream tools in the toolbox is critical to solving our waste management problem.

- Removing tools (solutions) from the toolbox require careful consideration to avoid unintended consequences.

Thank you!