

# The HazWaste Quarterly

Winter 2017



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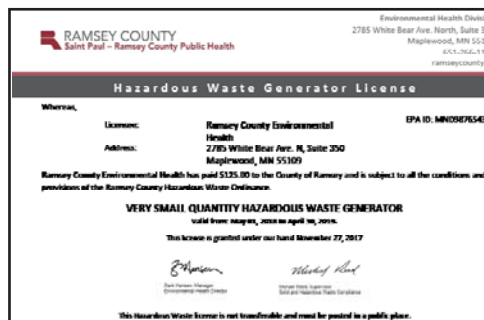
## Update your company's contact info

We sent a form out in August and have received it back from 81% of our businesses.

Help us get to 100%! If you need a replacement form, email Katie Keller at [katherine.keller@ramseycounty.us](mailto:katherine.keller@ramseycounty.us) or call 651-266-1194.

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## Annual Reporting



### Winter is here - once again!

It's that time of year when your Ramsey County hazardous waste annual report/license renewal application (annual report) is due. If you've been at this awhile, it's routine. However, we're hoping to make it even easier this year with some updates to the annual report process.

### Communicating electronically

We're trying to do more of our business and communications electronically. With that goal in mind, we are hoping to provide your business with access to a website where you will be able to fill in and submit your annual report online. The website is in the development stages right now. While the website will have a different look than the printed annual report, you will still be submitting the same information.

### No internet access?

For businesses without internet access, our office has a computer available from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, all Ramsey County public libraries offer free internet access.

### Website not working?

If the website doesn't function the way we anticipate, we can email your business a PDF of the annual report. As always, you will be able change or

correct any of this information on the annual report. After completing the report, you can choose to submit your annual report by email, fax or mail.

### Printed forms still available

If your business doesn't use a computer or have an email account, we will print the form out and mail it to you, just like we have done in the past. Keep in mind that our goal is to move to electronic communications, fully integrating all businesses in the coming years.

### Everything else about the process will stay the same

You'll still be receiving your annual report in January and it must be completed, submitted and date stamped or postmarked by January 31, 2018. If received after this date, you will be assessed a late report penalty, which is equal to 10% of your total license fee.

### What your inspector looks for

The first item reviewed is the business information. Have you changed owners or locations? If so, you will need to submit a new hazardous waste generator license application, not an annual report. Your inspector will contact you about what is required.

Other components of the review include checking to make sure all areas are completed including numerical values entered in Waste Generated in 2017, units of measure (pounds or gallons) are selected, transporter and facility information is supplied and accurate, a waste management method is selected and Waste Onsite has a volume entered.

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## Updated Look

### Notice something different?

The HazWaste Quarterly has gotten a makeover – fresh new look, colors and style. Ramsey County is “branding” our communication pieces, including the Quarterly, so you can easily identify them as being from us. This includes standardized formats, fonts, colors and layouts.

### But wait, there's more!

Starting in 2018, the Quarterly is going electronic. We’ve been collecting email addresses for the various contact people at your business with the intention of doing most our communications electronically. We’re hoping that this streamlined format will fit easily into your busy work day and continue to be a resource that you read and trust.

### No email address?

Don’t worry, you’ve got two options. The first is to setup an email account for your business. If you’re not sure how to do that, ask us, we’d be glad to help. Not ready to take that step yet? No problem, for the time being, we’ll simply send you a printed version of the newsletter.

## Annual Reporting

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Remember, to be considered “on time”, the signed and completed annual report must be date stamped or postmarked no later than January 31, 2018. Call your inspector with any questions!

## Master Plan Update

### 2018 Implementation

The Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Master Plan (Master Plan) for 2018-2038 was adopted by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on October 10 and has been forwarded to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for approval.



Key themes throughout the plan include:

- Accountability for waste generated.
- Using the solid waste management hierarchy for guidance.
- Promoting product stewardship. Supporting waste-to-energy.
- Viewing government as a leader in proper waste management.
- Reducing the environmental impacts associated with waste management.

The Master Plan is a policy-based community “blueprint” for the solid waste system that supports healthy people, a healthy economy and a healthy environment. It guides how we reduce waste, increase recycling and divert waste from landfills and outlines how we work with residents, businesses and partners to meet state and county goals.

To view the plan, go to [ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/planning-future](http://ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/planning-future).

## Hazardous Waste Generator Rule

### News from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA has revised the hazardous waste generator regulations, making them easier to understand and providing greater flexibility in how hazardous waste is managed. The new rule responds to feedback from the regulated community, states and other stakeholders and represents a significant investment in evaluating and addressing the challenges in the hazardous waste generator program.



EPA's final generator rule for hazardous waste does not become effective in Minnesota until it is adopted into state rules. Minnesota intends to adopt the parts of the federal rule that are more stringent than existing state rules and some of the modifications

The proposed changes will be posted for public notice and comment this winter on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) website. The MPCA expects the changes to be finalized in the spring of 2018. Updated fact sheets will be available when the changes go into effect.

If your company has locations in Iowa or ships hazardous waste there for disposal, be aware that the federal rule became effective in Iowa on May 30, 2017.

## License Fees

### Changes Ahead

To streamline our billing process, we are changing the way we calculate your hazardous waste license fee. In the past, we have used your previous year's annual report volumes to calculate your next year's hazardous waste license fee. For example, the 2017-2018 license fee was calculated using the waste volumes you reported on your 2016 annual report.

The 2018-2019 license year will be a transition year. We will be calculating your license fee using the waste volumes you reported two years ago on your 2016 annual report. For the 2018-2019 license year, your hazardous waste license fee will remain the same as it was last year.

Moving ahead to the 2019-2020 license year, your license fee will be calculated using the waste volumes you report on your 2017 annual report; this practice will continue for future license years. For businesses that have significant waste volume fluctuations year to year, we have the option of using a rolling year average to

calculate your license fee. If your business signed up for your first license during the 2017-2018 license year, you will be billed the same license fee (without the application fee) as you paid already.

In February, we will be mailing invoices to businesses renewing their hazardous waste license. This change allows us to invoice all licensees at the same time, providing process improvement and efficiencies. And, for all payments received on-time, there is adequate time to prepare and issue your hazardous waste license before the old license expires.

If you have questions, please contact Michael Reed at [Michael.Reed@ramseycounty.us](mailto:Michael.Reed@ramseycounty.us) or 651-266-1181.

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