

SPRING 2023 COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Environmental Service Center



Introduction

In March and April of 2023, Ramsey County held four community conversations to capture input from residents regarding the planned construction of the county-owned Environmental Service Center. The facility will provide more opportunities for residents to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle. The new county-owned center will:

- Offer free drop-off for recyclables, food scraps, electronic waste and household hazardous waste.
- Create a space for community education and resources.
- Create a permanent location for Fix-It Clinics where the community can get household items fixed for free and learn valuable repair skills.
- Provide a free product reuse room where residents can find products like paints, automotive fluids and household cleaners.

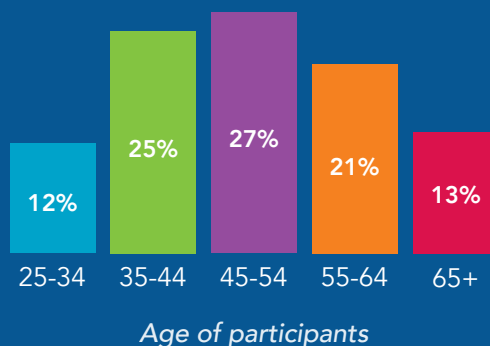
Demographics

Top cities represented

- Saint Paul
- Roseville
- Shoreview
- Maplewood

Residents came from 16 cities in Ramsey County.

Age range



Will having an Environmental Service Center encourage you to recycle more?



63%

of residents are **very interested** in recycling and waste disposal services.

31%

of residents are **interested** or **moderately interested**.

Recycling and waste disposal services with the greatest interest.

- Electronic waste collection
- Household hazardous waste collection
- General recycling collection

Community Spaces

What activities are you most interested in for the community spaces?

Featured in order of how often each topic was mentioned.

Indoor Space

1. Community swaps (clothing, costumes, toys, etc.).
2. Guest speakers on topics of recycling and reuse.
3. Tool library.
4. Ability for residents to reserve meeting spaces.

Outdoor Space

1. Gardening education.
2. Seed exchange and backyard composting demonstrations.
3. Community gathering (social events).
4. Community garden.

Both Spaces

1. Educational activities for adults.
2. Educational activities for school and youth groups.

What suggestions or ideas do you have related to the indoor and outdoor community spaces?

- Host public events (such as document shredding).
- Incorporate exhibits and displays to learn about reuse and recycling.
- Post clear and easy to understand signs.

Facility Hours

What days and times do you prefer for hours of operation?

Residents prefer weekend hours overall.

61%

Saturday Afternoons

51%

Sunday Afternoons

Weekday mornings and afternoons have the lowest preference.



What additional items would you like to see accepted?

Reuse Room

Building materials, household goods & cardboard boxes.

Recycling

Textiles, plastic bags & Styrofoam™.



What suggestions do you have related to the design of the facility?

Include artwork from local artists.

Incorporate used building materials in the design.



What concerns do you have about the Environmental Service Center?

Increase in traffic.

Safety for bikers, walkers and others not using motor vehicles.

Pollution from the facility.