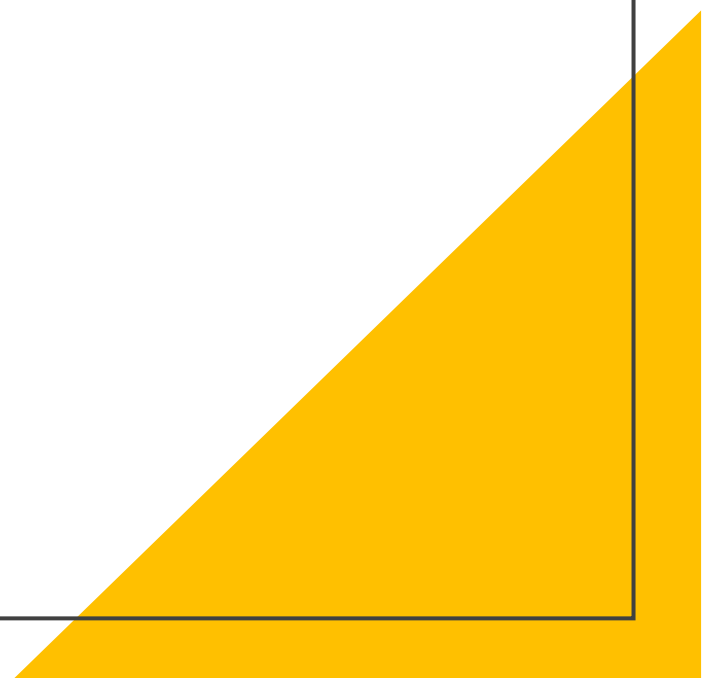




Food Recovery Grant

Information Session

May 15, 2024



Today's Agenda

Who we are

Food Recovery Grant

+ Purpose

+ Eligibility

+ Requirements

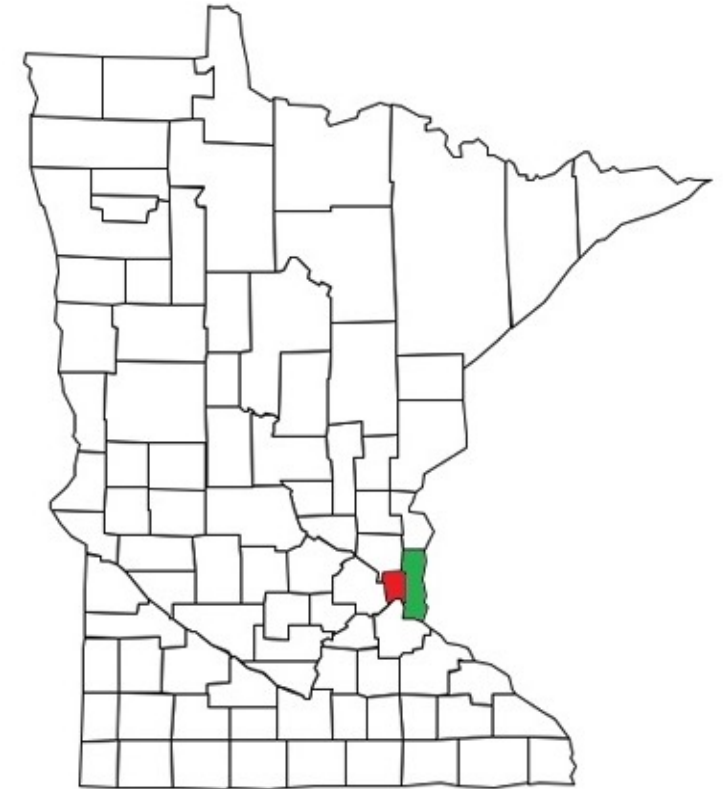
+ Evaluation Criteria

+ Application Process

Question & Answer Period

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy

- Ramsey and Washington counties have worked together to manage trash responsibly since the 1980s.
- Over 800,000 residents and 70,000 businesses
- 14% of state's population
- Public entity responsible for meeting the state of MN's 75% recycling goal.
- Overseen by a joint powers board of Ramsey & Washington County Commissioners.



Ramsey & Washington County Solid Waste Priorities

Minnesota's waste hierarchy

Most
preferred
environmental
option



Least
preferred
environmental
option



Top Priority – Upstream

- Waste reduction, reuse, and repair
- Source-separated recycling – reusable items, recyclable items, and food scraps
- Outreach and education - behavior change

Last Option – Downstream

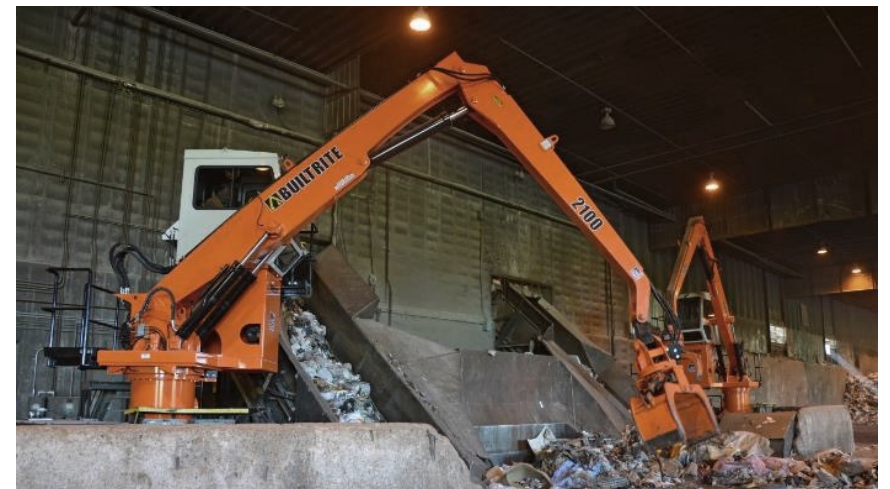
- Processing waste for energy
- Pulling valuable materials from waste stream
- Landfilling as last resort

75%
Recycling
Goal =
Reduction,
Reuse &
Recycling



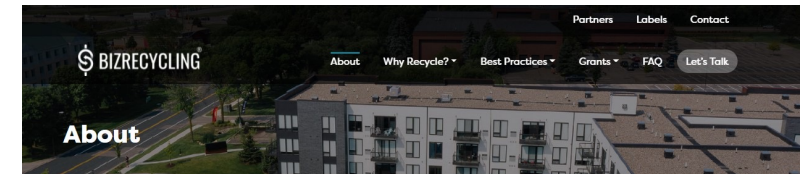
The R&E Center (Downstream Processing)

- Located in Newport, MN
- Purchased by the two counties in 2016
- **All trash** from residents and businesses in the two counties is delivered here.
- Trash is processed into refuse-derived fuel (RDF) used by Xcel Energy to generate electricity.
- About 10% is landfilled.
- R&E Center manages nearly 13% of the state's total waste



Community Programming (Upstream Prevention Work)

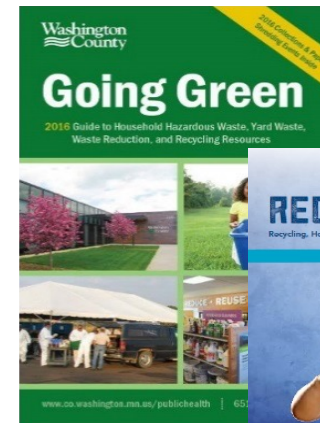
- **BizRecycling**
 - **Technical assistance and grant funding for commercial sector entities.**
 - **Technical assistance and grant funding for apartment buildings.**
- Business Pollution Prevention
- Food Waste Prevention
- Food Scrap Recycling
- Compost Market Development
- Mattress Recycling
- Deconstruction/C&D Recycling
- Reuse & Repair
- Outreach and Education



BizRecycling Story

BizRecycling is a public program of Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E). Through R&E, Ramsey and Washington counties have worked together to manage waste responsibly since the 1980s. The two counties strive to protect health and the environment and meet the state's 75% recycling goal.

BizRecycling launched in 2013 to help businesses start and improve organics (food waste) collections. Over time, BizRecycling expanded to support waste reduction and recycling efforts. In 2019, residential apartment buildings became eligible for technical assistance and grants. Since our start, we've reached over 4,000 local businesses with information, customized improvement plans and grant funding. Over \$6 million dollars in grants have been invested into local businesses to help them manage their waste in an environmentally





PURPOSE

Increase commercial waste diversion through waste reduction & recycling

HOW

Engagement + Technical Assistance + Grants

TA Providers: EcoConsilium & Minnesota Waste Wise

IMPACT *(Food Recovery Grants since 2021)*

36 grants awarded

3,000 tons of food waste prevented



Grant Portfolio

BizRecycling grants help your business, apartment, school or organization reduce, reuse and recycle better.

	Waste Reduction + Innovation Grant	Food Recovery Grant	Recycling Grant (Apartments)	Recycling Grant (Businesses)	Organics Reward	Bin Only Grant
Grants up to:	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
Who can apply?	Businesses Non-Profits Schools & Colleges	Businesses* Non-Profits Food Shelves & Banks Farmers Markets Colleges	Apartments	Businesses Non-Profits Schools & Colleges Food Shelves & Banks	Businesses Apartments Schools & Colleges Food Shelves & Banks	Businesses** Farmers Markets Food Shelves & Banks
Purpose	Prevent the creation of waste.	Recover surplus, edible food to distribute to people in need.	Improve recycling and organic collections and support waste reduction and reuse activities.		Incentivize organic (food waste) collection services.	Improve recycling and food waste collection for small businesses.
Use funds for:	Equipment to eliminate solid waste from production processes Equipment to move business from disposable to reusable options Infrastructure improvements Industry-specific consultation Research and development activities	Collection materials and equipment for recovery activities Storage costs Transportation costs Staffing costs related to food recovery Infrastructure and equipment Educational resources	Trash, recycling and food waste bins Sorting stations Transport equipment Food waste management systems Compactors and balers Construction upgrades to accommodate recycling or food waste collection Limited supply of compostable ware Reusable food service ware Dishwashers and installation costs when converting from disposables Educational resources Staff wages for recycling training		Up to three months reimbursement of organics hauling costs	Trash, recycling and food waste bins and equipment ordered directly from the BizRecycling catalogue

NOTES:

*Food producers, distributors, grocers, and cafeterias only.

**Applicant must have less than one million in annual revenue.

Find more complete information at:
BizRecycling.com/Grants

Key Definitions

Food recovery (also known as food rescue):

- collection of surplus food from grocery stores, distributors and other sources of safe and edible food that can be redistributed to people who need it

Gleaning:

- Collection of surplus produce from farms or farmer's markets distribution to people who need it

About

\$ BIZRECYCLING

Food Recovery Grant

Launched in 2021 in response to increased food waste and food insecurity

Purpose: Recover surplus, edible food to distribute to people in need.

Who Can Apply: Businesses (grocery stores, food distributors, cafeterias), non-profits, colleges, churches

- Recover and/or donate food in Ramsey or Washington County
- Grants awarded per address
- Must be able to provide a W9 form

Grant Limit: \$20,000

- 50% of the grant award is provided at project start, 50% via reimbursement, \$250 for completing a final report.

Available Funding:

- Grants awarded twice annually with option to reapply annually
- \$300,000 per year available for Food Recovery Grants; awards are given until all funds are dispersed.



Requirements



Food Recovery Grant

- Work with a technical assistance provider.
 - Initial site visit
 - Grant submission
 - Implementation support
 - Reporting support
- Complete a Food Recovery Grant application.
- Enter into a contract agreement with R&E for a period of 18 months.
 - Quarterly reports
 - Mid-term/reimbursement report
 - Final report questions included in last quarterly report



Funding priorities



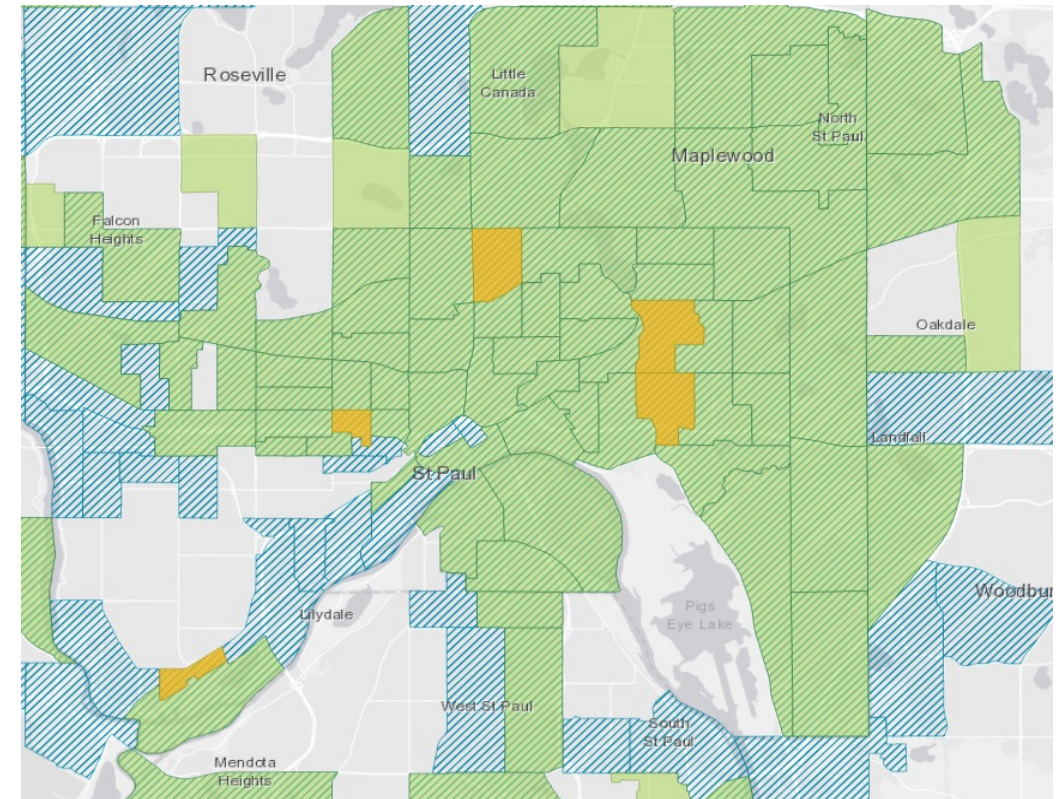
Food Recovery Grant

Priority Projects:

- Donation and distribution of culturally-preferred and healthy foods
- Food distribution in environmental justice priority areas
- Purchases/programs that will sustain food recovery beyond the grant period
- Collaborative projects (for example, a food shelf distributing to multiple organizations)

Ineligible expenses:

- Purchase of food that is not recovered
- Food to be sold
- Composting or food-to-animals
- Fuel purchase



Source: <https://mpca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f5bf57c8dac24404b7f8ef1717f57d00>

Use of Funds

- Materials needed for food recovery activities, including collection materials (buckets, boxes, etc.), materials to assist with food mobility (carts, pallets, etc.)
- Storage costs, including rental and/or equipment purchase for storage
- Transportation costs, including vehicle rental if necessary. Transportation costs include mileage reimbursement. Fuel costs cannot be reimbursed
- Infrastructure and equipment for use in food recovery and donation efforts, including refrigeration and shelving
- Funding for staff for recycling education training (hourly wage for each employee for one hour of training)
- Staffing costs up to \$15,000 or equivalent of .5 FTE, whichever is less, for work directly associated with food recovery and/or gleaning activities

Application Review

Question	
Organization description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform about organization mission and key objectives/services• Describe populations and geographic areas served, providing percentages of client population when feasible
Activities related to food access and justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform about commitment to promoting access to healthy and/or culturally relevant foods• Inform about reaching communities disproportionately impacted by food insecurity, climate change and poor health outcomes
Project Activities (MOST IMPORTANT) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be clear and thorough• Describe in detail how the funds will be used• Provide detailed descriptions of project timeline, locations of activities, plans for distributing and/or collecting food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informs about specifics of programs• Informs about feasibility of programs• Informs about the sustainability of programs• Provides more detail to supplement budget
Budget and staffing tables <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connect to program activities• Provide product brand/item types when applicable• Provide quotes and/or links to product details• Ensure quantity and cost per unit are accurate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informs about program cost effectiveness• Demonstrates understanding of program guidelines• Informs about food safety practices (e.g., if NSF-approved equipment is included)

Top Reasons for Denials

- Ineligible items requested
- High cost per pound of food recovered
- Application incomplete or completed with limited detail
- Questionable food safety practices



Evaluation

Process

- Holistic team review process, looking at criteria below
- Recommendations sent to R&E leadership for final decision making

Evaluation Criteria

- Food waste prevention volume
- Addressing food access and justice (based on activities, communities served)
- Cost effectiveness
- Sustainability
- Feasibility
- Additional environmental and community benefits
- Size and location of impact
- Innovation

Evaluation Criteria

CRITERIA

EXEMPLARY

Activities

Project activities are clearly stated, specific, realistic, and measurable.

- The activities described are very clear, concise, and easy to understand.
- Project activities, including current and proposed operations, equipment, and processes are explained.
- **Clearly defines link between project activities and how food waste will be reduced.**



Impact

Estimated weight in pounds of food that will be recovered.

Addressing food access and food justice are a priority for the work being completed.

- **Clear demonstration of how the program will result in additional pounds of food recovered.**
- Estimation of food recovery is realistic regarding project activities.
- Estimated amount of food recovery represents a significant amount of waste prevented.
- **Programming focuses on priority populations, geographic areas and/or foods that are healthy and culturally specific**

Other considerations

Implementation of a new or innovative approach

Addressing gaps in the current food recovery system

Capacity to complete the work

- Clear demonstration of how proposed work will improve the food recovery system in a unique way
- Clear demonstration of meeting priority needs in the food recovery system (ex: meats, other high-value foods)
- Staff roles and tasks clearly outlined

Evaluation Criteria

CRITERIA	EXEMPLARY
Engagement How well employees, food recipients/clients and/or the general community are engaged in project activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project activities benefit and involve many stakeholders to increase their knowledge and/or involvement in food recovery activities, benefits, and values.
Sustainability Programming can be sustained beyond the grant period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence presented that the project/programming can be sustained beyond grant period.
Feasibility Activities, timeline, and budget are realistic and fit within project description and outcomes.	Project activities, timeline, and budget are congruent with project description and anticipated outcomes.
Budget	Budget clearly supports project activities and impacts. Items are eligible for funding.

Summer 2024 Timeline

Next Steps

- Work with your TA to complete application.
- Application and materials available at **bizrecycling.com/grants/food-recovery-grant/**

Timeline



July 19 – Applications Due



September 2 – Award
announcements



September 27 – Contracts done



October - Payments made

Question & Answer Period





Technical Assistance Provider

- Site visits
- Project planning
- Grant assembly and submittal

EcoConsilium

Jodi Taitt

jodi@ecoconsilium.com

763-504-2445

Minnesota Waste Wise

Michelle Palm

Mpalm@mnchamber.com

651-292-3907

BizRecycling Staff

- Get assigned a TA provider
- Grant, contract, and payment assistance

Jessica Paquin

jessica.paquin@recyclingandenergy.org

651-259-1845