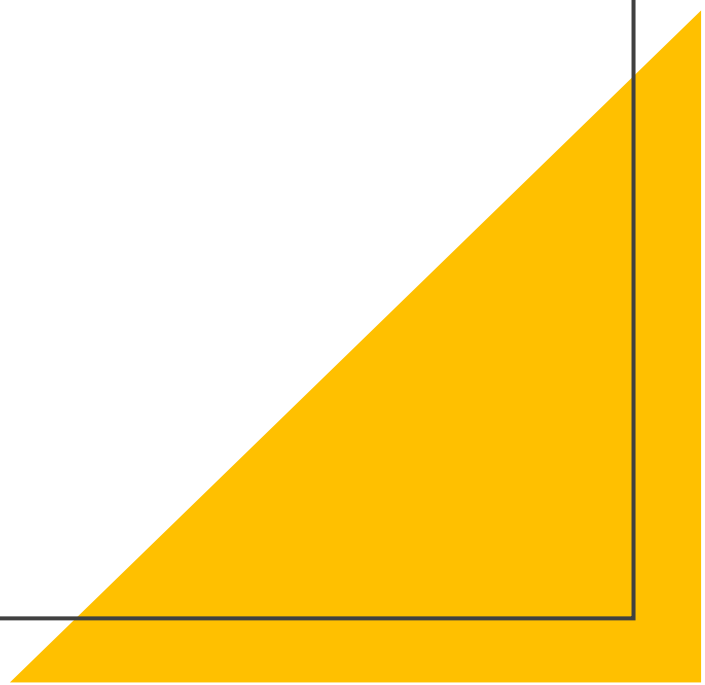




Waste Reduction + Innovation Grant

Information Session

February 18, 2025



Today's Agenda

Who we are

Waste Reduction & Innovation Grant

+ Purpose

+ Eligibility

+ Example Projects

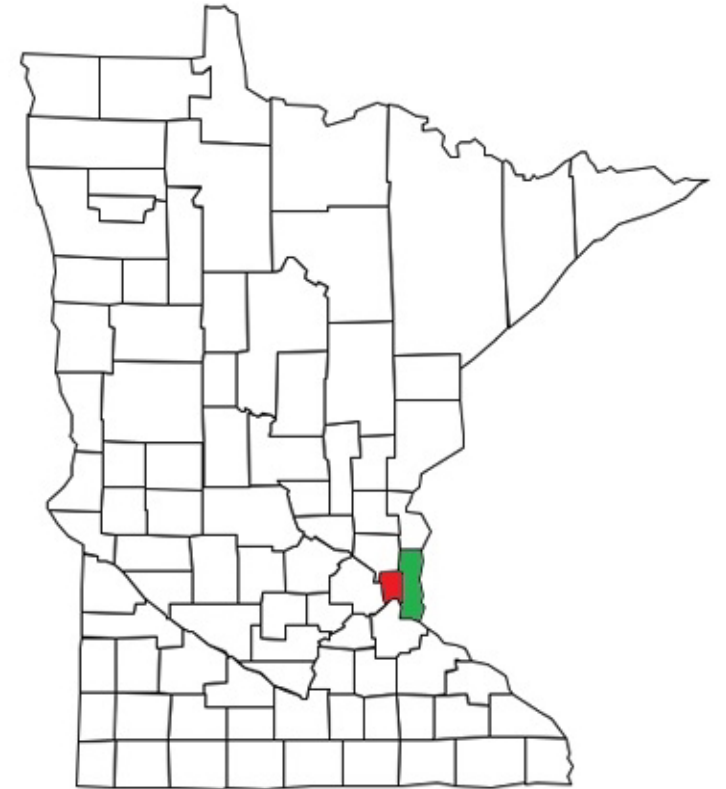
+ Evaluation Criteria

+ 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

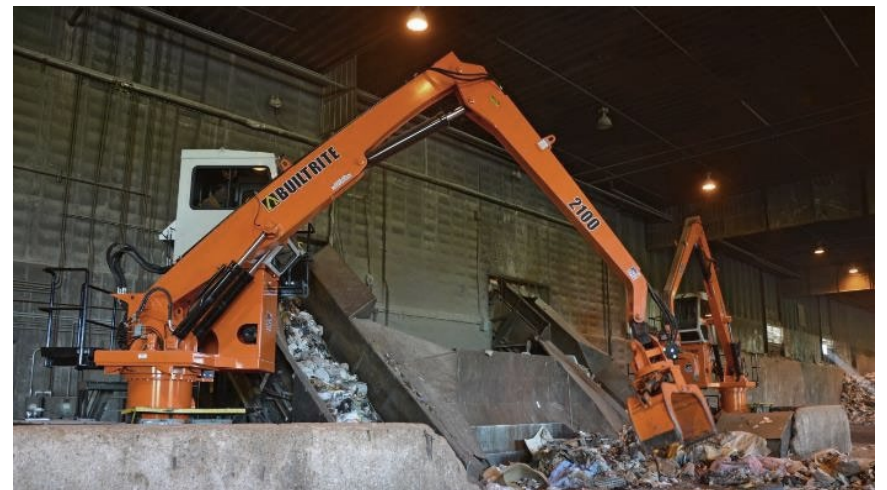
- Processing waste for energy
- Pulling valuable materials from waste stream
- Landfilling as last resort

75% Recycling Goal = Reduction, Reuse & Recycling



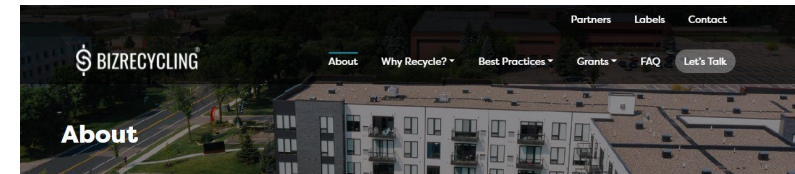
The R&E Center (Downstream Processing)

- 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 1990s. 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 & Sustainable Synergy Solutions

IMPACT *(since 2014)*

1,067 business started or expanded recycling

449 started organics collections

8 million tons of annual diversion



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](https://bizrecycling.com/Grants)

About



**Waste Reduction
+ Innovation Grant**

Launched in 2021 recognizing that true waste elimination work requires more capital and thought investments. There are 25 funded projects to date.

Purpose: Prevent the creation of waste from operational and production processes.

Who Can Apply: Businesses, non-profits, K-12 schools*, colleges

- Have a physical location in Ramsey or Washington County
- Grants awarded per business entity, not per address

Grant Limit: \$50,000 and grantee must provide a 10% match

- Applicant can request a waiver to pay the match
- 50% of the grant award is provided at project start, 50% via reimbursement, \$250 for completing a final report.

Available Funding:

- One-time award, \$10,000 - \$50,000
- \$1,000,000 per year available for WRIG & Recycling Grants, awards are given until all funds are dispersed.



Requirements

- Work with our Recycling Experts.
 - Initial site visit
 - Grant submission
 - Implementation support
 - Reporting support.
- Complete a Waste Reduction & Innovation application.
- Enter into a contract agreement with R&E for a period of 18 months.
 - Mid-term/reimbursement report
 - Final report at end of 18-months.



New milling machine for sign making.

Funding Priorities

Purpose: Prevent the creation of waste.

Waste Types

- **Targeted: Mixed municipal solid waste**
 - Waste typically going into municipal trash, recycling or organics collection systems.
 - Priority for waste going to the R&E center and recycling outlets.
 - Problem materials.
- **Ineligible** (*Unless a secondary benefit*)
 - Yard Waste
 - Hazardous Waste*
 - Construction and demolition waste*
 - Tree and agriculture waste
 - Water waste
 - Pollution

Priority Projects:

- Capital expenses for new technologies and equipment
- Equipment & supplies to move from disposable to reusable items
- Infrastructure improvements
- Research and development projects

Use of Funds

Equipment & Materials

- Industry specific equipment and supplies that eliminate significant amounts of solid waste from the production process or capture materials for reuse.
- Equipment and supplies that move businesses from disposal items to reusable options.
- Up to 3 months or \$2500 of subscription costs, whichever is less, to manage inventory/usage/donations of food and disposal items to reduce waste

Construction & Infrastructure

- Waste, recycling, and organics management infrastructure improvements among co-operative businesses located within the same building or business park.
- Infrastructure improvements to enhance industry specific waste reduction and recycling capabilities.

Research & Development

- Industry-specific consultation costs to reduce the creation of solid waste at its source, which is beyond the expertise of R&E consultants.
- Costs related to the research and development activities of products or services that would significantly reduce solid waste in Ramsey and Washington County. Company must be located within Ramsey or Washington County.
- Staff or consultation time to develop environmentally preferable purchasing plans.
- Staff or consultation time to develop co-operative purchasing groups to leverage access to bulk materials which align with the business's environmental purchasing plan.

Education & Engagement

- Staff time to develop an onsite "Green Team."
- Production and printing of custom signage, labels, and education materials.

Use of Funds

- **What we're not funding**

- Hauling costs
- One-time waste elimination costs
- Compostable ware
- Dishwashers & reusable food ware
- Water bottle filling stations
- Refrigeration/freezer
- Standard upgrades to existing equipment



Received funding for specialized equipment to remove non-recyclable plastics from the production process and equipment convert all point-of-sale packaging to 100% compostable.

Evaluation

Process

- Scored evaluation by Washington County, Ramsey County & R&E staff.
- Recommendations sent to R&E leadership for final decision making.

Evaluation Criteria

- Solid Waste Diversion Volume
- Innovation & replication for industry
- Sustainability
- Feasibility
- Additional environmental benefits



Reusable CSA distribution totes drying after being washed with pressure washers.

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.
- **Very clearly defines link between project activities and how waste will be reduced.**



Impact

Estimated weight in pounds of waste, recycling or organic material that will be reduced or eliminated.

Type of waste is primary solid waste.

Priority materials: Going to R&E Center, recyclables, and problem materials.

- **Calculations of estimated waste elimination are very clear.**
- Estimation of waste diversion is realistic regarding project activities and weight of material.
- Estimated weight elimination represents a significant reduction in % of overall waste of the applicant.
- Waste eliminated is a targeted waste material.



Innovation

Implementation of a new idea or technology with clear outcomes.

Project activities represent the implementation of new ideas or technologies for the industry with very clear potential for waste elimination.
Project activities have potential for replication across the businesses industry.

Evaluation Criteria

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

Top Reasons for Denials

- Ineligible items requested
- Low waste reduction to cost ratio
- No replicable innovation
- Unclear link between project request and resulting waste reduction
- Unclear about if equipment is an innovation or replacement of older equipment
- Project too early in development stages



Sample of Funded Projects

<p>Sign Manufacturer Partial Equipment to move from chemical to etching processes, which generated high amounts of solid and hazardous waste.</p>	<p>Lighting Manufacture Partial funding of equipment and supplies to reclaim sprayed power coat paint for reuse.</p>
<p>Nonprofit Recycler Equipment and staff time for start-up Styrofoam collection and processing for recycling and reuse.</p>	<p>Food Upcycler Partial funding of equipment to increase recovery of spent brewers' grain for food upcycling.</p>
<p>Food Shelf Building modification to improve transit of donated food and waste materials, start-up equipment costs</p>	<p>Mushroom farm Equipment to move mushroom trays to 100% compostable: equipment to remove all non-recyclable plastic substrate bags from production process; equipment to upcycle spent mushroom substrate to be used as compost at garden stores.</p>
<p>Non-profit Farm Training Program Skid Steer & trailer to remove the use of plastic and replace with mulch; pressure washer to wash reusable SCA totes.</p>	<p>Coffee Shop Equipment and supplies to implement a reusable container for roasted bean sales.</p>
<p>Winery Reusable stainless steel wine kegs + keg washer to replace glass bottles and associated materials</p>	<p>Wholesaler Racking + installation to utilize vertical space for bulk purchasing reducing wasted packaging materials</p>
<p>Wholesale Bakery Test run/development of BPI freezer compostable packaging for sales in grocers & stores</p>	<p>Industrial Pallet Recycler Additional pallet recycling line</p>
<p>Garden Supply Store Out-building to mix soil in bulk instead of buying in bags</p>	<p>Piano Recycler Funding to demonstrate the feasibility of deconstructing pianos for recycling and reuse</p>

Spring 2025 Timeline

Next Steps

- Work with your Recycling Expert to complete the application.
- Application and materials available at bizrecycling.com/grants/waste-reduction-innovation-grant/

Timeline



March 14 - Applications Due



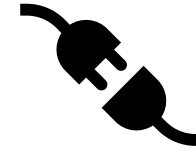
April 14 - Award Decisions Made



May 14 - Contracts Done



Mid June - Funding Received



Connect with Us

Recycling Experts

- Site visits
- Project planning
- Grant assembly and submittal

Minnesota Waste Wise

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EcoConsilium

Jodi Taitt

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BizRecycling Staff

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

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Question & Answer Period

