

RESOLUTION

Board of Hennepin County Commissioners

RESOLUTION: 25-0509

At a meeting of the Board of Hennepin County Commissioners, a motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, and seconded by Commissioner Edelson, that the Resolution be adopted. The motion passed.

WHEREAS, in 2021 the county committed to achieving a zero-waste future and defined zero waste as preventing 90% or more of all discarded materials from being landfilled or incinerated; and

WHEREAS, the county has and continues to follow through on this commitment with increased investments in policy, programming and infrastructure as documented in the creation of the Zero Waste Plan in 2023, a prioritization of the highest impact zero-waste actions in the Plan to Reinvent Hennepin County's Solid Waste System in 2024, and culminated in the county's 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan as required by Minnesota Statute § 473.803; and

WHEREAS, the county has established dashboard metrics for tracking progress toward the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's metro policy plan objectives; the county's zero-waste goal and the criteria to be met to responsibly close HERC, including a 75% recycling rate, less than 10% biogenic material in the trash, a 22% reduction in waste generated per capita, and no net increase in landfilling over 2022 actuals; and

WHEREAS, state leadership is needed to make the transition to zero waste, including financing to match desired outcomes, changing state statutes to support the shift away from disposal and toward a circular economy, expanding accountability for zero waste outcomes to include producer responsibility, redeveloping infrastructure to meet state waste reduction and recycling goals, and supporting markets to adapt to changing demands; and

WHEREAS, the county has committed additional resources to the implementation of zero waste by increasing the 2024 waste reduction and recycling budget by \$2.8 million, including hiring staff to expand existing programs and develop new initiatives that prioritize reducing materials with the greatest climate impacts such as food, plastics, and building materials, and to address long-standing disparities in access to recycling and organics services, especially in multifamily settings; and

WHEREAS, the county has significant additional capital needs for zero-waste infrastructure, as well as expanded program needs; and

WHEREAS, the true cost of disposing of trash is not currently borne by the businesses that generate the most trash, which limits incentives to reduce, reuse, recycle, and accelerate progress toward zero-waste goals.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners directs the County Administrator to: (1) evaluate amendments to Ordinance 18 to accelerate implementation of zero

waste actions; (2) provide analysis on how the potential revenues could be generated from commercial entities that produce the most waste, as well as analysis of how the potential revenue options would affect residents, especially residents with lower incomes and small businesses; (3) develop options and include recommendations for new revenue source(s); along with a proposed public engagement process and timeline to implement and provide to the Board by March 31, 2026.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 12/11/2025

The question was on the adoption of the resolution with the votes as follows:

Aye: 7 Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Lunde, Commissioner Edelson, Commissioner Anderson, and Commissioner Goettel

Maria Rose



Maria Rose