

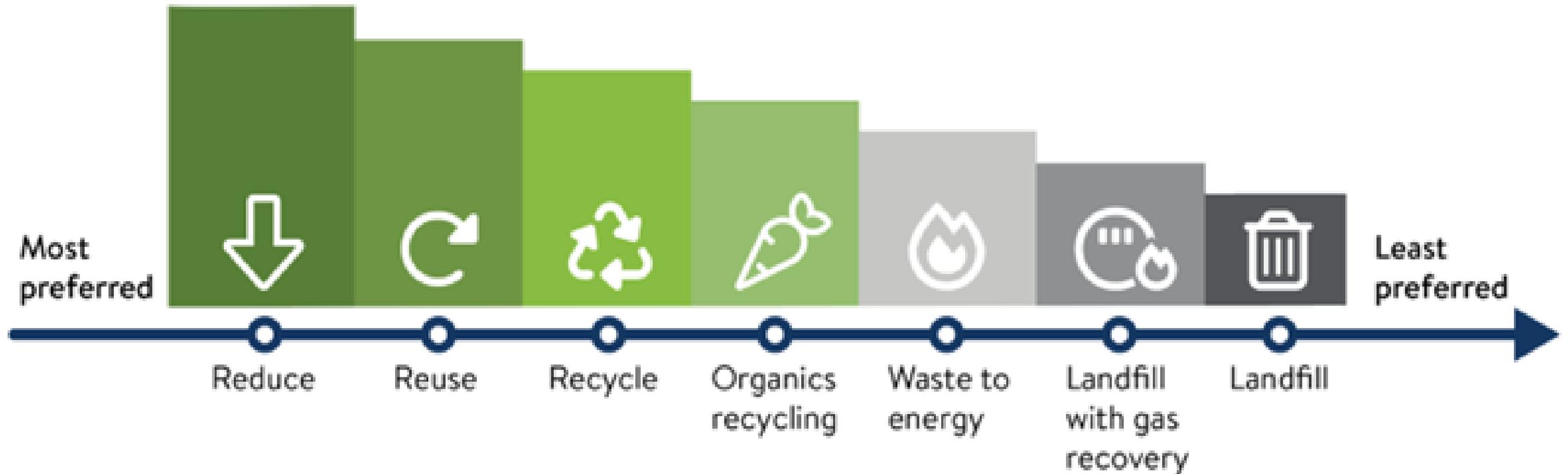


# Hennepin County's Leadership in Solid Waste Systems

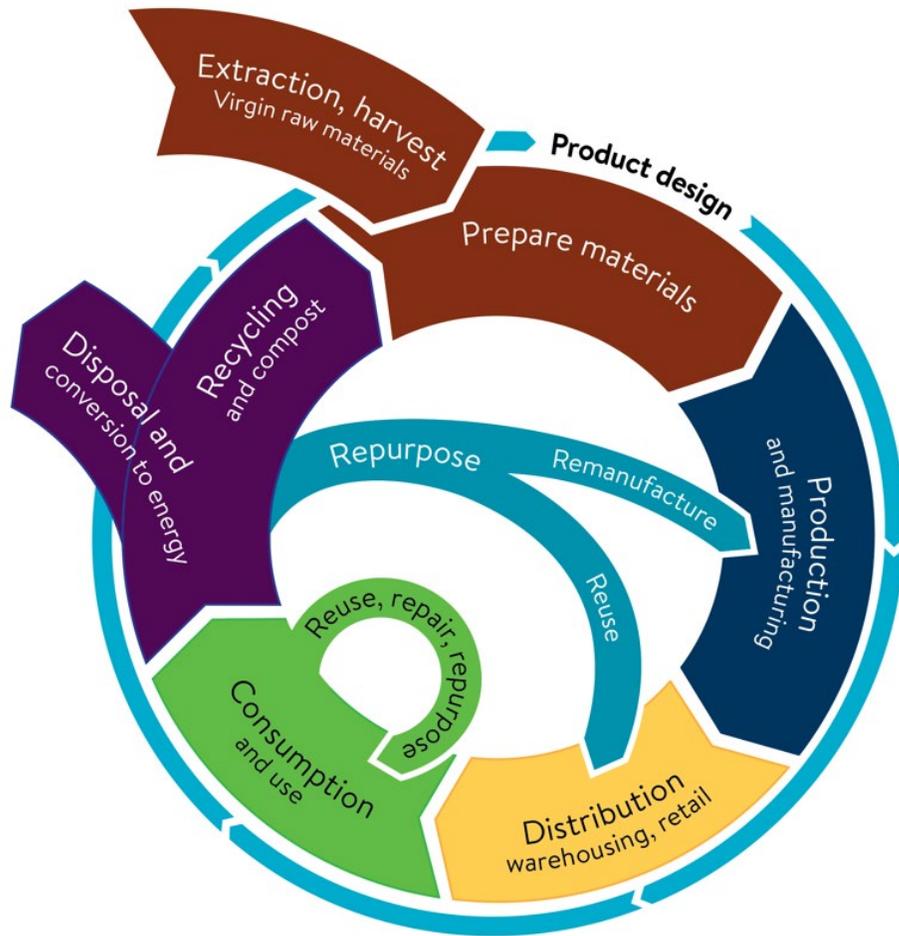
Kirk Koudelka | Assistant Commissioner

February 5, 2026

# Moving Up the Waste Hierarchy



# Preventing Waste Before It Exists



## Prevention, reuse and repair pilots

- Fix-it clinics
- Reuse pickup and collection
- Wasted food prevention

## Reusable serviceware initiatives

## Role of State Policy

- Support scaling successful pilots
- Remove procurement barriers to reuse
- Align funding with prevention outcomes

# Waste food remains a priority

Wasted food prevention first

Rescue → animal feed →  
composting

Climate-Smart Food Systems

Alignment with methane  
reduction goals



# Climate Smart Food Systems Initiatives

Area	Amt	Activities
Peatland restoration	\$20M	Protect and restore more than 10,000 acres through DNR and BWSR programs.
Climate-friendly agricultural practices	\$20M	Support farmers adopting practices such as use of controlled-release fertilizers, transition from row crops to perennials, and no-till farming through existing programs at MDA (MAWQCP, SHFA, Continuous Living Cover Market Development).
Industrial innovation in food and waste processing	\$60M	Cut climate pollution, improve efficiency, and reduce waste at food and organic waste processing sites through a new MPCA grant program.
Cleaner refrigerants	\$10M	Replace coolers in supermarkets, schools, small businesses, and other locations with more climate-friendly refrigeration through an existing program at MPCA.
Vehicle and equipment replacement	\$20M	Replace vehicles and equipment we use to grow and transport food with those with cleaner fuels through programs at MPCA and MDA.
Food scraps management and prevention of wasted food	\$33M	Keep valuable nutrients in circulation to feed people, livestock, and soil and prevent significant methane emissions through existing MPCA grant and loan programs (prevention of wasted food grants, food-to-livestock grants, organics management grants, environmental assistance loans).
Food sovereignty and vibrant local food economies	\$35M	Improve food security, expand local food economies, strengthen food sovereignty, and reduce climate pollution in Tribal and local food systems through a new grant program led by MPCA and MDH.

# C&D as a Major Diversion Opportunity

## Why C&D Matters

60–80% diversion targets are achievable  
High volumes of recoverable materials

## Key Strategies

Deconstruction & material reuse  
Workforce training and contractor capacity  
End-market development as the primary bottleneck

## Role of the State

Targeted grants  
Training and workforce development  
Providing market certainty through policy and procurement signals



# Extended Producer Responsibility

## Strengthening Minnesota's Recycling System

### What EPR delivers:

- Stable, producer-funded system support
- Reduced financial and operational burden on counties
- Reduced financial and operational burden on counties

### Looking ahead:

- Boat wrap, paper and packaging implementation
- Batteries
- Electronic devices
- Solar panels



# MPCA Recycling Market Development Grants

*\$5.3M invested statewide to strengthen end markets for recyclables and increase processing capacity.*



# Managing What Remains



## Current Role

- Waste-to-Energy (WTE) manages non-recoverable materials
- Preferred to landfilling under the waste hierarchy

## Key Considerations

- Climate and long-term pollution impacts
- Existing facilities operate while upstream systems scale

## Long-Term Direction

- Reducing what reaches disposal remains the priority

# Thank you!

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