

# The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board

Adopted: November 18, 2015

The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board (SWMCB) is a joint powers board comprised of two commissioners from Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties. To enhance intergovernmental coordination, the Board also includes ex-officio representation from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Member counties work together to increase the efficiency and environmental effectiveness of the region's solid waste management system to benefit taxpayers of the region. The SWMCB is the regional forum for policy development to improve waste management outcomes in the region and state.

## 2016 Legislative Principles

- 1. The SWMCB supports the State's statutory goals in §115A.02, including the solid waste management hierarchy that prioritizes recycling, composting, and processing over landfilling. The SWMCB supports measuring the progress made on §115A.02's environmental and public health goals** through waste management programming that will:

- Reduce the amount and toxicity of waste;
- Separate and recover materials and energy from waste; and
- Reduce the indiscriminate dependence on landfilling.

To accomplish these goals, the SWMCB supports:

- Establishing a landfilling goal by 2030 of no more than 9% of mixed municipal solid waste which is approximately 290,000 tons (currently 640,000 tons are being landfilled) for the Metropolitan Area;
- Requiring the MPCA to annually present to the Legislature the amount of waste continuing to be landfilled; and
- Landfills receiving waste from the Metropolitan Area must perform a waste composition study every five years in accordance with Minnesota Rules 7007.0501 Subp 2A including a weight percentage breakdown of: paper, cardboard, plastic, ferrous, nonferrous, other nonorganics, glass, organic, and solid wastes containing mercury as well as a percentage of carbon that could have been converted to renewable energy.
- Reducing barriers for developing new processing technologies.

- 2. The SWMCB supports SCORE funding to supplement local government funding of recycling, which will** increase jobs, enhance economic development, and incentivize local governments to augment current recycling programs. To protect the integrity of the Solid Waste Management Tax and its uses originally identified by the Legislature, all such tax dollars being diverted to other purposes should be refocused on funding SCORE and related recycling. In 2014, over \$71 million was collected by

the State in Solid Waste Management Tax revenue. Counties received \$17.25 million for SCORE.

- The SWMCB supports an improved business environment for Minnesota with the development of recycling market initiatives to enhance the state's economy and support the state's recycling goals.
- The SWMCB supports county/business partnerships to educate and assist in the implementation of the commercial recycling mandate.

**3. The SWMCB supports replacement of all diverted funds as well as fully funding Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust Account (MLCAT) and Closed Landfill Investment Fund (CLIF) to ensure landfills, when closed, remain protective of the environment and water resources.**

**4. The SWMCB supports product stewardship programs** that include the basic principles of producer responsibility to provide environmental protection, local government cost recovery, indemnification of government from any product liability, and measurable and enforceable goals. The SWMCB supports statutory changes to improve E Waste product stewardship consistent with these principles.

**5. The SWMCB supports identifying cost effective ways for the public and private sectors** to invest in compost facilities to meet increased, mandated organic recycling efforts of the Counties.

**6. The SWMCB supports the MPCA ensuring compliance by haulers of Minn. Stat. §473.848** by quarterly reviewing facility and landfill compliance plans to ensure resource recovery processing capacity is fully utilized. Ensuring compliance is not the responsibility of the Counties.

**Please visit these websites for additional information about the  
Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board:**

[www.swmcb.org](http://www.swmcb.org)

[www.rethinkrecycling.com](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com)