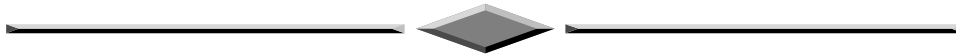


DODGE COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

10-YEAR Plan: 2014 - 2023

Submitted to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
2013



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

The 1980 Waste Management Act and amendments require Minnesota counties to establish a Solid Waste Management Plan. At that time, the plan was required to be updated every 5 years. Dodge County first adopted its Solid Waste Management Plan in 1984. It was amended in 1985 and approved by the Minnesota Waste Management Board in March 1986. The plan was again amended in 1991 to include actions designed to meet waste abatement goals outlined by "SCORE" legislation. In 2003, a ten year update was approved to include county objectives through the year 2013.

The following information updates the 2003-2013 Dodge County Solid Waste Plan and amends the plan to include county objectives through the year 2023.

### CURRENT AND PREFERRED SOLID WASTE SYSTEM

The Dodge County Solid Waste Plan has been developed and fully implemented based on Minnesota's waste management hierarchy as described in Minnesota Statute 115A.02:

1. Waste reduction
2. Reuse
3. Recycling
4. Composting
5. Incineration/Waste to Energy
6. Landfilling

All mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in Dodge County is designated, by ordinance (see Appendix J) to a County Transfer Station.

From the Transfer Station, processible MSW is transported to the Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility (OWEF). The OWEF is obligated, through a joint agreement between Dodge and Olmsted Counties, to incinerate the MSW; creating steam and electricity. When the OWEF is not available due to repair and maintenance, all MSW is delivered to the Olmsted County Landfill. Waste that is non-processible at the OWEF must also be landfilled. Since operation began in 1987, the tipping fee at the OWEF has risen from \$35.00/ton to \$105.26/ton. The cost of landfilling has risen from \$30.00/ton to \$105.26/ton. Approximately 6589 tons of Dodge County MSW was incinerated in 2011; approximately 866 tons were landfilled, 453 tons were composted in 2011.

Dodge County has implemented a comprehensive drop box program for collection of recyclable materials. The County has 10 drop box locations, serviced by county personnel. Several private businesses handle selective recyclables within the county. Licensed waste haulers provide curbside collection. In addition, the county operates a central yard and food waste-composting site. Other municipalities in the county also offer yard waste composting sites for their citizens. In 2011, approximately 5000 tons of material was recycled in Dodge County; thirty eight percent (38%) of the total mixed

municipal solid waste generated in the county. The current cost of all waste recycling collection and processing is approximately \$57/ton. An Electronics Waste Recycling Program was started in 2005. Electronic products are accepted from residents and businesses at the Recycling Center. Several private businesses that sell electronics also offer a take back program in the area. The recycling process of electronic waste is handled through contracted services.

Dodge County is part of the "Take It to the Box" program that encourages people to bring their old and unused prescriptions, over the counter medications and pet medications to the Dodge County Sheriff's Department or the Kasson Police Department. The medications are securely taken to a hazardous waste incinerator and disposed of to make them less available to youth and protect the soil and water from improper disposal.

Sharps/syringes are now accepted at the Dodge County Transfer Station/Recycling Center. They are accepted at no cost to the customer but need to be in a puncture proof, leak proof container. They are stored in a gondola in the Recycling Center Building. The disposal of the sharps is handled through an agreement with the Mayo Clinic medical incinerator in Olmsted County.

Textiles are a considerable portion of MSW tonnage that goes to the OWEF, therefore, in 2011, Dodge County has partnered with USAgain to collect, recycle and reuse clothing, shoes and other household textiles. There are 4 drop off locations that USAgain services and maintains in Dodge County. USAgain currently shares a portion of its annual sales with its site sponsors.

See Appendix D for a summary of the County's 10-year waste management budget and see Appendix F for a summary of the County's waste management and recycling goals.

## FUTURE WASTE MANAGEMENT

The County's primary objective is to manage waste in a manner that poses the least amount of environmental risk at the lowest cost possible.

All Dodge County residents and businesses have the option of hiring a licensed commercial garbage hauler to collect and deliver their garbage to the Dodge County Transfer Station or self-hauling their own to the Dodge County Transfer Station during business hours. Dodge County will continue designation of MSW, (see Appendix J), to the County Transfer Station and fulfill the contract with Olmsted County for waste to be processed at the OWEF.

Dodge County plans to continue implementing an aggressive waste education program designed to illustrate benefits of integrated management methods.

Dodge County plans to continue to implement a comprehensive recycling program including ten full service drop-off locations for rural residents and weekly curbside collection for municipal residents and businesses. Drop boxes and the curbside program

will allow most materials to be co-mingled for collection. All materials will be accepted at the county's recycling center located at the existing Dodge County Transfer Station site.

Dodge County will maintain a central drop-off site for yard waste composting. Sites in each city will likely remain available to local residents. Back yard composting of yard waste and food waste will be strongly encouraged.

Dodge will continue to recover recyclable materials readily available from the MSW that is delivered to the Transfer Station. MSW will continue to be transported to the Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility or by-passed to the Olmsted Sanitary Landfill when the incinerator is at capacity or down for maintenance as per the Joint Agreement between Dodge and Olmsted Counties. The Agreement is enforceable until June 2028.

Proper management of household hazardous waste is important to Dodge County. The County is contracted with the Olmsted Regional Hazardous Waste Facility. The contract allows Dodge County use of the facility and staff. Dodge County plans to continue this working relationship.

Dodge County also intends to continue to landfill non-recyclable demolition debris. The county's existing demolition landfill has at least 30 years of remaining capacity.

Dodge County's existing waste management services are very successful. Sharps disposal, electronics recycling, clothing and shoes recycling, and the Take it to the Box program are recent additions to the effort of reducing the amount of MSW taken to the OWEF and Kalmar Landfill. However, the county is continually reevaluating the program in search of efficiencies, waste abatement opportunities, and cost savings. Several options that will continue to be studied in the next ten years include:

1. Developing a "reuse center" for sale of waste items,
2. Composting source separated food waste and other organics,
3. Establishing satellite drop-off centers for rural residents to bring in MSW, problem materials, and recyclables.
4. Implementing policies and ordinance that will ensure that the county continues to effectively carryout its Waste Management Plan.
5. Recycling and reuse of demolition debris such as concrete, asphalt, shingles, and wood.
6. Constructing and implementing a 20kw photovoltaic system to supply the majority of electric load for the Recycling Center and Transfer Station. A solar array is proposed for 2013.
7. Improving an education program that focuses on:

- a) Defining waste as a “resource” not just a nuisance,
- b) Face to face communication,
- c) Distribution of education materials to “captive” audiences e.g. new residents, new businesses, permit applicants, etc., and
- d) Setting goals that people can really understand, communicate, and support (e.g....”zero waste”); clearly present community and county goals, track progress, and publish results.
- e) Improving waste abatement in schools and businesses.

## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2013-2023

### SUMMARY OF EXISTING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

#### A. BACKGROUND

A general knowledge of the County, its population, transportation, land use and geography are helpful in understanding the solid waste management recommendations contained in this Plan. This brief section will attempt to familiarize the reader with the County's characteristics. Other sections of this Plan will go into more detail as necessary.

Dodge County is located approximately 60 miles south of the Twin Cities Metropolitan area and is within its trade area for many services. Dodge County has six small incorporated communities offering basic economic services. The County is within the trade areas of three larger neighboring communities: Rochester to the east, Austin to the south and Owatonna to the west. Geographically the County is one of the smallest in the State being approximately 24 miles north-south and 18 miles east-west.

The County lies in an area of the state well served by major state truck interstate highways. Interstate 35 and U.S. 52 serve the County with four-lane north-south access and Interstate 90 is available to the County as an east-west route. Within the County itself, U.S. 14 and T.H. 30 serves as an east-west access while State T.H. 56 and 57 serve the County with north-south access. In addition, County state-aid highways, county roads, and township roads provide well-maintained, efficient inter-county service. See Figure 1. Of particular importance is U.S. 14, which provides access from central Dodge County to the City of Rochester. This is the only four lane limited access route in the County and links Dodge Center and points west with Rochester.

In terms of political subdivisions the County is made up of 12 townships: Ashland, Canisteo, Claremont, Concord, Ellington, Hayfield, Mantorville, Milton, Ripley, Vernon, Wasioja, and Westfield; six incorporated cities: Claremont, Dodge Center, Hayfield, Kasson, Mantorville, and West Concord; and at least four unincorporated villages made up of farm and residential dwellings and limited commercial services; Wasioja, Concord, Berne and Oslo.

Dodge County's land use is characterized as predominately agricultural with scattered woodlots associated with farmsteads and river valleys. Population density is low, typical of farming areas. The only population concentrations occur in cities, villages and a limited amount of suburban residential development near Mantorville, Kasson, and Dodge Center. These developments are usually oriented toward the rivers or streams in the area. Each of the cities has with it an expected amount of commercial/industrial "strip" development associated with major highways. For the remainder of the County, structural development primarily consists of farmsteads and scattered single-family homes on large tracts.

The predominant natural resource of the County is its relatively flat, reasonable well drained (for Minnesota) agricultural lands. Over 90% of the soils in Dodge County are placed in USDA productivity Class I, II, or III, indicating soils best suited for agricultural production with the least amount of conservation management practices required.

Dodge County lies within three watersheds and is at, or very near, the headwaters of each. The largest portion (85%) of the County is drained by tributaries of the Zumbro River. Drainage is to the east, eventually discharging to the Mississippi River. The Root River drains the very southern portion of the county, flows east, and also enters the Mississippi. The Cedar River drains the southwestern portion of the County flowing south to the Iowa River and eventually the Mississippi.

Agricultural practices provide the county's economic base. However, majority of the county working residents are employed in regional centers such as Rochester, Owatonna, and Austin. Dodge County facilities project the current employment numbers to stay the same at 172 at the courthouse, Public Health and Highway Dept. facilities and around 92 for the Fairview HealthCare Facility which is a Dodge County entity. Wages for the Solid Waste portion of Dodge County will get an increase according to union contract with all salary numbers being reported with the budget in Appendix D. The primary employers, in order by industry, in Dodge County are Educational, health and social services, Manufacturing, Retail, and Farming. Projected employment in Dodge County is to remain relative consistent in the next ten years. Specific amounts and types of waste from generators are not available. The table below shows the approximate number of employees and type of business waste they may have.

Major Employers in Dodge County

FIRM	Employees	Type of Business
McNeilus Truck & Manufacturing	950	Manufacturing of garbage/ cement trucks
McNeilus Steel	Not available	Steel production
Dodge County	172	Government
IFP	Not available	Dry Food prep/manufacturing
Hayfield Window	Not available	Window manufacturing
Fairview Health Care Facility	92	Health care
Kasson-Mantorville School District	Not available	Education
Mayo Clinic- Kasson satellite	Not available	Health Care

The median household income in Dodge County is about \$56,000 per year, which is very close to the statewide median. Even with the downturn in recent economic conditions, Dodge County continues to grow, mainly on the east side of the county due to the proximity to Rochester.

Challenges for collection of garbage and recycling in Dodge County are in the rural, western portions of the county where the number of licensed commercial haulers is limited and the distance is greater from generator to the Transfer Station. Other significant challenges include effective public education for a complicated system and maintaining a reasonable cost for Waste to Energy services.

## B. WASTE CHARACTERISTICS AND GENERATION RATES

Dodge County is a rural county; 60% live in 6 small towns and 40% live outside of municipal jurisdiction. The average annual population growth rate is projected to be approximately 1.1% over the next 20 years.

The waste stream is approximately 30% commercial/industrial generated and 70% residential generated. We estimate that the largest commercial/industrial waste producers in the county are the 3 School Districts and McNeilus Truck Manufacturing.

All waste is designated to the Transfer Station in Kasson; processible waste is then transferred to the Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility (OWEF) in a 53 foot semi-trailer. Non-processible waste is transported to the Olmsted landfill in 40 yard open top roll-off containers. A portion of the waste is composted on-site.

The county generated about 13,255 tons of mixed waste in 2011. Approximately 50 percent was incinerated at the OWEF, 6 percent was disposed in the Olmsted County Kalmar Landfill, 38 percent was recycled and composted, and 6 percent was disposed of on private property. See County goal/volume table in Appendix F.

Approximately 30 tons of MSW is managed by the Transfer Station each working day; approximately 90% comes from 7 commercial haulers that serve primarily within municipalities, 10% of the MSW is delivered by private individuals who primarily reside outside municipal limits. According to a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency report, June 2010, regarding "Garbage Burning in Rural Minnesota"; about 56% of rural households in SE Minnesota hire a licensed hauler to collect their garbage and about 30% of rural households burn all or a portion of their household waste on-site. Based on these findings, of the 2600 rural households in Dodge County, 1500 households hire a licensed hauler to collect their waste and 770 households, representing 2171 people, burn all or a portion of their household waste.

Based on waste characterization studies in similar counties, Dodge County trash is made-up of approximately 80 percent recyclable or compostable materials. See Table 1 for amounts of MSW received, processed and disposed of during the past 5 years. Waste generation rates will typically increase by 25% in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of each year. This table does not include the amounts recycled or composted.



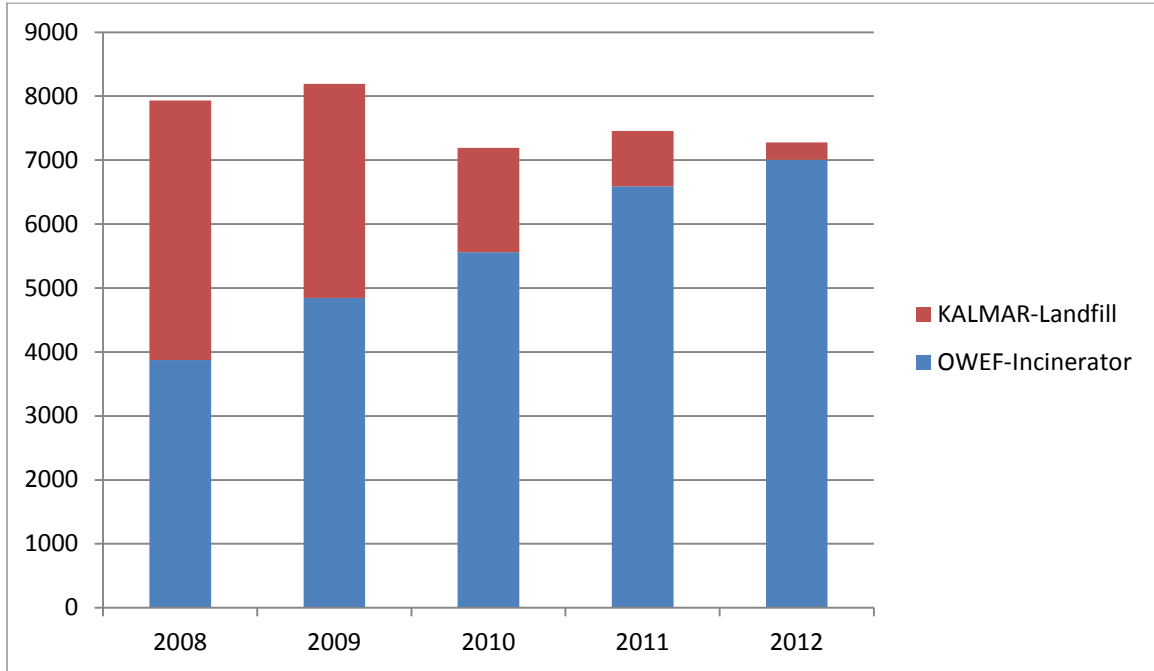


Table 1

The Dodge County Sanitary Landfill was closed for MSW disposal in October 1991. The landfill is a part of the MPCA Closed Landfill Program. Therefore, the MPCA is responsible for monitoring and response actions.

Dodge County has a written agreement with Olmsted County which allows for continue disposal at the Olmsted County Landfill through 2028.

The Dodge Demolition Landfill receives approximately 3800 cubic yards of demolition each year on average. The demolition landfill is located on county property, south of the old sanitary landfill. The site has enough design capacity for more than 30 years of demolition debris disposal.

Variables impacting solid waste collection and generation include higher fees due to increasing fuel and transportation costs and higher operating fees at the Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility. When fees go up, residents are more likely to haul their own garbage or burn it. However higher fees also provide incentive for people to find ways to divert waste to recycling, reuse, and composting.

Dodge County recycling rates have increased over time. In 2010, southeastern MN counties discussed solid waste planning activities that would benefit the Rochester Centroid. Items reviewed included carpet recycling, bulky waste processing and ferrous recovery at the OWEF, extending life of personal computers by 1 year, source reduction of corrugated cardboard, MN State bottle deposit, and the collection of source separated organics for composting.

Since then, Olmsted County has successfully mined ferrous from the Olmsted Landfill. Dodge County has started collecting and recycling carpet, paint stewardship legislation has been adopted, and Dodge County has implemented a source separated organics composting service. Barriers continue to be funding, regulatory restrictions, the need for waste at the OWEF, and the lack of support for the state bottle bill in legislation.

### C. SUMMARY OF MAJOR COMPONENTS

The Minnesota Waste Management Board approved the Dodge County Solid Waste Management Plan in 1986. The Minnesota Office of Waste Management approved the first update and amendment in 1992. The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance approved the second update and amendment on December 3, 1997. A third update and amendment was approved in November, 2003. The plan has since been carried out. Major components of the existing solid waste management system are:

1. The Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility (OWEF), located in Rochester, is a 400-ton per day mass-burn incinerator designed to handle all mixed municipal solid waste from Dodge and Olmsted counties. For a detailed description of the OWEF see appendix I.
2. The Dodge County Transfer Station located north of Kasson is designed to accept all of the waste generated in Dodge County, sort it, and transfer it to the OWEF or Olmsted Landfill.
3. The Olmsted County Sanitary Landfill located northeast of Byron accepts mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) from Dodge and Olmsted Counties. MSW is received at the landfill when it is not processible at the OWEF or when the OWEF is shut down for maintenance. A separate landfill receives ash from the OWEF. For a detailed description of the Olmsted County Landfill see appendix H.
4. The Dodge County Demolition Landfill located north of Kasson accepts only demolition generated in Dodge County.
5. Ten Drop-off Centers are located throughout the county for collection of recyclable materials. Licensed trash haulers provide curbside service. Materials are accepted at the County Recycling Center and then transported to one of two Material Recovery Facilities. We currently have non-exclusive agreements with Recycle America in Minneapolis and Allied/Republic Services MRF in Inver Grove Heights, MN. Cardboard, when source separated, is sold through SEMREX.
6. Household Hazardous Waste collection is provided under contract with the Olmsted County Regional Collection Facility and the Zumbro River Region Mobile Collection Facility.

7. Other contracted services, such as appliances, e-waste, sharps disposal, textile recycling, and pharmaceutical incineration.

Dodge County has an active designation ordinance that requires all MSW to be delivered to the Transfer Station unless it is disposed of out of Minnesota. Dodge County also has a solid waste ordinance that regulates MSW collection and disposal and demolition disposal. Dodge County currently has approximately six (6) full time equivalent employees involved in solid waste management.

#### D. EXISTING RATE STRUCTURE

All mixed municipal solid waste is designated to the Transfer Station. The current tipping fee for licensed haulers is \$95.00 per ton plus an 18% waste-to-energy service fee that was implemented in October 2009 on all MSW related charges that are billed by the hauler. Waste delivered to the Transfer Station by public is charged by volume or weight. The public is offered a variable rate depending on the size of container or vehicle they bring in. This rate structure was calculated to fund the Transfer Station operation and the cost of Waste to Energy Services at the OWEF. Non-processible and oversized waste is transported to the Olmsted Landfill at a cost of \$105.26/ton. The OWEF also currently charges Dodge County \$105.26/ton.

The commercial garbage haulers all offer variable service rates depending on amount of waste their customer generates. A popular alternative to the 3-can service (\$35 /month) is a 30-gallon pre-paid bag service at \$4.00 per bag.

Demolition rates are currently \$11.00 per cubic yard.

Waste abatement programs are currently funded primarily by state SCORE grant (20%), a special assessment on residential units (41%), revenue from sale of recyclables (38%), and MPCA HHW Grant (1%).

Dodge County charges each household in the county a Waste Management Service Fee that currently covers the cost of waste abatement services such as recycling and household hazardous waste collection. The current fee is \$24.00 per household per year.

There are strong incentives for practicing waste reduction and recycling. As mentioned, commercial garbage haulers offer volume-based pricing alternatives. Households and businesses can see direct cost saving from disposal avoidance.

#### E. EXISTING MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Dodge County currently has the equivalent of six (6) full time employees working on solid waste activities. The Department of Environmental Services administers all programs. The department director and administrative assistant provide planning and administration services. The Transfer Station Manager and four full-time operators manage daily waste disposal and recycling activities. Employment status of all employees is not expected to change in the near future. Wage information can be found in the budget listed in Appendix D.

The facilities that are administered by the Dodge/Olmsted Joint Powers Board are the Dodge County Transfer Station, Olmsted Sanitary Landfill, Olmsted Ash Monofill, and the Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility. Each County has specific responsibilities for operating the facilities. The responsibilities are specifically identified in the Dodge/Olmsted Joint Solid Waste Management Agreement. The Agreement, which was signed in 2006, and revised in 2009, binds each county's responsibility for 20 years. See Appendix A.

Dodge County is actively involved in the Southeastern Minnesota Recyclers Exchange (SEMREX). The Joint Powers Board is made up of ten counties that meet regularly to discuss local projects and plan activities that are effective on a regional scale. SEMREX provides market development, cooperative marketing, and material exchange services to member counties.

In 2011, Dodge County Solid Waste Programs primarily operate under six separate budgets. See Appendix D for the 2011 budget for the Transfer Station, Demolition Landfill, Recycling Program, Hazardous Waste Programs, Compost, and Waste Admin/Education.

Lower markets and an economic downturn the past couple years have made commodity prices fluctuate and increased the need for additional funding both by fees assessed and an increase in the local assessment on community taxes to help pay for programs along with state SCORE funding. Other state and local funding will be utilized if available.

A public entity, as defined in MN Statute 115A, within the county may not develop or implement a solid waste management activity, other than an activity to reduce waste generation or reuse waste materials that is inconsistent with the County Plan that the county is actively implementing without the consent of the county.

#### F. STATUS OF COUNTY SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE

Dodge County has a Solid Waste Ordinance and a Solid Waste Designation Ordinance and a Mandatory Recycling Ordinance. In combination, the ordinances require commercial garbage haulers to obtain an operating license and deliver all mixed municipal solid waste to the Dodge County Transfer Station. Many recyclable items including appliances and electronic waste are prohibited from land disposal by the Dodge/Olmsted Joint Solid Waste Management Agreement. These

Ordinances are enforced by the Solid Waste Administrator, and are current. The County does not anticipate a need to amend the Ordinances during the ten year period of this Plan.

All commercial haulers are required to obtain a license from Dodge County each year. The Solid Waste Ordinance has a demolition solid waste section and regulates on-site disposal of solid waste. Ordinance enforcement has been minimal as violations are rare and can result in suspension of their hauler license.

All commercial haulers and the Transfer Station currently offer some form of volume based pricing. The County has also implemented a Mandatory Recycling Ordinance that contains appropriate regulation for instituting volume-based pricing. The ordinance can be seen in Appendix B.

The County has also implemented an ordinance for establishing and regulating solid waste management fees. This ordinance allows the county to directly charge all potential users for specific county services. In 1992, Dodge County implemented a service fee to all households for the recyclables collection program and HHW program. This ordinance can be seen in Appendix E.

In 2009, Solid Waste Ordinance #6 Dodge County Waste-to-Energy Service Charge Ordinance was passed. The Service Charge is imposed on the amount of Municipal Solid Waste generated and shall be collected by the Hauler on the Sales Price of Hauler Services as incurred by any Person paying for Hauler Services. The Service Charge shall be Eighteen Percent (18%) for Residential Persons and for Non-Residential Persons. If the Sales Price does not represent the fair market value of the Hauler Services, the Service Charge shall be calculated on the fair market value of those Hauler Services. Any sales tax or other tax or service charge imposed by a unit of government is not subject to the Service Charge.

Self-Haulers depositing Municipal Solid Waste at the Dodge County Transfer Station must pay the Waste-to-Energy Service Charge based on the amount of Municipal Solid Waste deposited. The Service Charge shall be One Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$130) per ton of Municipal Solid Waste but may be calculated on an equal basis by the County based on volume of waste when weighing the waste is not practical. The Waste-to-Energy Ordinance is listed as Appendix K.

#### G. GENERAL POLICY AND GOALS

Dodge County general policy is to manage solid waste in a manner that causes the least amount of environmental risks at the lowest possible cost.

The County goals are to:

1. Strongly encourage, through an aggressive education program, waste reduction and reuse.

2. Maximize yard waste composting by prohibiting yard waste from the mixed waste stream, providing convenient drop-off composting sites, and promoting back yard composting.
3. Maximize recycling by providing for local drop-off collection and curbside collection service.
4. Maximize reuse and recycling of demolition materials by sorting out usable material for grinding or reuse.
5. Properly dispose of household hazardous waste by providing education and technical services as well as providing regular collection opportunities at convenient locations.
6. Control cost of incineration by separating the materials with low BTU value and materials with market value.
7. Discourage open dumping and burning of MSW on farmland by providing strong educational and technical services in combination with convenient disposal services.
8. Continue to comply with the conditions and intent of the Dodge/Olmsted Joint Solid Waste Management Agreement that provides for final disposal through waste to energy and landfilling of all materials that are not handled by recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste programs.
9. Encourage source separation of organics from the waste stream for composting.
10. Review and update the Solid Waste Management Plan every ten years.

Dodge County began intensive planning for waste management improvements in 1988. In 1989, the county established specific program goals. In 1990, the county formed an Advisory Committee to facilitate plan development. County staff will continue to review case studies, survey customers, consult waste haulers, and implement pilot studies. The following section describes current practices, goals, alternatives, and recommendations that have resulted from this planning process.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS; CURRENT PRACTICE, GOALS, ALTERNATIVES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. WASTE EDUCATION AND REDUCTION:

#### **Current Practice:**

Education services are currently a part of the Waste Administration and Assistance budget. Dodge County has the equivalent of a one half-time employee dedicated to waste reduction and other education programs. The County also requires licensed haulers to provide recycling instructions to their customers. Programs that have been completed or are in progress include:

1. Demonstrations available to all community organizations, schools, and businesses. Specifically, annual waste education by county staff for 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes at each of the 3 school districts. 2013 brought this information to the senior high classes in the Kasson-Mantorville School District as well.
2. Development and distribution of several guides, such as the Dodge County Guide to Recycling, illustrating waste management alternatives.
3. County-wide and Customer surveys. Fact sheets are sent to those who request more information on certain topics, such as used oil, fluorescents, hazardous waste, and alternatives to on-site disposal.
4. Monthly public service announcements with information on numerous topics that are printed in the local Dodge County newspapers.

Currently, the county's taxes and service fees fund these programs.

#### **Goals:**

The SCORE legislation requires counties to implement waste education and reduction programs. These waste management programs have been given the highest priority by the State of Minnesota and Dodge County. They have a high priority for two simple reasons:

1. Waste reduction is the most environmentally sound method of waste management.
2. No waste management program can be effective without a strong education component.

Dodge County's goal is to strongly encourage, through current programs and new opportunities, an aggressive education program, waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and proper disposal.

**Alternatives:**

Waste education options are numerous; they are cyclic depending on the needs of all waste management programs at a given time. Target audiences will also vary depending on topic and rate of progress.

**Recommendations:**

The County should regularly evaluate education alternatives through communication with residents and businesses – this is currently done through annual surveys. County staff should develop programs on an as-needed basis. All programs should be maintained until desired results are demonstrated.

The education program in the next ten years should focus on three concepts:

1. Waste is energy; it's a natural resource, its money and its local jobs. In this "sustainability" approach, the county will attempt to change how people feel about "waste" hopefully, the consequence will be greater waste reduction and recycling and a continued preference for using waste as an energy source.
2. The most effective way to educate is face-to-face conversation. Dodge County believes that most people are suffering from information overload. Consequently, education will be most effective when a captive audience is present e.g. new resident, change of haulers, new school year, point of service, etc....
3. People will respond to clear achievable goals. Dodge County will inform citizens of environmental and economic goals, regularly inform citizens of progress, and regularly seek input for improvements.

Dodge County also intends to continue providing waste reduction services such as the material exchange network and business site visits.

Dodge County will consider supporting a re-use center that would provide an outlet for many waste items received at the Transfer Station such as bicycles, furniture, wood, and appliances. These reuse centers could be incorporated into small satellite transfer stations which also receive MSW and recyclables.

As a part of the county's Mandatory Recycling Ordinance garbage haulers are required to offer volume-based collection service. The County believes that this economic incentive will help lead to greater waste reduction and a decrease in the annual amount of solid waste by 2% over the next 10 years.

The County plans to maintain current staffing. The program is administered by the Environmental Services Department. The department director and administrative assistant will share program duties. The estimated expenditure in 2013 is \$76,000. The county will likely need to maintain this level of funding for many years. Annual



cost increases will be due primarily to inflation. Projected annual budgets and wage information are outlined in Appendix D.

**B. RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

**Current Practice:**

Dodge County recovers recyclables from the public through ten (10) drop-off sites and curbside collection in each town. Dodge County employees service drop-off sites. Most materials are delivered to the county Recycling Center where they are processed for market. Each drop-off site accepts glass, newsprint, aluminum, cardboard, folding cartons, magazines, junk mail, plastic bottles and tin cans. The Recycling Center also accepts used oil, auto batteries, appliances, tires, scrap metals, yard and food waste, electronic waste, fluorescent lamps, oil filters, and textiles.

Materials recycled in the past 5 years by sector are as follows:

<b>Sector</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Documented CII	1,370.61	3,385.29	2,866.77	1,552.96	2,148.63
Estimated CII	439.96	1,477.98	745.96	1,535.00	1,550.68
Mech/Hand-separated	164.03	129.08	155.88		137.31
Residential	2,043.04	1,969.96	1,780.53	1,745.62	2,749.92

The Recycling Center currently receives approximately 30 tons of recyclable materials each month from nine remote drop-off sites and 22 tons a month deposited at the drop-off site located just south of the Recycling Center. These drop-off sites are open to the public 24/7, 365 days a year.

Mandatory Recycling Ordinance No. 4 adopted in February 1996 prohibits the disposal of recyclable materials in MSW; requires licensed haulers to offer variable pricing based on volume or weight of customers waste; and requires licensed MSW haulers to offer collection of recyclable materials to their customers.

Dodge County requires licensed waste haulers to offer twice monthly curbside collection for their residential and business site customers within city limits. Most licensed haulers are currently offering collection of single stream recyclables to their customers. Most haulers deliver their recyclables to the County's Recycling Center. In 2011, curbside collected materials processed at the Recycling Center averaged about 112 tons per month.

Local government facilities, municipalities and public entities do what they can to divert waste from improper disposal and follow the mandatory recycling ordinance. Dodge County government facilities make the following recycling efforts:

1. single stream recycling of plastic and glass.
2. All aluminum cans go to a local scrap yard for payment
3. Office paper is shredded and recycled by an outside vendor and all cardboard and newspaper are commingled with the single stream material.

4. Printer and copier ink toners and cartridges, cell phones, and digital cameras are returned to the vendor or sent to [Recycle4Fundraising.com](http://Recycle4Fundraising.com) for funds that are donated to the local food shelf in Kasson.

Dodge County currently has the equivalent of 4 full time employees working on recycling and composting operations at the Transfer Station/Landfill/Recycling Center.

There are few private recyclers active in Dodge County. Principally:

1. Fenske Sanitation in Byron collects and processes cardboard.
2. S & S Salvage, Alter Metal in Hayfield and L & D Recycling in West Concord provide buy-back and brokerage of scrap metals including aluminum.
3. Advanced Disposal in Rochester currently offers curbside collection and processes most recyclable material collected from their customers.
4. Waste Management, Inc. in Rochester currently offers curbside collection and processes most recyclable material collected from their customers.
5. Alli Rolloff, Inc currently offers curbside collection and delivers it themselves to a recycling center in the metro area.
6. Other commercial haulers that offer curbside recycling include Garbage Man of Rochester, LLC and Skjeveland Enterprises. They most often choose to drop off their recyclables at the Dodge County Recycling Center where it is transported to the Materials Recovery Facility.

The amount of material generated in Dodge County that is recycled by these private businesses in 2011 is estimated to be 1490 tons, about 11 eleven percent of the waste stream.

Several large businesses in Dodge County, market or return to vendors, their own recyclable material. These businesses including Mayo Clinic, Hayfield Window, McNeilus Truck, and IFP, together, they sold about 1591 tons in 2011. Industrial recycling is encouraged through regular communication between the county and local businesses and when obtaining information for the SCORE report.

Dodge County is fortunate to have several local markets and brokers for recyclable material. Although they often don't offer the best price, transportation costs are minimized. At this time, we most often transport our co-mingled recycling to Material Recovery Facilities located in the Twin Cities.

Dodge County in a united effort with other Southern Minnesota counties has formed SEMREX, Southeastern Minnesota Recycling Exchange which provides cooperative marketing services.

Tin/Steel cans, plastic bottles, glass jars, along with mixed paper and some cardboard are accepted at the Recycling Center and 9 other recycling depots throughout the county as single stream/co-mingled material and is currently transported by Dodge County to a materials recovery facility - either the Allied/Republic Services MRF in Inver Grove Heights or Recycle America in Minneapolis. The agreement is based on market value for the commodities shipped with either a rebate or a fee for the material. As of January 1, 2012 shredded paper (newsprint, junk mail and folding cartons) is no longer sorted and sold for bedding at a local market, it is put in with the single stream recyclables. In 2011, E-Cullet transported approximately 310 tons of glass for recycling from the on-site stockpile. Cardboard from the county drop off sites continues to be marketed by SEMREX. Metal scrap is accepted at various local scrap dealers.

**Goals:**

Dodge County plans to recycle 52% of its waste stream by the year 2022.

**Alternatives and Recommendations:**

Dodge County does anticipate some change in the recycling services provided. To achieve goals, the county must work closely with licensed waste haulers to ensure adequate curbside collection service is provided. The county must also work closely with schools to fully implement their recycling programs. Finally, the county believes that the greatest opportunities for improved recycling rates lay with businesses. For this reason, county staff is focused on assisting businesses with implementation of full recycling programs. By working together with county staff, the Material Recovery Facilities and local companies, the hope is to create a way of collecting and processing specialty recyclables, such as shrink wrap and plastic bags, that are currently not able to go in the single stream collection. No significant changes in staffing or budget are anticipated. See ten-year budget in Appendix D.

C. YARD WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

**Current Practice:**

Some municipalities in Dodge County operate drop-off yard waste or brush sites. A countywide composting site is located at the county's Transfer Station where Dodge County residents can drop off their yard waste for no cost. Out-of-county residents pay a yearly fee of \$25 and currently there are no licensed haulers in Dodge County that offer curbside yard waste pickup. The site at the Transfer Station currently composts approximately 2400 cubic yards of yard waste per year. Compost from this site is sold to the public and is typically depleted before the composting season is over. Volume composted at municipal sites is unknown. In the past 3 years, Dodge County has organized a pre-sale for the Olmsted County/Zumbro Watershed compost bin sale; 86 home compost bins were sold in those 3 years. Dodge County will continue to provide education on the benefits of composting, and work to promote and teach backyard composting. Local retail stores also stock compost bins in the summer months. Manufacturer calculations

indicate that over 500 pounds per container can be diverted annually by an average family resulting in approximately 21 tons composted per year combined. The actual level of backyard composting is unknown. Brush is also accepted at the Transfer Station. In 2011, Dodge County chipped about 2400 tons of brush into mulch, which is taken by Dakota Wood Grinding for use as fuel.

**Goals:**

Maximize yard waste composting by prohibiting yard waste from the mixed waste stream in accordance with MN Statute 115A.931, providing convenient drop-off composting sites, and promoting back yard composting through promotion of truckload sales sponsored by the Zumbro Watershed Partnership in Olmsted County and Recycling Association of Minnesota.

**Alternatives:**

From visual inspection of MSW received at the Transfer Station it appears that very little yard waste is mixed with garbage. The County believes this is due to several factors:

1. High cost of disposal: Currently it costs approximately \$35.00 a month for collection service for an average family.
2. All haulers and the Transfer Station offer volume based disposal charges; so including yard waste in garbage increases the customer's cost.
3. Most haulers currently will not pick-up source separated yard waste as a part of regular garbage collection service.
4. There are yard waste collection sites near each municipality that are open seasonally, all year long, or by request. All towns are small, therefore collection sites are convenient.
5. Approximately one-half of the county's population lives outside municipal jurisdiction on large tracts of land. Back yard composting is a common practice in these areas.

**Recommendations:**

Dodge County will continue to work with municipalities in order to maintain local sites. The County will also, as a part of waste education services, actively promote back yard and central site composting. The program is administered by the Dodge County Environmental Services Department. The ten-year estimated budget is outlined in Appendix D. All programs are planned to continue indefinitely.

D. SOURCE SEPARATED ORGANIC MATERIALS COMPOSTING

**Current Practice:**

In 2001, Dodge County received a CAP Grant from the OEA to install an MSW composting facility. The facility has been operational since 2004. When fully operational, the facility can process up to 3000 tons of MSW. The primary feedstock is yard waste and some food waste.

In 2012, 38.97 tons of food waste was collected in Dodge County. The generators of the food waste include Erdman's County Market, a local grocery store that collects bakery, deli, and produce items in several rolling carts lined with compostable bags. The food waste is delivered to the Dodge County Transfer Station/Compost Facility and put into a 20 yard roll-off container and covered to start the composting process. Once it has reached pathogen reduction standards, it is moved to the compost pad located to the east of the landfill and brush pile to finish composting in windrow. The cost per ton for composting organics is \$45 and staff time measures at one half-time employee.

Source separated collection of food waste and compostable material is a big part of a composting effort by the Triton School District in Dodge Center, MN. With MPCA grant funds and help from Dodge County, Triton would collect approximately 100 lbs. per day of food waste to be composted onsite with 3 Earth Easy Compost Tumblers. It is limited to the warmer times of the school year and is part of the daily routine of members of the EARTH team led by the Environmental Science teacher.

**Goals:**

Dodge County's goal is to keep source separated organics out of the waste stream by encouraging and teaching more businesses and residents how to separate organics for composting at the Dodge County Facility or in their own backyard. Dodge County will continue to promote compost bin truckload sales sponsored by the Zumbro Watershed District and the Recycling Association of MN.

**Recommendations:**

Dodge County solid waste administrative staff will continue to work with businesses, schools and the local haulers to collect enough volume to make it sustainable and affordable for everyone. Marketing of the compost is done through the Dodge County website, recycling brochure and word of mouth by customers.

E. SPECIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Current Practice:**

Dodge County residents currently have several drop-off locations available for appliances, motor vehicle batteries, tires, electronic waste and motor oil. The Dodge County Recycling Center also accepts oil filters, and fluorescent lamps; items are bulked and transported to recycling facilities. All materials are currently

prohibited from the mixed solid waste stream at the OWEF through the Olmsted/Dodge Joint Solid Waste Management Agreement.

**Goals:**

The overall County goal is to discourage disposal of special wastes on the land or through incineration by encouraging reduction, reuse, and proper recycling. The following sections will describe current management practices, goals, and future programs for each special waste handled within the county:

1. WASTE TIRE MANAGEMENT  
MINNESOTA LAW:

A waste tire is a tire no longer suitable for its original intended purpose because of wear, damage, or defect. The Waste Management Act (1988 amendments) requires that counties include collection and processing of waste tires in their solid waste management plans (Minn. Stat. 115A.914, subd. 3). Under this statute, counties shall adopt ordinances for the management of waste tires that meet or exceed the MPCA rules (M.S. 115A.914, subd. 3. and M.R. 9220-0200 to 9220.0680).

Waste tires were banned from land disposal in Minnesota after July 1, 1985, (M.S. 115A.904). Although banned from disposal in landfills, waste tires may be stored above ground at landfills permitted by the MPCA. A permitted landfill may store no more than 10,000 waste passenger car tires or the equivalent weight of other tires or tire derived products at any time without obtaining additional permits.

Any person that collects, stores or processes 500 or more waste tires must have a waste tire facility permit. State statute does exempt individual and businesses from the need to obtain a waste tire facility permit if certain criteria are met.

**County Programs And Policies:**

An estimated 41.5 tons of tires are currently generated and processed in Dodge County each year.

Collection Site:

The Dodge County Transfer Station currently has a separate site for the collection of waste tires. The Transfer Station rates for dropping off tires vary from \$3.00 each for car and light truck tires to \$25.00 each for off-road equipment tires. Once there is sufficient accumulation of tires a transport company is contacted to pick-up the tires. Much of the recycled rubber produced is used as crumb rubber and industrial feedstock for manufacturers, as tire derived fuel for use in industry, or as rubber mulch in landscaping and playground applications.

Other Collection Sites in the County:

Private businesses accept tires and arrange for disposal on their own.

County Solid Waste Ordinance:

The Dodge County ordinance enforces state law by reference.

**Programs To Be Continued Or Developed:**

Stockpile Inventory:

Dodge County and the MPCA have inventoried all waste tire stockpiles in the county. Violations of state law will be enforced. There are no known unpermitted tire collection locations at this time. The Dodge County Recycling Center plans to continue accepting used tires.

Responsible Person: The County Environmental Services Director

Estimated Staff Time and Budget: Minimal staff time is required to operate the collection site. Staff time is considered a part of recycling operation outlined in Appendix D. Costs are covered by tip fees and will increase annually with inflation.

Timeline: Continue existing programs indefinitely.

2. **ELECTRONIC WASTE MANAGEMENT**  
**MINNESOTA LAW:**

Effective July 1, 2006, a person may not place in mixed municipal solid waste an electronic product containing a cathode-ray tube. (M.S. 115A.9565)

"Covered electronic device" means computers, peripherals, facsimile machines, DVD players, video cassette recorders, and video display devices that are sold to a household by means of retail, wholesale, or electronic commerce.

**County Policy and Goals:**

As of July 1, 2006, covered electronic devices are banned from disposal in landfills. About 38 tons a year of covered electronic devices are generated and collected by Dodge County public drop in 2011.

The county plans to continue contracting an electronic waste recycler that uses sound environmental processes that includes removing cathode-ray tubes.

**Existing Public Sector And Private Sector Programs:**

A separate area at the County Recycling Center is set aside for storage of electronic waste. Dodge County contracts with private companies for transport and recycling of electronics.

The typical rate for the collection of electronics is \$0.00 - 15.00 per unit.

When requested by residents, electronics are collected for a fee by some haulers in the County. Some electronics retailers in the area accept electronics for free and arrange for collection and recycling on their own.

**Programs To Be Continued Or Developed:**

The County will publicize this recycling activity in recycling brochures, county website and occasionally in public service announcements to encourage greater participation. Collection rates for electronics will be kept low to discourage improper disposal.

Responsible Person: The County Environmental Services Director

Estimated Staff Time And Budget: Staff time is considered a part of recycling operation outlined in Appendix D. Costs are covered by tip fees from electronics disposal and may increase annually with inflation.

Timeline: Continue existing programs indefinitely.

3. **MAJOR APPLIANCE MANAGEMENT**

**MINNESOTA LAW:**

A person may not place major appliances in mixed municipal solid waste or dispose of them in a solid waste processing or disposal facility after July 1, 1990 (M.S. 115A.9561).

Major appliances are clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, hot water heaters, garbage disposal, trash compactors, conventional ovens, ranges and stoves, air conditioners, microwave ovens, refrigerators, and freezers.

**County Policy And Goals:**

As of July 1, 1990, appliances are banned from disposal in landfills. Most appliances are brought to the Transfer Station/Recycling Center by the public. The Recycling Center receives approximately 65 tons of appliances annually.

The County plans to continue contracting an appliance transporter that complies with state, federal and local regulations and uses a sound environmental process that includes removing capacitors from electric motors; safely disposing of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), reusing



Freon or chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) from refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners; and shredding and reusing metal in the appliances.

**Existing Public Sector And Private Sector Programs:**

A separate area at the County Recycling Center is set aside for storage of appliances. Dodge County contracts with private companies for transport and recycling of the appliances.

The typical rate for the collection of appliances is \$15.00 per unit.

When requested by residents, appliances are collected for a fee by some haulers in the County. New appliance retailers in the County also accept appliances for a fee and arrange for collection and recycling on their own.

**Programs To Be Continued Or Developed:**

The County will publicize this recycling activity to encourage greater participation. Collection rates for appliances will be kept low to discourage improper disposal. Landowners' improperly storing or processing appliances will be investigated.

**Responsible Persons:**

The County Environmental Services Director

**Estimated Staff Time And Budget:** Minimal staff time is required to operate the collection site. Staff time is considered a part of recycling operation outlined in Appendix D. Costs are covered by tip fees from appliance disposal and will increase annually with inflation.

**Timeline:** Continue existing programs indefinitely.

4. **USED MOTOR OIL AND OIL FILTERS**

**MINNESOTA LAW:**

Minnesota Statute 115A.916 states, a person may not place used oil in mixed municipal solid waste or place used oil or oil filters in or on land, unless approved by the agency.

Used oil includes: spent automotive lubricating oils (including car and truck engine oil), transmission fluid, brake fluid, and turbine, and bearing oils, hydraulic oils, metal working oils, gear oils, electric oils, refrigerator oils, and railroad draining; and spent industrial process oils.

Minn. Stat. 325.11 requires that any person selling at retail or offering motor oil or oil filters for retail sale in Minnesota must; provide a notice indicating the nearest location, or a location within ten miles of the point of sale, where used motor oil or oil filters may be returned for recycling or reuse; or provide collection of used motor oil and oil filters.

**County Policy And Goals:**

Consistent with State Law. Offer additional collection opportunities for residents.

**Existing Public Sector And Private Sector Programs:**

Dodge County currently has a program for the recycling or reuse of used oil and oil filters. There are several locations in the County where residents can drop-off used oil and oil filters free of charge. One of the locations is the Dodge County Recycling Center the others are service stations and implement dealers. The County anticipates keeping the used oil storage tank at the Recycling Center.

**Programs To Be Continued Or Developed:**

The County will provide public education materials describing waste oil and oil filter regulations, the hazards of improper disposal, and collection optional.

**Responsible Persons:**

The County Environmental Services Director

**Estimated Staff Time and Budget:** Minimal staff time is required to operate the collection site. Staff time is considered a part of recycling operation outlined in Appendix D. Tip fees from solid waste disposal or SCORE funds cover costs.

**Timeline:** Continue existing programs indefinitely.

5. **SHARPS MANAGEMENT**

Safe Sharps management is regulated in Sect. 2 MN Stat. 116.835 stating that a sharps manufacturer that sells and distributes sharps at a minimum must provide for the safe collection and proper disposal of sharps; educate consumers about safe management and collection opportunities; and support efforts by retailers, pharmaceutical distributors, local governments, health care organizations, public health officers, solid waste service providers, organizations representing patients who use sharps, and other groups with interest in protecting public health and safety through the sale, collection and proper disposal of sharps. .

**County Policy And Goals:**

Dodge County will direct public education efforts for proper sharps disposal.

**Existing County Programs:**

The Dodge County Recycling Center accepts sharps/syringes. They are to be put in a leak proof, puncture proof container. The customer puts the

container into a gondola located in the Recycling Center Building. Dodge County has an agreement with the Mayo Clinic Medical Incinerator for pick up and disposal.

**Programs To Be Continued Or Developed:**

Sharps will be specified as a recoverable material in public information programs.

**Responsible Persons:**

The County Environmental Services Director

**Estimated Staff Time And Budget:** Minimal staff time is required to operate the collection site. Staff time is considered a part of recycling operation outlined in Appendix D. Costs are covered by SCORE funds and recyclables revenue.

**Timeline:** Continue existing programs indefinitely.

6. **PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Dodge County is a part of the Take it to the Box Program for disposal of unused or outdated prescription, over-the-counter and pet medications.

**County Policy And Goals:**

Dodge County will direct public education efforts to promote the Take-it-to-the-Box program and proper pharmaceutical waste disposal.

**Existing County Programs:**

The Dodge County Sheriff Department and the Kasson Police Department are drop off locations where medications are accepted.

**Programs To Be Continued Or Developed:**

Pharmaceuticals will be specified as a recoverable material in public information programs.

**Responsible Persons:**

Dodge County Sheriff Department and Kasson Police Department

**Estimated Staff Time and Budget:** In 2011, 166 lbs were incinerated at the cost of \$.90 a lb. Minimal staff time is required for this program.

**Timeline:** Continue existing programs indefinitely.

7. **BATTERY MANAGEMENT**

**MINNESOTA LAW:**

A person may not place a lead acid battery in mixed municipal solid waste or dispose of a lead acid battery. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Minn. Stat. 115A.915).

A person selling lead acid batteries at retail or offering lead acid batteries for retail in this state shall accept, at the point of transfer, lead acid batteries from the customers (Minnesota Statute 325E.115). Retailers are also required to accept your used lead acid batteries, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT PURCHASE A BATTERY.

**County Policy And Goals:**

Dodge County will direct public education efforts at motor vehicle battery hazards and recovery options if there is a problem with the current battery “deposit” system.

The goal-volume table in Appendix F estimates the amount of lead batteries generated and recovered each year in Dodge County.

**Existing County Programs:**

The Dodge County Recycling Center accepts lead acid batteries. However, the majority of batteries are returned to retail stores and service stations.

**Programs To Be Continued Or Developed:**

Auto batteries will be specified as a recoverable material in public information programs. Private collection of motor vehicle batteries will continue.

**Responsible Persons:**

The County Environmental Services Director

**Estimated Staff Time And Budget:** Minimal staff time is required to operate the collection site. Staff time is considered a part of recycling operation outlined in Appendix D. Costs are covered by SCORE funds and recyclables revenue.

**Timeline:** Continue existing programs indefinitely.

F. **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

**Current Practice:**

Dodge County currently contracts with The Olmsted Regional Hazardous Waste Facility. The contract allows Dodge County residents to drop-off household hazardous waste at the facility. It also provides for the sorting, processing, treatment, and final disposal of household hazardous waste from Dodge County collections. Dodge County also contracts with Goodhue County for use of their

mobile collection program. Due to budget cuts, Dodge County has suspended HHW mobile collections in 2009 and has not resumed collections to date.

Dodge County residents are encouraged to bring their household hazardous waste to the Olmsted HHW Facility as published on the Dodge County Website, in the recycling brochure, in the yearly HHW mobile collection flyer and in the weekly business directory of the Dodge County Independent newspaper. There is no fee to the resident for dropping off household hazardous waste. Olmsted County assesses a fee to Dodge County of \$43 (currently) per household that utilize this service to pay for their staff time and disposal. The average cost to Dodge County over the last several years has been approximately \$6,000/yr.

**Goals:**

Properly dispose of household hazardous waste by providing education and technical services as well as providing regular collection opportunities at convenient locations.

**Alternatives:**

Olmsted County has received a MPCA permit to operate a permanent regional household hazardous waste collection facility. The MPCA strongly encourages adjoining counties to use a regional facility. Due to the high costs associated with establishing a permanent collection facility and because Olmsted County's Facility is close, Dodge County does not consider operating a permanent facility as an option.

**Recommendations:**

Because of the economic downturn and budget restraints for the state and county government, the existing mobile collection program was discontinued in 2009 for Dodge County. Olmsted, Goodhue and Wabasha County still continue their mobile collections. Dodge County will continue to consider providing collection services for limited HHW including paint. Dodge County does not believe that any significant changes will take place in the next ten years.

The program is administered by the Environmental Services Department. Ten-year program costs are described in Appendix D. Dodge County plans to continue the existing program at least through 2013.

G. CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**Current Practice:**

The County currently disposes of demolition debris in the Dodge County Demolition Debris Landfill, MPCA Permit #SW477. The landfill receives approximately 3800 cubic yards of demolition debris each year on average. The active phase of the landfill will likely reach capacity in 2014. At that time, the demolition debris will need to be disposed of in the last cell which has capacity for at least 20 years of Dodge County demolition debris. The county currently accepts clean wood for creating wood chips and clean concrete to crush for aggregate.

Demolition solid waste and on-site disposal provisions are discussed in Section VI. of the Solid Waste General Ordinance #1.

**Goals:**

Dispose of demolition debris in the Dodge County landfill properly and with the least amount of impact on the local environment. Future goals include separating clean wood and other reusable or recyclable materials and grinding for fuel and salvage for reuse.

**Alternatives:**

The Dodge County Landfill can provide suitable disposal for demolition for nearly 30 years. There are no other demolition landfills within 15 miles of the county's geographic center.

Recycling construction debris is possible for some high volume collectors; however, no facilities are located within an economically reasonable distance. On-site reuse is possible for a small portion of demolition waste received at the county landfill. The items with the greatest possibility for reuse and recycling is wood and shingles.

Dodge County could also close its landfill and transport demolition debris to another permitted landfill.

**Recommendations:**

Because convenience is a key for proper disposal, the county plans to develop the next phase of disposal for demolition waste at the Dodge County Landfill. The County should actively promote reuse of materials by encouraging waste generators to separate at the source. The county should provide a stockpile of reusable waste at the landfill for generators who wish to reduce their disposal charge by sorting their waste. Dodge County should continue to evaluate options for wood, shingles, sheetrock waste, and other recyclable/reusable waste.

The County should also evaluate the economics and liabilities associated with continued operation of its existing landfill as opposed to transport to other permitted landfills.

The program will be administered by the Dodge County Environmental Services Department. The Transfer Station employees will supervise operation. Ten-year program costs are described in Appendix D. Demolition disposal programs are planned to continue indefinitely.

H. LITTER CONTROL AND ON-SITE DISPOSAL

**Current Practice:**

Roadside dumping, dumping on private land and use of burn barrels has been a problem for many years. MPCA information regarding burn barrels was inserted in the Dodge County Independent Shopper reaching approximately 10,000

households in 2011 along with continual information that is posted on the Dodge County website for better ways to dispose of waste. On-site disposal regulation is provided with a permit by rule through the MN Pollution Control Agency.

**Goals:**

Discourage open dumping and burning of MSW on farmland by providing strong educational and technical services in combination with convenient disposal services.

**Alternatives:**

Dodge County wishes to control this activity and is currently evaluating a number of options including:

1. Implement county ordinance that clearly defines suitable disposal practices and encourages use of licensed waste haulers.
2. Focus education efforts on the alternatives to open dumping, burning, and litter.
3. Develop an infrastructure of drop-off sites so that rural residents with no commercial hauling service have easy access to disposal.

**Recommendations:**

Review of alternatives should include analysis of impact, logistics, and cost. It is possible that the County would pursue funding through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) grant program. Currently all staff time is in-kind service funded by solid waste and water quality programs.

I. MSW DISPOSAL

**Current Practice:**

All mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in Dodge County is designated, by ordinance to a County Transfer Station unless it is transported out of state.

From the Transfer Station, processible MSW is transported to the Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility (OWEF). The OWEF is obligated, through a joint agreement between Dodge and Olmsted Counties, to burn the MSW. During maintenance activities at the OWEF, all MSW is buried in the Olmsted County Landfill. Waste that is non-processible must also be landfilled. Full description of the operation of the joint facilities is attached as Appendix H and Appendix I and a more detailed description can be found in the 2012 Olmsted County Waste Management Plan Update. Since operation began in 1987, the tipping fee at the OWEF has risen from \$35.00/ton to \$105.26/ton. The cost of landfilling has risen from \$30.00/ton to \$105.26/ton. Approximately 6590 tons of Dodge County MSW was incinerated in 2011; approximately 866 tons was landfilled. For discussion of landfill and OWEF permit status, capacity, environmental monitoring, and financial assurance reference the 2012 Olmsted County Solid Waste Management Plan Update.

Dodge County is not directly responsible for any closed landfills; the Dodge County Landfill, SW-121, is part of the Minnesota Closed Landfill Program, therefore surface and groundwater are monitored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Dodge County's Joint Powers Agreement with Olmsted County assures disposal of all Dodge County MSW through June, 2028. Therefore, Dodge County does not need to develop any additional solid waste disposal facilities in next 10 years.

**Goals:**

Continue to comply with the conditions and intent of the Dodge/Olmsted Joint Solid Waste Management Agreement that provides for final disposal of all materials that are not handled by recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste programs.

**Alternatives:**

Because Dodge and Olmsted counties have a binding 25 year agreement for MSW disposal, no alternatives were considered which would violate this agreement. The Joint Agreement does not in any way restrict Dodge County's options for recycling and composting. Olmsted County has signed contracts with all licensed waste haulers in the county. The hauler contract requires haulers to deliver waste to the OWEF.

**Recommendations:** Dodge County plans to continue to remove components of the waste stream that have material value or that have little or no fuel value at the incinerator by:

1. Maximizing recycling,
2. Composting yard, food, and other easily degradable materials, The MSW Transfer Station operation requires approximately five (5) full time county employees. The program is administered by the Environmental Services Department. User fees and special assessments pay the costs. The ten-year budget projection can be seen in Appendix D. The operation is scheduled to operate at least until the Dodge/Olmsted Joint Agreement expires in 2028. The Joint Agreement has a clause that allows Dodge County to extend the agreement beyond 2028 with similar conditions. Dodge County's initial intent is to extend the agreement.

J. Staffing, Funding and Ten Year Update

A total of 5 full-time staff, all with Landfill Operator III certification, operate the Dodge County Transfer Station, Recycling Center, Demolition Landfill and Compost Facility. The site manager operates the scale house along with the managerial duties. The remaining operators sort material, load and transport materials, provide customer service, and maintain equipment, yard and buildings.



Funding for the operation comes from tipping fees, an 18% waste to energy service charge, State grant (SCORE) funds and a \$24 assessment on each occupied property in the county. Future funding needs will likely be addressed by an increase of the waste to energy service fee as fees continue to rise at the Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility. The ten year budget projection can be seen in Appendix D.

Draft process for updating of the next ten year Solid Waste Management Plan will take place six months before due date.

K. Public Participation

The County Plan was developed with input from the Dodge County Environmental Services staff and various stakeholders. Dodge County staff participated in the Rochester Centroid Integrated Solid Waste Management System Stakeholder group process in 2009. Feedback from that process was requested, and considered in the development of this Plan. Meetings were held to review current waste management practices, activities, and plans for the future.

Other public input opportunities are constantly available. Haulers and public drop customers greet staff with questions and comments as items come to attention, along with county-wide random and customer surveys sent out annually. Comments were received and minor revisions were made as appropriate to assure the Plan was responsive to the needs of the customer. Documentation regarding public participation in the development of this Plan is available at the Environmental Services Department at 22 6<sup>th</sup> St E, Mantorville, Minnesota.