

Attention Valued Hennepin County Customers;

Earlier this year the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency sent a letter of clarification to the Hennepin County Environment and Energy Department pertaining to organics recycling. In this letter they state that organics recycling is to be treated no differently than single-sort recycling, thus requiring haulers to charge their customers for organics recycling regardless of whether the customer is participating in the program or not.

In the first half of 2024 all Hennepin County customers residing in a city with a population of 10,000 or more, or in a city that does not have an organics drop-off site, will be charged for organics recycling. The monthly charge for organics recycling is \$7.41 plus fsc. You will see this reflected on future invoices.

Although there are many benefits to recycling organics, we do understand that there are some customers that will not be happy about this or who do not wish to participate. In that instance, we ask that you direct those calls or emails directly to the MPCA, as this is out of our hands.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
651-296-6300 or 800-657-3864

If you wish to elect service, please email your request to our customer service email:

customerservice@curbsidewaste.com We will respond to your request as soon as possible. You may also fill out the form below and mail it in the return envelope enclosed with this letter. You will be provided with a 32 gallon cart that will be picked up weekly on one same day as trash. Please refer to our website for more information.

We understand that you have a choice when it comes to your waste hauler. We appreciate you choosing Curbside Waste. Keep it Green. Keep it Local. Keep it Curbside!

Name: _____ Preferred Start Date: _____

Address: _____



520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300

800-657-3864 | Use your preferred relay service | info.pca@state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

MPCA is aware of confusion among cities and haulers that collect organics via subscription service. Cities and haulers want clarity on compliance for pricing organics recycling. Can customers be charged for this as an add-on service? Relevant state statutes are provided below. Minn. Stat. § 115A.93 subd. 3 (c) says that a licensing authority shall prohibit collectors from imposing a greater charge on residents who recycle than on residents who do not recycle. According to definitions in Minn. Stat. § 115A.03, subd. 25a and 25b, recycling includes the process of collecting recyclable materials. Recyclable materials include source-separated compostable materials, materials separated from MMSW for the purpose of composting, and sole source food waste streams.

Licensing authorities are therefore required to prohibit collectors from imposing a greater charge on residents who subscribe to organics collection than those who do not. MPCA expects that licensing authorities will identify ways in which to comply with this particular language. In addition, the licensing authorities should communicate this obligation to the haulers they license. If a complaint is brought to our attention, MPCA will work with the licensing authority to reach compliance. If you have questions about this letter, please reach out to Peder Sandhei at 651-757-2688 to discuss. As with all legal issues/questions, please seek advice from your local attorney to make sure that your licensing agreements are compliant with the language of Minn. Stat. § 115A.93.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peder Sandhei'.

Peder Sandhei
Principal Planner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

115A.03

Subd. 25a. Recyclable materials.

“Recyclable materials” means materials that are separated from mixed municipal solid waste for the purpose of recycling or composting, including paper, glass, plastics, metals, source-separated compostable materials, and sole source food waste streams that are managed through biodegradative processes. Refuse-derived fuel or other material that is destroyed by incineration is not a recyclable material.

Subd. 25b. Recycling.

“Recycling” means the process of collecting and preparing recyclable materials and reusing the materials in their original form or using them in manufacturing processes that do not cause the destruction of recyclable materials in a manner that precludes further use.

115A.93

Subd. 3. License requirements; pricing based on volume or weight.

- (a) A licensing authority shall require licensees to impose charges for collections of mixed municipal solid waste that increase with the volume or weight of the waste collected.
- (b) A licensing authority may impose requirements that are consistent with the county’s solid waste policies as a condition of receiving and maintaining a license.
- (c) A licensing authority shall prohibit mixed municipal solid waste collectors from imposing a greater charge on residents who recycle than on residents who do not recycle.