

Conclusions

- The public strongly supports managing waste in a manner that protects health and the environment. Throughout the engagement process the public confirmed the direction that Minnesota and the Counties have taken in waste management.
- Public collection can be designed and implemented to address environmental, health and safety goals in Ramsey and Washington Counties.
- Public collection exists in several forms in Ramsey and Washington Counties:
 - 12 municipalities have organized collection for residential mixed municipal solid waste;
 - One municipality in Washington County has organized collection for residential and commercial mixed municipal solid waste;
 - Most municipalities in Ramsey County, and several in Washington County, have organized collection for residential recyclables;
 - All of Ramsey County, and several municipalities in Washington County, have public collection of yard waste; and
 - All of Ramsey and Washington Counties have public collection for household hazardous waste.
- Public collection has precedent in Minnesota and other parts of the United States, and operates to provide high quality service in a safe and effective manner.
- Public collection can be designed to address public concerns about hauler choice, survival of independent haulers, competition, quality of service, cost, service reliability and environmental, health and safety goals.
- Independent haulers strongly support having the Resource Recovery Facility available as a place to deliver waste that is not owned by their competition, and having that facility available in the long-term would be a factor in their continued existence. The independent haulers, however, oppose public collection even if it means the Facility could close.
- The waste industry is vigorously opposed to public collection, and is willing spend significant funds and take strong steps to prevent it.
- The Counties have been successful in engaging the public on this issue.
- The public is split on the issue of public collection:
 - Those that support public collection do so mainly for one of various reasons: because it would address garbage truck traffic; it would be more efficient; because of experience elsewhere; because it could cost less or because it supports environmental, health and safety goals.
 - Those that oppose public collection are quite vocal, and do so for several reasons: concern with increasing government involvement; desire to retain choice in selecting a garbage hauler; concern for small businesses; a perception that costs will increase; belief that there is no problem; not agreeing with the environmental goals.
- The waste industry appears to be amenable to implementing a hauler collected service charge (HCSC) along with contracts and regulatory changes directed toward generators to accomplish the goals, in lieu of public collection.