

Climate Change, Equity and Organics Recycling



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The Capital Investment Committee has Three Priorities:

- Economic Recovery
- Equity
- Climate Change

Testimony Summary from Climate Change Experts:

- MN will see more extreme rains, warmer temperatures, violent storms and changes to our ecology resulting in billions of dollars in damages.
- All leaders must become proactive vs reactive.
- Build mitigation into every initiative.
- Work harder to achieve existing climate goals.

The MN Legislature has much work to do on many issues.

We support all state-wide and local funding for organics recycling because organics recycling “checks all the boxes.”

Here’s how:

 Economic Recovery

- Funding organics recycling programs and facilities creates new green jobs.
- Matching federal dollars could help pay for new programs.
- The Legacy Fund can be tapped as well.

✓ Equity

- From the Sierra Club: the garbage burned at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center on the border of North Minneapolis, contributes to an unhealthy environment for low-income people of color.
- Historically redlined neighborhood have higher temperatures than other neighborhoods. Planting trees, adding compost to seedlings and boulevards helps reduce the temperatures in urban heat islands.

✓ **Climate Change**

- Recycling organic waste will keep over 30% of the waste we generate out of landfills, burning facilities and our water sources.
- In landfills, 18% of methane pollution comes from food scraps.
- Waste sent down garbage disposals corrodes pipes and adds to municipal water treatment costs.

✓ **Extreme Climate Events**

- Compost can be used to absorb heavy rains, protect municipal and roadway plantings from excessive heat, prevent soil erosion and help retain water.

✓ **Proactive Partnerships**

- Everyone eats food. Everyone generates waste.
- Recycling organics can be done by all Minnesotans: young or old, BIPOC or white, urban or rural and Democrat or Republican.
- People feel good and empowered to personally take action.

✓ Mitigation

- Incentivize new buildings, housing renovation or road construction project to include organics recycling.
- Compost can be used in schools, road construction, landscaping projects and at community events.
- Composting can nurture community gardens, helping feed those living in under-served neighborhoods and building healthier families.

✓ **Attaining Goals**

- From the Minneapolis Star and Tribune: climate change has become a key voter concern in Minnesota and across U.S.
- Voters support state and federal climate change goals.
- Organics recycling contributes to achieving those goals.
- Organics recycling can foster new community partnerships.

**If you take the first step,
we will take the next two. Thank you**