

MEETING MINNESOTA'S WASTE CHALLENGES



Minnesota's Waste Management System:

“The waste management goal of the state is to foster an ***integrated waste management*** system in a manner appropriate to the ***characteristics of the waste*** stream and thereby ***protect*** the state's land, air, water, and other natural resources and the public health.” (from the Minnesota Waste Management Act, M.S. 115A)

Counties are mandated to manage solid waste and meet state recycling goals.

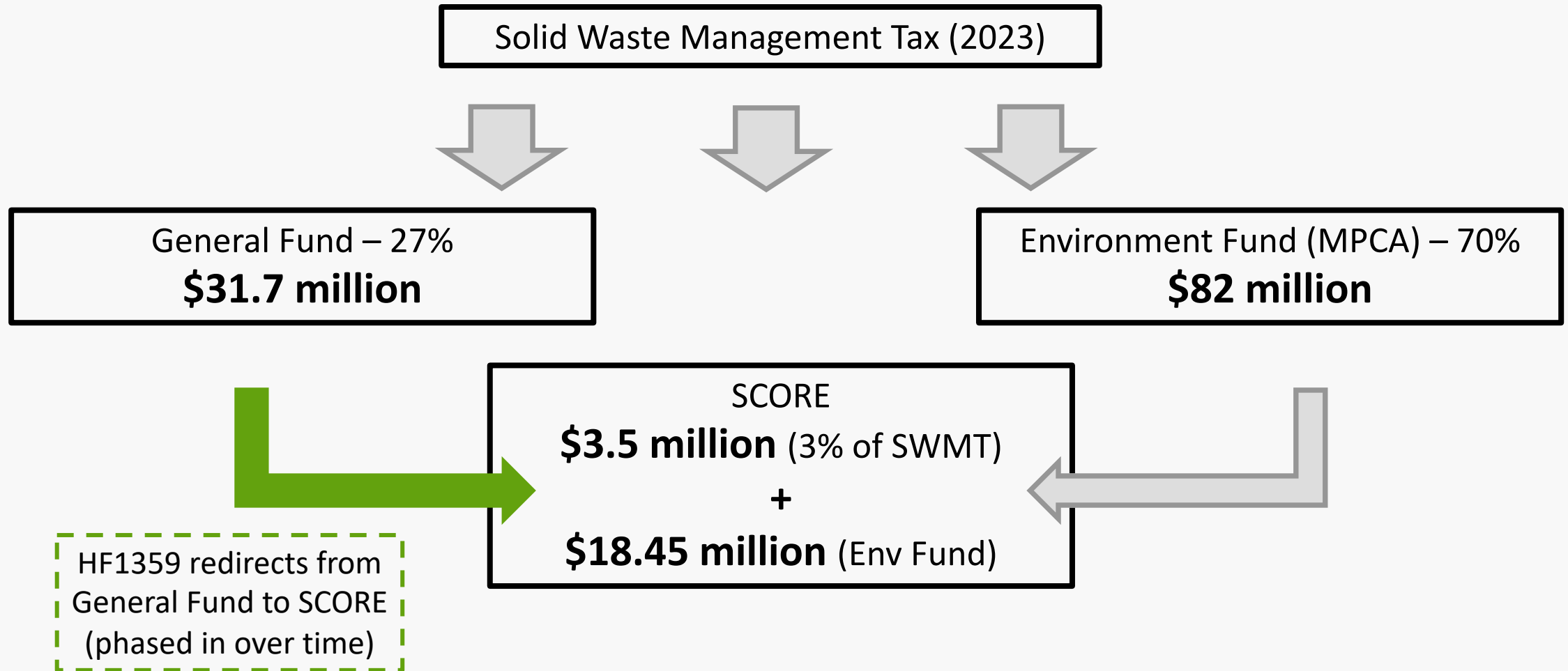


Cornerstones of the MN Waste Management Act

- Focused on reducing risk
 - *Health*
 - *Environment*
 - *Safety*
 - *Financial*
- Minnesota has spent over \$500 million cleaning up landfills and hundreds of millions are needed through 2050, not including the cost to clean up the Freeway landfill

Solid Waste Management Tax


Based on cost of trash services



SCORE Grant – eligible expenditures

- Prevent waste
- Maximize recycling
- Create and support markets for recycled products
- Deal with problematic and toxic materials
- Educate and provide technical assistance
- Litter prevention
- Manage organics
- Prevent food waste and help get edible food for donation

(from the Minnesota Waste Management Act, M.S. 115A)

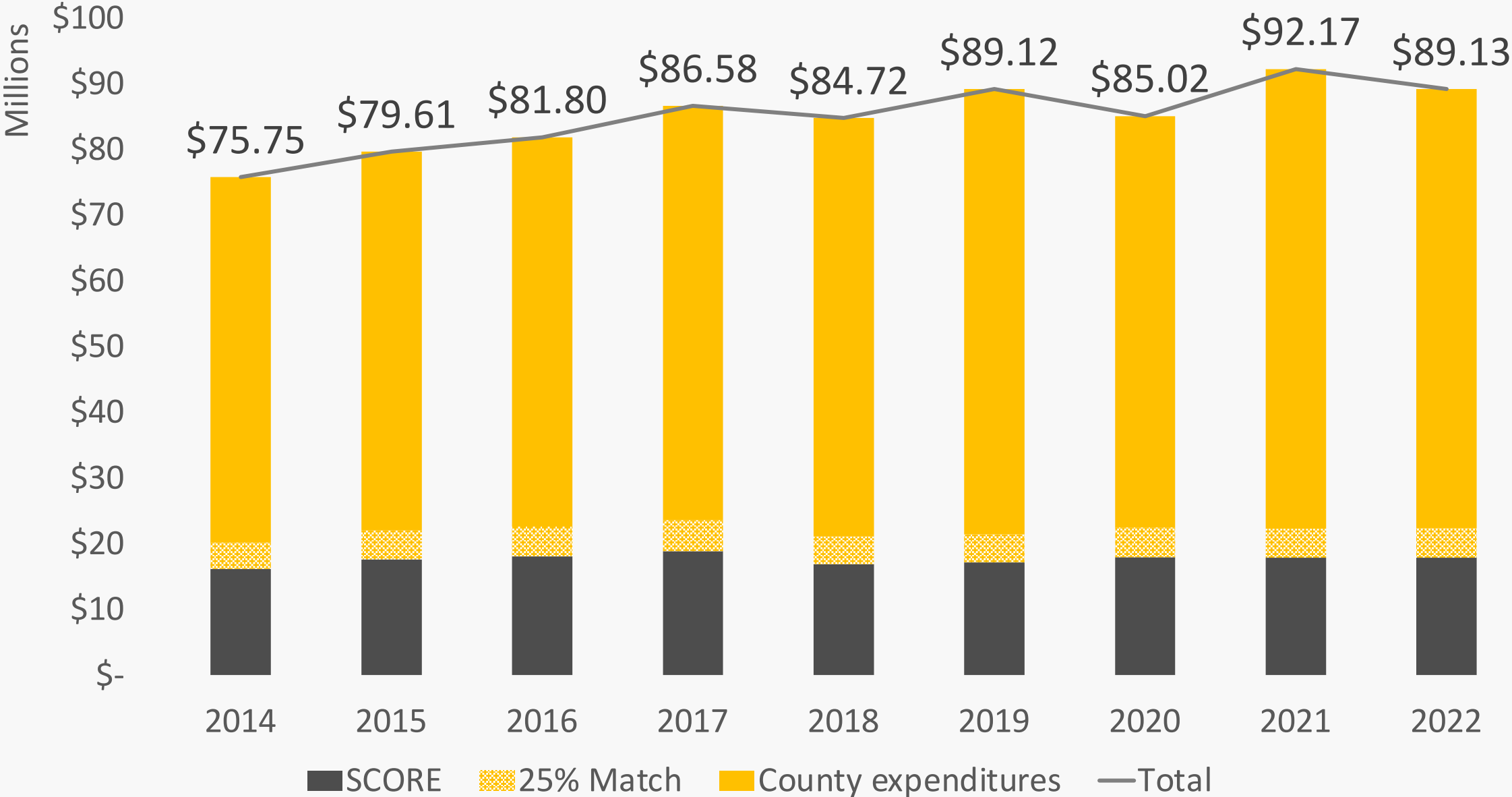


Counties and Waste

Counties are mandated by the state to manage waste but are inadequately funded.

- Combination of public and private services
- Costs borne mainly by local government

SCORE Grants and Total County Recycling Spending





Local and Other Revenue

Counties piece together different ways to attempt to fund recycling and reuse programs due to inadequate SCORE grant allocations.

- Pool resources through a solid waste management organization.
- Local and Other Revenues:
 - *Waste tax assessment*
 - *Landfill fees*
 - *Service charges*
 - *General property tax revenue*
 - *Reinvest revenues from material sales, i.e. aluminum*

State funding falls short of resources needed for recycling and waste prevention goals.

Local revenues can't keep up.



Environmental and climate benefits will increase with expanded programs

Recycling and reuse programs run by counties lead to successes:

- 2.7 million tons of waste were managed through recycling or organics programs.

According to the state's 2022 report, efforts have saved roughly 4.57 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent. This equates to removing annual emissions from 970,000 passenger vehicles.

However, there is much more work to do. Waste generation is over **6 million tons annually**. **More than 54% is still managed** at the bottom of the waste hierarchy.

SCORE: An Investment in Minnesota

- Passage of HF1359 to increase SCORE is truly an investment in Minnesota:
 - The recycling industry employs over 78,000 Minnesotans and has an estimated \$23.9 billion economic impact.
 - Developing local recycling markets keeps resources, jobs and businesses here.
 - It will allow us to build on a system that reduces, reuses, and recycles to move us closer to zero waste.





THANK YOU