

# Solid Waste Administrators Association

Presentation to the  
Association of Minnesota Counties  
**Environment and Natural Resources Policy  
Committee**  
September 16, 2021



# Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA) Executive Team

**Full members** are county, solid waste management **district**, or **sanitary board**, established by the legislature, or a governmental **joint powers** having legal statutory responsibility for solid waste management

## Affiliate members are:

- Other government officials and staff
- Consultants
- State agency solid waste officials
- Private industry representatives
- Other waste management organizations



**PRESIDENT**

**Zach Fjestad**

Otter Tail County



**PRESIDENT - ELECT**

**Laine Sletta**

Brown County



**PAST PRESIDENT**

**Marcus Zbinden**

Carver County



**SECRETARY**

**Lisa Thibodeau**

Chisago County



**TREASURER**

**Stephanie Reynolds**

Mille Lacs County

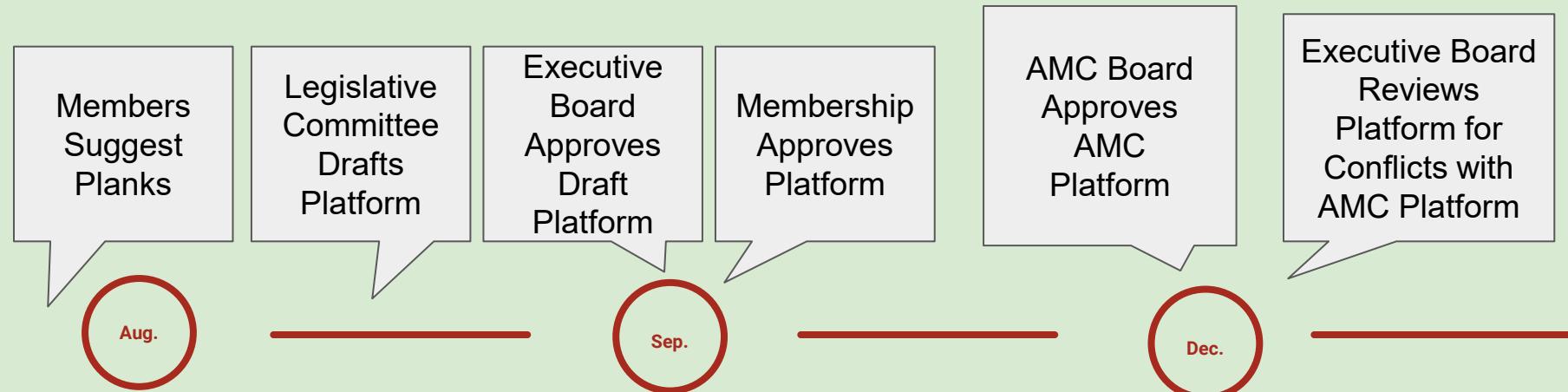


**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**John Helmers**

Olmsted County (Retired)

# SWAA Platform Process



# SWAA 2022 Legislative Priorities

## CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

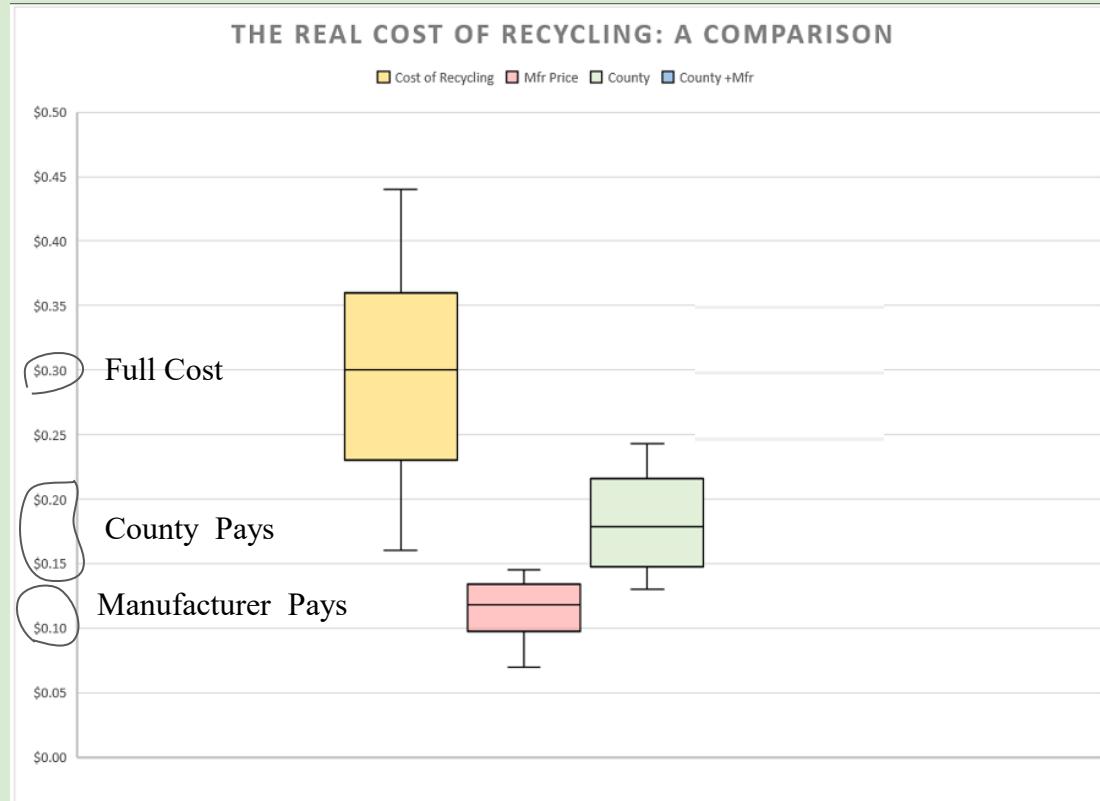
SWAA supports fully funding the bonding requests for proposed solid waste management projects as a partial match to the funds that counties invest in infrastructure for safe, environmentally sound management of solid wastes mandated by the state.



# SWAA 2022 Legislative Priorities

## E-WASTE:

SWAA supports the use of manufacturer payments to fully reimburse county collection and recycling costs.

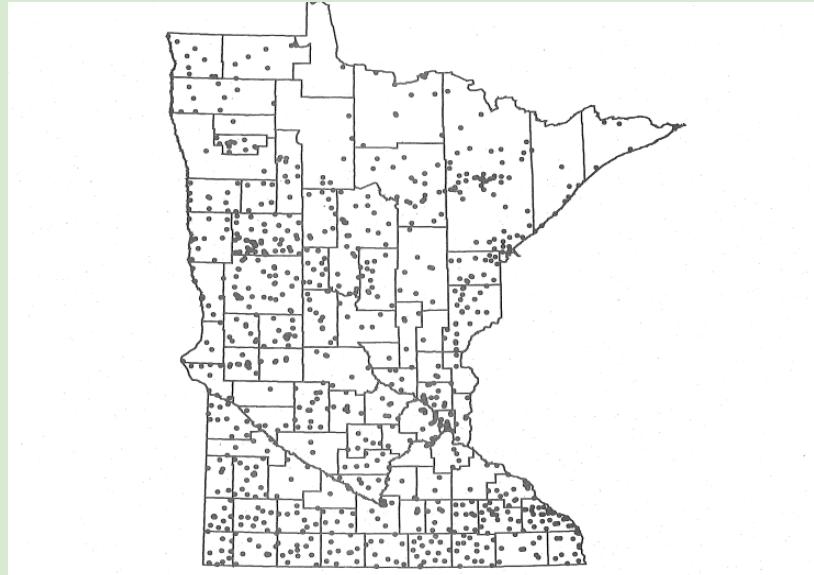


# SWAA 2022 Legislative Priorities

## LEGISLATIVE SOLID WASTE COMMISSION:

SWAA supports the establishment of a bipartisan, bicameral legislative committee to address solid waste related issues.

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/solwaste.pdf>



### Recycling Facilities Report and 1995 Minnesota Recycling Facility Census

Submitted to the Legislative Commission on Waste Management  
on June 30, 1995

Prepared by the



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

# SWAA 2022 Legislative Priorities

## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX USAGE:

SWAA supports allocating 100 percent of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to state and county waste management activities, including increased funding for SCORE (Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) grants to counties.

**Solid Waste Management Tax**  
\$83.59 Million in FY2018



**70% Environmental Fund**  
\$58.52 Million in FY2018



**General Fund (state skim)**  
\$25.05 Million in FY2018



**SCORE Grants**  
\$17.25 Million in FY2018

# SWAA 2022 Legislative Priorities

## ORGANICS:

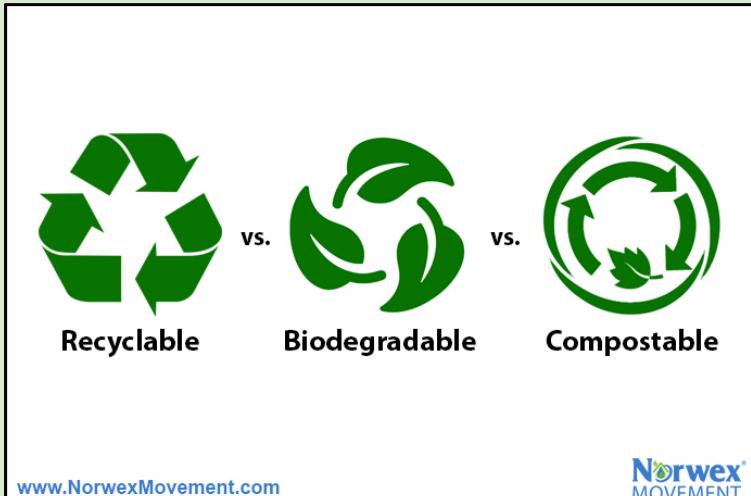
SWAA supports State encouragement and funding to prevent **food waste** and divert food scraps and other organics from the MSW waste stream, and resolve **permitting** and other issues to facilitate expansion of composting and other organic management facilities and methods.



# SWAA 2022 Legislative Priorities

## COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS:

SWAA supports standards/labeling requirements for compostable products to reduce processing impacts and costs of contamination at composting facilities.



# Construction and Demolition

**RULEMAKING:** SWAA supports construction and demolition rulemaking utilizing a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process that provides an adequate timeline allowing for detailed discussions and collaborative solutions for rule change recommendations that weigh economic and social impacts along with the environmental impacts.

**C&D SYSTEM CHANGES/SUSTAINABLE BUILDING:** SWAA supports changes in traditional C&D system focusing on voluntary approaches with state support of and resources for, increasing deconstruction, salvage, recycling, and other reuse and reduction activities.

**PERMITTING:** SWAA supports the timely issuance of permits that conform to statutory and rule requirements and are free of conditions not in adopted rules or statute. Permit issuance and permit requirements should account for the economic and social costs of implementation.

# Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

**PFAS CLASSIFICATION:** SWAA **opposes adding PFAS to Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act (MERLA)** as **doing so would shift responsibility to local taxpayers** by making waste facilities responsible for management and clean-up of PFAS.

**PFAS RESPONSE:** SWAA **supports** the development of a **scientifically based** and targeted response plan, jointly developed by the MPCA and these “**receivers**,” that targets methods that cost-effectively protect human health and the environment.

# Developing Issues

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – FAIRNESS IN DECISIONS:** SWAA supports efforts of Minnesotans to live in an environment with **clean air, clean water and unpolluted land**. SWAA encourages work to incorporate environmental justice considerations as part of an **integrated waste management system** to achieve the public health and environmental protection goals established in state law.

**EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY:** SWAA supports product stewardship among **manufacturers, retailers, and consumers**, with an emphasis on **industry** through an Extended Producer Responsibility framework approach, which creates **producer-led material and toxicity reductions, reuse, and recycling programs**, to deal with a product's life-cycle impacts from design through **end-of-life management**, which **does not** rely on local government programs and finances.

# Contact us for more information

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