

SHOREWOOD RECYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

The first Shorewood Recycling Committee Meeting in 2025 was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Shorewood Community & Event Center, 5735 Country Club. A virtual option via zoom was made available.

5 committee members attended in person. 1 person attended very briefly via zoom, but eventually joined in-person. 2 members are Shorewood City Staff and 3 members are Shorewood residents.

Agenda

Agenda can be found on the City's website, under [Agendas and Minutes Presentation Slides \(PDF\)](#)

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. 5 Committee Members in Attendance

2. Review 2024 Activities

- a. Committee members reviewed recycling presentation from the February 10, 2025 City Council Meeting:
 - i. [Recycling Update Memo \(PDF\)](#)
 - ii. [Recycling Update Power Point Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- b. Committee Reviewed the following 2024 activities:
 - i. Event outreach: Committee members attended concert in the park and stood near trash bins to encourage and educate residents about what materials were trash v. recycling v. compostable. Committee members discussed that there is potential to attend more community events in the future in order to conduct outreach and education.
 - ii. Field trips: Committee hosted field trips to SMSC Organics Site (10 in attendance) and Republic Services MRF site (4 in attendance). Waste from Shorewood residents is sent to each of these sites. Committee members are interested in hosting field trips in the future.
 - iii. Door knocking efforts: Committee members went door-to-door to 86 households (HH) to promote the City's organics drop sites. At least 5 HH's reported signing up for this program because of these efforts. Committee members who participated in this outreach were not present at the meeting, so this will be discussed in future meetings.
 - iv. Yard Sign Drop-Off Pilot: Hennepin County piloted the first yard sign drop off in 2024. City of Shorewood staff used this opportunity to pilot a drop site at City Hall. All signs were dropped off at Minnetonka Public Works. 42 yard signs were collected and recycled. Committee members are interested in collecting signs later in the spring/early summer in 2024. Some members plan to reach out to

Minnetonka high schools' environmental and earth clubs to see if they are interested in a partnership. For years, the Recycling Committee has had yard sign recycling or reuse as a goal.

- v. Spring Cleanup & Paper Shred Event: Committee members volunteered for this annual event. A call for volunteers will be included in 2025 communications and promo of this event.
- vi. VANTAGE program partnership: Committee members and City staff partnered with 2 VANTAGE program groups to 1) create a mock survey for residents who participate in the organics recycling program; and 2) create a short video to promote the organics recycling program. No plans are currently being drafted to work with a VANTAGE program group in the spring of 2025.
- vii. Pumpkin Drop: Committee organized the City's first pumpkin drop event on Nov 3, 2024. Participants were invited to drop off their jack-o-lanterns at the Organics bin in Southshore Park. 22 HH's participated. The number of pumpkins collected were not recorded, but the bin was filled. Committee members are interested in doing this event again. They'd like to make the event even more popular. Members will reach out to the City of Edina as a model, since their event attracts higher turnout and hosts more activities.

3. Looking ahead to what's next

Committee members reviewed and discussed the following:

- a. City of Shorewood Single-sort Recycling Services: The City currently contracts with Republic Services for organized recycling collection. The current contract term will expire December 31, 2025. At its June 10, 2024, work session, the Council stated its intention to issue an RFP in 2025 for recycling and possibly curbside organics collection. At its [March 10, 2025 City Council Work Session](#), councilmembers reviewed a first draft of this RFP. Recycling Committee members discussed and reviewed the draft of this RFP.
- b. [2022-2042 Metro Solid Waste Management Plan](#): The Hennepin County Solid Waste Management Plan will detail how the county implements state policy to reduce waste, increase recycling and advance a zero-waste future. It is written to respond to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Metro Solid Waste Policy Plan with a 20-year vision and updated every six years.

The foundation of this plan will be the county's Zero Waste Plan, developed in 2023 to meet the county's goal of diverting 90% or more of waste from landfills or incinerators. The county further prioritized the highest impact zero-waste actions in the Plan to Reinvent Hennepin County's Solid Waste System to accelerate the closure and repurposing of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC).

In accordance with the 2022-2042 Metro Solid Waste Plan, cities with a population over 5,000 residents will be required to provide curbside organics recycling service to all households, aiming to significantly increase the amount of organic waste diverted from

landfills through composting; this mandate is primarily enforced through Hennepin County Ordinance 13, which already mandates curbside organics recycling for cities with populations exceeding 10,000 people.

The date for the mandate for cities with a population over 5,000 has not been set; however, the City of Shorewood would like to begin gathering information around these services in anticipation of this future requirement, and perhaps enter into a contract if this service is found to be desired by community members.

4. Discussion: Ideas for 2025

- a. Committee members discussed repeating many of the 2025 activities. See comments under Section “2. B. Review of 2024 Activities” above for discussion items under this agenda item

5. Meeting Schedule:

- a. In 2024, committee meetings were held the fourth Tuesday of each month for 60 minutes. These meetings had little attendance. Committee members discussed that in 2025, a quarterly meeting schedule would be more appropriate with additional meetings scheduled to supplement and plan for activities.
- b. Next meeting. The next meeting will be determined by a doodle poll. This poll is open to anyone from the community that is interested in attending.
 - i. [Doodle Poll link](#): Click the link to complete the doodle poll. This poll will close on Friday, April 11.
 - ii. Available dates and times: The next meeting options proposed to attendants will be scheduled from 5:30-7:00 p.m. (90 minutes in length), for the following dates: April 29, May 1, May 5, May 6, and May 8. Participants may select as many that they are interested in; however, one final date with the most votes will be the chosen date/time.