

Benefiting the Environment while Exploring Minnesota

Tourism industry can go green and save money by focusing on solid waste reduction



\$1.8 billion: gross annual sales of the leisure and hospitality industry in 39 counties in northern and western MN
40,500 people are employed by the leisure and hospitality industry in these 39 counties
1.5-2 pounds of waste are produced per occupied room in lodging facilities
60-70% of a hotel's waste stream is recyclable or compostable

The industry plays an integral role in facilitating improvements to the solid waste system in Minnesota by practicing and promoting reduction, reuse, and recycling



Why Go Green?

Benefit Your Facility

Increase efficiency, reduce costs, gain recognition, attract customers and employees

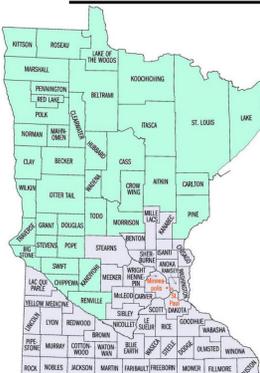
Protect the Environment

Conserve natural resources and prevent pollution

MnTAP's Solid Waste Assistance

MnTAP helps Minnesota businesses develop and implement industry-tailored solutions that prevent pollution

Solid Waste Trainings and Assessments



- MnTAP is helping partners **reduce waste** and **save money**
- USDA grant project in 39 northern and western counties, communities <10,000 people
- Have conducted 5 trainings and 7 on-site waste assessments
- Seeking partners to host **no-cost customized trainings and waste assessments**
- Sign up today!** Contact Anna Arkin, Solid Waste Specialist, at aiarkin@umn.edu or 612-624-0808

Past Projects

Pollution Prevention and Energy Efficiency in MN's Hospitality Sector

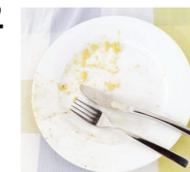
- Conducted 32 site visits
- Identified 268,800 lbs. and \$1,000,000 in annual savings
- Three main solid waste issues
 - Recyclables:** take full advantage of recycling opportunities
 - Food waste:** manage food inventory and explore disposal options
 - Amenity bottles:** bulk dispensers can reduce purchase costs by 70%

Collecting Organic Waste for Beneficial Reuse: Eagan Community Center Pilot Study (EPA)

- Waste sort showed that over 70% of waste could be recycled or composted
- Pilot included staff training, new collection systems, and public outreach
- Results:
 - 27,000 lbs./year: organic waste diverted to compost
 - 18,000 lbs./year: recyclable material captured
 - 30,000 tons/year: CO2 release avoided
 - 3 lbs. of recyclables and organics for every 1 lb. of trash



The Three R's



First, Reduce

- Preventing waste at its source
- Greatest potential for cost savings, efficiency improvements, and environmental benefits
- Includes reducing toxicity; reuse; and use of refillable, repairable, and durable products
- Examples: non-toxic cleaners, bulk dispensing instead of individual packaging

Next, Reuse

- Using an item again for the same or a better use. Includes rental and repair
- The Minnesota Materials Exchange (www.mnexchange.org) is a free exchange for businesses
- Example: reusable dishes and utensils instead of disposables

Finally, Recycle

- Breaking down a used item into raw materials used to make new items
- In 2010, we trashed 1.2 million tons of recyclables in MN, which were valued at \$285 million. Instead, we paid \$200 million to throw them away
- Recycling cost effective: MN has a Solid Waste Management tax that taxes trash but not recyclables

