

# WASTE MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

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## **WASTE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

As required by SCORE Legislation, the County must achieve a 25% recycling goal by December 31, 1993 and implement a household hazardous waste management plan by June 30, 1992. It is already prohibited from depositing yard wastes in solid waste landfills effective January 1, 1992. The County is currently under an extended contract with the City of Albert Lea for disposal of the County's mixed municipal solid waste. It is also exploring joint composting and co-composting options with Freeborn County and the City of Albert Lea.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### Objectives

1. Protection of the natural and cultural environment from solid and hazardous waste materials.
2. Establishment of appropriate and compatible locations for waste management activities and minimization of the number of facilities.
3. Reduction of the waste stream needing to be processed/landfilled.

### **Waste Management Plan Elements**

No matter the methods to be employed to process and/or dispose of wastes, there may be a need to site essential public or quasi-public waste management/processing/recycling/storage facilities in Mower County in agricultural areas. Facilities that may be needed include a solid waste landfill, an ash monofill, a demolition landfill and composting or co-composting facilities. While their precise locations are not established by this plan, they are intended to be located where they will not be harmful or destructive to people, the environment or prime agricultural lands. This provision is not intended to accommodate private enterprises such as junk or salvage yards, tire recycling or similar uses.

On the other hand, continuing cooperation with Freeborn County/Albert Lea could produce a joint solution to solid waste management needs. To the extent that fewer well-located facilities can be provided through intergovernmental cooperation, it is the County's intent to cooperate with its neighbors in the funding, siting and planning of waste management facilities.

### Policies

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The following are the County's policies for Waste Management:

1. To support a Countywide integrated waste management program comprised of waste reduction, resource recovery, recycling and limited land filling.
2. To continue to promote recycling as a means to reduce the volume of mixed municipal solid waste needing to be land filled.
3. To permit not more than one landfill site for the disposal of mixed municipal solid waste. Said site must meet established siting parameters and criteria.
4. To permit not more than two sites for the disposal of clean demolition debris. Said site must meet established siting parameters and criteria.
5. To limit the number of composting/co-composting facilities. Said sites must meet established siting parameters and criteria.
6. To require that all waste management facilities be built to state of the art standards (e.g. leachate collection, liners and methane collection systems for landfills, etc.).
7. To eliminate household hazardous wastes from the waste stream.
8. To continue to promote used oil and tire recycling.
9. To severely penalize those who illegally dump refuse and hazardous waste in the County.
10. To cooperate with neighboring counties and cities in the planning, development, funding and management of appropriately located waste management facilities.

#### **WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCATIONAL PARAMETERS/CRITERIA**

In considering the siting of a solid waste landfill, a demolition landfill, a composting facility, an incinerator or other facilities, the County will evaluate any such proposal per the following criteria.

A facility shall:

1. Not be located within a designated conservation area;
2. Not be located in soils that have severe limitations for the facility unless environmentally sound mitigative measures are able to be employed.
3. Not be located within a designated agricultural preserve.
4. Not be located where lands have a CER greater than 60.

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5. Be located no closer than one-quarter mile from a residential area.
  6. Be located no closer than 1,000 feet to a State or Federal Highway.
  7. Have direct access to a nine (9) ton capacity roadway.
  8. Not be located on a site having significant historical value.
  9. Be generally located in the western half of the County to reflect the origin of the bulk of the solid waste stream.
  10. Be located where it will not have the potential to adversely impair surface and groundwater resources, woodlands or wetlands.