



# **Solid Waste Management Plan**

**10-Year Plan: 2023-2033**

**Prepared by  
Mower County Public Works**

# Mower County 2023 Solid Waste Management Plan

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## Section 1.0 Executive Summary

Mower County (the County), located in southeast Minnesota, has prepared a comprehensive solid waste management plan (the Plan) in accordance with Minn. Stat. §115A.46 and Minn. R. 9215. The Plan has been prepared to guide the management of solid waste generated within the County during the next ten-year planning period, and provides for various solid waste abatement programs, education initiatives, problem materials management, and other various programs intended to reduce overall indiscriminate landfill of solid waste.

This Plan was prepared with input from the County Solid Waste Committee, and the County Board, during scheduled meetings.

This Plan updates demographic information; provides population projections; revises solid waste generation, collection, and recycling rates; and discusses current solid waste abatement related initiatives and programs. This plan also evaluates proposed solid waste management systems and established overall goals for solid waste abatement. It is the County's policy to maximize solid waste abatement thereby reducing overall dependence on landfilling, through waste reduction and reuse initiatives, and maximizing overall recycling capabilities.

Mower County has seen an increase in population and is expected to grow by approximately 3 percent during this 10-year Plan period. On average, the County currently generates approximately 39,000 tons of MSW per year. And, on average the County landfills approximately 50 percent of waste generated. Through various landfill abatement related initiatives, it is the goal of the County, by 2031, to reduce overall landfilling to just 43 percent of waste generated.

The County operates a Household Waste Hazardous (HHW) program in a County owned facility, located adjacent to Mower County Public Works in the City of Austin. This facility is open each Wednesday from 8 AM to NOON and 1PM to 5PM. The County continues to educate residents on the overall importance of proper management and disposal of HHW.

The County also operates a successful recycling program and accepts the following materials: newspaper, magazines, shiny inserts, office paper, phone books, corrugated cardboard, tin cans, aerosol cans, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, pie tins, foil, and #1 thru #7 plastics. Recyclables are collected under contract by Cedar Valley Services and Freeborn County Co-Op.

In addition to weekly curbside collection, residents may bring their recyclables to the Recycling Center, located in the City of Austin.

In 2023, the County received a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and will be completing an approximate 30' by 125' (3,750 square foot) drive through addition onto their Recycling Center to start accepting electronics for recycling.

The County also contracts with Cedar Valley Services to collect recyclables from businesses, churches, schools, and other non-residential buildings. Currently Mower County collects from 100 businesses in Austin and 12 schools throughout the County. All businesses including governmental offices throughout the County have access to the recycling program.

Appendix A of this Plan is the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) County's current profile based on information from the State Demographer. It provides current and future demographic and economic information.

Appendix C is the projected budget, and Appendix F is the Goal Volume Table, which provides for waste projections over the 10-Year Plan.

The County has a mature solid waste program and overall management will remain mostly the same during the next 10-year planning period. The County's policy and goal is to continue to improve upon solid waste abatement initiatives. However, the County will continue to also seek opportunities to further landfill abatement as they may present themselves.

## Section 2.0 Background

### 2.1 Demographic, Geographic, and Regional Information



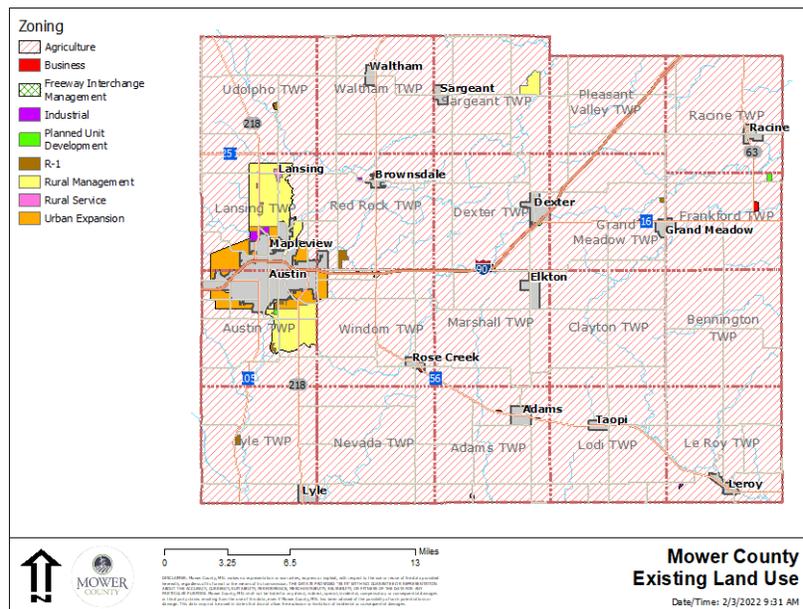
The County is located in Southeastern Minnesota, approximately 100 miles south of the city of Minneapolis. The County is bordered by Dodge, Steele, and Olmsted counties to the north, Freeborn County to the west, Fillmore County to the east, and the state of Iowa to the south.

According to the 2020 US Census, Mower County is the 26<sup>th</sup> (of 87) most populous county in the state, with an estimated population of 40,029, which is a 2.3 percent increase from the 2010 census.

The County has 20 townships and 14 cities. The largest city is Austin and is also the County seat. According to the 2020 US Census, Austin has a population of 26,174. Mower County is predominately rural in nature with a total land area of 711.33 square miles (455,251.2 acres). According to the USDA, 2017 census of Agriculture, 447,193 acres was farmland.

Mower County is one of four counties in Minnesota with no natural lakes.

Mower County is part of the Minnesota Development Region 10, which is in the SE Planning



Region. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) provides county profiles, which summarizes population projections, characteristics, labor force trends, and other such demographical data. Below are key points from a November 15, 2021, profile. A complete DEED profile is included in Appendix A. Further information may be found on the DEED website <https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/county-profiles>.

**Population:**

- As stated above, Mower County’s population increased by 2.3 percent since the 2010 census and is the 36<sup>th</sup> fastest growing of the 87 counties (2010 to 2020).
- It is the 26<sup>th</sup> largest county in the state and has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older.

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 5 years	2,655	6.6%
5-14 years	5,693	14.2%
15-24 years	4,950	12.4%
25-34 years	4,836	12.1%
35-44 years	4,818	12.0%
45-54 years	4,480	11.2%
55-64 years	5,159	12.9%
65-74 years	3,981	9.9%
75-84 years	2,129	5.3%
85 years & over	1,327	3.3%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>40,029</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- Compared to the state, Mower County has a larger percentage of foreign-born residents.

**Population Projections:**

- According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Mower County’s population is expected to grow by approximately 3 percent, which is slower than the projected statewide growth rate of 5.6 percent.
- The number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade.

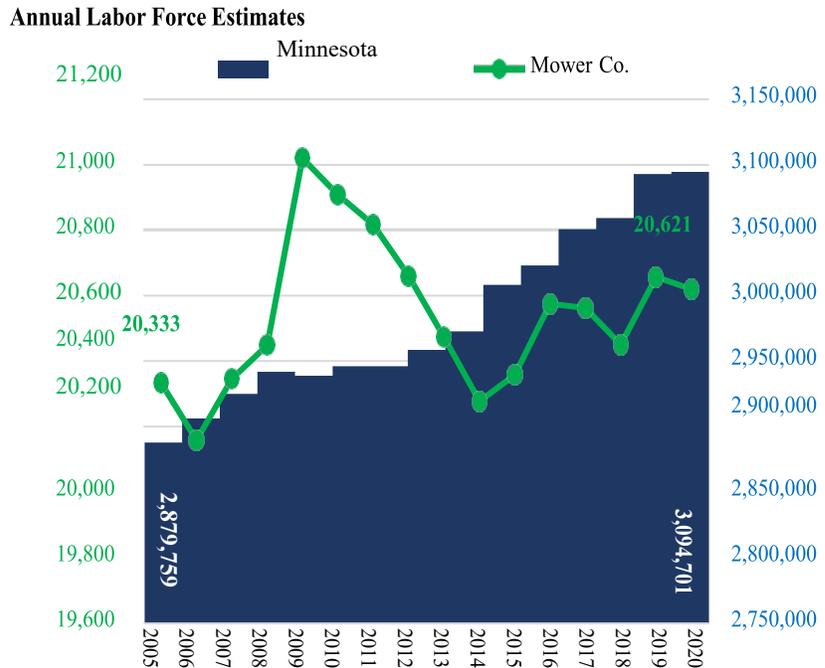
<b>Mower Co.</b>	<b>2023 Projection</b>	<b>2033 Projection</b>	<b>Numeric Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Under 5 years	2,743	2,768	25	0.9%
5-14 years	5,675	5,875	200	3.5%
15-24 years	5,038	5,018	-20	-0.4%
25-34 years	4,886	5,030	144	2.9%
35-44 years	5,055	5,085	30	0.6%
45-54 years	4,312	4,704	392	9.1%
55-64 years	4,735	3,888	-847	-17.9%
65-74 years	4,079	3,799	-280	-6.9%
75-84 years	2,309	2,843	534	23.1%
85 years & over	1,314	1,263	-51	-3.9%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>40,146</b>	<b>40,273</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

**Employment and Wages:**

Labor force has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of 248.4 workers each year

from 1990 to 2000, Mower County averaged an annual gain of 91.3 new workers from 2000 to 2010. And, most recently, a loss of -28.7 fewer workers since 2021. Mower County is expected to see a labor force decline from 2023 to 2033.

- According to Minnesota Employment and Economic Development (DEED), due to the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Mower County had the 25<sup>th</sup> largest economy of the 87 counties.
- According to the US Census, Median Household Income (in 2019 dollars) between 2015 to 2019 was \$54,295.



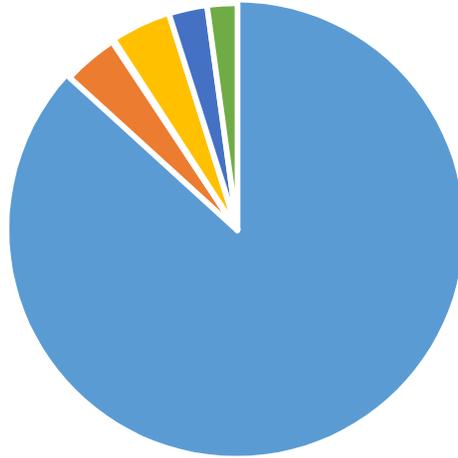
**Environmental Justice:**

Mower County’s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2000, the county's white population declined, but the number of people of other races increased (*see Table 4 below*).

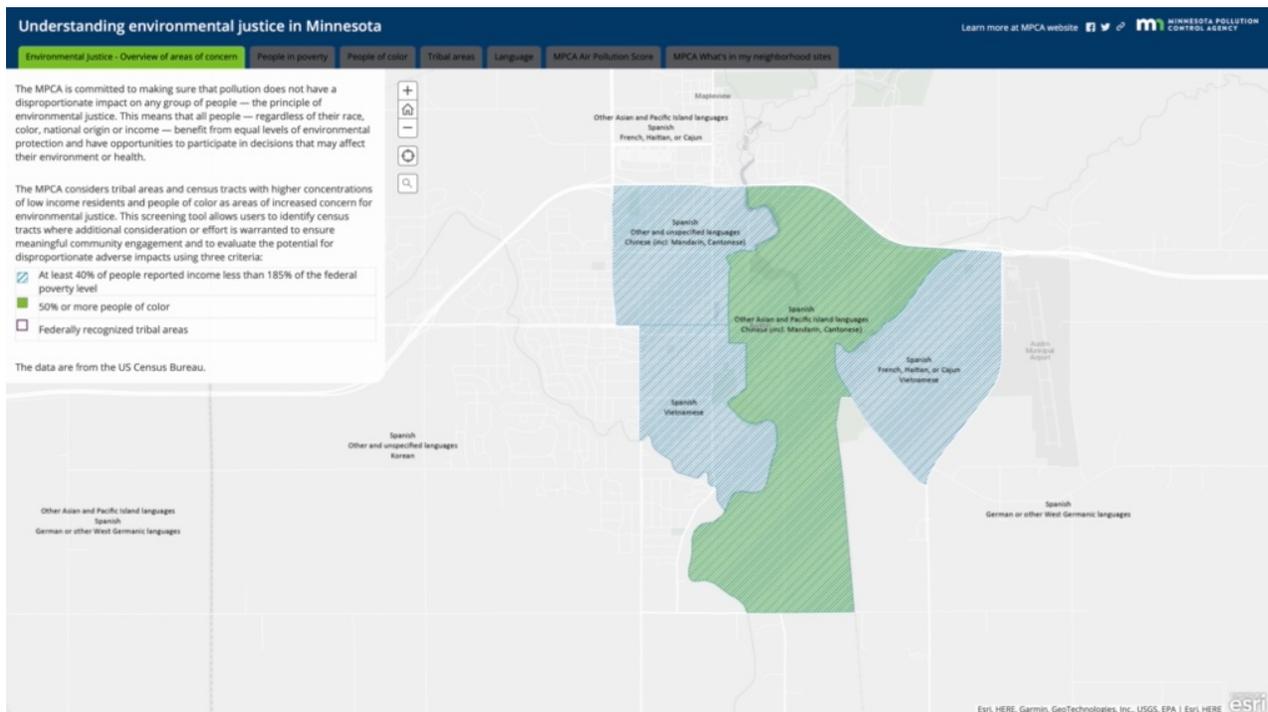
Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2019	Mower Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2000-2019	Percent	Change from 2000-2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,807</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
White	34,533	86.8%	-5.6%	82.8%	4.7%
Black or African American	1,570	3.9%	630.2%	6.4%	107.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	54	0.1%	-18.2%	1.0%	5.5%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,716	4.3%	199.0%	4.9%	87.8%
Some Other Race	1,091	2.7%	29.4%	1.9%	58.1%
Two or More Races	843	2.1%	152.4%	3.0%	99.9%

### Population by Race, 2019

- White (86.8 Percent)
- Black or African American
- American Indian
- Asian
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races



Environmental justice areas in Mower County as referenced by the MPCA, are within and around the City of Austin where at least 40% of people reported income less than 185% of the federal poverty level. And at least 50% or more people are of color.



This map can be found at the following link:

<https://mpca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f5bf57c8dac24404b7f8ef1717f57d00>.

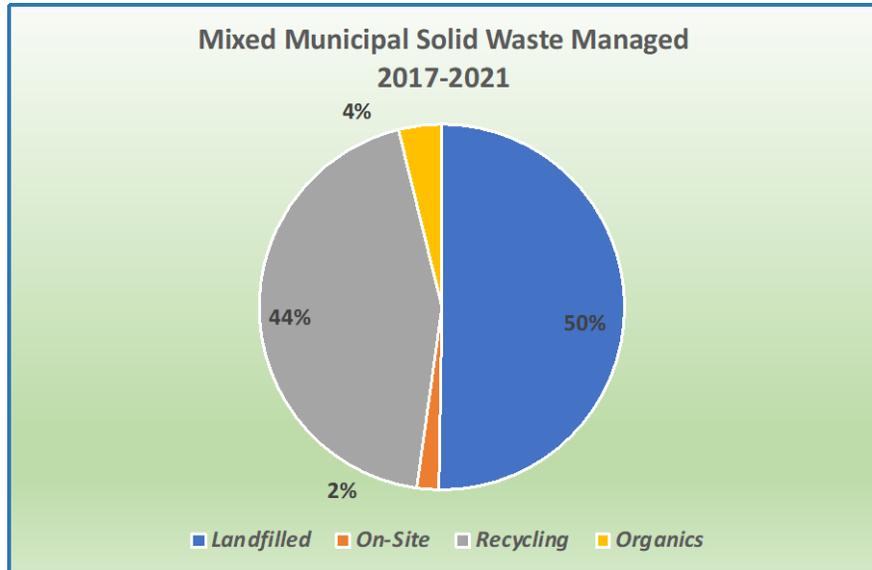
### Summary; demographics, geographic, and regional:

The County's integrated solid waste management system has been and will continue to be influenced by demographics, geography, economy, and regional constraints. The County lies within the Rochester-Austin Combined Statistical Area, and the County is expected to see a decline in growth over the next 10 years. Agriculture has and will continue to be the principal part of the

County's economy. The County is served by Interstate Highway 90, and US Highway 218. Interstate Highway 90 serves as the primary corridor for transporting mixed municipal solid waste to Central Disposal Systems Landfill in Lake Mills, Iowa.

## 2.2 Solid Waste Collection & Generation

On average, the County generated an average of 39,000 tons of Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) over the past five years (2017-2021 SCORE data). This excludes industrial solid waste, and construction and demolition waste. Based upon SCORE data collected, it is estimate that approximately 66 percent of MSW generated and collected in the County is residential. The remaining 34 percent is from commercial and industrial generators. Overall generation of MSW has declined between 2016 and 2020, however increased in 2021 due mostly to better reporting on recycling.



Based upon SCORE data, the amount of MSW managed on-site in 2020 was one (1) percent. This is down from three (3) percent in years 2019 thru 2017, and four (4) percent in 2016.

The County estimates that approximately 2.5 percent of residents manage their MSW on-site (do not have refuse collection).

In addition to curbside recycling offered by licensed haulers, the County initiated a very successful recycling program that has been operational since October 1989. The County collects recyclables under contract with Cedar Valley Services and Freeborn County Co-Op. Cedar Valley Services, under contract by the County, collects recyclables from businesses, churches, and other non-residential buildings. All recyclables collected under contract by the County are delivered to the Mower County Recycling Center. Recyclables collected by licensed haulers are delivered to various privately owned and operated facilities.

**Financial incentives for waste reduction and recycling:**

The County has and continues to be served by approximately seven (7) separate haulers since 2018. As a financial incentive to recycle and/or reduce the amount of waste generated and in accordance with MN § 115A.93 and county ordinance, MSW collection rates are volume or weight based. Residential rates by haulers for collection range from \$10 to \$65 per month. Commercial rates range from as low as \$10 to as high as \$3,000, depending on size of container, distance to disposal facility, and number times per week for pickup.

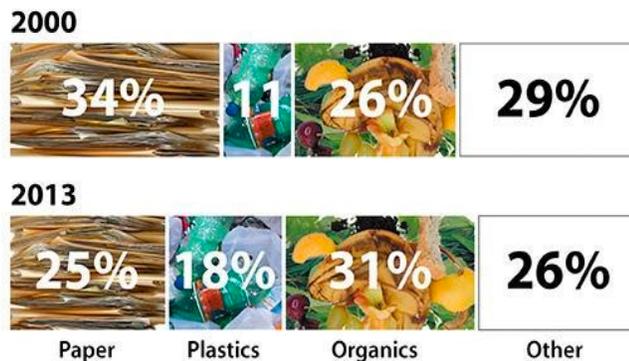
**Solid Waste Composition:**

The County has not conducted a solid waste composition study. However, in 2013 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency conducted solid waste composition studies at six (6) separate solid waste facilities.

Additionally, Olmsted County conducted a waste characterization study in 2019. The result of that study demonstrates that overall percent of organics continues to increase. Below are both the MPCA and Olmsted County studies.

- **Paper:** 24.23 percent
- **Plastics:** 17.44 percent
- **Organics:** 48.17 percent
- **Inorganics:** 1.79 percent
- **Metals:** 3.15 percent
- **Glass:** 2.12 percent
- **Special Waste:** 2.92 percent

*Olmsted County, 2019 study*



*MPCA, 2013 study.*

The County believes that Olmsted County’s waste characterization is generally representative of the County’s overall current solid waste composition.

Approximately half of solid waste collected in the County is hauled directly to the Waste Management’s Central Disposal Facility, located in Lake Mills, Iowa. Much of the remaining half of solid waste collected is delivered to the Austin Transfer Station (MPCA Permit # SW-222). And, with the exception of recyclables and appliances, solid waste delivered to the Austin Transfer Station is also transported to the Central Disposal Facility in Lake Mills Iowa.

The average tipping fee at the Austin Transfer Station for delivery of MSW is \$69.16 per ton.

Other facilities where MSW was delivered to are the Steele County Landfill, and the Nobles County Landfill. Additionally, a small percent of solid waste, approximately 3,000 tons annually, is delivered to the Clarks Grove Landfill, located in Clarks Grove, MN.

**Summary:**

Solid waste generation and collection in Mower County constraints and opportunities are influenced by current infrastructure and proximity to existing facilities. However, the County was able to achieve an approximate recycling rate of 44 percent. Most of the solid waste collected (after recycling and other landfill abatement related initiatives) is delivered to Waste Management Central, Lake Mills Iowa landfill. Currently, there are no regional opportunities for landfill abatement, however the County will continue pursue in the event an opportunity(s) may present itself.

### **2.3 Construction & Demolition Debris**

WCI Austin Landfill LLC is currently permitted by the MPCA to operate a Class III demolition waste landfill (SKB Lansing Landfill) and a Class II demolition debris landfill (WCI Austin Landfill). Mower County's Solid Waste Management Ordinance (ORD-21) requires that all demolition waste and construction debris disposed of within the County be referred licensed and permitted landfills. According to SKB Lansing Landfill's MPCA Annual Operating Reports, Mower County generated 43,650 cubic yards of demolition and construction debris in 2020, and 43,495 cubic yards in 2019. It should be noted that the amount of demolition and construction debris generated will vary greatly based upon economy and seasonal fluctuations.

### **2.4 Major Solid Waste Generators**

It is estimated that 34 percent of MSW generated is from commercial, industrial, and institutional sources. Hormel Foods Corp. located in Austin Minnesota is the largest generator of waste. In 2021, Hormel Foods generated 8,106 tons of industrial solid waste, mostly animal scraps and contaminated corrugated cardboard. Much of this waste was sent to SKB Lansing Landfill in Austin. By comparison, Hormel Foods recycled 2,093 of corrugated cardboard, and 249 tons of ferrous metals, in 2021. Hormel Foods has been working to reduce the contamination of corrugated cardboard to increase their recycling numbers.

Other large generators within the County are institutional facilities such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and the Mower County Jail.

## **2.5 Local & Regional Solid Waste Planning**

Mower County has a long history of progressive solid waste planning, beginning with its first Solid Waste Management Plan that was approved in 1988. The County's existing Solid Waste Plan was last revised in 2012.

### **Current Local and Regional Planning Efforts:**

To reduce overall landfilling of solid waste, the County in 1989 sought and received a grant from the state to construct a recycling center. In 1992 the County entered into an agreement with the MPCA and Freeborn County to establish a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program. And, in 1995 the County constructed a permanent HHW facility. In 1996 and again in 2002, the state approved revisions to the County's Solid Waste Management Plan. In 2003 the MPCA re-evaluated procedures to allow current plans to be revised every ten (10) years, instead of five (5) years.

Mower County, along with Blue Earth, Dodge, Freeborn, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, and Waseca counties, and city of Red Wing, are members of Joint Powers Board – SEMREX. According to its website, SEMREX (Southeastern Minnesota Recyclers Exchange) was organized to promote regional waste reduction through recycling, cooperative marketing ventures, market development strategies, material exchange efforts, public education, and other projects to protect the environment of southeastern Minnesota. This organization. More about SEMREX can be found on its website: [Southeastern Minnesota Recyclers Exchange \(SEMREX\)](#).

Mower County is also an active participant in the Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators' Association (SWAA) and meets with other members on various waste management programs and policies. This organization allows for networking and sharing of common impediments and possible regional solutions for management of the County's waste.

Although partnering with neighboring counties provides for cost effective efforts and initiatives with regards to overall waste reduction and recycling, and providing for an educational platform, regional planning is not always effective for all landfill abatement related initiatives due to geographic distances and transportation costs, and current processing capacities. Mower County will, however, continue to explore opportunities and partnerships with neighboring counties for further efforts towards continued landfill abatement related projects as they may present themselves.

### **Past Impediments or Barriers to Development of Regional Projects:**

In 1992 Mower County worked with Freeborn County on putting together a Solid Waste

Composting Program. The two Counties signed a Joint Powers Board (JPB) Agreement and Freeborn County submitted a grant application to the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA) to construct a facility for both Counties. During the following year, information on the costs of such a program were found to be considerably higher than originally discussed, and Mower County decided that they could not afford to subsidize the processing costs. At that time Mower County informed Freeborn County that they would not continue with the program. Freeborn County decided that they would not continue the program on their own and therefore returned the grant money to the MOEA. The major reasons for this decision by the JPB were the lack of flow control and the lack of financial assurance to pay for the costs of operating the planned facility. Mower County was and still is very concerned about the amount of solid waste that would be available for a solid waste processing facility. Without designation the only possible solution is to have the tipping fee for a facility lower than the landfill tipping fees. At this time, the only way this could occur is if the County subsidized the true cost of processing. Subsidies must be made using county funds and do not show the true costs of solid waste disposal.

Mower County does not feel that a solid waste processing facility is the most prudent and feasible option for the County currently due to the above-mentioned reasons.

**Resolution of Conflicting or Overlapping Local Waste Management Efforts:**

The County has not experienced conflicting or overlapping management efforts. This can be attributed to the way the County manages its overall system and to waste collection being done solely by the private sector.

## Section 3.0 Existing Integrated Solid Waste Management System

### 3.1 Policy and Goals

It is the County's policy to maximize the overall landfill abatement through various waste educational initiatives, reduction and recycling, and composting programs.

The goals of the County align with the goals of the state as delineated in M.S 115A.02 which states *"It is the goal of this chapter to protect the state's land, air, water and other natural resources and the public health by improving waste management in the state to serve the following purposes: (1) reduction in the amount and toxicity of waste generated; (2) separation and recovery of materials and energy from waste; (3) reduction in indiscriminate dependence on disposal of waste; (4) coordination of the solid waste management among political subdivisions; and (5) orderly and deliberate development and financial security of waste facilities, including disposal facilities."*

The County's policy and goal is to increase overall awareness to the public, businesses, and other institutional organizations through a comprehensive educational program on various landfill abatement related initiatives and proper management of household hazardous waste (and very small quantity generators).

### 3.2 History of System Development

- 1960's: Open burning and open dump sites were the most common forms of waste management.
- 1967: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was created to rules governing air and water quality.
- 1971: Minnesota State Statute Chapter 400 (County Solid Waste Management Act) was passed.
- 1980: Minnesota Waste Management Act was passed, outlining county planning requirements.

- 1988: Mower County’s original Solid Waste Management Plan was adopted.
- 1989: The County received a grant for construction of the County’s recycling center.
- 1992: The County entered into an agreement with the MPCA and Freeborn County, establishing a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program.
- 1995: Construction of a permanent HHW facility.
- 1996: County’s Solid Waste Management Plan was updated.
- 2002: County’s Solid Waste Management Plan was again updated.
- 2012: County’s Solid Waste Management Plan was again updated.
- 2016 – 2022: Southeast Minnesota Recycler’s Exchange (SEMREX) discussed a regional solid waste regional management plan, including pursuing grant funds. Although a regional plan is no longer being pursued, SEMREX continues to provide regionalization on various recycling initiatives and market development.

### **3.3 Existing Resource Recovery Facilities**

The nearest existing resource recovery facility is the Olmsted County Waste to Energy Facility. This facility began operation in 1987, was expanded in 2010, and currently processes approximately 400 tons of MSW per day (about 115,000 annual tons) from Olmsted and Dodge counties. Although this facility is operating at full capacity, the County will continue to monitor and analyze any feasible resource recovery options as they may present themselves.

### **3.4 Land Disposal Facilities**

#### **MSW Landfills:**

The following Land Disposal Facilities are currently used for disposal of MSW that is generated within the County (data can be found in the Goal Volume Table in Appendix F):

- Central Disposal Landfill (21265 430<sup>th</sup> Street, Lake Mills, IA 50450): Waste delivered to the Austin Transfer Station is transported to Central Disposal Systems Landfill in Lake Mills, Iowa (owned and operated by Waste Management). In addition, some haulers also report direct delivery to this facility.
- Steele County Landfill – SW 131 (9420 54<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917): This facility is located along Hwy 218 between Owatonna and Blooming Prairie and is owned and operated by Steele County. And although this facility reports that it only accepts MSW, C&D, and ISW from Steele County residents, it is noted that additional waste has been received from: Dodge, Freeborn, Rice, Waseca, and Mower counties.
- Nobles County Landfill – SW 11 (27008 271<sup>st</sup> St, Worthington, MN 56187): This facility is located in Dewald Township, approximately eight miles northwest of Worthington, MN. Nobles County Landfill is owned and operated by Nobles County Landfill, Inc., a Waste Connections subsidiary.

**Solid Waste Transfer Station:**

Austin Transfer Station (103 28<sup>th</sup> St NE, Austin, MN 55912): The majority of solid waste collected in Mower County which is not recycled or otherwise processed, is collected by private haulers and transported to the Austin Transfer Station. Solid waste received at this facility is transferred to Central Disposal Facility. This facility is owned by the City of Austin and operated by Waste Management. Austin Transfer Station is permitted to accept: MSW, ISW, waste material containing Cathode-Ray Tubes (CRT's), Electronic waste (E-waste), and Major Appliances.

**C&D Landfills:**

The following Land Disposal Facilities are currently used for disposal of Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) that is generated within the County (data can be found in the Goal Volume Table in Appendix F):

- SKB Lansing Landfill (52563 243<sup>rd</sup> Street, Austin, MN 55912): This facility is located in Lansing Township, Mower County, Minnesota. SKB Lansing Landfill is owned and operated by WCI Austin Landfill, LLC, a subsidiary of Waste Connections. SKB Lansing Landfill is a Class III demolition waste landfill. This facility operates in accordance with a MPCA Permit: SW-514-001, and a County License pursuant to the Ordinance.

**ISW Landfills:**

The following Land Disposal Facilities are currently used for disposal of Industrial Solid Waste

(ISW) that is generated within the County (data can be found in the Goal Volume Table in Appendix F):

- SKB Lansing Landfill (52563 243<sup>rd</sup> Street, Austin, MN 55912): This facility is located in Lansing Township, Mower County, Minnesota. SKB Lansing Landfill is owned and operated by WCI Austin Landfill, LLC, a subsidiary of Waste Connections. SKB Lansing Landfill is a Class III demolition waste landfill and can accept certain types of ISW in accordance with an approved Industrial Solid Waste Management Plan. This facility operates in accordance with a MPCA Permit: SW-514-001, and a County License pursuant to the Ordinance.

### **3.5 Costs of Operating & Maintaining the System**

The County maintains a successful integrated solid waste management system that includes a recycling program, a Recycling Center, and a Household Hazardous Waste Center. A copy of the County's operating budget can be found in Appendix C.

### **3.6 Summary of Achievements, Opportunities, Challenges, & Problems**

A lot of changes to the recycling program happened in 2016 such as adding an addition onto the Recycling Center to allow residents to drop off recyclable materials 24 hours per day, seven days a week. A drive through drop-off for the contracted haulers was also added. The ability to manage all the recyclable materials inside of the facility is also a benefit to Cedar Valley Services (CVS) staff. In addition, managing all recyclable materials within an enclosed structure eliminated the need for outside storage.

Curbside collection was also modified to weekly pickup. Weekly collection had a positive impact on overall collection rates as the public no longer needed to remember which week their recycling was to be collected. Weekly pick up of recyclables also had a positive impact on multi-stream recycling. In 2016 Mower County started accepting 1-7 plastics; the public finds it much easier to recycle plastics. The County experienced an approximate 25% increase in overall volume of recyclables collected as a result of weekly collection and expanding the number of plastics collected.

Challenges have been marketing glass because there's only one market and it's costly to transport with current low value of \$20 per ton. Glass is currently costing the County around \$5 per ton with transportation costs added.

COVID itself came with its own challenges. Closing operations for a couple weeks and loss of staff due to health complications. Additionally, there was a large increase in cardboard due to increase in online purchasing. With increased cardboard, the County purchased a new horizontal baler that helped keep up with the demand. With the addition of the new baler, the County is exploring opportunities to expand by collecting from businesses. The County also refurbished old recycling roll off containers by taking the dividers out and making them cardboard only containers. This has been a huge help in capturing more cardboard in the rural communities.

## Section 4.0 Proposed Integrated Solid Waste Management System

### 4.1 Introduction

This section describes Mower County's proposed solid waste system. The County's Solid Waste Officer is the responsible person for ensuring that each initiative within this Section is followed. The Solid Waste Officer reports to the Assistant Public Works Director (ES). Each program is explained in its current state along with history. Evaluation of program area, continuation and/or potential changes to the program including goals are included below.

Mower County intends to implement its Proposed Integrated Solid Waste Management System, as outlined in this Section, throughout the 10-year term of this Plan. The County has an aggressive recycling program and on average, between 2017 and 2021, landfilled on average 50 percent of waste generated. However, the County recognizes that land disposal is at the lowest of the State of Minnesota's hierarchy of waste management alternatives and will continue to examine options for improving upon its system to reduce overall land disposal of waste.

The County also recognizes that alternatives to land disposal must occur at a regional basis. Although there are no land disposal alternatives available within the southeast region, the County will continue to examine options to further improve upon its waste management system as opportunities may arise.

Further, while land disposal is at the bottom of the State of Minnesota hierarchy of waste management alternatives, the State recognizes that only feasible and prudent alternatives to land disposal shall be implemented by the County. Alternatives that are speculative or conjectural are not feasible and prudent.

Currently, alternatives to land disposal are MSW composting and solid waste incineration and energy recovery.

#### **Mixed Municipal Solid Waste Composting Facilities:**

In 1994, Mower County along with several regional counties evaluated the option of developing a joint MSW composting facility. That option was rejected due to legal issues with waste designation. Martin and Faribault counties discontinued their MSW compost operations due to operational and market constraints. And, currently, there are no existing MSW compost operations within the region, nor are

there discussions regarding possible regional MSW compost facility. However, the County will continue to monitor and analyze any feasible options that may arise during the 10-year term of this Plan.

**Solid Waste Incineration and Energy Recovery:**

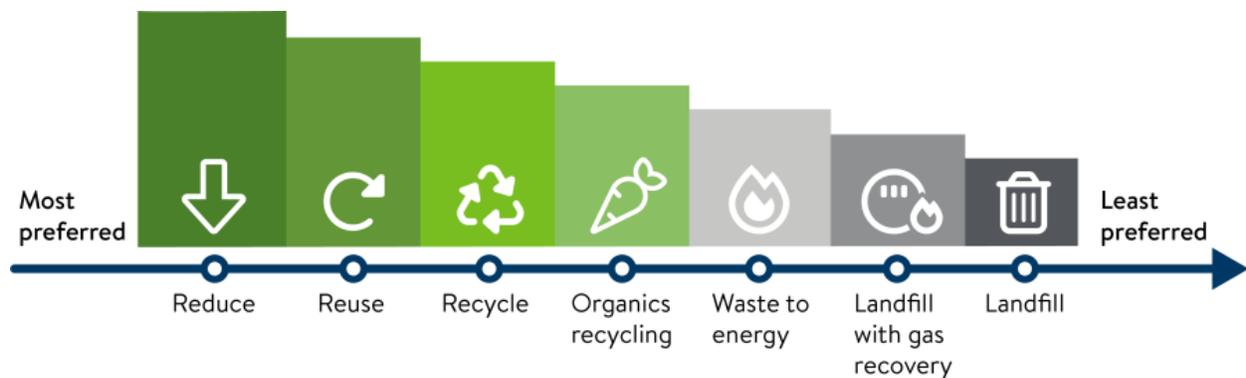
As stated in Section 3.3 of this Plan, the nearest waste to energy facility is Olmsted County’s Waste-to-Energy Facility. Due to capacity, this facility is currently not an option. Mower County will continue to monitor and analyze any feasible options that may arise over the term of this Plan.

## 4.2 Solid Waste Reduction & Reuse Programs

**Policies and Goals:**

Waste Reduction and Reuse are top priorities in the solid waste management hierarchy not only for reducing costs, but also reducing adverse impacts to the environment and public health. Production of new products requires energy from extracting raw materials from the earth, fabrication of those raw materials, and overall transportation. Reduction reuse of existing materials is the most effective means to reduce energy, preserve raw materials/natural resources, reduce negative impacts to the environment, and save money. Waste reduction and reuse of materials also saves reduces indiscriminate landfilling.

### Minnesota's waste management hierarchy



The County plans to continue promoting overall waste reduction and reuse and implement additional source reduction activities consistent with the MPCA’s criteria for Source Reduction Credit. The County hopes to achieve three (3) percent waste reduction rate per capita from the adoption of this Plan through the ten-year planning period. The County intends to track this goal through data collected for annual SCORE reporting.

**Existing Program Description and History:**

The County promotes waste abatement and reuse through comprehensive educational outreach initiatives. Education efforts focus on changing purchasing habits and promoting reuse of products such as bringing unwanted usable items to Salvation Army, The Main Street Peddler, local food shelves, and other such stores.

The County utilizes information provided by the MPCA as well as advertisements and information generated by County staff. The method used by the County for disseminating such information is through various media outlets such as: radio, newspapers, and county shopper ads. Additionally, smart shopping brochures available at the Recycling Center and group presentations. Currently, the County is providing material exchange materials to businesses in Mower County through SEMREX. The County also answers questions from businesses regarding the materials exchange program, as well as other source reduction activities. The County has also promoted source reduction regarding less hazardous alternatives for household hazardous waste. Through education and technical assistance from County staff, residents and businesses can begin or improve upon personalized source reduction techniques or programs.

As a member of SEMREX, the County participates in a materials exchange program, which assists businesses and institutions with waste reduction. Usable materials, such as plastic packaging materials and chemicals, are listed on a state-wide database. Businesses seeking materials can obtain available materials free or at a low cost.

In addition to the initiatives above, all haulers within the County provide for volume-based pricing to further promote overall waste reduction.

The County also “leads by example” by continually looking at ways to reduce the amount of waste generated at the Government Center.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

In addition to maintaining the existing initiatives and programs, the County pursue the following:

- Facilitate “Fix-it Clinics” where residents may bring items for repair or exchange. The County intends to arrange for local volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot, and repair small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices, and other items. The intent is to teach valuable troubleshooting and repair skills to residents to reduce items being disposed of. The County will start out with one clinic, starting in 2024, and gauge the interest and demand for number of clinics per year. Intended location will be city

of Austin at the Mower County Government Center.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Promote membership in Reuse Minnesota (<https://www.reusemn.org>) for local businesses, schools, and institutional organizations.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Promote membership into Waste Wise (a Minnesota Chamber of Commerce program - <https://www.mnchamber.com/your-opportunity/waste-wise>) for local businesses, schools, and other institutional organizations.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Schedule speaking engagements at schools, businesses, and institutional organizations to promote waste reduction initiatives and membership into Reuse Minnesota, Waste Wise.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Participate in cities and counties involved in source reduction and recycling (CISRR) programs.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Pursue source reduction campaigns through various media outlets.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Pursue food to hogs opportunities for schools and other institutional organizations where food waste, under quality control measures, may be delivered hog farms.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

### **4.3 Solid Waste Education, Community Engagement Programs & Public Participation**

#### **Policies and Goals:**

Effective and robust public education is fundamental towards influencing behavior to achieve desired goals. The County's comprehensive education programs aims to empower residents, businesses, and other institutional organizations with knowledge of the County's integrated waste management program, and necessary tools to ensure proper management of waste and the promotion of landfill abatement related initiatives. The County recognizes the importance of influencing social behavior to achieve its goals of reducing indiscriminate landfilling, and proper management of HHW.

#### **Existing Program Description and History:**

The County currently has an active waste education program that promotes all methods of waste abatement: waste reduction, reuse, recycling, source separation, and yard waste composting. It also addresses special wastes such as: batteries, tires, mattresses, major appliances, and household hazardous wastes. Various waste education articles are placed in shopper adds, newspapers, and radio stations monthly. Educational brochures are made available to the public at the County's Recycling Center/HHW facility, Government Center, and Public Works building.



Through a collaborative effort with SEMREX, the Waste Wizard tool is available on the County's website ([https://www.co.mower.mn.us/434/Waste-Wizard#!rc-cpage=wizard\\_material\\_list](https://www.co.mower.mn.us/434/Waste-Wizard#!rc-cpage=wizard_material_list)).

This tool provides an efficient, quick, and easy method for residents to search recycling, disposal, or reuse options of waste items.

#### **Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- The County will continue to promote and implement comprehensive and robust educational outreach initiatives through various media outlets (local papers, brochures and pamphlets, radio, and speaking engagements). The County will partner with townships and cities to

promote and disseminate educational programs regarding proper management of solid waste and increase overall awareness of the importance of the Waste Hierarchy.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- The County will continue to identify program needs, as needed, for handling and disposing of any banned materials.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- The County will continue to collaborate with local and regional partners to educate the public, business, and other institutional organizations on the importance of proper solid waste management techniques and landfill abatement related initiatives.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

**4.4 Recycling Programs**

### **Policies and Goals:**

Mower County is committed to a comprehensive recycling program for residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sources of recyclable materials. The County has continued to invest resources in growing its recycling program.

The County's goal is to achieve a 50 percent recycling rate per capita from the adoption of this Plan through the ten-year planning period. The County plans to track this data through data collected for annual SCORE reporting.

### **Existing Program Description and History:**

Mower County's Recycling Program began operations in October 1989. Acceptable materials currently include the following: newspaper, magazines, shiny inserts, office paper, phone books, corrugated cardboard, tin cans, aerosol cans, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, pie tins, foil, and #1 thru #7 plastics.

Currently solid waste haulers in the County provide corrugated cardboard collection for their commercial cardboard by either separating directly from the refuse after collection or by providing separate collection containers to the businesses. The County program does not collect corrugated cardboard from the commercial sector. However, the County has offered recycling to all businesses throughout the County who are willing to drop off commercial cardboard at the Recycling Center located in the City of Austin MN.

Private scrap dealers in Mower County recycle scrap iron, aluminum, copper, and other salvageable metals. In the past, exact tonnages were not available, however with the adoption of the County's Solid Waste Ordinance re-write in 2015, the County is working to license and require reporting of recyclables from such facilities.

Residential recycling is handled exclusively by the Solid Waste Officer. Collection of recyclables in Mower County is performed in one of the following ways: weekly curbside collection is provided in the cities of: Adams, Austin, Brownsdale, Grand Meadow, Leroy, Mapleview, Rose Creek and Taopi; residents of larger apartment complexes are provided with a drop-off shed; and rural and small municipality residents are provided with recycling roll-off containers which are placed in each of the smaller municipalities in Mower County.

Sets of three recycling bins are available, free of charge, to each household in Mower County. The bins can be used to place recyclables at the curb for collection where curbside collection is available, or they can also be used for transporting recyclables to the drop-off containers.

Recyclables are collected under contract by Cedar Valley Services and Freeborn County Co-Op. All recyclables from residents throughout the County are delivered to the Mower County Recycling Center. Cedar Valley Services also provides all processing personnel at the Recycling Center under contract with Mower County. Cedar Valley Services provides employment opportunities for individuals with certain disabilities and needs. The ability to utilize personnel from Cedar Valley Services allows for continued processing of recyclables collected via single sort. The personnel include a foreman, a job coach and 10-12 clients to sort and process the recyclable material received at the Recycling Center. Cedar Valley Service's clients are paid an hourly wage and benefits dependent upon time studies conducted twice per year. The foreman and job coach run the equipment and forklifts and supervise the processing. Cedar Valley provides labor from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The Recycling Center is in the City of Austin on property adjacent to the Mower County Highway Department. The building is 22,500 square feet with 7,500 square feet of processing area, 1,250 square feet of office area, 11,875 square feet of storage area and 1,875 square feet for Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

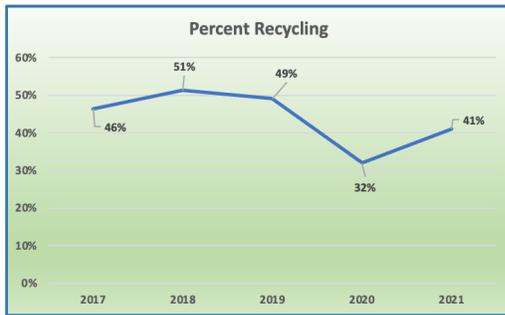
The equipment used to process the recyclables includes: 3 horizontal balers, a vertical baler, glass crusher, 2 sorting conveyors, 3 forklifts and 4 gayload dumpers. The County processes approximately 160 tons of recyclables per month. We have approximately 5% residual material that is compacted and hauled to the Austin Transfer Station. Over the last 10 years the County has processed an average of 1,850 tons per year.

All recyclables are processed for shipping at the Recycling Center and marketed by the Solid Waste Officer to recyclables material buyers. Mower County is committed to producing uncontaminated materials to ensure that the materials can be marketed and to receive the highest possible prices. Mower County has not encountered any major problems marketing the recyclable materials. Markets for the materials are located anywhere from Chicago, IL to Worthington, MN. To date, the County has never had a load rejected due to contamination.

The County also contracts with Cedar Valley Services to collect recyclables from businesses, churches, schools, and other non-residential buildings. Currently Mower County collects from 100 businesses in Austin and 12 schools throughout the County. All businesses including governmental offices throughout the County have access to the recycling program.

All City offices, County offices, one Federal Office (Social Security Office) currently have containers for recyclable material and are provided collection by the Mower County Recycling Program. The schools mentioned above have collection containers for their Plastic, Tin cans from lunchroom, newspaper and white office paper from teachers and students. Most schools have weekly collection except Austin Public School which has twice per week collection.

Recycling tonnages from 2015 through 2021 can be found in the graph below, based upon SCORE data.



Year	Paper	Metals	Glass	Plastics	Other	HW	TOTAL
2015	14,497	249	328	234	4,325	6	19,639
2016	14,147	205	306	256	4,118	17	19,049
2017	14,047	216	282	237	4,210	26	19,018
2018	15,184	149	371	406	3,781	20	19,912
2019	8,220	253	442	567	7,122	16	16,619
2020	3,510	424	426	1,618	4,765	19	10,761
2021	4,890	3,700	333	672	9,639	59	19,295

*Recycling tons collected.*

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- Continue to collaborate with industries, businesses, and institutional organizations to increase recycling rates by promoting benefits and cost savings associated with increased recycling.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Continue to look for opportunities to expand or alter current recycling practices to maximize potential value and benefit of the County’s current program.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

### 4.5 Yard Waste Management Programs

**Policies and Goals:**

The County recognizes that Minn. Stat. §115A.931 prohibits the placement of yard waste in mixed municipal solid waste. This is also referenced in Section 5.3 of ORD-21 (adopted May 2017). The County also recognizes the benefits of proper management techniques of yard waste that encourage composting activities. Therefore, the County will continue to promote the separation of yard waste from MSW, and to manage by encouraging the organic breakdown.

**Existing Program Description and History:**

Management of Yard Waste is primarily provided by Cook Farm Compost, and Hillier Compost. Cook Farm Compost is owned and operated by City of Austin, which is the only municipal owned facility within the County and is a free site for residents to drop-off yard waste. In accordance with the ORD-21, annual and quarterly reports by both Cook Farm Compost and Hillier Compost are provided to the County that provide for cubic yards of yard waste managed. Finished compost from both Cook Farm and Hillier Compost is made available to the general public.

Additionally, the County encourages residents to participate in backyard composting. Estimated current levels of backyard composting participation by residents are approximately 20 percent.



*Note: 2021 was a drought year which is why volumes were lower.*

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- The County will continue to encourage and educate residents on the importance and benefits of separating yard waste and brush from municipal solid waste, and locations where yard waste may be delivered for composting.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- The County will continue to educate and encourage residents on the importance and benefits of back yard composting and mulching, and the use of compost.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

**4.6 Source-Separated Organic Materials Composting & Other Food Waste Programs**

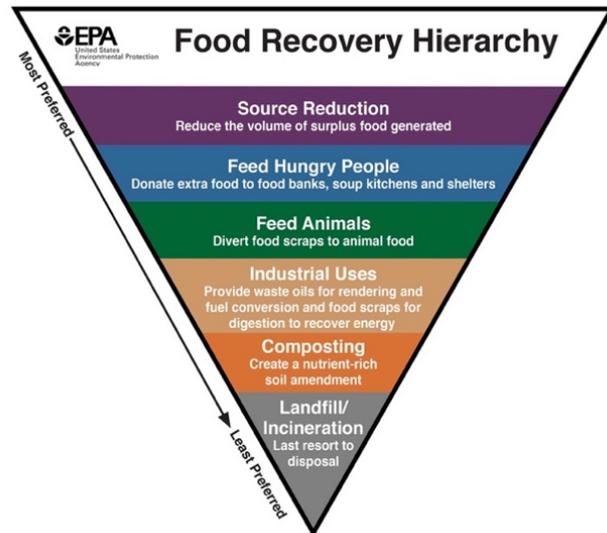
**Policies and Goals:**

The County recognizes the environmental benefits source separated organics composting and intends to study the feasibility and reasonableness of instituting programs to foster and encourage source separated organics composting in the private, commercial, and/or institutional sectors of the County. Along with composting, reduction of Organic Food Waste entering the waste stream provides for various environmental benefits.

The MPCA’s 2013 Waste Characterization Study demonstrates that approximately 31 percent of MSW is comprised of organic material. And, according to a Waste Characterization Study performed by Olmsted County in 2019, approximately 48 percent of MSW is comprised of organic material.

Recognizing that food waste makes up the greatest proportion of organic waste, the County will use the EPA’s food recovery hierarchy as a guidance in policy decisions for reduction and recycling of organics.

Currently, the County is achieving an approximate six (6) percent recycling rate of source separated organics. The County hopes to increase this and achieve an overall seven (7) percent recycling rate of source separated organics per capita from the adoption of this Plan through the ten-year planning period.



**Existing Program Description and History:**

The County has not developed any specific programs or initiatives towards source separated organics composting. However, the County does encourage Food to People initiatives, and several food shelves are available for residents to drop-off food.

On average, the County generates approximately 39,000 tons of MSW. Of that, an average of 1,900 tons are managed as Source Separated Organics for recycling. However, Hormel Foods landfilled over 8,000 tons of waste and continues to investigate methods to further reduce the landfilling of organics.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- The County will continue to work with Hormel Foods to increase overall recycling of organics produced and landfill diversion programs.
  - Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer
- Provide resources to the public and businesses to implement food waste prevention and landfill diversion programs. Develop and distribute brochures, newspaper articles, and other media outlets that provide resources and locations for food waste prevention.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer
- The County will identify opportunities and establish organics composting programs targeting schools, nursing homes, clinics, hospitals, grocery stores, and restaurants.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

**4.7 MSW Composting**

**Policies and Goals:**

The County currently has no current plans to pursue MSW Composting. However, the County will continue to pursue possible regional opportunities as they may present themselves.

**Existing Program Description and History:**

Currently, no programs exist.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

The County will continue to pursue possible regional opportunities as they may present themselves.

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

## **4.8 Solid Waste Incineration & Energy Recovery**

**Policies and Goals:**

The County currently has no plans to pursue Solid Waste Incineration & Energy Recovery. However, the County will continue to pursue possible regional opportunities as they may present themselves.

**Existing Program Description and History:**

Currently, no programs exist.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

The County will continue to pursue possible regional opportunities as they may present themselves.

**Program Budget:**

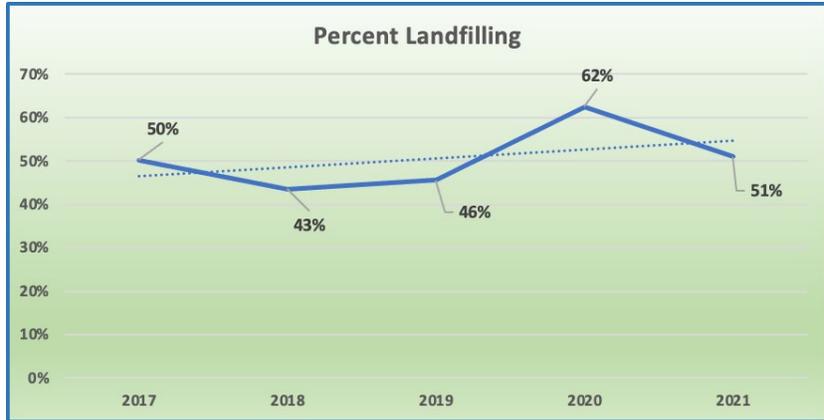
A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

## **4.9 Land Disposal of Mixed Municipal Solid Waste**

**Policies and Goals:**

The County recognizes that land disposal of MSW is the lowest of priorities within the solid waste management hierarchy. The County recognizes the environmental benefits of reducing overall indiscriminate land disposal of MSW and is committed furthering initiatives that will increase land disposal abatement related programs, thereby reducing the amount of MSW sent to landfills.

During the past five (5) years, as an average, the County landfilled approximately 50 percent of total MSW generated. By increasing overall recycling rates, the County hopes to reduce the amount of MSW landfilled and achieve an overall average of 43 percent land disposal after landfill abatement programs from the adoption of this Plan through the ten-year planning period.



*NOTE: Central Disposal Landfill receives the majority of the County's MSW for land disposal.*

**Existing Program Description and History:**

The following Land Disposal Facilities are used for management of MSW that is generated in the County (data can be found in the Goal Volume Table in Appendix F): Currently, the County's MSW that is not recycled or otherwise processed is landfilled at the following solid waste facilities:

- Central Disposal Systems Landfill: Central Disposal Systems Landfill is located at 21265 430<sup>th</sup> St, Lake Mills, Iowa 50450. Central Disposal Systems Landfill is a subsidiary of Waste Management of North America, Inc. This facility is located approximately 50 miles from the City of Austin, MN. Waste Management operates this landfill in accordance with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Disposal Permit No. 96-SDP-1-72P. Approximately half of all solid waste collected in Mower County is directly hauled to this landfill.

Central Disposal Systems (CDS) Landfill is located approximately 4 miles southwest of Lake Mills or approximately 32 miles from Albert Lea MN, in Winnebago County, Iowa in the NW ¼ of Section 21, R99N, R23W. CDS operates under the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Sanitary Disposal Permit No. 96-SDP-1-72P and will undergo

routine re-permitting in 2022. The facility accepts MSW, C&D, ISW and special wastes, Friable and Non-Friable Asbestos-containing waste, and petroleum-contaminated soils, and non-hazardous special wastes subject to prior Special Waste Authorizations issued by the IDNR.

According to the 2021 Financial Assurance Report completed by SCS Consultants and submitted to the IDNR, the facility has a remaining permitted tonnage of approximately 29,063,500 tons as of January 1, 2021, with an estimated annual disposal tonnage rate of 187,997 tons. Using these figures, and has reported in the 2021 Financial Assurance Report, the facility has an approximate 154 years remaining operating life.

- Steele County Sanitary Landfill - SW-131: Located at 9420 SE 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917. Steele County Landfill is owned and operated by Steele County and is permitted to accept MSW, C&D, and ISW in accordance with an approved Industrial Solid Waste Management Plan. Solid Waste is primarily from Steele County; however additional waste is received from: Dodge, Freeborn, Rice, Waseca, and Mower counties. This facility operates in accordance with a MPCA Permit: SW-131.

According to the 2021 Annual Report, the Steele County Landfill has a remaining design capacity of 396,124 cubic yards, with an approximate 6 years of remaining operating life for MSW landfilled.

The Steele County Landfill maintains Financial Assurance in the form of a dedicated long-term care trust fund in accordance with their operating permit. According to the 2021 Annual Report, the value of that trust fund was \$2,629,973.

According to the 2021 Annual Report, there were no emergency or corrective actions during the reporting period.

- Nobles County Landfill – SW-11: Located at 24777 220<sup>th</sup> St, Rushmore, MN 56168. Nobles County Landfill is a subsidiary of Waste Connections and is permitted to accept MSW, C&D, and ISW in accordance with an approved Industrial Solid Waste Management Plan. This facility operates in accordance with a MPCA Permit: SW-11.

According to the 2021 Annual Report, the Nobles County Landfill has a remaining design capacity of 2,860,684 cubic yards, with an approximate 44 years of remaining operating life for MSW landfilled.

The Nobles County Landfill maintains Financial Assurance in the form of a surety bond in accordance with their operating permit. According to the 2021 Annual Report, the value

of that bond was \$3,309,113.

**Solid Waste Transfer Station:**

- Austin Transfer Station (103 28<sup>th</sup> St NE, Austin, MN 55912): Approximately half of solid waste collected in Mower County which is not recycled or otherwise processed, is collected by private haulers, and transported to the Austin Transfer Station. Solid waste received at this Transfer Station is transferred to Central Disposal Systems Landfill, Lake Mills Iowa. Austin Transfer Station is owned by the City of Austin and operated by Waste Management. This Transfer Station is permitted to accept: MSW, ISW, waste material containing Cathode-Ray Tubes (CRT’s), Electronic waste (E-waste), and Major Appliances.
- Clarks Grove (Peterson) Transfer Station (County Rd. 25 Clarks Grove, MN 56016): Approximately 3,000 tons of solid waste is delivered to this Transfer Station. Solid waste delivered to this Transfer Station is transferred to Central Disposal Systems Landfill, Lake Mills Iowa.

**Solid Waste Received, Processed, and/or Landfilled during last Five Years:**

Based upon SCORE data, during the past five (5) years, Mower County landfilled on average, 19,571 tons, which is approximately 50 percent of the total waste generated. Below is a graph showing waste landfilled, managed on-site, recycled, and organics management during the past five (5) years.

Year	Landfilled	On-Site	Recycling	Organics	TOTAL	Percent Recycling	Percent Landfilling
2017	20,568	1,238	19,018	141	40,965	46%	50%
2018	16,895	1,207	19,912	835	38,848	51%	43%
2019	15,423	923	16,619	874	33,840	49%	46%
2020	21,032	420	10,761	1,457	33,670	32%	62%
2021	23,936	-	19,295	4,143	47,374	41%	51%

**MSW and Closed landfills within Mower County:**

There are currently no existing MSW landfills operating within the County. However, there are four (4) closed landfills which may have received MSW:

- Hilco Landfill (SW-216)
- Bustad Demolition Landfill (SW-239)
- Red Rock Township landfill
- Windom Township landfill

None of the above closed landfills are included in the MPCA’s Closed Landfill Program.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

There are no current plans to develop or site a MSW landfill in the County.

- The County will educate residents and businesses to promote various initiatives on the importance of waste reduction, recycling, and organics composting to reduce the overall dependance on indiscriminate land disposal of MSW generated.
  - Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

## **4.10 Waste Tire Disposal & Recovery**

**Policies and Goals:**

The County recognizes the importance of proper waste tire management and disposal. The County recently adopted a new Solid Waste Management Ordinance (ORD-21) and has incorporated Minn. Rules Chapter 9220 by reference. Additionally, the County has established waste tire storage standards. The goal of the County is to continue educating the public on the importance of proper waste tire management and storage, and to promote and encourage waste tire recycling.

**Existing Program Description and History:**

Waste tires that are illegally disposed of along County ditches are picked up by the Highway Department staff for proper disposal and recycling. Additionally, township officials collect waste tires illegally disposed along township ditches and are delivered to the County Highway Department; the County Board of Commissioners agreed to accept these waste tires at no cost to the townships for recycling. In addition, most car repair shops, and tire retail stores will accept waste tires for a fee. SKB Lansing Landfill will also accept waste tires for a fee.

Approximately 315 tons of Waste Tires were collected for recycling in 2021. Waste tires collected for recycling are processed at Liberty Tire Recycling, Savage MN. Waste Tire recyclers are licensed in accordance with ORD-21.

There are currently no known unpermitted tire dumps within the County. Any unpermitted tire dumps discovered will be managed in accordance with ORD-21.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- The County will continue to educate residents on the importance of proper management and recycling of waste tires and provide a listing of recycling centers and businesses that accept waste tires and newspapers and shoppers, and County website and Waste Wizard.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

**4.11 Electronic Products**

**Policies and Goals:**

The County recognizes the rapid expansion in technology resulting in increasing amount of electronic waste generation, and the need for proper management and recycling. Electronic wastes

contain toxic materials including, but not limited to, mercury, lead, cadmium, polybrominated flame retardants, barium, chromium, and lithium. If not properly disposed of, electronic waste materials may contaminate the soil, water, and food sources. State programs for electronics requiring manufactures responsibility have had a positive impact in the proper management and recycling of such waste materials.

MN State Statute 115A.9565, and ORD-21 prohibits the placement of electronic products containing cathode-ray-tubes in solid waste containers for disposal.

It is the goal and policy of the County to continue supporting private sector activities for the proper management and recycling of electronic waste materials.

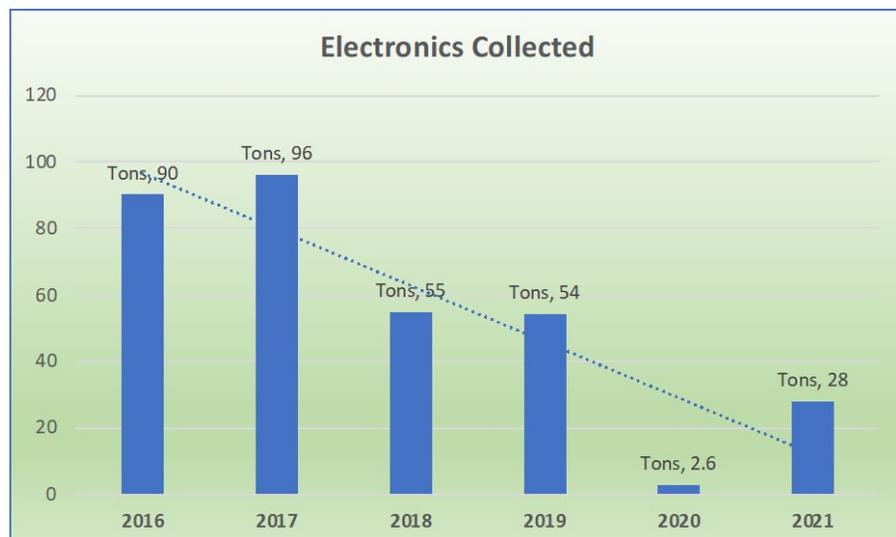
**Existing Program Description and History:**

The County provides for a robust educational program to inform residents and businesses on both the importance of and locations for proper management and recycling of electronic waste materials. Mower County’s Waste Wizard online search tool provides for disposal options.

The City of Austin provides for an annual one-day electronics collection event (usually the first Saturday in May). At times, the County has held its own collection events for electronic waste materials and has also partnered with the city of Austin to facilitate joint collection events.

Additionally, residents may drop-off electronics at the Austin Transfer Station, or at licensed and permitted recycling centers.

Collection events were not held during 2020 due to COVID 19. The adjacent graph shows a downward trend for electronic waste items collected. However, this may not fully represent the amount of electronic waste items being recycled in the County. The County and city of Austin intend to continue with collection events.



ORD-21 requires facilities that except electronics for recycling to be license and provide for reporting; and the County continues to identify such businesses for licensing.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- The County received a \$250,000 grant from the MPCA. Grant monies will be used for an approximate 30’ by 125’ (3,750 square foot) drive through addition onto their Recycling Center to start accepting electronics for recycling. The County will advertise its services at local businesses, brochures, social media, and targeted marketing to reach the underserved community. Language barriers will be addressed.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Continue to educate the public on the importance of proper management of electronic waste items.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Continue providing for electronic waste collection events.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Advocate for a product stewardship program for electronic waste items.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Continue to identify businesses that may be accepting electronic waste items without proper County licensing and bring them into compliance with ORD-21.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

**4.12 Major Appliance Management**

**Policies and Goals:**

The County recognizes the importance of proper management of appliances and other white goods. Improper management can lead to further depletion of the ozone layer due to possible mismanagement of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which were commonly used in earlier air conditioners and refrigerators.

It is the policy and goal of the County to require residents and businesses to properly manage appliances and other white goods through licensed and permitted facilities, in accordance with provisions set forth in ORD-21. Businesses that accept and process major appliances and white goods are required to obtain a County license and MPCA permit.

In recognition of MN State Statute 115A.9561, Section 5.3 of ORD-21 states that no person shall place major appliances in solid waste containers for collection by a hauler or for disposal at a solid

waste facility.

**Existing Program Description and History:**

The County provides for educational outreach programs, informing residents and businesses on proper disposal and recycling options for appliances and other white goods. Mower County’s Waste Wizard online search tool provides for disposal options.

Annual collection events, in partnership with the City of Austin, have been conducted to allow residents to properly dispose of appliances and other white goods. It is the intent of the County to continue with annual collection events. The County will also inform all businesses that accept major appliances and other white goods on the need to obtain proper County licensing and MPCA permitting. In addition, some retail stores will accept used appliances when purchasing new.

Over 20 tons of Major Appliances were collected for recycling in 2021. In addition to arranged public collection events, ORD-21 requires that private businesses that collect major appliances submit Quarterly Reports, which now will provide for more comprehensive reporting during 10-year term of this Plan.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- Continue to educate the public on the importance of proper management of appliances and other white goods.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Continue providing for major appliance and other white goods collection events.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Continue to identify businesses that may be accepting major appliances and other white goods without proper County licensing and bring them into compliance with ORD-21.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

**4.13 Automotive Mercury Switches, Motor Vehicles Fluids and Filters, Lead Acid and Dry Cell Batteries Management**

**Policies and Goals:**

The County recognizes the importance of proper management of lead acid batteries, mercury containing devices, and motor vehicle fluids. Improper management or disposal of mercury, motor vehicle fluids, and/or lead acid batteries can lead to contamination of soils, surface and groundwater.

Section 5.3 of ORD-21 prohibits the disposal of lead acid batteries, rechargeable batteries, dry cell batteries that contain mercuric oxide electrode, silver oxide electrode, nickel-cadmium, or sealed lead-acid, or motor vehicle fluids at a solid waste disposal facility.

It is the policy and goal of the County to inform and require residents and businesses to properly dispose of lead acid batteries, motor vehicle fluids, and automotive mercury switches.

**Existing Program Description and History:**

The County provides for educational outreach programs, informing residents and businesses on proper disposal and recycling options lead acid batteries, motor vehicle fluids, and automotive mercury switches. Mower County’s Waste Wizard online search tool provides for disposal options. Used vehicle batteries are accepted at various retail outlets in the County that sell new

vehicle batteries.

In 2017, the County adopted a new Solid Waste Management Ordinance that requires that salvage yards obtain a county license. This is to ensure the proper storage and management of waste items resulting from salvaging automobiles. The County is in the process of identifying salvage yard businesses for County licensing.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- Continue to educate the public on the importance of proper management of lead acid batteries, motor vehicle fluids, and automotive mercury switches.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Continue to identify salvage yard businesses for proper county licensing in accordance with ORD-21.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

## **4.14 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)**

**Policies and Goals:**

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is defined as waste generated from household activities that is ignitable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive. This may include pesticides, solvents, household cleaners, paints and stains, waste oil, and other such items. Improper disposal of HHW can lead to contamination of soils, surface and groundwater.

It is the policy and goal of the County to educate and inform residents on proper management of HHW, and to provide collection; and to encourage the overall reduction of HHW generated.

**Existing Program Description and History:**

The County operates a Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located in the city of Austin. County residents may drop off their HHW each Wednesday, between the hours of 8AM to NOON, and 1PM to 5PM. The County continues to provide for education on proper management and disposal of HHW is provided through various County papers, radio, and the County’s website.



**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- Continue to provide convenient and accessible HHW disposal to County residents at the facility.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

- Continue to educate residents and businesses through various media outlets, County website and Waste Wizard tool on the proper management of hazardous waste, reduction on usage of hazardous waste substances, and various reuse alternatives.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

**4.15 Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D)**

**Policies and Goals:**

In accordance with ORD-21, all Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) shall first be referred to approved and permitted demolition debris landfills. Stockpiling of concrete, brick, and asphalt at businesses in the asphalt and concrete industry is allowed in a manner that protects the state’s water, air and land resources, and public health.

It is the policy and goal of the County to ensure that all residents and business be informed as to the proper management and disposal of C&D.

**Existing Program Description and History:**

There is one (1) operating landfill in the County that accepts C&D: SKB Lansing Landfill, located at 52906 243<sup>rd</sup> Street, Austin, MN 55912. This facility operates in accordance with a County License and MPCA permit (SW-514). The County conducts regular inspections to ensure compliance with County license and ORD-21.

There are five (5) closed landfills in the County that accepted demolition debris and other waste materials:

- Hilco Landfill (SW-216)
- Bustad Demolition Landfill (SW-239)
- Red Rock Township landfill
- Windom Township landfill
- Ulland Bros Inc/Mentel Pit Demolition Landfill

The County performs periodic site inspections to ensure that final cover is properly maintained, and that illegal disposal is not occurring.

There are no plans for the County to develop, site, or operate a demolition and construction debris landfill.

**Specific Programs to be Developed:**

- Continue to educate and inform residents and businesses on proper management and disposal of C&D.

- Projected Timeline:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Responsible Party: Mower County Solid Waste Officer

**Program Budget:**

A complete County solid waste program budget is located in Appendix C.

## **Section 5.0 Alternatives to Proposed System**

### **5.1 Introduction**

Mower County's proposed management of solid waste is reliant upon the continuation of Central Disposal Systems landfill, located in Lake Mills, Iowa. In the unlikely event that this landfill can no longer accept solid waste generated within the County, the County will promptly identify other regional landfills that may accept solid waste for disposal. Regional landfills could include the Burnsville Landfill, which is owned and operated by Waste Management, and located in Burnsville MN. This landfill is located approximately 88 miles from the Austin Transfer Station. It is noted that direct haul may not be an option and increased transfer of waste would be required.

## Section 6.0 Administration and Other Items

### 6.1 Introduction

The Mower County Public Works Department is responsible for administration of solid waste management programs. This section of the Plan will describe the various administrative components necessary to ensure proper management of solid waste management within the County.

### 6.2 Solid Waste Ordinance

Mower County adopted a new Solid Waste Management Ordinance (ORD-21), May 16, 2017. The purpose and authority of ORD-21 is to establish standards and procedures governing solid waste management; establish solid waste management charges and programs; require licenses and license fees; assure that all individuals are both informed and responsible for their actions regarding solid waste; establish penalties for lack of compliance; all in order to promote the health, welfare and safety of the public, and to protect the environment.

The County maintains licenses, in accordance with ORD-21, on business managing solid waste within the County.

This ordinance will be amended as necessary.

### 6.3 Solid Waste Staffing

Mower County Environmental Services oversees all solid waste management programs within the County. Environmental Services (a division of Public Works) administers Zoning, Individual Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS), Feedlots, and Solid Waste.



There is a total of: 1.51 FTEs responsible for the management of programs as identified within this Plan. The Solid Waste Officer is one (1) FTE, the Environmental Services Supervisor is a 0.06 FTEs, the Environmental Services Technician (HHW) is 0.35 FTEs, and the Assistant Public Works Director is 0.10 FTEs.

There are no anticipated staff changes in the future. Solid Waste staffing needs will be evaluated by the County Board on an ongoing basis to ensure that programs and policies are met.

## **6.4 Solid Waste Program Budget**

The County intends to support solid waste management services by existing funding sources that include:

1. Miscellaneous License Fees and revenues
2. SCORE Grant Funding
3. Revenue generated by recycling sales
4. Solid Waste Service Charge

Appendix C identifies the anticipated funding sources and expenses for solid waste management programs and activities of the next ten-year planning period. Note that it is difficult to project solid waste revenues and expenditures over a ten-year planning period. There are many unknown factors and unforeseeable market variables that influences revenues and expenditures. However, Appendix C provides offers that best estimate for the ten-year planning period.

## **6.5 Goal Volume Table**

The County has developed a Goal Volume table in a format approved by the MPCA. The purpose of the Goal Volume table is to project waste volumes over the ten-year planning period, which is provided as Appendix F. The Goal Volume table also reflects various landfill abatement related initiatives such as waste reduction and recycling goals as noted in Section 4 of this Plan.

## **6.6 Environmental & Public Health Impacts**

The County's solid waste management programs are intended to promote the health, welfare and safety of the public, and to protect the environment. It is the goal of the County to prevent illegal

management and disposal of solid waste materials. This is particularly important knowing that areas of the County have Karst features. Per the United States Geologic Survey (USGS): *“Karst is a terrain with distinctive landforms and hydrology created from the dissolution of soluble rocks, principally limestone and dolomite. Karst terrain is characterized by springs, caves, sinkholes, and a unique hydrogeology that results in aquifers that are highly productive but extremely vulnerable to contamination.”*

County staff respond to solid waste complaints and public health nuisances, and illegal disposal through established enforcement procedures. Voluntary compliance is attempted, but if that method is not obtained, the County Attorney’s office is involved.

Persons who own or operate land used for farming may burn and bury their waste in accordance with provisions set forth in Section 5.2 of ORD-21, and Minn. Stat. §17.135 Farm Disposal of Solid Waste.

## **6.7 Solid Waste Facility Siting Program**

At the time this Plan was being drafted, there were no solid waste facilities proposed. Additionally, there were no proposed expansions of existing solid waste facilities.

ORD-21 requires that all solid waste facilities obtain County license prior to construction or operation. Existing facilities may submit a County Solid Waste Facility Application, for consideration of a License by the County Board. ORD-21 provides for siting criteria and operational requirements.

## **6.8 Plan Review & Ten-Year Update**

Annual review of this Solid Waste Management Plan will be conducted by Environmental Services staff as they prepare the annual solid waste budget and work plan which incorporates goals and initiatives set forth in Section 4 of this plan. If this plan needs to be amended due to significant changes in its programs, during this ten-year planning period, the County will contact the MPCA. This plan will be updated and amended at the end of the ten-year period as required by Minnesota Rules Chapter 9215.0820 and 9215.0830.

# APPENDIX A

Minnesota Employment and Economic Development; Mower County Profile

COUNTY PROFILE

**Mower Co.**

Mower Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 10, which is located in the Southeast Planning Region.



**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

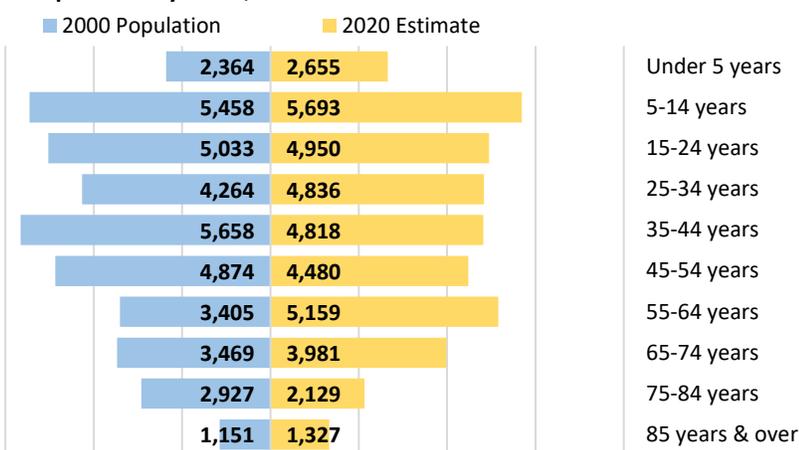
Mower Co.'s population increased this decade, ranking as the 36th fastest growing of the 87 counties in the state from 2010 to 2020. It is now the 26th largest in the state. Mower Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

Current population:	<b>40,029 people</b>
Population change, 2010-2020	866 people 2.2% increase

Median Age:	<b>38.8 years</b>
state:	38.3 years

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	2,655	6.6%
5-14 years	5,693	14.2%
15-24 years	4,950	12.4%
25-34 years	4,836	12.1%
35-44 years	4,818	12.0%
45-54 years	4,480	11.2%
55-64 years	5,159	12.9%
65-74 years	3,981	9.9%
75-84 years	2,129	5.3%
85 years & over	1,327	3.3%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>40,029</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Mower Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2010 to 2019, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Mower Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Components of Population Change, 2010-2019

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Mower Co.	895	1,151	4,726	3,575	-236	1,171	-1,407
State of Minnesota	335,705	250,488	637,356	386,868	88,161	114,414	-26,253

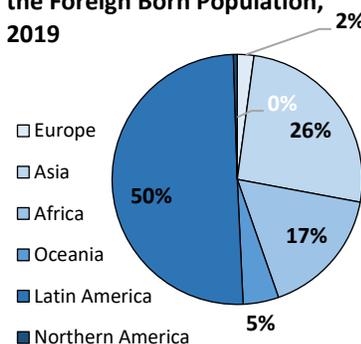
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Compared to the state, Mower Co. has a larger percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2019, Mower Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

	Mower Co.		Change 2010-2019		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>4,605</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>73.3%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>
Europe	99	2.1%	-45	-31.3%	9.9%	4.5%
Asia	1,187	25.8%	844	246.1%	37.5%	30.3%
Africa	770	16.7%	564	273.8%	25.5%	72.0%
Oceania	212	4.6%	209	6966.7%	0.5%	37.2%
Americas:	2,337	50.7%	375	19.1%	26.6%	10.0%
Latin America	2,314	50.2%	379	19.6%	24.1%	12.2%
Northern America	23	0.5%	-4	-14.8%	2.5%	-7.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2019



# COUNTY PROFILE

Mower Co.

Mower Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2000, the county's white population declined, but the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

**Figure 3. Population by Race, 2019**

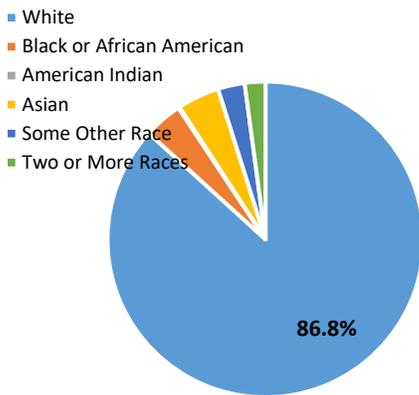


Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2019	Mower Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2000-2019	Percent	Change from 2000-2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,807</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
White	34,533	86.8%	-5.6%	82.8%	4.7%
Black or African American	1,570	3.9%	630.2%	6.4%	107.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	54	0.1%	-18.2%	1.0%	5.5%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	1,716	4.3%	199.0%	4.9%	87.8%
Some Other Race	1,091	2.7%	29.4%	1.9%	58.1%
Two or More Races	843	2.1%	152.4%	3.0%	99.9%
Hispanic or Latino origin	4,611	11.6%	180.1%	5.4%	108.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

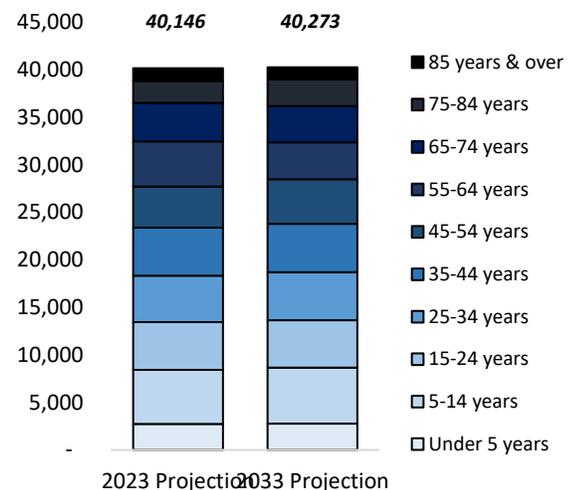
# POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Mower Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2023 to 2033, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (5.6%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2023-2033				
Mower Co.	2023 Projection	2033 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	2,743	2,768	25	0.9%
5-14 years	5,675	5,875	200	3.5%
15-24 years	5,038	5,018	-20	-0.4%
25-34 years	4,886	5,030	144	2.9%
35-44 years	5,055	5,085	30	0.6%
45-54 years	4,312	4,704	392	9.1%
55-64 years	4,735	3,888	-847	-17.9%
65-74 years	4,079	3,799	-280	-6.9%
75-84 years	2,309	2,843	534	23.1%
85 years & over	1,314	1,263	-51	-3.9%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>40,146</b>	<b>40,273</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

**Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2023-2033**



# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Mower Co. has a lower percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (92.4%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Mower Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

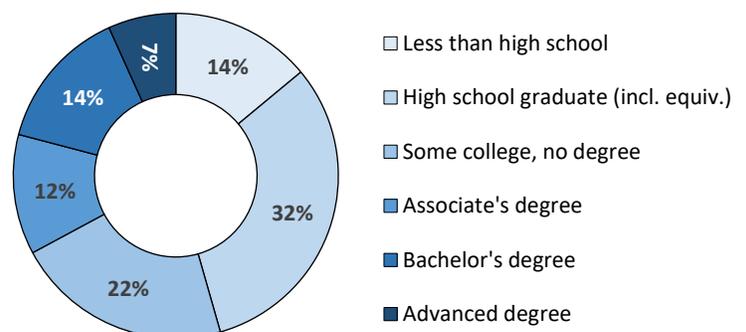
Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:

**86.0%**

College-educated: **54.4%**  
state: 67.1%

Associate's Degree: **11.9%**  
Bachelor's Degree: **14.2%**  
Advanced Degree: **6.7%**

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2019**



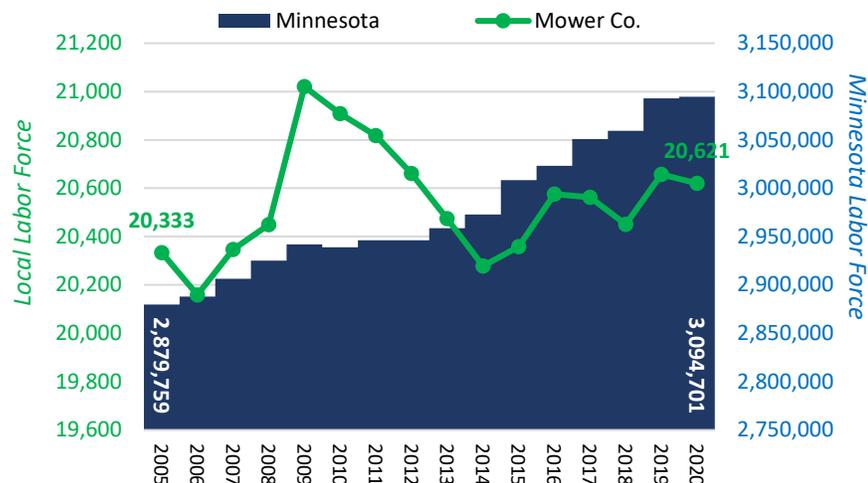
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 4.7%, Mower Co. had a lower unemployment rate than the state in 2020. Due to the pandemic recession Mower Co.'s unemployment rate increased compared to 3.1% in 2019, but was lower than the 6.1% rate posted in 2010. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Mower Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2010.

<b>20,621</b>	available workers
<i>Labor Force change, 2005-2020</i>	288 workers 1.4% increase
<b>4.7%</b>	unemployment rate
6.2%	state
<b>969</b>	unemployed workers

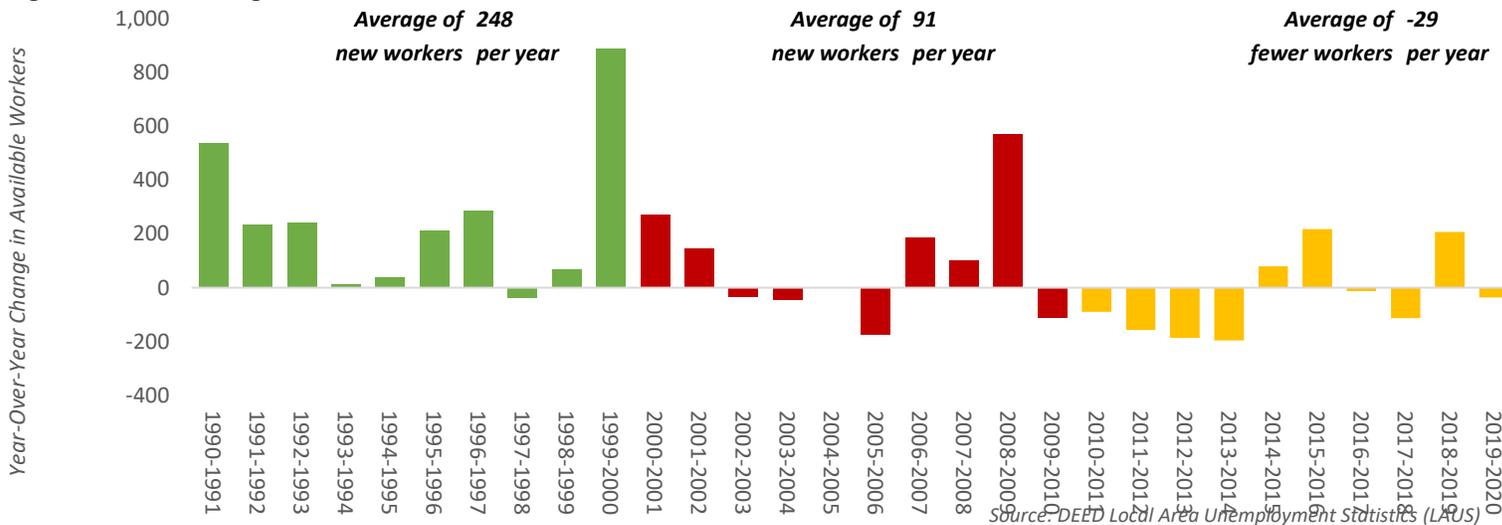
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of 248.4 workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Mower Co. averaged an annual gain of 91.3 new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of -28.7 fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Mower Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2023 to 2033 (see Table 6).

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2020



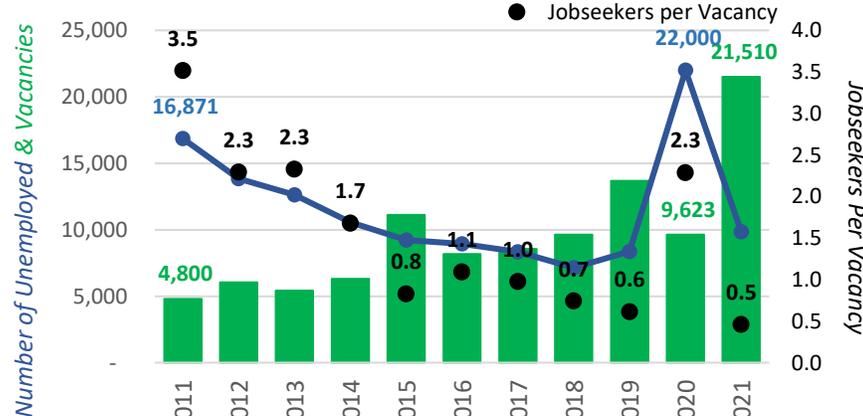
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

	Labor Force Projection	
	2023	2033
16 to 24 years	3,022	3,011
25 to 54 years	12,243	12,726
55 to 64 years	3,345	2,747
65 years & over	1,372	1,321
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>19,982</b>	<b>19,805</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession intervened in early 2020 and the number of unemployed workers spiked. However, by the second quarter of 2021, job vacancies in Southeast reached new highs, quickly bringing back challenges in finding new workers (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2011-2021



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

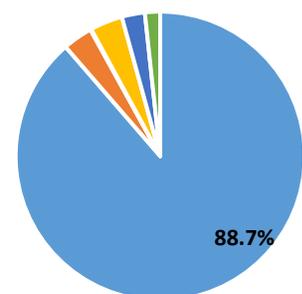
**LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

Mower Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Mower Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 84.8% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

**Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2019**

	Mower Co.			Minnesota		Mower Co.	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>19,994</b>	<b>64.6%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>69.7%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>10,773</b>	<b>9,219</b>
16 to 19 years	1,068	54.0%	20.9%	53.2%	11.0%	491	578
20 to 24 years	1,699	79.6%	3.9%	84.6%	6.0%	837	862
25 to 44 years	8,369	86.3%	3.4%	88.8%	3.2%	4,680	3,687
45 to 54 years	3,949	85.0%	1.6%	87.6%	2.7%	2,020	1,927
55 to 64 years	3,664	70.7%	1.9%	73.0%	2.8%	2,021	1,643
65 to 74 years	1,030	28.4%	1.7%	27.9%	2.2%	645	385
75 years & over	217	5.9%	7.4%	6.6%	2.4%	79	137
<b>Employment Characteristics by Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone	17,735	64.2%	3.2%	69.3%	3.0%		
Black or African American	664	69.5%	4.5%	71.3%	8.8%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	22	62.9%	0.0%	58.9%	12.6%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	729	67.7%	3.0%	71.2%	4.3%		
Some Other Race	516	72.6%	12.4%	77.7%	6.1%		
Two or More Races	340	62.0%	17.6%	73.6%	7.4%		
Hispanic or Latino	1,925	67.6%	11.2%	76.5%	6.1%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Disability</b>							
With Any Disability	1,124	50.6%	15.8%	53.0%	8.6%		
<b>Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment</b>							
Population, 25 to 64 years	15,976	81.8%	2.6%	84.5%	3.0%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	1,694	67.8%	2.8%	66.3%	4.2%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	4,428	80.3%	3.4%	78.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	6,082	87.0%	2.4%	85.3%	3.0%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	3,776	83.4%	0.4%	90.0%	1.7%		

**Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2019**



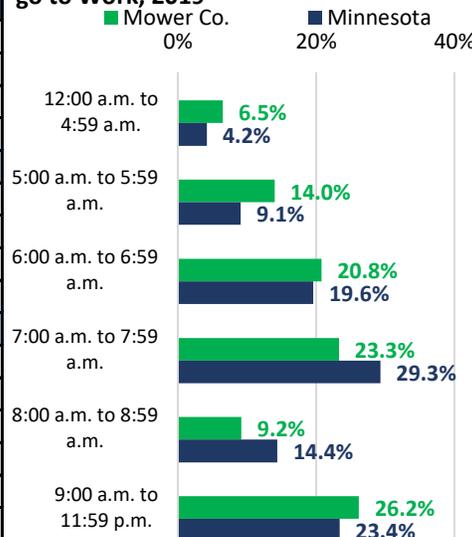
- White alone
- Black or African American
- American Indian & Alaska Native
- Asian or Other Pac. Islanders
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

A larger percentage of workers in Mower Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Mower Co. also had a shorter average commute time than the state.

<b>Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2019</b>	Mower Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	18,459	97.9%	2,837,697	97.6%
Worked in county of residence	13,953	74.0%	1,846,247	63.5%
Worked out of county of residence	4,506	23.9%	991,449	34.1%
Worked outside state of residence	396	2.1%	69,779	2.4%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	17,101	90.7%	2,506,244	86.2%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	358	1.9%	101,762	3.5%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	773	4.1%	125,021	4.3%
Worked at home	641	3.4%	171,541	5.9%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	6,957	36.9%	456,474	15.7%
10 to 19 minutes	5,713	30.3%	872,243	30.0%
20 to 29 minutes	2,036	10.8%	645,460	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	2,131	11.3%	575,680	19.8%
45 to 59 minutes	1,301	6.9%	194,801	6.7%
60 or more minutes	716	3.8%	162,819	5.6%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>18.2 minutes</b>		<b>23.7 minutes</b>	

**Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2019**



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

**INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING**

Mower Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Mower Co. had the 62nd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

**Median Household Income** **\$54,295**

state \$71,306

**Median Family Income** **\$70,685**

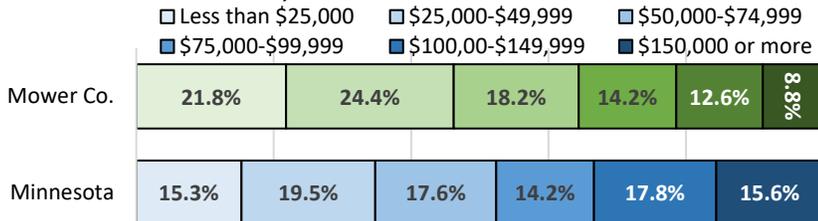
state \$89,842

**Per Capita Income** **\$29,720**

state \$37,625

*Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey*

**Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2019**



*Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*

Mower Co. also had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$13.6 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$15.09 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

**Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2020**

Single Adult, 0 children	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Mower Co.	\$28,293	\$13.60	\$0	\$350	\$163	\$595	\$680	\$259	\$311
State of Minnesota	\$32,964	\$15.85	\$0	\$355	\$153	\$832	\$704	\$325	\$378
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1 working full-time, 1 part-time), 1 child	Family Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Mower Co.	\$47,084	\$15.09	\$248	\$800	\$519	\$798	\$789	\$438	\$332
State of Minnesota	\$58,800	\$18.85	\$546	\$810	\$549	\$1,069	\$819	\$515	\$592

*Source: DEED Cost of Living tool*

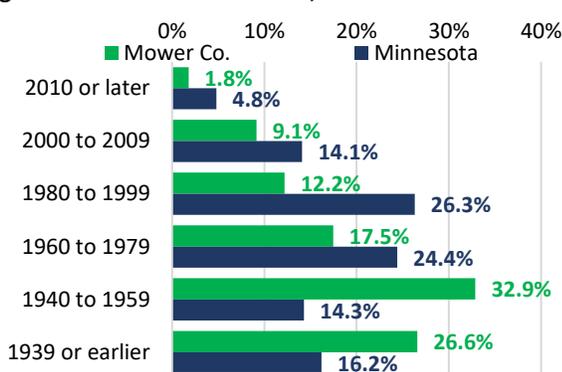
Mower Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 64th highest value of the 87 counties in 2019. Mower Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

**Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2019**

	Mower Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,359</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	760	6.7%	4.6%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	3,661	32.2%	7.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,410	21.2%	12.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,569	13.8%	17.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	1,620	14.3%	28.1%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	998	8.8%	21.5%
\$500,000 or more	341	3.0%	7.9%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$123,900</b>		<b>\$223,900</b>

*Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates*

**Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2019**



**Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage** **\$1,129**

state \$1,580

**Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs** **24.0%**

state 21.8%

**Median monthly rent costs** **\$716**

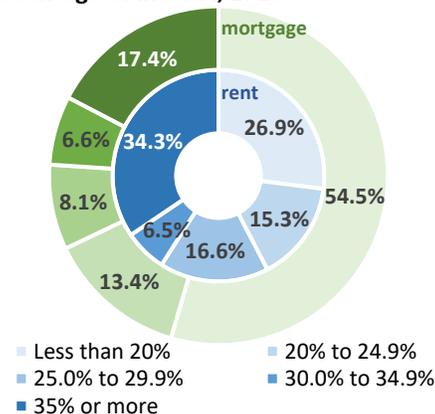
state \$977

**Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent** **40.8%**

state 45.1%

*Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates*

**Figure 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2019**



OCCUPATIONS

At \$21.13 in 2021, wages were lower in Region 10 than the state. Overall, Region 10 had the 3rd highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$44.47) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$12.72) (see Table 11).

Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2021

Occupational Group	Region 10				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	Regional Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	State-wide Jobs	Share of Total Jobs
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>\$21.13</b>	<b>231,950</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>	<b>2,708,760</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$44.47	10,040	4.3%	0.7	\$54.22	164,530	6.1%
Business & Financial Operations	\$31.11	9,040	3.9%	0.6	\$35.24	179,670	6.6%
Computer & Mathematical	\$42.07	4,370	1.9%	0.5	\$44.89	98,240	3.6%
Architecture & Engineering	\$35.77	2,590	1.1%	0.6	\$38.90	54,880	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$32.57	1,360	0.6%	0.6	\$35.48	26,120	1.0%
Community & Social Service	\$25.05	4,230	1.8%	0.9	\$24.21	55,630	2.1%
Legal	\$32.89	840	0.4%	0.5	\$41.02	19,760	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$24.41	13,240	5.7%	1.0	\$24.64	159,060	5.9%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$21.50	2,060	0.9%	0.7	\$25.72	36,260	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$36.88	33,220	14.3%	2.1	\$36.90	188,210	6.9%
Healthcare Support	\$16.22	15,580	6.7%	1.2	\$15.52	157,140	5.8%
Protective Service	\$23.99	3,250	1.4%	0.9	\$24.18	42,520	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$12.72	17,370	7.5%	1.0	\$13.34	195,120	7.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$15.11	7,320	3.2%	1.1	\$16.14	74,550	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$14.39	4,440	1.9%	1.0	\$14.57	51,660	1.9%
Sales & Related	\$15.31	20,270	8.7%	0.9	\$16.83	250,430	9.2%
Office & Administrative Support	\$19.02	24,450	10.5%	0.8	\$20.93	338,050	12.5%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$17.88	370	0.2%	1.0	\$18.14	4,230	0.2%
Construction & Extraction	\$27.22	8,730	3.8%	1.0	\$29.84	102,390	3.8%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$23.34	8,370	3.6%	1.0	\$25.45	98,840	3.6%
Production	\$19.15	23,850	10.3%	1.4	\$19.82	202,240	7.5%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$18.44	16,980	7.3%	0.9	\$18.83	209,210	7.7%

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2021

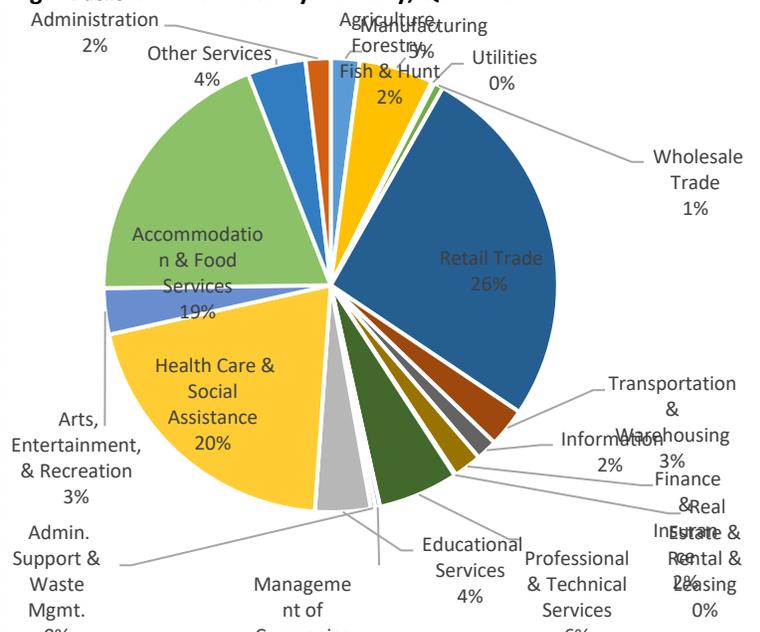
JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Mower Co. is a part of the Southeast planning region. There were 21510 job vacancies posted by employers in the 2nd Quarter of 2021, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Southeast Job Vacancy Survey Results, Qtr. 2 2021

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>21,510</b>	<b>\$16.01</b>
Management	842	\$27.78
Business & Financial Operations	775	\$31.14
Computer & Mathematical	132	\$27.72
Architecture & Engineering	71	\$26.48
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	192	\$22.16
Community & Social Service	123	\$23.51
Education, Training & Library	760	\$17.34
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,232	\$23.27
Healthcare Support	982	\$13.76
Protective Service	158	\$13.83
Food Preparation & Serving Related	3,795	\$13.11
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	607	\$15.10
Personal Care & Service	896	\$14.92
Sales & Related	2,423	\$14.00
Office & Administrative Support	679	\$16.84
Construction & Extraction	2,699	\$16.01
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	1,012	\$18.76
Production	761	\$15.76
Transportation & Material Moving	2,686	\$15.73

Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, Qtr. 2 2021



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Southeast Occupations in Demand, 2020

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$28,180	Nursing Assistants \$34,626	Registered Nurses \$76,167	Pharmacists \$144,197
Retail Salespersons \$26,360	Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics \$39,334	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians \$35,768	Physicians, All Other; and Ophthalmologists, Except Pediatric NA
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$45,900	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$48,401	Surgical Technologists \$59,643	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$39,037
Construction Laborers \$46,802	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$42,494	Computer Network Support Specialists \$62,932	Nurse Practitioners \$124,871
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$30,833	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists \$26,439	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$65,812	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists \$52,769
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, \$36,994	Medical Assistants \$43,323	Web Developers and Digital Interface Designers \$57,164	Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and \$99,331
Stockers and Order Fillers \$30,903	Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians \$46,627	Agricultural and Food Science Technicians \$40,741	Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists \$81,964
Operating Engineers and Other Construction \$59,556	Electricians \$62,918	Calibration Technologists and Technicians and Engineering \$55,848	Pediatricians, General \$208,174
Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products \$29,190	Health Information Technologists, Medical Registrars, Surgical Assistants, and \$91,349	Medical Equipment Repairers \$67,813	Rehabilitation Counselors \$41,342
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$41,483	Outdoor Power Equipment and Other Small Engine Mechanics \$34,413	Electro-Mechanical and Mechatronics Technologists and \$56,901	Education Administrators, Kindergarten through Secondary \$97,625

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

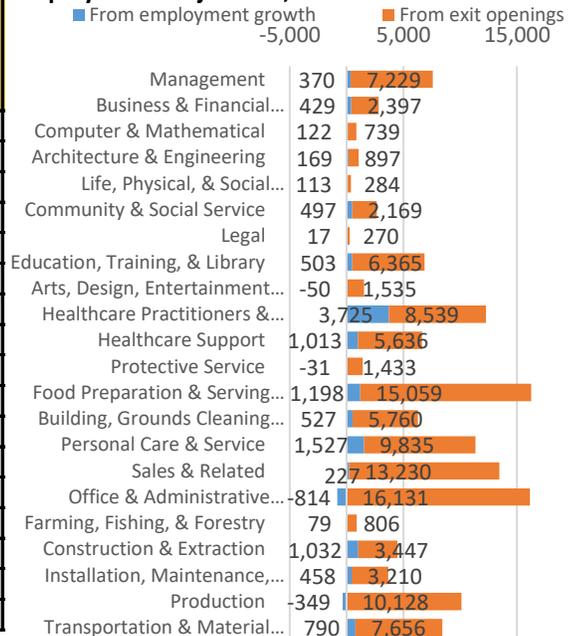
Mower Co. is a part of the Southeast planning region, which is projected to see a 4.6% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2018-2028

Southeast Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2018	Projected Employment 2028	Percent Change 2018-2028
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>273,458</b>	<b>285,010</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	3,253	3,457	6.3%
Utilities	1,204	1,147	-4.7%
Construction	9,146	10,359	13.3%
Manufacturing	38,571	38,221	-0.9%
Wholesale Trade	7,274	7,451	2.4%
Retail Trade	26,683	26,685	0.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,905	8,578	8.5%
Information	3,484	3,352	-3.8%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	7,657	7,664	0.1%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	6,816	7,069	3.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	8,526	9,229	8.2%
Educational Services	20,851	21,190	1.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	64,634	72,782	12.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	23,658	24,140	2.0%
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	9,197	9,073	-1.3%
Public Administration	14,438	14,635	1.4%

Source: DEED 2018-2028 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2018-2028



**ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Due to the pandemic recession, after losing jobs over the past year, Mower Co. had the 25th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Mower Co. was the 14th fastest growing in the past year and the 37th fastest growing since 2015. From 2015 to 2020, employers in Mower Co. cut jobs, but lagged the state.

**867** business establishments

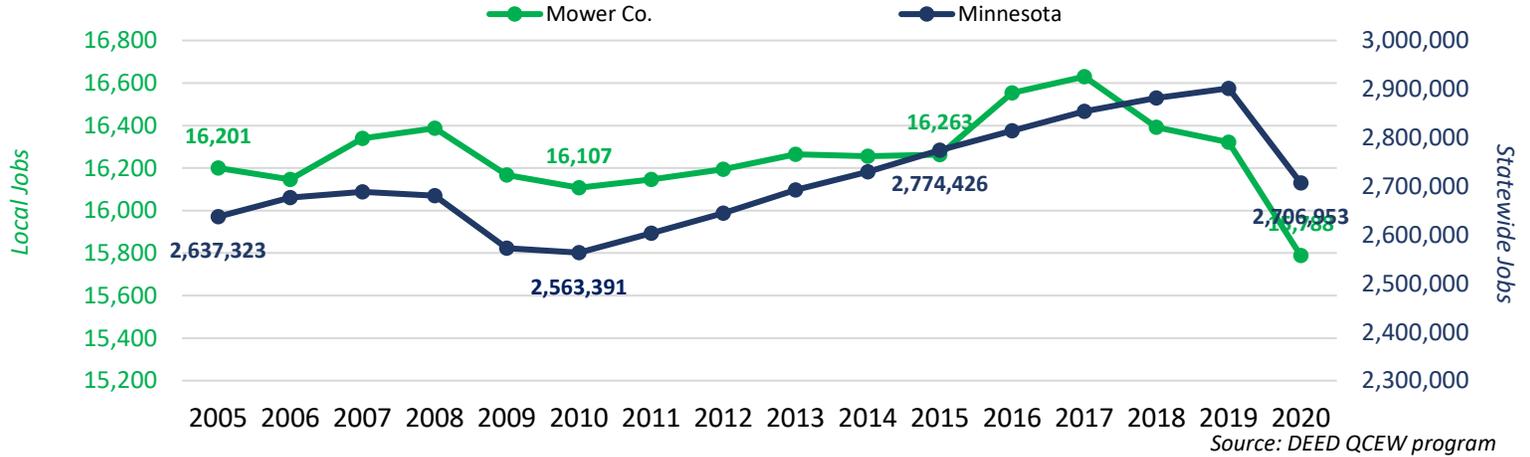
**\$52,254** annual average wage

**15,788** jobs

**\$824,983,524** total industry payroll

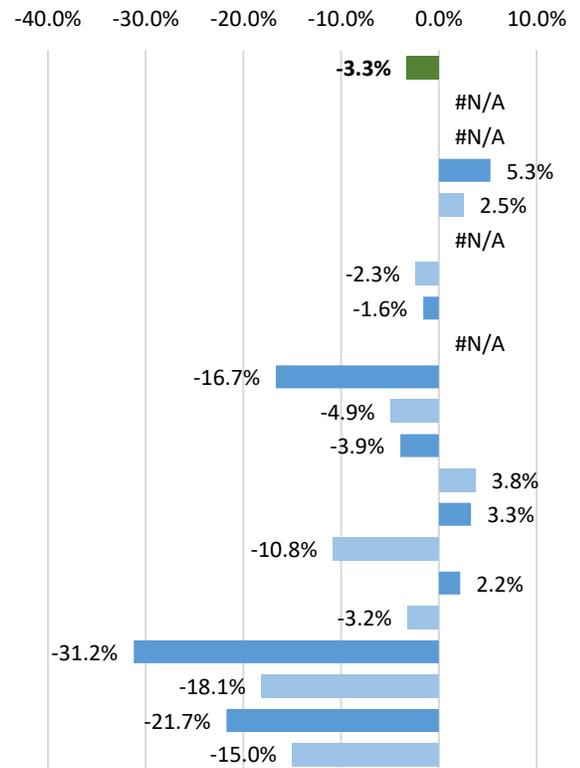
Job change, 2015-2020  
-475 jobs  
-2.9% decline

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2020



Industry	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>15,788</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$52,254</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Mining	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Construction	579	3.7%	\$58,295
Manufacturing	3,648	23.1%	\$52,766
Utilities	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Wholesale Trade	499	3.2%	\$106,869
Retail Trade	1,665	10.5%	\$25,540
Transportation & Warehousing	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Information	170	1.1%	\$41,747
Finance & Insurance	251	1.6%	\$61,536
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	73	0.5%	\$35,206
Professional & Technical Services	193	1.2%	\$46,857
Management of Companies	1,000	6.3%	\$144,048
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	561	3.6%	\$37,893
Educational Services	1,589	10.1%	\$48,001
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,734	17.3%	\$45,692
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	108	0.7%	\$17,174
Accommodation & Food Services	871	5.5%	\$16,664
Other Services	425	2.7%	\$23,672
Public Administration	676	4.3%	\$53,408

Figure 2. Change in Jobs, 2019-2020



**For more information on Mower Co.'s population, labor force, and economic trends, contact:**

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 web: [www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/](http://www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/)

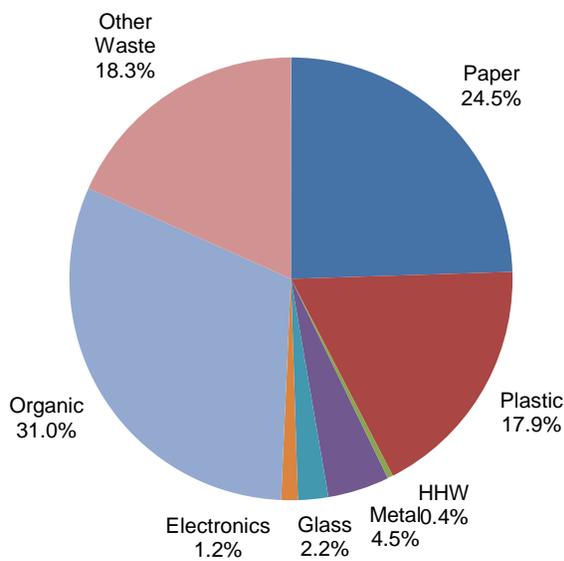
# APPENDIX B

2013 Statewide Waste Characterization Study

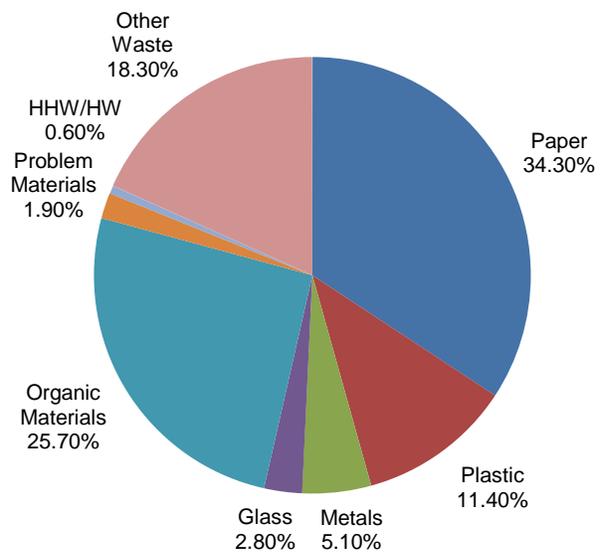
**Table 4-6: Comparison of 2013 to the 2000 Statewide Waste Characterization Results (by Weight)**

Primary Material Category	2013 Statewide	2000 Statewide
Paper	24.5%	34.3%
Plastic	17.9%	11.4%
Metals	4.5%	5.1%
Glass	2.2%	2.8%
Organic Materials	31.0%	25.7%
Problem Materials/Electronics	1.2%	1.9%
HHW/HW	.4%	0.6%
Other Waste	18.3%	18.3%

Notes: The total may not equal the sum of the material categories due to rounding. The Problem Materials/Electronics, HHW/HW, and Other Waste categories have slightly different material definitions in the 2013 Study as compared to the 2000 Study. The material category of Other Waste includes but is not limited to bulky items, textiles, carpet, and other items not classified in the other categories.



**Figure 4-2: 2013 Statewide Waste Characterization Results (by weight)**



**Figure 4-3: 2000 Statewide Waste Characterization Results (by weight)**

# APPENDIX C

Ten Year Solid Waste Program Budget

# Appendix C

## Mower County Estimated 10 Year Solid Waste Program Budget

YEAR	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	5 Year Total	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	5 Year Total	10 Year Total
<b>REVENUES (1% annual increase)</b>													
	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Estimate</i>											
SCORE Grant	\$ 114,000	\$ 115,140	\$ 116,291	\$ 117,454	\$ 118,629	\$ 581,515	\$ 119,815	\$ 121,013	\$ 122,223	\$ 123,446	\$ 124,680	\$ 611,178	\$ 1,192,692
License Fees	\$ 825	\$ 833	\$ 842	\$ 850	\$ 858	\$ 4,208	\$ 867	\$ 876	\$ 885	\$ 893	\$ 902	\$ 4,423	\$ 8,631
Annual SWF License Fees	\$ 3,950	\$ 3,990	\$ 4,029	\$ 4,070	\$ 4,110	\$ 20,149	\$ 4,151	\$ 4,193	\$ 4,235	\$ 4,277	\$ 4,320	\$ 21,177	\$ 41,326
HOST FEES	\$ 76,000	\$ 76,760	\$ 77,528	\$ 78,303	\$ 79,086	\$ 387,676	\$ 79,877	\$ 80,676	\$ 81,482	\$ 82,297	\$ 83,120	\$ 407,452	\$ 795,128
Recycling Sales	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,800	\$ 81,608	\$ 82,424	\$ 83,248	\$ 408,080	\$ 84,081	\$ 84,922	\$ 85,771	\$ 86,629	\$ 87,495	\$ 428,897	\$ 836,977
PaintCare Pymt	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,090	\$ 9,181	\$ 9,273	\$ 9,365	\$ 45,909	\$ 9,459	\$ 9,554	\$ 9,649	\$ 9,746	\$ 9,843	\$ 48,251	\$ 94,160
Special Assessments	\$ 910,000	\$ 919,100	\$ 928,291	\$ 937,574	\$ 946,950	\$ 4,641,915	\$ 956,419	\$ 965,983	\$ 975,643	\$ 985,400	\$ 995,254	\$ 4,878,699	\$ 9,520,613
State PCA Grant	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,070	\$ 7,141	\$ 7,212	\$ 7,284	\$ 35,707	\$ 7,357	\$ 7,431	\$ 7,505	\$ 7,580	\$ 7,656	\$ 37,528	\$ 73,235
<b>Total Program Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,200,775</b>	<b>\$ 1,212,783</b>	<b>\$ 1,224,911</b>	<b>\$ 1,237,160</b>	<b>\$ 1,249,531</b>	<b>\$ 6,125,159</b>	<b>\$ 1,262,027</b>	<b>\$ 1,274,647</b>	<b>\$ 1,287,393</b>	<b>\$ 1,300,267</b>	<b>\$ 1,313,270</b>	<b>\$ 6,437,604</b>	<b>\$ 12,562,763</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES: 1 Percent Annual Increase</b>													
	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Estimate</i>											
Solid Waste Reduction	\$ 7,569	\$ 7,645	\$ 7,721	\$ 7,798	\$ 7,876	\$ 38,610	\$ 7,955	\$ 8,035	\$ 8,115	\$ 8,196	\$ 8,278	\$ 40,579	\$ 79,188
Solid Waste Education	\$ 15,265	\$ 15,418	\$ 15,572	\$ 15,728	\$ 15,885	\$ 77,867	\$ 16,044	\$ 16,204	\$ 16,366	\$ 16,530	\$ 16,695	\$ 81,839	\$ 159,706
Recycling	\$ 919,833	\$ 929,031	\$ 938,322	\$ 947,705	\$ 957,182	\$ 4,692,073	\$ 966,754	\$ 976,421	\$ 986,185	\$ 996,047	\$ 1,006,008	\$ 4,931,416	\$ 9,623,488
Yard Waste Programs	\$ 3,035	\$ 3,065	\$ 3,096	\$ 3,127	\$ 3,158	\$ 15,482	\$ 3,190	\$ 3,222	\$ 3,254	\$ 3,286	\$ 3,319	\$ 16,271	\$ 31,753
Source Separated Organic Materials	\$ 2,035	\$ 2,055	\$ 2,076	\$ 2,097	\$ 2,118	\$ 10,381	\$ 10,484	\$ 10,589	\$ 10,695	\$ 10,802	\$ 10,910	\$ 53,481	\$ 63,861
MSW Composting	\$ 2,035	\$ 2,055	\$ 2,075	\$ 2,096	\$ 2,117	\$ 10,378	\$ 2,138	\$ 2,160	\$ 2,181	\$ 2,203	\$ 2,225	\$ 10,907	\$ 21,285
Solid Waste Incineration and Recovery <sup>1</sup>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste <sup>2</sup>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Waste Tire Disposal & Recovery	\$ 2,035	\$ 2,055	\$ 2,075	\$ 2,096	\$ 2,117	\$ 10,378	\$ 2,138	\$ 2,160	\$ 2,181	\$ 2,203	\$ 2,225	\$ 10,907	\$ 21,285
Electronic Products	\$ 5,069	\$ 5,120	\$ 5,171	\$ 5,223	\$ 5,275	\$ 25,857	\$ 5,328	\$ 5,381	\$ 5,435	\$ 5,489	\$ 5,544	\$ 27,176	\$ 53,033
Major Appliance Management	\$ 4,069	\$ 4,110	\$ 4,151	\$ 4,192	\$ 4,234	\$ 20,756	\$ 4,277	\$ 4,319	\$ 4,363	\$ 4,406	\$ 4,450	\$ 21,815	\$ 42,571
Automotive Mercury Switches, Motor Vehicle Fluids & Filters, Lead Acid Batteries & Dry Cell Batteries Mgmt.	\$ 1,082	\$ 1,093	\$ 1,104	\$ 1,115	\$ 1,126	\$ 5,519	\$ 1,137	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,160	\$ 1,172	\$ 1,183	\$ 5,801	\$ 11,320
Household Hazardous Waste Mgmt	\$ 57,050	\$ 57,621	\$ 58,197	\$ 58,779	\$ 59,366	\$ 291,012	\$ 59,960	\$ 60,560	\$ 61,165	\$ 61,777	\$ 62,395	\$ 305,857	\$ 596,869
Construction & Demolition Debris <sup>3</sup>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Personnel Services (1.52 FTEs)	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,390	\$ 39,784	\$ 40,182	\$ 40,584	\$ 198,939	\$ 40,989	\$ 41,399	\$ 41,813	\$ 42,231	\$ 42,654	\$ 209,087	\$ 408,026
Services and Charges (consultants, etc.)	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,650	\$ 66,307	\$ 66,970	\$ 67,639	\$ 331,565	\$ 68,316	\$ 68,999	\$ 69,689	\$ 70,386	\$ 71,090	\$ 348,478	\$ 680,044
<b>Total Program Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,123,076</b>	<b>\$ 1,134,307</b>	<b>\$ 1,145,650</b>	<b>\$ 1,157,106</b>	<b>\$ 1,168,677</b>	<b>\$ 5,728,816</b>	<b>\$ 1,180,364</b>	<b>\$ 1,192,168</b>	<b>\$ 1,204,089</b>	<b>\$ 1,216,130</b>	<b>\$ 1,228,292</b>	<b>\$ 6,021,044</b>	<b>\$ 11,749,860</b>
<b>NET BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 77,699</b>	<b>\$ 78,476</b>	<b>\$ 79,261</b>	<b>\$ 80,053</b>	<b>\$ 80,854</b>	<b>\$ 396,343</b>	<b>\$ 81,662</b>	<b>\$ 82,479</b>	<b>\$ 83,304</b>	<b>\$ 84,137</b>	<b>\$ 84,978</b>	<b>\$ 416,560</b>	<b>\$ 812,903</b>
<b>Projected Total Waste (Assume 1% Annual Increase)</b>	<b>79,417</b>	<b>80,211</b>	<b>81,013</b>	<b>81,823</b>	<b>82,642</b>	<b>405,107</b>	<b>\$ 83,468</b>	<b>84,303</b>	<b>85,146</b>	<b>85,997</b>	<b>86,857</b>	<b>425,771</b>	<b>830,878</b>
<b>Estimated Annual Cost per Ton of Waste</b>	<b>\$ 14.14</b>												
<b>Total Projected Households (Mower County Profile 2020)</b>	<b>15,750</b>	<b>16,223</b>	<b>16,709</b>	<b>17,210</b>	<b>17,727</b>		<b>\$ 17,904</b>	<b>19,160</b>	<b>20,416</b>	<b>21,672</b>	<b>48,110</b>		
<b>Estimated Annual Cost Per Household</b>	<b>\$ 71.31</b>	<b>\$ 69.92</b>	<b>\$ 68.56</b>	<b>\$ 67.23</b>	<b>\$ 65.93</b>		<b>\$ 65.93</b>	<b>\$ 62.22</b>	<b>\$ 58.98</b>	<b>\$ 56.12</b>	<b>\$ 25.53</b>		

<sup>1</sup>The County does not own or operate a MSW Incineration Facility nor is any of the County's MSW being processed at an Incineration Facility.

<sup>2</sup>The County doesn't own and operate a MSW Land Disposal Facility. Ordinance enforcement costs for land disposal facilities are reflected in Personnel Services and Services and Charges.

<sup>3</sup>The County does not own and operate a C&D Landfill Facility. Ordinance enforcement costs are reflected in Personnel Services and Services and Charges.

# APPENDIX D

Mower County Solid Waste Management Ordinance ORD-21 can be found at the following website:

<https://mn-mowercounty.civicplus.com/203/Ordinances>

# APPENDIX E

Mower County Solid Waste Management Staff Time

# Appendix E

Employee	Solid Waste Officer	SW/Feedlot Technician	ES Supervisor	Assistant Public Works Dir.
<b>Tasks</b>				
<i>Source Reduction</i>	0.1			
<i>Education</i>	0.1			
<i>Recycling</i>	0.1			
<i>Yard Waste</i>	0.1			
<i>Source Separated Organics</i>	0.1			
<i>Energy Recovery</i>	0			
<i>Land Disposal</i>	0.1			
<i>C&amp;D</i>	0.1			
<i>Waste Tire</i>	0.01			
<i>Electronics</i>	0.01	0.1		
<i>Appliance Management</i>	0.01	0.05		
<i>Automotive fluids, mercury switches, Batteries, etc.</i>	0.06	0.1		
<i>HHW Management</i>	0.1	0.1		
<i>Ordinance Administration</i>	0.11		0.06	0.02
<i>Solid Waste Department Administration</i>				0.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.10</b>

# APPENDIX F

Goal Volume Table



520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

## County goal volume table template for solid waste planning

**Instructions:** Please copy and paste the file sent to you by your MPCA Solid Waste Planner in the fields below. Only fill out the **yellow-highlighted fields**. Please email this completed form to your MPCA Solid Waste Planner.

If you have any questions please see the **Contact information tab below for contact information**.

Copy and paste the GVT file in the table below.

County Mower

**MSW Forecast**

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Recycling	10,795	10,809	10,821	10,832	10,841	10,848	10,853	10,856	10,856	10,854
Organics	1,461	1,463	1,465	1,466	1,468	1,469	1,469	1,470	1,470	1,469
WTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landfill	21,097	21,125	21,149	21,170	21,188	21,201	21,211	21,216	21,217	21,213
Total Tons	33,353	33,397	33,436	33,469	33,496	33,518	33,533	33,541	33,542	33,536
Total Population	40,093	40,146	40,192	40,232	40,265	40,291	40,309	40,319	40,320	40,313
Per Capita	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83

Enter the percent of MSW by Sector - this must add to 100%

Residential	66%
C/I/I	34%

**Onsite Disposal** - Estimate of people underserved by garbage collection/drop-sites for use in calculating on-site disposal

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of People underserved	1000	1000	950	900	900	850	850	850	850	800

**Non-MMSW/Industrial Waste Projections (in Tons)**

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Industrial	42225	33000	33000	33000	33000	33000	33000	34000	34000	34000
Construction & Demolition	33939	32000	32000	32000	33000	33000	33000	33000	34000	34000





520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

## County goal volume table template for solid waste planning

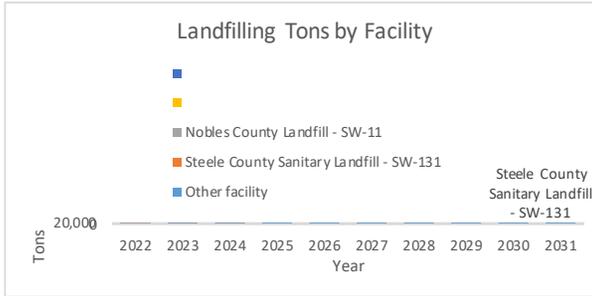
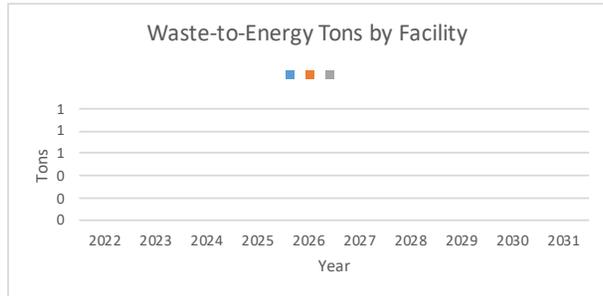
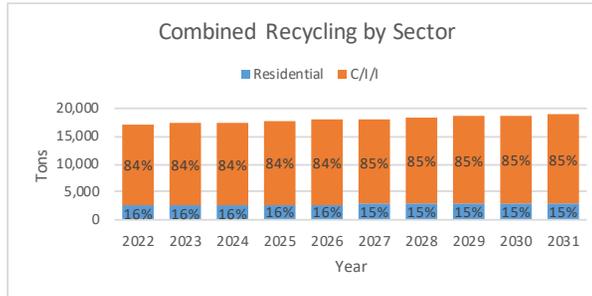
Below is the contact information for planner associated with your county. If you have any questions regarding the information requested in the form or need any additional clarification please contact them.

<b>Planner</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Ben Crowell	ben.crowell@state.mn.us	507-476-4261

## County goal volume table template for solid waste planning

### Summary of Goal Volume Table for Mower County

Solid Waste Planner: Ben Crowell



#### Total land disposal capacity needed for waste generated in county

Waste Type	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
MSW	17,146	16,985	16,816	16,635	16,446	16,246	16,037	15,817	15,585	15,345	163,058
Industrial	44,447	34,737	34,737	34,737	34,737	34,737	34,737	35,789	35,789	35,789	360,237
Construction & Demolition	45,252	42,667	42,667	42,667	44,000	44,000	44,000	44,000	45,333	45,333	439,919
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>106,846</b>	<b>94,388</b>	<b>94,219</b>	<b>94,038</b>	<b>95,183</b>	<b>94,983</b>	<b>94,774</b>	<b>95,607</b>	<b>96,708</b>	<b>96,467</b>	<b>963,213</b>

The total land disposal capacity needed from the period of 2022 to 2031 is 963,213 cubic yards

# APPENDIX G

Tires, Appliances, Electronics, and Battery Recycling five (5) Year History in Tons

**Appendix G: Tire, Appliance, Electronics, and Battery Recycling 5-Year History in Tons**

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tires					
Appliances					
Electronics	90	96	55	54.3	2.6
Lead Acid Batteries	12	13	15.12		10.2