

RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: Minnesota

Agency Name: Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance

Contact Name
and Information: Mark Rust 651-215-0198
mark.rust@moea.state.mn.us

1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.

Voluntary

2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?

Yes, Minn. Stat. 115A.551 and 552

3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?

Yes, state goal. Same citation as #2.

4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).

Please view our annual publication. Our latest version is online called the "Report on 2002 SCORE Programs" at www.moea.state.mn.us. In general, our recycling rate and report measure MSW so C&D and industrial wastes are not included. We do have a credit system in place for yard waste recycling and source reduction efforts. These are also described in our report.

5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?

Yes they are for the overall state recycling rate but we also break out tons by sector and discuss them in our report.

6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)

Our overall rate for calendar year 2002 (our most recent report) was 46.6% w/ the credits for yard waste and source reduction w/ a base rate of 39%.

7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?

Minn. Stat. 115A.552 talks about the minimum requirements for counties to fulfill for recycling, community size requirements, etc. Approx. 75% of the state has access to curbside recycling but a significant amount also is collected through rural drop off sites.

8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?

Yes but the systems vary quite a bit and identifying one "successful" system is pretty difficult to answer.

9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?

The biggest source of funding comes from the SCORE Grant Program (governor's Select Committee On Recycling and the Environment). Counties annually get grant money (based on certain requirements that can be found in the citations already listed) w/ a total base for the state of \$12.5 million/year. Minimum awards are currently \$49,500 which must be matched by 25% from local government sources. This money goes to the county which can then decide to use it themselves or pass it through to other local units of government, etc. for approved purposes. The state also provides other various grant programs that cover a range of topics but do go to support capital investment in facilities, pilot projects, etc.

10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?

I'm not sure what you're looking for here. If you mean does our agency help counties, businesses, residents, etc. w/ recycling questions, technical assistance, etc. on recycling issues, yes we do that sort of thing. If you mean does our state or agency have its own recycling program in house, yes we do and there are mandates for public entities to recycle.