

# **County Environmental Charge (CEC) and Food Scrap Bag Programs**

**Ramsey County Recycling Coordinators  
December 3, 2020**

## Update on R&E Enhancements

- Enhancements
  - DCB processing: addition to tipping floor, equipment to remove DCBs
  - Recyclables Recovery System: constructed in existing processing building
- State bonding: \$7 million for R&E Center enhancements
- Local bonding proceeding
- Variance from Newport approved for building
- Construction plans near final; preparing bid documents
- Expected construction start in April 2021
- Completion, start up expected 4Q 2022/1Q 2023

## **Food Scraps Bag Program (Durable Compostable Bags – DCBs)**

- New residential service county-wide in Ramsey & Washington Counties
  - Pilot testing in late 2022, staged implementation begins 2023 (will work with municipalities on scheduling, communication)
  - Residents register, receive DCBs at no cost, place food scraps in bags, place full bags in the trash cart.
  - Haulers provide trash service as before, deliver to R&E Center or transfer station
  - Bags separated from trash; food scraps delivered to compost sites or anaerobic digestion facility
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## County Environmental Charge (CEC)

- Authorized by Minn. Stat. §473.811, §400.08
  - A service charge applied to the cost of:
    - Trash collection and disposal
    - Fuel surcharges
    - Account start-up or cancellation fees
    - Other hauler administrative fees
  - “The amount of the service charge is intended to be based upon the quantity of Mixed Municipal Solid Waste produced by a **Generator as measured by the fair market value** of Waste Management Services utilized by the Generator.” Ramsey County Solid Waste Ordinance §23.01.
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## County Environmental Charge

- Ramsey County Ordinance #194, Solid Waste
- Rate is 28% residential and transfer stations, 53% commercial
- Trash haulers bill customers, collect CEC, remit to county monthly
- Structure of CEC is like the state's Waste Management Tax; Minn. Stat. §297H

## State Waste Management Tax

Minn. Stat. §297H.06

Subd. 2. **Materials.** The tax is not imposed upon charges to generators of mixed municipal solid waste or upon the volume of nonmixed municipal solid waste for waste management services to manage the following materials:

- (1) mixed municipal solid waste and nonmixed municipal solid waste generated outside of Minnesota;
- (2) recyclable materials that are separated for recycling by the generator, **collected separately from other waste**, and recycled, **to the extent the price of the service for handling recyclable material is separately itemized on a bill to the generator**;
- (3) recyclable non-mixed municipal solid waste that is separated for recycling by the generator, **collected separately from other waste**, delivered to a waste facility for the purpose of recycling, and recycled;

## CEC and Food Scrap Bags

- The food scraps program using durable compostable bags does not impact the hauler's cost of service because there is no additional cost to the hauler to provide the service. That is, there is **no impact on the fair market value** of the service.
- Food scraps are collected with MSW, not separately, and **are delivered to an MSW facility** (R&E Center or a transfer station); any waste delivered to an MSW facility is subject to CEC
- Counties provide the bags to participating residents at no charge
- Counties pay the cost of removing the bags from MSW to be composted or sent to an anaerobic digestion facility.