

Public Notice of a preliminary decision to approve a SWMP

Solid Waste

General information

Public comment period begins: November 15, 2022

Public comment period ends: December 15, 2022 (4:30 p.m.)

Name and address(s) of County, District, or Multicounty Area:

*Additional information may also be
obtained at these offices.*

Olmsted County Environmental
Resources
2122 Campus Dr SE, Ste 200
Rochester, MN 55904

Location and contact information:

Sharon Schriever, Olmsted County
2122 Campus Dr SE, Ste 200
Rochester, MN 55904
Phone: 507-328-7022
Email: sharon.schriever@olmstedcounty.gov

MPCA contact person:

Ben Crowell
Resource Management and Assistance Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
504 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste 200
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: 507-476-4261
Email: ben.crowell@state.mn.us

Heidi Ringhofer
525 Lake Ave S, Suite 400
Duluth, MN 55804
Phone: 218-302-6652
Email: heidi.ringhofer@state.mn.us
File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or
844-828-0942

A draft Solid Waste Management Plan SWMP is available for review at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) office address listed under the MPCA contact person. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft SWMP upon request. Comments, petitions, and other requests must be received at the MPCA in writing on or before the public comment period end date and time identified above.

Description of SWMP

Olmsted County has developed a draft Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) that proposes an integrated solid waste management system through the year 2032. Olmsted County is located in southeast Minnesota with a population of approximately 162,000 people. The County projects it will generate between 170,000 and 180,000 tons of Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MMSW) annually throughout the 10-year planning period. MMSW that is not reduced, reused, or recycled will be managed at the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF) located in Rochester, Minnesota. Ash from OWEF, bulky materials, and non-processable materials will be managed at the Kalmar Landfill located between Byron, Minnesota and Rochester, Minnesota. Olmsted County has designated that all waste generated in the County that is not reused or recycled be managed at these facilities.

Olmsted County has set a goal to reduce waste generation by 3% over the planning period through education, deconstruction programs, and internal sustainability programs at County facilities.

Olmsted County intends to maintain a combined recycling and organics rate of around 41% throughout the planning period. Currently, all municipalities within the County offer curbside collection of recyclables and residents can also self-haul recyclables to the Olmsted County Recycling Center (OCRC). Problem materials are managed at the Olmsted County Hazardous Waste Facility, the OCRC, or private businesses. The County is exploring opportunities to expand recycling by partnering with private businesses to develop source separated organic material processing capacity and by proposing a Material Recovery Facility that would sort source separated recyclables as well as separate recyclables from the waste stream prior to processing at the OWEF.

The planning period covers the years 2022 through 2032 and will expire 10 years after the full approval of the SWMP.

The intent to approve this SWMP is tentative.

Procedure for public participation

As stated in Minn. R. 9215, there are formal procedures for public participation in the MPCA's consideration of this matter. Interested persons may:

- Submit written comments on the draft SWMP.

Submitting written comments

To submit comments or petitions to the MPCA through the mail or email, you must state:

- (1) a statement of the person's interest in the SWMP.
- (2) a statement of the action the person wishes the commissioner to take, including specific references to the SWMP that the person believes should be changed; and
- (3) the reasons for the person's position, stated with sufficient specificity to allow the commissioner to assess the merits of the person's statements.

Public informational meeting

A public informational meeting is an informal meeting during which interested persons can ask questions concerning the proposed facility. MPCA staff will be present to provide information. If an interested person would like the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting, the person should include all information identified above and in addition include a statement of the reasons the person desires the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting and the issues that the person would like the agency to address at the public informational meeting.