

Andrea Sit

- 1) All residential waste/recycling pickup companies should offer regular household compost pickup. It's nice that the Carver County Environmental Center takes household compost, but many more people would compost their waste if their garbage haulers offered this service.
- 2) What can be recycled and how to prepare it for recycling needs to be clearer to residents. Detailed lists of what can be recycled would be helpful. The lists provided by waste pickup companies are often very vague about what can go into the bins. Recent news articles have revealed that most items, especially plastics, that go into recycling bins are not actually recycled and sometimes end up in the oceans. This news is shocking and disheartening for people who have been diligently preparing items for recycling (rinsing, drying, etc) for years. People think that if an item has a recycling symbol on it, it is recyclable, which is not necessarily true. There is also confusion about what types of metals and glass can be recycled. More education and public outreach is needed. There could be PSAs on social media sites, such as Nextdoor to educate residents. Community ed classes and tours of recycling facilities would be very helpful.
- 3) The Carver County Recycling Center is a wonderful resource, but it is clear from posts on sites such as Nextdoor that people are not aware of the services that it offers. People frequently ask questions such as what to do with scrap metal and how to dispose of items such as mattresses. Again, education and PSAs would be very helpful to spread the word about this excellent community service.
- 4) Thank you for asking for community input!