

## Comments to Solid Waste Management Plan:

St. Paul made a very poor decision in their waste collection system of the last five years. They took away the cost-saving choice to share a garbage bin with a neighbor. They took away the incentive to reduce waste by not giving those who are committed to minimal waste a better break in garbage collection fees and their extra costs hurt those least able to pay. They didn't charge the biggest waste generators enough for their large volume of waste. They hired Waste Management with their very poor service history that continues to this day. They spent millions of dollars on new waste bins without providing a way to recycle or better reuse the old ones.

I had it great with my old garbage collector, Berquist & Son. I would call them when my garbage can was full, usually every 4-6 weeks. It was very affordable and a great incentive to waste less. They were generous in picking up the odd large item with only a \$5 charge. They were pleasant to work with and totally reliable.

Ever since St. Paul changed their plan in 2018, I have refused to pay the collection bill in protest. The city takes the costs out of my property tax. If I went with their cheapest plan, I would pay \$260 a year, which is a lot for someone living on social security. Instead, I take my garbage down to Twin City Refuse and pay between \$70-90 a year. I compost yard waste or take it to a city compost site. I have chickens that eat kitchen waste. I donate unwanted goods to Goodwill or offer them on the Buy Nothing website. I collected used materials to build a chicken coop and back steps.

What I'd like to support in your plan is:

Cost incentives to reduce waste.

Find ways to reuse/recycle items the way the Buy Nothing websites and Ridwell system does.

Home collection of food waste.

Sort reusable construction materials out of the landfill. I see so much being wasted when I visit Twin City Refuse.

Find a way to charge companies for the excessive non-recyclable packaging they use. That takes up most of my garbage can!

Find a way to cut up ash trees for home use firewood.

Assist homeowners with ash tree treatment for Emerald Ash Borer.

More neighborhood toxic waste pickup days.

A plan for keeping pet waste out of the landfill.

More promotion of native gardens and chemical free yards and gardens.

More retail shops in low-income neighborhoods city like the Habitat for Humanity stores.

Assistance with home upkeep for low-income residents and saving single family homes.

Stop TIF financing and developer welfare for new developments and use it to help city neighborhoods.