

Robert LeClaire

I haven't read your 97 page policy plan, but I would like to share my views. As I walk my neighborhood on garbage day I notice many overflowing recycling bins--many have non recyclables in them: lawn chairs, solid plastic, flimsy plastic, plastic bottles in plastic bags, wood, etc. I wonder what percent of the "recyclables" received at the recycling facilities are recycled. Also, there is talk of shutting down the HERC. I live in Anoka county and liked the fact that when I threw a six-pack or 12-pack cardboard container (because I wasn't sure it was recyclable--like frozen food paper) in the trash, it would be burned in the Elk River garbage burner to create some energy. That facility is now closed. I think garbage burners are a great idea: I believe the burnt waste disintegrates the potential methane that would escape in a landfill. Organic waste collection is the answer to minimizing methane escape, but I don't have faith in the contributors. There is always going to be waste like plastic toothbrushes that can't be recycled. I looked at one wooden toothbrush: \$4.69; and they only last a few months. Maybe kids in schools should be shown what is and isn't recycleable; then they could scold their parents when dad puts the lawn chair or plastic bags into the recycling container.