

Daniel Rosenblum

I am a former resident of Minneapolis, still very concerned with waste management in the region - as this was and remains Indigenous Dakota land occupied by white settlers and other arrivants. We must do more so the air, water, and land can be resilient and robust for 7 generations ahead.

In my opinion, more is needed from large corporate entities operating in the the Twin Cities region. 3M, Target, Weyerhaeuser, Carlson, Anderson, Cargill, General Mills, and all the major health care providers (United Health, Allina, Medtronic, etc.) earning billions in profits. They must be directly targeted and taxed for the excess waste they produce in proportion to small businesses and homes. There must be aggressive penalties which cut into their profit margins if they do not comply with regulations around waste generation. They should be required to upcycle materials and pay for the waste they generate and dump in Minnesota (or elsewhere) and expect taxpayers to cover. Beyond this, there must be serious attention towards spatial relocation of the most toxic waste disposal sites, which incorporates historical racial and social injustice analyses. A new plan that lacks historical grounding around race, class, and identity is another plan which pretends to be colorblind but reaffirms previous race-conscious policies and practices which severely impacted mostly BIPOC communities to the benefit of mostly white communities in the metro. It only makes these histories stronger and more present in contemporary actions and discourses rather than directly tackling them. Please be clear about the social justice approaches and impacts especially as you acknowledge the effect that George Floyd's murder and the uprising had on processing of waste. That starts with where WTE plants are located and who is most directly affected by ongoing waste production and disposal. You really do not do this in the plan - it is a very weak acknowledgement if you can even call it that.