Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

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Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

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Project Overview

- MN State Statute
  - 60% recycling rate goal
  - 75% by 2030 for metro area agencies
- Status
  - 2012: Only 29% of agencies reported recycling data
  - Only 14% of agencies met recycling goal

Project Overview

- Two main focuses
  - ❖ Provide site specific recommendations to four agencies in Lafayette Park area (St. Paul)
  - ❖ Develop a toolkit for agencies across MN

Section I

AGENCIES AT LAFAYETTE PARK

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Glossary

- **Solid waste** --- Trash
- **DHS** --- Department of Human Services
- **DLI** --- Department of Labor and Industry
- **DNR** --- Department of Natural Resources
- **MPCA** --- MN Pollution Control Agency
- **Organics recycling** --- Collect organics for commercial composting
- **Solid waste management tax** --- A tax on trash (but not recycling), charged by the state and some counties
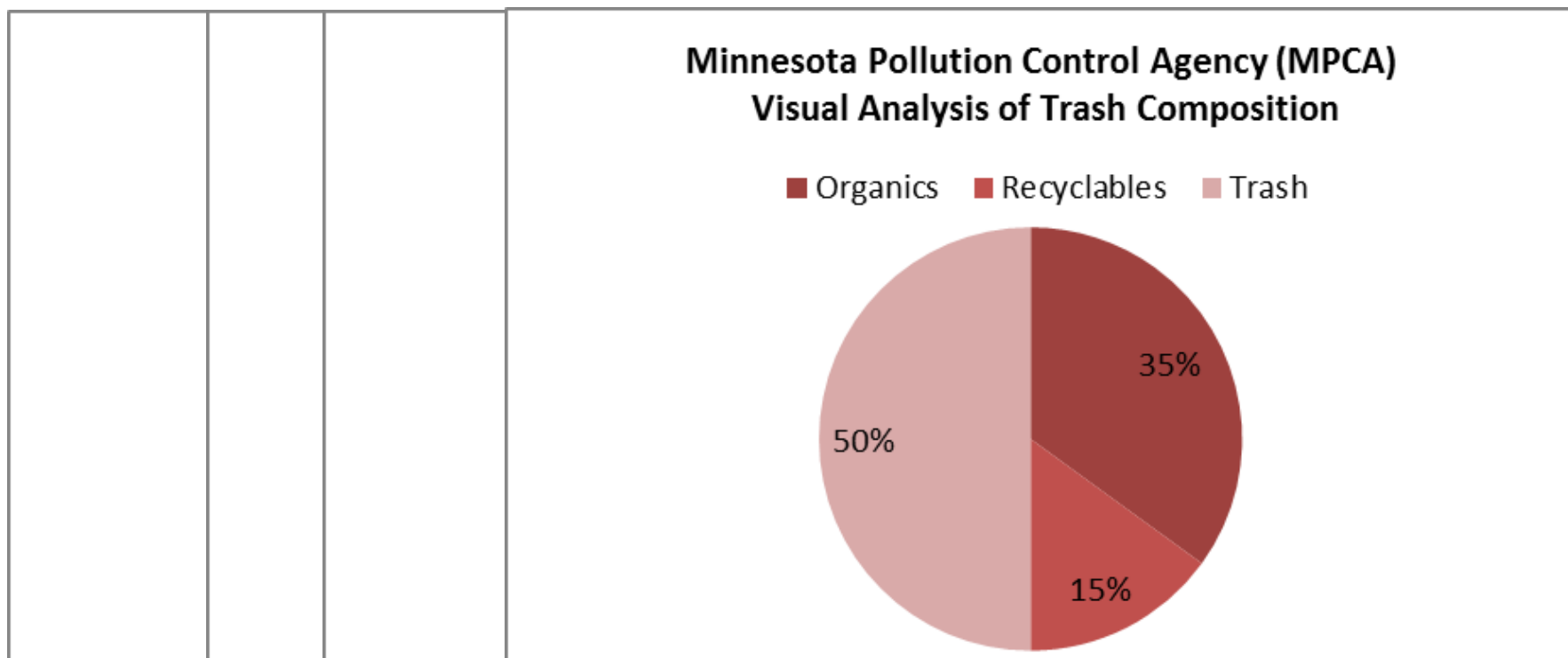
Approach to waste analysis

- Track down waste streams

- Conduct visual estimation of trash composition

- Identify opportunities to increase waste reduction, reuse, and recycling

2013 Agency Recycling Rates

Agency	Recycling rate	Population
DHS	54%	970
DLI	44%	375
DNR	52%	645
MPCA	52%	668
Mandated recycling rate		60%

Visual estimation of trash composition

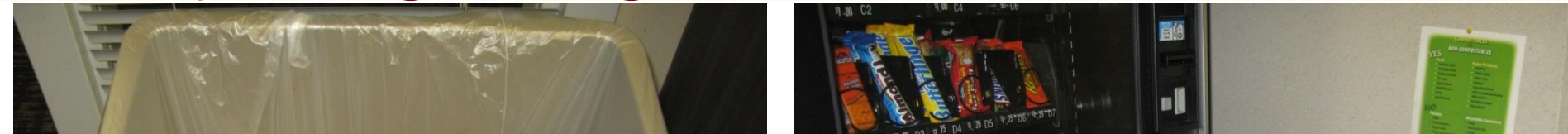**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Visual Analysis of Trash Composition**

- Organics
- Recyclables
- Trash

35%

15%

50%

Solid waste reduction options

- Improve / launch organics recycling program
- Improve recycling program
- Offer reusables at cafeteria
- Reuse office supplies

Improve / launch organics recycling program

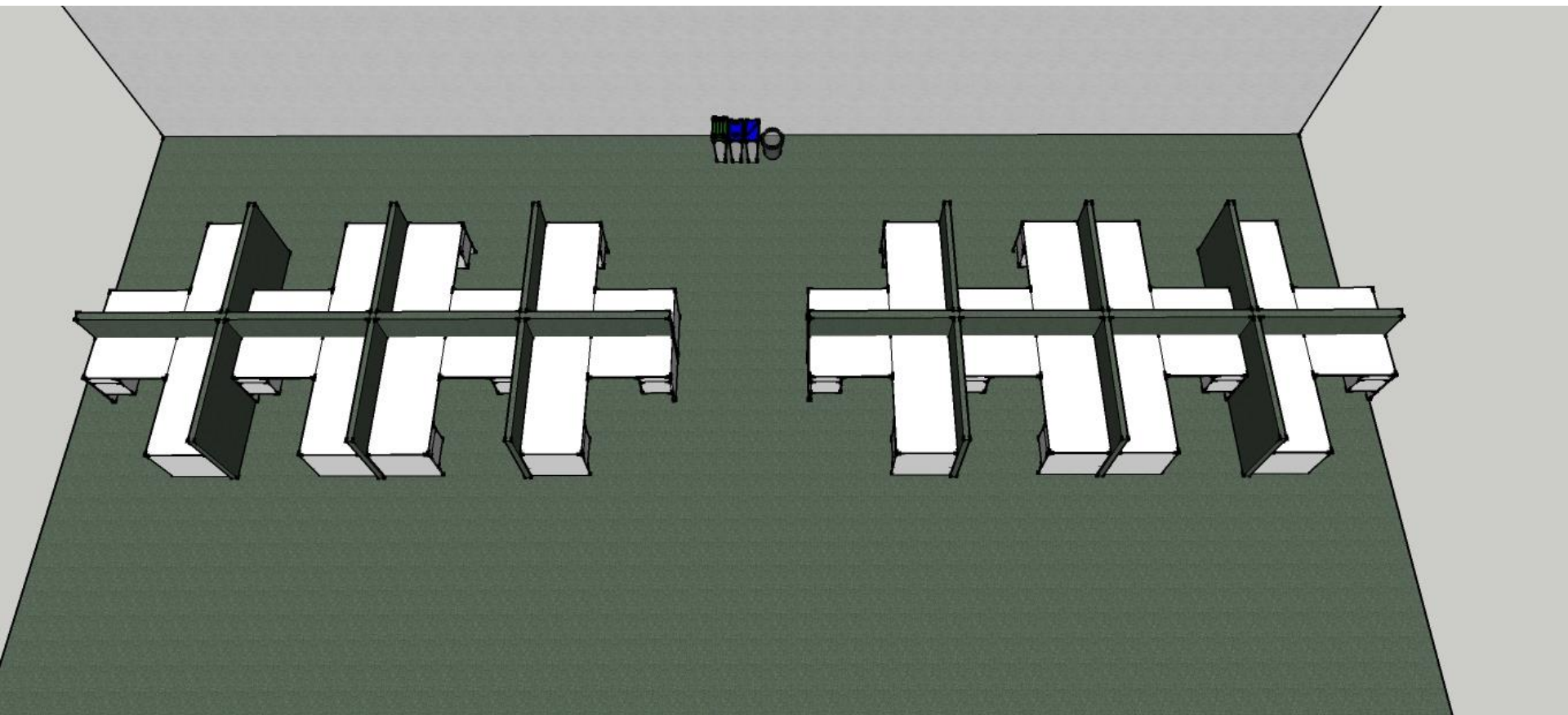| Agency	Annual reduction	Potential increase in recycling rate	Implementation cost	Annual net savings	Status
DHS	47,100 lbs	14%	$660	$540	Recommended
DLI	34,900 lbs	17%	$490	$400	Planned
DNR	24,500 lbs	12%	$700	$1,630	Recommended

Solid waste reduction options

- Improve / launch organics recycling program

- Improve recycling program

- Offer reusables at cafeteria

- Reuse office supplies

Improve recycling program

- How?

  ❖ Create centralized waste station and eliminate desk side waste baskets

  ❖ Purchase color-coded bins

  ❖ Update current signage

  ❖ Improve education & communications program

Centralized waste station

Centralized waste station

Centralized waste station

Improve recycling program

- How?

  ❖ Create centralized waste station and eliminate desk side waste baskets

  ❖ Purchase color-coded bins

  ❖ Update current signage

  ❖ Improve education & communications program

Update current signage

- Opportunities with current signage: information could be updated & more illustrative

Update current signage

- Suggested signage is from Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM)

Update current signage

WHAT TO PUT IN THE "ORGANICS" BIN?

Hey, I am not TRASHY... RECYCLE ME IN THE "ORGANICS" BIN!

Thanks! 😊

Compostable products from cafeteria

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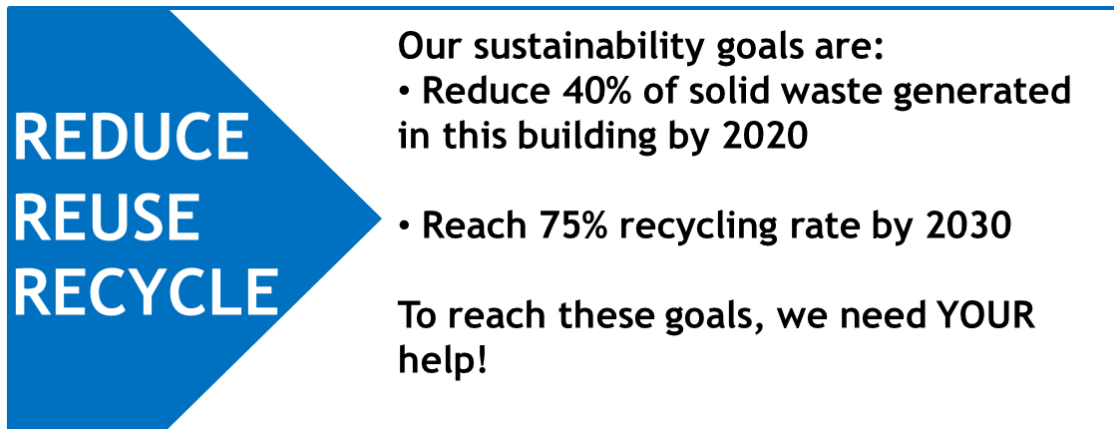# Improve recycling program

- How?

  ❖ Create centralized waste station and eliminate desk side waste baskets

  ❖ Purchase color-coded bins

  ❖ Update current signage

  ❖ Improve education & communications program

Education & communications

- Tips for a successful employee engagement program
    - ❖ Communicate waste reduction goals to employees
    - ❖ Report progress and recognize achievements
    - ❖ Be interactive, creative and fun

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Our sustainability goals are:
- Reduce 40% of solid waste generated in this building by 2020

- Reach 75% recycling rate by 2030

To reach these goals, we need YOUR help!

Improve recycling program

Agency	Annual reduction	Potential increase in recycling rate	Implementation cost	Annual net savings	Status
DHS	23,500 lbs	7%	$1,230	$5,020	Recommended
DLI	17,400 lbs	8%	$1,030	$2,000	Recommended
DNR	14,700 lbs	7%	$1,570	$3,200	Recommended
MPCA	20,500 lbs	12%	$2,080	$4,060	Recommended

Solid waste reduction options

- Improve / launch organics recycling program
- Improve recycling program
- Offer reusables at cafeteria
- Reuse office supplies

Offer reusables in cafeterias

- Reusable takeout containers

- Reusable utensils & dishware

http://erefdn.org/index.php/grants/fundedresearchinfo/beyond_disp osables_eco-clamshell_reusable_to-go_program/

Agency	Annual reduction	Implementation cost	Annual net savings	Status
MPCA – DNR Cafeteria	7,700 lbs	$9,300	$17,400	Recommended

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Solid waste reduction options

- Improve / launch organics recycling program
- Improve recycling program
- Offer reusables at cafeteria
- Reuse office supplies

Reuse office supplies

- Set up a centralized ordering & purchasing system
- Encourage employees to reuse & take back extras
- Circulate extra office supplies with regional offices or with other agencies in Lafayette Park

Reuse office supplies

Agency	Annual reduction	Implementation cost	Annual net savings	Status
DHS	500 lbs	$200	$23,700	Recommended
DNR	350 lbs	$200	$15,750	Recommended

Other recommendations

Agency	Recommendation	Annual reduction	Implementation cost	Annual net savings	Status
DHS	Recycle plastic wrap & bags	100 lbs	$0	N/A	Recommended
DLI	Downsize trash dumpster	N/A	$0	$4,200	Planned
DLI	Install 0.5 gpm faucet aerators in restrooms	48,750 gallons	$70	$150	Planned
DNR	Track & report all recycled materials	N/A	$0	N/A	Recommended

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Summary

Agency	Current recycling rate	Potential recycling rate	Annual reduction	Implementation cost	Annual net savings
DHS	54%	75%	71,200 lbs	$2,100	$29,300
DLI	44%	69%	52,300 lbs	$1,600	$6,800
DNR	52%	72%	47,300 lbs	$2,400	$20,600
PCA	52%	64%	28,300 lbs	$11,200	$21,500
Total			199,100 lbs	$17,300	$78,200

Section II

SOLID WASTE REDUCTION AT STATE AGENCIES **TOOLKIT**

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Table of contents

- Introduction
- Solid Waste Management Planning
- Data Tracking, Reporting; Information Gathering
- Solid Waste Reduction at Agency Buildings
- Education & Communications
- Additional Resources

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Personal benefits

- Gain hands-on experience
- Work independently
- Develop interest in sustainability management

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Thank you!

Questions?