

Benck, Andrea

Subject: FW: Recycling Center questions

From: Greenwood, Jess <jess.greenwood@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 3:13 PM
To: Arneson, Scott <scott.arneson@goodhuecountymn.gov>; Flanders, Linda <linda.flanders@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Cc: Benck, Andrea <andrea.benck@goodhuecountymn.gov>; Dahlstrom, Nicole <nicole.dahlstrom@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Subject: RE: Recycling Center questions

Commissioner,

The SCORE funds that are received go to Fund 61 which is the solid waste fund and they are used to offset the budgeted expenses for that fund which reduces the levy.

Sincerely,

Jess L. Greenwood, P.E.
Public Works Director / County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works | 2140 Pioneer Road
P: 651-385-3025 | E: jess.greenwood@goodhuecountymn.gov



From: Arneson, Scott <scott.arneson@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 1:11 PM
To: Flanders, Linda <linda.flanders@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Cc: Benck, Andrea <andrea.benck@goodhuecountymn.gov>; Greenwood, Jess <jess.greenwood@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Subject: RE: Recycling Center questions

	2023	2024	2025	2026 Budget
SCORE Recycling	\$ 98,342	\$ 146,195	\$ 115,110	\$ 100,000
SCORE HHW	\$ 42,147	\$ 21,206	\$ 49,333	\$ 45,000
	\$ 140,489	\$ 167,401	\$ 164,443	\$ 145,000



Scott Arneson, Ed D, MBA, MAPA, *He.Him.His* | County Administrator
Administration | 509 W. 5th Street Red Wing, MN 55066
P: 651-385-3001 | F: 651-267-4872 | E: scott.arneson@goodhuecountymn.gov
[Facebook](#) | [Jobs](#)

From: Flanders, Linda <linda.flanders@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 12:01 PM
To: Arneson, Scott <scott.arneson@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Subject: Re: Recycling Center questions

RE: SCORE dollars are provided to Goodhue County by having a Solid Waste Plan that has been approved by the MPCA and contains provisions for meeting requirements for the processing of MSW, recycling, etc. So, yes, if Goodhue County just stopped providing recycling opportunities we would be in violation of the Solid Waste Plan and State Statute and would not be receiving SCORE dollars.

How much do we receive in SCAORE funds and do they go directly into the PW fund for recycling or into the general fund?



GOODHUE COUNTY COMMISSIONER | 509 W. 5th St. Red Wing, MN 55066

To effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of our residents.

Phone: (651) 212.6084 | E-Mail: LINDA.FLANDERS@GOODHUECOUNTYMN.GOV

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW GOVERNMENT EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE

From: Arneson, Scott <scott.arneson@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:00 AM
To: Goodhue Co - Commissioners <GComm@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Cc: Dahling, Lucas <lucas.dahling@goodhuecountymn.gov>; Greenwood, Jess <jess.greenwood@goodhuecountymn.gov>; Benck, Andrea <andrea.benck@goodhuecountymn.gov>; Lemmer, Nick <nick.lemmer@goodhuecountymn.gov>
Subject: Recycling Center questions

Dear Commissioners,

We have received some questions in regards to the Recycling Center from Commissioners. Below are the questions and answers. **Please do not reply all.**

Q1

What is the state of recycling today and what in the next 3-5 years. Would be very helpful for people to understand that to make a long term financial decision.

A1

Markets for recycling are not great today and unless a major change evolves in how they are being processed/used the forecast does not look any different.

The financial status of recycling changed when China stopped importing material from other countries. When that happened, entire individual material markets crashed as there were no or not enough buyers domestically to keep rates

where they were. In the years since then, markets have not rebounded as there still aren't enough companies utilizing this material and the volume exceeds current demand. This is not a local trend rather a national/global trend.

Since 2020 we have seen an increase in volumes at our Center and we can certainly make an educated guess that volumes will continue to increase over the next several years.

Q2

Can you identify what if anything we are required to do as far as recycling according to statute?

A2

The statute that is referenced, 115A.552, states that counties shall ensure that residents have an opportunity to recycle. At least one recycling center shall be available in each county. The City of Red Wing's facility, while they accept recycling, may not be defined as a recycling center. The MPCA would have to make that determination, however. Presently they process single sort recycling that is collected curbside. If a resident of Goodhue County wished to take their recycling to Red Wing they would likely be charged a tipping fee similar to the current MSW tipping fee that is collected when haulers deliver to their campus. Goodhue County's facility provides 24/7 availability to drop off most recyclable goods and processes them as source separated material.

In subdivision 2 of the statute, 'recycling opportunities' are described by the following:

- (1) a local recycling center in the county and sites for collecting recyclable materials that are located in areas convenient for persons to use them;
- (2) curbside pickup, centralized drop-off, or a local recycling center for at least four broad types of recyclable materials in cities with a population of 5,000 or more persons; and
- (3) monthly pickup of at least four broad types of recyclable materials in cities of the first and second class and cities with 5,000 or more population in the metropolitan area.

Goodhue County meets the requirements through the use of our Recycling Center as well as by providing out-County recycling boxes that are spread throughout the communities of the County.

SCORE dollars are provided to Goodhue County by having a Solid Waste Plan that has been approved by the MPCA and contains provisions for meeting requirements for the processing of MSW, recycling, etc. So, yes, if Goodhue County just stopped providing recycling opportunities we would be in violation of the Solid Waste Plan and State Statute and would not be receiving SCORE dollars.

Another area of concern is that of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and that is governed by Statute 115A.96. Counties must implement a plan, provide collection strategies, and provide public education and strategies for reducing HHW. This activity is managed by the staff at the Recycling Center.

If the Center were to be shuttered it would behoove the Board to consult the County Attorney to fully understand the ramifications of doing as much.

In no way, shape, or form does this mean that there aren't other ways to handle recycling, HHW, or solid waste but it is certainly a much larger topic that will need to be studied to determine the best possible strategy to meet the intent of the statutes and provide service to the County.

Additional note to Q 2

We will revise our Mandates spreadsheet to clarify the statutory requirements.

Scott



Scott Arneson, Ed D, MBA, MAPA, *He.Him.His* | County Administrator
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